



SALEHURST & ROBERTSBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Volume 12

Issue 1

December 2018

Dates for your diary 2019

Planning Committee Youth Centre	3 Jan
Parish Council Meeting Robertsbridge Hall	21 Jan
Planning Committee Youth Centre	7 Feb
Annual Parish Assem- bly (early due to Parish Council elections in May)	4 Mar
Planning Committee Youth Centre	7 Mar
Parish Council Meeting Robertsbridge Hall	18 Mar
District & Parish Coun- cil Elections Robertsbridge Hall	2 May

Full Parish Council Meetings take place on the 3rd Monday of alternate months. Planning Committee meetings are held monthly, generally on the first Thursday, if applications have been received.

All meetings start at 7.30 pm and a period of up to 15 minutes is allowed at the start of the meeting for public comment or questions if required.

Agendas for meetings are posted on the parish notice boards and website at least 3 days before the meeting - planning applications are on the Rother District Council web site - www.rother.gov.uk and comments on planning applications can be submitted on-line.

Seasons Greetings to all our residents



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

As we approach the end of 2018 we would like to warmly thank everyone for their support during this busy year. If you would like to take a larger part in decision making in our community please do consider becoming a Parish Councillor (next elections scheduled for May 19 - see back page).

Our major achievements during 2018 include:

We have a Neighbourhood Plan, what an achievement for our small community! It was approved by the local community in our May Referendum, and by Rother District Council in July. We are only the second parish in Rother to have an adopted Neighbourhood Plan. **THANK YOU to the many residents who worked so hard on the steering and working groups to achieve this. Special thanks to Cllr Stephen Hardy for leading and driving the mammoth project.** An update is provided on page 2.

Our War Memorial Clock Tower has been refurbished, along with our Village Sign to commemorate 100 years since WW1. The names of all the men of the Parish who lost their lives in conflict have been repainted and the woodwork tidied and treated. The lovely commemorative clock, which has ticked away for over 97 years, has had the glass in the faces repaired, the ironwork repainted and the numerals and hands re-gilded. The striking mechanism and the lighting to the clock faces have also been repaired, by clock expert David McGovern from Burwash, who also winds the clock weekly. (Photos on page 3).

The Parish Council has taken over the lease of the Station Road car park and toilets in order to avoid the loss of these vital free facilities. More information to follow in future editions.

We also refurbished the toilets at the Recreation Ground during the Summer.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN: UPDATE

The Neighbourhood Plan allocated four new sites for development, to supply the new dwellings required under the Rother District Local Plan. A site adjacent to Culverwells in Station Road had already been granted outline planning approval, so we have a total of five areas for development. Here is a brief summary of the current status of each of them:



Adjacent Culverwells – this site was granted outline permission in 2015 for a mixed development of 17 dwellings and 1300sqm commercial space; it has recently been granted full approval and there are negotiations in progress for the Doctor's Surgery to move into the commercial space, from its current position further down Station Road (by Gray-Nicolls).

Vicarage site, Fair Lane – anticipated up to 10 dwellings - this site is owned by the Diocese of Chichester; their agent has recently advised that a planning application is currently being prepared and the intention of the Diocese is that the site will be sold with planning permission and developed within the next few years.

The Mill site, Northbridge Street – Rother District Council Planning Committee has recently approved plans for this site, subject to certain conditions / matters being sorted out first (e.g. emergency access detail, certain legal agreements regarding conversions and provision of business units). The plans are for 1200sqm commercial space and 96 dwellings: 26 one- and two-bed retirement flats in the converted mill building, with a further 12 flats and 58 new houses. The dwellings comprise 22 one bed, 16 two bed, 8 two/three bed, 29 three bed, 17 four bed and 4 five bed. There is no provision for social housing on this site (due to the high cost of developing the previously commercial land).

Grove Farm – Rother District Council has recently approved plans for this site, subject to certain conditions / matters being sorted out first (e.g. a legal agreement for the provision of social housing). The plans are for 30 dwellings: 6 one bed, 16 two bed, 7 three bed and 1 four bed. The site includes 12 social housing dwellings: 4 one bedroom rented, 3 two bed rented, 1 three bed rented, 2 two bed shared ownership and 2 three bed shared ownership.

Adjacent Heathfield Gardens – it is anticipated that this site could provide up to 40 dwellings, including social housing, with access from George Hill, but there have been no plans submitted to date.

The Parish Council has formed a Neighbourhood Plan Monitoring Group made up of both Councillors and non-Councillors, to review the application of the policies in the NP against planning applications and assess any need for a review of the NP. The group will also ensure that issues and projects identified in the NP are delivered by the PC and / or other partners. It is expected that the group will hold their first meeting in the new year.



VILLAGE STEWARD UPDATE

Peter, our Village Steward, has been busy as usual. Apart from the regular litter picking and hedge cutting around the village, he has fitted the new dog bin at

Salehurst, repaired the footbridge on the licensed footpath behind Bishops Meadow, installed the new memorial bench (Jeanette Franklin) in Pipers Field and decorated the toilets at the Recreation Ground. Reports on his work are included in papers for Full Council meetings which you can find on the Council's website.



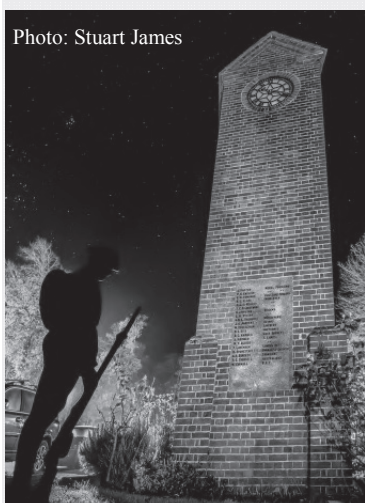
ROBERTSBRIDGE REMEMBERS 11/11/18

The Parish Council set aside money over several years for refurbishment of the War Memorial Clock Tower and the nearby Village Sign, in time for the Armistice 100 year anniversary and the works were finished in October. We are very pleased with the result and encourage you to stop and view the craftsmanship, especially on the hour when you will also hear the clock chime, or after dark when the faces are illuminated.



The local Royal British Legion (RBL) once again staged a very moving Remembrance Concert on 4 November at St Mary's Church, Salehurst and led the usual Armistice Day tribute on Sunday 11 November. A new addition for this special year was a local fundraising campaign, led by Paul Bielecki (RBL) to create two striking Tommy silhouettes (donated free by Ripley's Forge), which raised an extra £2000 towards the Poppy Appeal. Both schools and many local groups and organisations took part in commemorations. The Bonfire Society rounded it all off with a very poignant finale to their firework display on 17th November, when a haunting rendition of the last post boomed across the village and silenced the huge crowds. Well done RBL and all who contributed in any way.

Photo: Stuart James

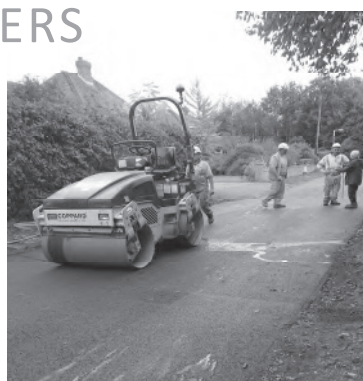


Nick Moor, RBL Chairman, has announced that the total raised by the village for the Poppy Appeal in this anniversary year is over £10,000.



HIGHWAY MATTERS

We were delighted that East Sussex Highways resurfaced Fair Lane in October. With special thanks to Parish, District and County Councillors for lobbying for our village needs, given current pressures on the County



Station Road: Extended double yellow lines

Following many requests from residents and several years of campaigning, the Parish Council has managed to secure joint funding from ESCC to extend the double yellow lines as you enter Station Road from the High Street, down to the Car Park, to prevent the often-dangerous congestion that parking on this section causes.

All double yellow lines would be enforced under the proposed 'Civil Parking Enforcement' scheme.

Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) Consultation - HAVE YOUR SAY - deadline 14th January

CPE is where East Sussex County Council (ESCC) would be responsible for enforcing **on-street** parking controls instead of the police. In response to widespread concerns about the lack of any enforcement, ESCC is proposing to introduce CPE across Rother (90% of the county already has CPE). ESCC would have a contracted enforcement company on a fixed contract, so no incentives for overzealous enforcement. All parking restrictions, including double yellow lines throughout the parish, would be enforced under the scheme. **ESCC is consulting on their proposals until 14th January.**

The current plans for Robertsbridge include pay-and-display parking on short sections of the High Street and Station Road, where there is currently time-restricted parking. Please see the online information, plans and frequently-asked questions, and **complete the survey at:**

<https://consultation.eastsussex.gov.uk/> The title of the survey is **Rother Parking Proposals – Informal consultation.**

If you have any questions after reading the information, you can **ring ESCC on: 01323 464010** or email:

Parking.rother@eastsussex.gov.uk

SALEHURST & ROBERTSBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council: Karen Ripley (Mrs)
Assistant Clerk: Gill Colquhoun (Mrs)

The Parish Office:
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Phone 01580 882066
Email: clerk@salehurst-pc.org.uk

Website: www.salehurst-pc.org.uk

Facebook: Find us at 'Salehurst & Robertsbridge Parish Council'

Please note we use our Facebook page alongside our website to communicate information (rather than answer questions).

The Parish Office is open to the public:
Tuesday 2pm to 4pm
Thursday 2pm to 4pm
and at other times by appointment.

Rother District Council www.rother.gov.uk

Parish Councillors Tel : (all 01580)

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INTRODUCING OUR STAFF

Your Parish Council has four part-time members of staff.

If you have a question you can telephone, email or visit us.

(In photo from left):



Stuart Clamp - Caretaker Recreation Ground / Pavilion

Peter Pattenden - Village Steward

Gill Colquhoun - Assistant Clerk (who joined us in May)

Karen Ripley - Parish Clerk

COULD YOU BE ONE OF OUR PARISH COUNCILLORS?

All nine Parish Council seats are up for election in May 2019 (current councillors are able to stand again if they wish). If nine or less nominations are received, all will be 'elected unopposed' but if there are more than nine there will be a poll, in which all residents (on the electoral roll for the parish) can vote.

Why not consider standing for election? If you are over 18, a UK resident, live in the parish (or within 3 miles) or work here, you are likely to be eligible. If you are unsure what is involved why not pop in and see us, speak to one of the Councillors to hear what they do, or come along to one of our meetings.

Frances Jill Woodgate (Jill)

In December the village lost not only a long-term resident but a major contributor to the quality of village life. Jill was, or had been, an active participant in most of the village societies – the Village Hall, Community College, historical society & W.I. amongst many others.

She was also for some years a member of the Parish Council and actively helped with clearing footpaths and conducting walks etc. and was the instigator and driving force behind the establishment of the 'Pocket Park', which lies to the north of the Recreation Ground.

For many years Jill, and her husband Roy, ran the village newsagents in Station Road (now The Village Stores) and had a wealth of information about the village.

Jill was a 'doer' rather than just a 'joiner' and was amongst that small band who make villages such as ours, active communities rather than just 'places to live'. Although her activities were curtailed by ill-health during the last year or so, she never lost her interest in the life of the village.

For some years my wife and I have had the pleasure of having Jill and Roy as neighbours and they have always been ready to help out if necessary; she will be much missed by us personally as well as by the village in general.

Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to Roy and her family.

David Allen

December 2018