

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

- **NALC Chief Executive's Bulletin** – forwarded to Members 28/5/26, 4/6/26, 11/6/26, 18/6/26, 25/6/26, 2/7/26, 9/7/26
- **Letter of thanks for donation from Air Ambulance** – 3/6/26
- **RVA Summer Connections** – email forwarded 18/6/26
- **Youtube video re different tiers of government** – forwarded link 18/6/26
- **ESCC Councillor Report Paul Redstone July report** - forwarded 30/6/26
- **Planning application information** – sent to members 6/7/26
- **Tunbridge Wells Borough Local Plan Review Scoping Consultation** see – email received 14/7/26
- **RVA Newsletter – June and July newsletters** forwarded to Members 14/7/26

Traditional Wooden Finger post (signs) update

We have four fingerposts in the parish, at the junction of Brightling Road and Ludpit Lane, on the High Street bank at the junction with Station Road, at the junction of Church Lane and Beech House Lane and the junction with Higham Lane and Bourne Lane (all C class roads). These belong to East Sussex County Council, as the Highway Authority.

In recent years, with declining budgets, ESCC has encouraged Parish Councils to contribute to their maintenance costs and have provided match-funding for refurbishments. However, this scheme has recently been withdrawn and we have been advised that whilst East Sussex Highways recognises the historic and community value of traditional wooden fingerposts, and wherever possible, seeks to retain them, there are circumstances where they may need to be replaced with a passively safe sign, particularly if they are structurally unsound, been involved in a traffic collision, or are situated on an A or B class road.

In order to preserve fingerposts, Parish Councils are encouraged to monitor their condition and notify ESCC of any deterioration at an early stage, allowing them to assess the sign and advise on the available options before it reaches a condition where replacement (with a modern metal sign) becomes necessary.

The Parish Council paid towards refurbishment of two fingerposts in 2024 – at the High Street and Ludpit Lane. In 2018 we paid half towards a replacement post at Church Lane / Beech House Lane and fully funded a new post at Higham in 2011. It seems that if our fingerposts are important to us, the Parish Council needs to keep a close eye on them and keep them painted and maintained, in order that they don't deteriorate to a stage where we lose them. We currently have £908 in an Earmarked Reserve for fingerposts.

About Robertsbridge website

From 11th August the Parish Council is taking over hosting David Allen's website, as agreed at our May meeting.

Urban Verge Cutting

Since the Council decided to take over the urban verge cutting (built up areas of the parish, not rural), from East Sussex Highways, we have appointed Orchard Landscapes to carry out four cuts during the growing season. They are due to start imminently. In previous years we have had six cuts, two statutory cuts funded by ESH and four additional cuts funded by the Parish Council, but this has been reduced to four, hence the later start.

New Robertsbridge Walking Guide

Robertsbridge Footpath Group is about to publish its new walking guide of twenty Robertsbridge walks on the Parish Council website. Following this they plan to launch the walks at the Bonfire Society Flower and Dog Show on 2nd August. A walk is organised for 9th August led by Barny Acheson, a local environmentalist.

Register of interests

As from the 29 June 2026, the Council is no longer required to publish elected Members' home addresses in the local authority registers of interest.

Previously under section 32 ('Sensitive interests') of the Localism Act 2011, authorities could remove Members' home addresses from published lists only where the Member considered there was a risk of violence or intimidation. The new section 32A of the Localism Act 2011 (as inserted and made by section 65 of the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Act 2026), makes clear that a Member's home address should not be disclosed on the authority's public register of interest unless the Member has requested otherwise.

To aid transparency, the registers of interest will still state that you have an interest, the address of which is withheld under section 32A (if you live within the parish / town boundary). The exact address details must still be declared to the Monitoring Officer, remain available internally and will continue to prevent conflicts of interest.

All home addresses have been removed from public view on your register of interests displayed by Rother District Council. I have removed all your registers of interest from our website. New forms will need to be completed – I will send these out to everyone (Cllr Todd's is already done).

Rother District Council Monitoring Officer

RDC has Rother District Council has designated a new Monitoring Officer, Philip Baker with effect from 19 May 2026. Philip is the Deputy Chief Executive, Governance Services at East Sussex County Council and has been designated as Rother District Council's Monitoring Officer under an agreement with East Sussex County Council. A copy of the full report that was considered by Rother District Council can be found here: [Designation of MO - Full Council 18 May 2026](#)

The Monitoring Officer's function includes the promotion and maintenance of high standards of conduct within the authority and in relation to the ethical framework (Code of Conduct) of the parishes and town councils of the district. Philip can be contacted on the generic MonitoringOfficer@rother.gov.uk email address.

Asset Devolution – Rother District Council (RDC)

RDC has recently advised that the decision has been taken **not** to transfer the following assets to the Parish:

Robertsbridge Car Park and Public Conveniences, Station Rd;
Bishops Meadow, Robertsbridge.

The outcome of their due diligence process is that no financial justification could be found for investing in the transfer process, namely to transfer the freehold of the assets to the Parish, when they have already been devolved by way of long leases. Further spending and the dedication of staff resource to transfer the freehold could not be justified.

They have confirmed however, that the transfer of land at Heathfield Gardens remains within scope.

Local Government Reorganisation Announcement

The Government has announced its decision, subject to Parliamentary approval, to implement a modified version of the One East Sussex proposal for unitary local government for East Sussex. This means that from April 2028 Rother District, together with the four other district and borough councils in the county, plus East Sussex County Council, would be replaced with a single “unitary” authority. The decision also means Brighton & Hove City Council would expand, to include the areas of East Saltdean, Peacehaven and Telscombe, Falmer will remain with the new East Sussex authority.

The One East Sussex partnership (ESCC and all four District Councils) maintain that East Sussex would be in a stronger position as one unitary authority on the existing county footprint and recognise that the Government announcement will be particularly concerning for many of the people, staff and organisations in East Saltdean, Peacehaven and Telscombe who opposed the Government’s plan and expressed a desire to remain in East Sussex. More details can be found at the [One East Sussex website](#)

Salehurst Cemetery

Since the last meeting (19 May 2026) there has been one purchases of Exclusive Rights, one interment arranged for 28 July. We have had seven enquiries about purchasing plots / interring ashes and received one enquiry about installing a memorial. Two memorial installations have taken place. We have also been approached about an exhumation from a private garden, with subsequent interment in the Cemetery.

Darvell School – Community Involvement

The Headteacher, Phil Huleatt, at Darvell School recently advised that their young people had been looking at community projects to help their wider community, and asked whether they could do some work at the Recreation Ground car park. They spent two (very hot) afternoons clearing and cutting back vegetation and self-seeded saplings on the fence line between the car park and the playgrounds and between the enclosed and open playgrounds. They worked hard and did an excellent job.

Members Training / Briefings / Conferences

Keeping up to date is an important aspect of being a local Councillor 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](#).

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 [Breakthrough Communications website](#)

If you are interested in any training, please let us know. ***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 usually only last an hour or two.

Events attended:

Licensing Service for Rev Hugh Reid, Salehurst Church 18th May – Karen, Simon, Nick B

Friary Gardeners' station planting 26th May – Gaynor

Internal audit 3rd June – Karen

RIALTAS bank reconciliation online training – 23rd June - Karen

Meeting with HE re Mill site application 25th June – Karen, Gill, David, Sean

RALC Meeting 8th July – Karen, David

SLR meeting with East Sussex Highways – 9th July – David, Karen, Gill

ESALC Clerks Meeting 14th July – Karen

ESALC Chairs Forum 14th July, David

RIALTAS development webinar 15th July - Karen

Upcoming Training/events booked:

Walking Robertsbridge launch 2nd August – Simon

Footpath Group public walk 9th August – Simon, Gill

Clerks Meeting 8th September – Karen

RALC and Rother Conference 21 October – Karen, David

Karen

Karen Ripley
Parish Clerk

Gill

Gill Colquhoun
Assistant Clerk