

INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS AND MISC. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**Miscellaneous Correspondence & Information Received**

- **NALC Chief Executive's Bulletin** – forwarded to Members September/October/November editions
- **Invitation to join ES Fire Service online partner forum on 24th October** – email forwarded to Members 30/9/25
- **County Councillor's monthly report** – November report forwarded to Members 4/11/25
- **RVA Newsletter** – September forwarded to Members 9/10/25
- **Oldwood Surgery PPG** – letter of thanks for £200 donation towards their Health Leaflet.

War Memorial

In October, the long awaited new lettering (raised lead) was cut in by the stonemason. Heading of 'The Great War' were added to the plaques on the north and south facing sides and also on the south facing side, 'Korean War' added above the name of D Russell. There were also a few letters where the lead had fallen out and these were replaced at the same time.

Some of the brickwork needs attention and I believe some repointing will be required – perhaps in the spring.

Remembrance Events 2025

Karen followed procedure from 2024, employing Sunbelt Rentals again to manage traffic for the Sunday parade. They provided a good service. Nick Moor publicly thanked Karen after the parade for her work to support Remembrance events in the village. It was agreed that the Parish Council should communicate to residents exactly what Karen does. A social media post was produced to explain this.

Highways Engagement Event

Gill and Karen attended the event held for Parish Councils by ES Highways on 23rd October at the Woodland Enterprise Centre. It was led by Andrew Turner, the new head of East Sussex Highways. who has moved from Somerset, and Balfour Beatty (Highways contractor). They stressed the difficulty of balancing a safe reliable and sustainable network within available budget. It was stressed that reporting issues online was important, preferably using What 3 Words to give exact location and nearby landmarks. 3,516 cases were reported in the last month (September?) and over 100 potholes repaired and over 6,000 drains cleared in that month. Balfour Beatty has a policy of 'right first time'. This meeting clashed with the date for our twice-yearly (SLR) meeting with Highways and so this has had to be rescheduled for January.

Adopting the telephone box at the Station

This is now progressing, with a revised lease document agreed with Network Rail. The BT contract to purchase the box will be signed next week and the £1 fee paid. Once this is done the lease with NR can be finalised.

Council website

Gill continues to lead on this project, supported by Paul and Karen. We have met with Parish Council Websites (our website supplier). We have agreed a design and prepared content. Parish Council Websites will now prepare the site in line with our time. When we are ready, we will ask Councillors to review the site before it is publicly launched.

Rother Parking Review

ESCC have reviewed results / comments on their informal consultation and have now published proposed changes for consultation, including two areas on Station Road and one at the junction of Knelle Road and Langham Road; all locations where the Parish Council has requested changes. The consultation runs until 21 November.

Rother Conference

Karen and David attended the Rother Annual Conference in October. This included items on Local Government Review, Code of Conduct for Parish Councils and RDC services. The Monitoring Officer stressed the importance of PC's trying to resolve conflicts locally and informally, to try to reduce formal complaints. Slides from the event are available from the Clerks if anyone would like them.

Rother Association of Local Councils (RALC)

At the RALC AGM David was elected to the RALC Executive, which should be useful during the transition to the unitary authority. A new Chairman, Keith Robertson was appointed. Also, a new Secretary has been appointed, Vicki Rutt who is Clerk at Crowhurst.

Pipers Field Cricket Bat Willows

With recent storms the case for felling the old willows in Pipers Field became more urgent to ensure it was a safe area for the public. The Council requested that Gray Nichols fell their most dangerous willows in this location ahead of the winter and cut dead limbs off other trees where needed. This has now been undertaken (two felled).

Education Lead

Louise, in her role as Education Lead, has now met with Robertsbridge Community College and Robertsbridge Children's Services. Her report is available with the documents for the PCM.

ESALC Conference & AGM

Paul attended this event as proxy, as Nick and Sean were not available. His is available with the documents for the PCM.

Salehurst Cemetery

A quiet spell. Since the last meeting (15 September 2025) there haven't been any purchases or interments. We have received one application for a memorial and one enquiry for information about replacing a memorial. One installation has taken place. One memorial bench was fitted.

Members Training / Briefings / Conferences

Keeping up to date is an important aspect of being a Member and the organised courses are a valuable way of keeping up with current issues and changes, as well as meeting other Members and hearing different views and news.

ESALC general briefing/training sessions (*open to all/any parish*) can be found on the ESALC website. **There are some important planning sessions coming up – please check!**

ESALC also provides training sessions through Breakthrough Communications, on communications and compliance-focused training courses for parish and town councils across East Sussex. Details can be found here <https://breakthroughcomms.co.uk/calc-training-events/>

If you are interested in any training, please let us know, so we can book you in. ***It is important that new Councillors take up training and but equally important that all Members periodically attend update/briefing sessions.*** These are held online and only last an hour or two.

Events attended:

M365 training (Cloudy IT) 23rd September - Karen

Beyond the Precept: Exploring alternative sources of income (NALC) – David was booked for this but unfortunately there was a problem with the link and he couldn't login. He has been sent a recording of the event.

Update re Devolution and LGR (ESALC) –30th September Karen, Paul and Sean

Rother Conference 15 October – David, Karen

RALC Meeting 22 October – Karen, David

Highways Engagement Event 23 October – Karen, Gill

ESALC Conference 4th November - Paul

Meeting with Homes England re Mill Site 4th November – Karen, Nick and Sean

Meeting with Rother re draft local plan 21st August – Karen and Sean

Assertion 10 Training 9th September – Karen and Gill

Data Compliance Training 13th November – Nick, Sean, Simon, Paul

Upcoming Training/events booked:

Housing Event 28 November – Sean, Karen

Data Compliance Training – remaining Councillors (see dates circulated)

Cyber Security – online 19 November – Karen

NALC Communications - Navigating Tough Decisions 26 November - Paul

Rother Clerks meetings 20 November and 11 December - Karen

Karen

Karen Ripley
Parish Clerk

Gill

Gill Colquhoun
Assistant Clerk