



SALEHURST & ROBERTSBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

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TO: All Members of Salehurst & Robertsbridge Parish Council
The Council will meet on Monday 16 March 2026 at 7.30pm (Up to 15 minutes will be allowed at the start for public questions and comments).
Venue: Village Hall, Station Road, Robertsbridge.
You are summoned to attend (Local Government Act 1972, Sch 12, para.10(2)(b)).

At the start of the Meeting, there will be a short (five minutes) verbal introduction /presentation from Lesley Lambeth, Community Development Officer for Rother Voluntary Action.

Agenda

- 64) TO RECEIVE AND ACCEPT APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE.**
- 65) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – to receive Members’ declarations of interests in accordance with the Code of Conduct adopted by the Council.
- 66) APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION** – to consider written requests from Members for dispensation and to consider the length of time the dispensation should be granted for i.e. as a one-off relating to a matter on this agenda, or ongoing for a set period and relating to any agenda within that period.
- 67) MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 19 JANUARY 2026** – to approve the minutes as a correct record of the meeting.
- 68) MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES** (for information only – not covered elsewhere on agenda)
- a) Budget / Precept 26/27 (25/26-60Ac.iv)** – the Precept demand was issued to RDC.
 - b) Asset Devolution from RDC (25/26-59a)** – Rother District Council (RDC) has now advised that the grass area at Heathfield Gardens can be devolved, along with the freeholds for Station Road Car Park / Toilets and Bishops Meadow. Business case now submitted and awaiting RDC to progress.
 - c) Land at the Clappers (25/26-59b)** – quotes for replacement fencing, groundworks and new bench still pending (Clerk to action).

- d) Annual Tidy-up-Day / Litter Pick (25/26-60e)** – this took place on Sunday 1 March – see Clerks’ Report.
- e) Recreation Ground damage by bonfire in November (25/26-61c)** – Chairman and Cllr Longhurst to meet with Bonfire Society.
- f) Pavilion /Toilets (25/26-62a)** – flood board installed by Village Steward kept water out in second flooding incident. Pavilion now dry and back in use. Heaters still to be checked by electrician. Secondary Perspex coverings on windows now complete. Urinals repaired. Location and purchase of storage box and sand bags pending (Clerk to action).
- g) Risk / Asset Checks (25/26-62b)** – Checks on Station Road car park and toilets, and Cemetery still pending (Members to action).
- h) Storage facility for Equipment (25/26-62d)** – Clerk still investigating to establish whether planning permission will, in fact, be required.

69) INTERNAL OPERATIONS (Lead – Chairman)

- a) Casual Vacancy** – in the absence of a request (by the electorate) for an election: to consider three applications to fill the vacancy, from the following: Gaynor Leeves, Simon Lidington, Aidan Meldrum. (Profiles attached).

A successful candidate must receive an absolute majority of votes; if after any vote, no person receives more votes than the other candidates put together, the person with the least votes will be removed from the list and a further vote taken, and so on until a majority of votes is given in favour of one person.

- i) Voting** - the Chairman or another Member may propose, as follows: that voting to fill the casual vacancy should be by signed ballot (rather than show of hands).
- ii) Co-option** - to resolve that: (name) is co-opted to Salehurst & Robertsbridge Parish Council to fill the casual vacancy caused by the resignation of Louise Britten dated 6 January 2026.
- iii) Declaration** – to invite (name) to join the table and sign their Declaration of Acceptance of Office and to participate in the remainder of the meeting as a full Member of the Parish Council.

- b) Youth Centre** – update from the Chairman. Documents previously circulated to Members by email (Charity Commission information and information from Solicitor) will be referred to.

c) Digital and Data Compliance – to consider and approve the following documents (published):

i) IT Policy

ii) Data Protection Policy

iii) Records Retention Policy

d) Accounts and Financial Matters

i) Receipts and Payments – to receive/approve receipts and payments for January and February 2026 (published).

ii) Finance Working Group – to advise FWG will meet 24/3/26 to consider revised Financial Regulations (review underway) to be approved by Full Council in May. And year-end budget position (31/3/26) and any proposed movements to Earmarked Reserves.

iii) Grant / donation requests – to consider a request from Community Rail Line for £300 towards the Hastings Friary Gardeners planting project, which includes a trip to Robertsbridge Station on the train, by a group of adults with additional needs, to refresh and plant-up the station flower containers with nursery stock which they have produced from seed. The trip includes a picnic lunch. Last year, the project, supported by the Parish Council, received a runner-up award for Best South Station in the SE in Bloom competition.

iv) Previous grant / donation – to consider whether remaining funds (£150) from a grant made in 2023 to Helping Hands towards a Warm Spaces project (£300) should be returned to the Parish Council, or whether it can be put towards projects in the coming year.

e) Annual Parish Meeting (Assembly) – Chairman to update on arrangements and attendance by main speaker, Katy Bourne, Police and Crime Commissioner for Sussex.

f) Dog Control Orders – to consider the considerable disregard of the Dogs-on Leads Order covering the Recreation Ground, following complaints from the grass cutting contractor and Football Club, about the excessive amount of uncleared dog mess, and what action can be taken to enforce the Order.

70) REPORTS

- a) **Cllr Paul Redstone, ESCC** – report for February and March previously circulated to Members (published). To receive a brief verbal report on any further current matters.
- b) **Cllr Susan Prochak, RDC** - brief report on any current matters.
- c) **Clerks' Report** – to receive and note (published).
- d) **Village Steward** – to receive and note the list of tasks completed and consider any future tasks (published).
- e) **Reports / updates from Council Reps / Leads** – to receive any reports.
 - i) **RALC** – Minutes of the meeting held on 14/1/26 are available on the RALC website: [Minutes and Agendas – Rother Association of Local Councils](#). The next meeting is on 15 April 2026.
 - ii) **Patient Participation Group** – Cllr Pitman to report on the meeting on 2/3/26. full minutes available here: [PPG - Oldwood Surgery](#)
 - iii) **Police and Crime Matters** – Cllr Hamilton to update on any relevant matters.
 - iv) **1066 Community Rail Line** – update from Cllr Todd on recent meeting.

71) AMENITIES AND LEISURE (Lead – Cllr Simon Longhurst)

- a) **Youth Pizza Night in Robertsbridge** – to report on an event to be held at Robertsbridge Youth Centre on 26 March, facilitated by Sussex Outreach Support and consider how the Council can support the event (financially and practically).
- b) **CCTV at Station Road Car Park** – to update on progress and consider draft CCTV Policy (published).
- c) **Telephone Box at the Station** – update from Cllr Todd on removal of telecoms equipment and next steps.
- d) **Volunteer Footpath Team** – update from Cllr Longhurst.
- e) **Summer Event 2026** – to consider whether an event will take place this year (normal date for event is weekend of 20/21 June.)

72) INFRASTRUCTURE (Lead – Cllr Sean O’Hara)

a) Planning Matters

- i) Planning Committee Meetings** – to receive and note the minutes of Meeting held on 2 February 2026 (previously published). The meeting scheduled for 2 March 2026 was cancelled as there were no applications to consider.
- ii) Progress re Mill Site / Homes England** – to feedback on recent public update event at Robertsbridge Club.
- iii) Updates on Consultations** - Rother District Council Draft Local Plan – (comments by 13/2/26) and National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) – (closed 10/3/26).

b) Urban Grass Verge Cutting – update from Cllr Todd.

c) Highways Matters – to report on recent SLR meeting with East Sussex Highways.



Karen Ripley (Mrs)
Clerk to the Council