

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

- **NALC Chief Executive's Bulletin** – forwarded to Members 20/11/25, 27/11/25, 4/12/25, 11/12/26, 18/12/26, 15/1/26
- **Email re consultation on local government reorganisation** – forward to Member 20/11/25
- **County Councillor's monthly reports** – December and January reports forwarded to Members 8/1/26
- **Rother Cabinet Minutes December 2025** – forwarded to Members 11/12/25
- **RVA Newsletter** – December newsletter forwarded to Members 16/12/25, January newsletter forwarded to Members 15/1/26
- **Rother Draft Local Plan** – email re 2nd public consultation forwarded to Members 16/1/26
- **BACT AGM 29th January 2026** – invitation email forwarded to Members 15/1/26

Council Website

Gill, Karen and Paul continue to work with Parish Council Websites (PCW) to produce a fully compliant new website. Following the project timeline shared with Councillors in September we have asked Councillors to test the website by 16th January and will now review comments and instruct PCW to make necessary changes ahead of a public launch of the website as planned on 2nd February. So all on target 😊

Robertsbridge Bonfire 2025

The Bonfire took place on 22nd November 2025, a week later than usual this year. The Parish Council made a £390 contribution towards the Biffa sweeper employed by the Bonfire Society to clean the procession route the day after the bonfire. Some rubbish remained on/beside road on the Sunday afternoon – we have informed the Bonfire Society to raise with Biffa. Although it was very wet on the evening the event went well. There was some damage to the surface of the Recreation Ground entrance as no boards were laid down. The Bonfire Society has been reminded to lay boards before transporting bonfire material onto the Recreation Ground next year.

Christmas Capers 2025

Unfortunately Friday 5th December was another very wet evening which affected attendance. However those who attended enjoyed the evening. The St Michaels Hospice Lights of Love tree blew over twice but was resurrected by our Village steward and Councillors. We have asked the organisers how we can improve fundraising from the tree, perhaps by holding a lighting event or carol singing round the tree. The Clerks did speak to St Michaels Hospice before Christmas who created a specific fundraising QR code for us. Our street lighting contractor has advised us that we should budget to replace motifs over the next few years, as they are getting old. They were checked over on removal and were all fine and working, so are ready for Christmas 2026.

Adopting the telephone box at the Station

The lease has now been finalised.

Christmas Tree Festival December 2025

We entered a tree in the St Mary's Church Christmas tree festival. This time, as well as showing Members, we highlighted progress by Homes England on the Mill Site, encouraging residents to take part in the ongoing online consultation.

Damage to Council Property

We have experienced potential vandalism at Bishops Meadow (broken glass to noticeboard) and flooding at the Sports Pavilion due to a burst pipe, was discovered by Councillor Hamilton during council monitoring on 8th January. It has since been found that there is a problem with the heaters that keep the temperature above freezing, so an electrician will check those and get them running again. Gavin is also working on some sliding covers for the open slats in the changing room windows, to help keep the temperature up.

Rother Voluntary Action – new rural community development project

On 13 January the Clerks met with Lesley Lambeth, the newly appointed Rother Voluntary Action as a Community Development Officer, with a specific focus on the Rural Rother area.

This 18 month + project, funded by the National Lottery. will focus on Battle, Etchingam and Robertsbridge before it potential rolls out to other Rother areas. This could be a really useful project for the village. Lesley is keen to liaise with a range of village organisation, and the Clerks have helped facilitate this. We have previously had limited direct contact with RVA.

Annual Village Meeting / Assembly

We have started to plan for this on Monday 20th April. Do Councillors wish to change the format to encourage a wider profile of residents to attend? Katy Bourne, the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner, has confirmed she can be the main speaker. Is there anything Councillors wish her to focus on in her talk with regards to policing in our Parish – now and in the context of Local Government Reorganisation?

Salehurst Cemetery

Since the last meeting (17 November 2025) there has been one interment in a pre-purchased grave. We have received one application for an additional inscription on a memorial and one enquiry for historic information. One memorial installation has taken place.

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:

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

Cyber Security – online 19 November – Karen

Rother Clerks Meetings 20th November and 11th December – Karen

NALC Communications - Navigating Tough Decisions 26 November - Paul

Homes England Hodsons Mill Workshops 27th November & 29th November – Nick, Sean, Paul, Gill

Rother Housing Enabling Event 28th November – Sean (spoke at event)

NALC Assertion 10 Training 2nd December – Karen

Footpath Group Meeting 9th December – Simon

Data Compliance Training 12th January – Fran, David

RALC Quarterly meeting 14th January – Karen, David

Upcoming Training/events booked:

Wild About Dark Skies Group Meeting with MP 16/1/26 – David

NALC Managing Assets 28/1/26 - Karen

NALC Launch of age-friendly communities guide 29th January – Mark

Meeting with Homes England re Mill Site 2nd February – Nick, Sean, Karen

Footpath Group Meeting 17th February

Karen

Karen Ripley

Parish Clerk

Gill

Gill Colquhoun

Assistant Clerk