



SALEHURST & ROBERTSBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Volume 12

Issue 2

March 2019

Dates for your diary

Parish Council Meeting Robertsbridge Hall	18 Mar
Annual Village Tidy-up Day	24 Mar
Nomination forms available for Parish Council Elections	26 Mar
Deadline 4pm for Parish Council nomination papers to be delivered to Rother District Council	3 Apr
Planning Committee Youth Centre	4 Apr
Deadline 5pm to apply for a postal vote for District Council elections (& Parish if more than 9 nominated)	15 Apr
Deadline 5pm to apply for a proxy vote	24 Apr
Planning Committee Youth Centre (note Wednesday)	1 May
District & Parish Council Elections	2 May

Full Parish Council Meetings take place on the 3rd Monday of alternate months at the Village Hall. Planning Committee Meetings are held monthly, on the first Thursday, at the Youth Centre.

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 can be viewed on Rother District Council web site, where comments on all applications can also be submitted.

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTION and Rother District Council Elections Thursday 2nd May 2019 7am-10pm, Village Hall, Station Road

Could YOU join our active team of Councillors?

All nine Parish Council seats are up for election in May, and several of the current Councillors will not be seeking re-election. *If nine or less nominations are received, they will all be automatically 'elected unopposed'.*



But if there are more than nine you will get to vote for those you want to become Parish Councillors. Voting would be alongside the Rother District Council Elections on 2nd May. All residents who are 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. General information can be found at: www.nalc.gov.uk/elections.

Nomination packs to apply will be available from **Tuesday 26th March** from either the Parish Office or Rother District Council. Fully completed forms must be delivered in person to Rother District Council offices in Bexhill between 10am on 27th March and **4pm on Wednesday 3rd April**. Your electoral roll number (and those of your proposer and seconder) will be required; these can be obtained from the Parish Office (each individual, in person) or from Rother District Council.

We look forward to welcoming some new faces onto the new Council, which will come into effect on 7th May.

Sunday 24th March

2.30pm - 4.30pm

Please join our family-friendly, parish-wide **Annual Village Tidy-up-Day**. Come to the Recreation Ground for bags, gloves and litter pickers and to find out where to go. The Darvell Community is very kindly providing a free BBQ afterwards for everyone taking part. The event is part of the 'Great British Spring Clean' and is supported by Rother District Council.

**VILLAGE
SPRING
CLEAN**

INTRODUCING OUR VOLUNTEERS

We are extremely lucky to have three enthusiastic, skilled volunteers who work alongside our Councillors all year:



Caroline Knight - Tree Warden

Caroline is our volunteer Parish Tree Warden. Contact her at carolineinthegarden@gmail.com if you have any comments or concerns on any tree related matters. Caroline is also the author of the gardening column in the Villager.



Freddie Pooke - Speedwatch

Freddie is Robertsbridge Community SpeedWatch Co-ordinator. Contact him at fpooke@btinternet.com if you would be interested in joining the SpeedWatch group. The group publishes results of its surveys on the Parish website.



Andrew Bonnett - Footpath Group

Andrew is the Volunteer Footpath Group Co-ordinator, who you can email at robertsbridgepaths@gmail.com regarding any comments or problems with the paths, or if you would be interested in joining the group. See www.sandrpaths.btck.co.uk

Robertsbridge Summer Event

The Parish Council is currently looking for a new volunteer to lead on the Robertsbridge Summer Event, which Ian Clark has done so well for a number of years. There is currently no event planned for 2019.

The idea of the event is that it is *free and open to all*, to bring residents together for company, fun and enjoyment, *not* for their money. It traditionally takes place close to mid-summer day in June, at the Recreation Ground and is subsidised by the Parish Council.

Could you take on this role, to work with volunteers from across the community? It could be a Family Fun Afternoon, Talent Afternoon, Village games etc. Contact the Parish Office if you would like to be involved.

Christmas Capers 2018



"Definitely the best ever."

"What an evening!..."

"Just magical and a huge thanks to all those who put in so much time and effort and dedication..."

"We are so lucky to live in a village that does lovely community activities all year".

With over 100 lit Christmas trees on the main streets, the village celebrated one of its great community events on 7th December.

Leading the show this year was the longest magical procession to date of children holding their illuminated stars, led by an amazing owl with wings a-flapping, designed by gifted local artist Martin Brockman. Martin also created an amazing set for everyone's favourite local storyteller, Kevin Graal. People flocked into all the shops, businesses and houses open for fun and celebration – and Christmas gifts and goodies.. More great photos by Paul Pitman can be found at:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/privatepit/sets/72157704386196364>

Christmas Capers 2019 - Can you help keep this popular event going? After many years **Stephen Hardy** is stepping down as the Robertsbridge Enterprise Group (REG) volunteer lead on the Christmas Capers event. Could you take over from him? You will be supported by an enthusiastic band of volunteers to help with putting up Christmas trees, and organising the fabulous community event on the first Friday in December. For more info contact Stephen Hardy: stephenhardy1948@gmail.com

What does a Councillor actually do?

A Day in the Life of a Parish Councillor (written by one of our Councillors)

"Well actually, just the occasional day as there's only so much adventure that I can cope with in a typical month. To be honest, the workload is not at all onerous and I do get a sense of satisfaction from seeing the progression of initiatives and the resolution of problems. I'll outline the main areas of my involvement below:

Every other month Full Parish Council meeting on a Monday evening 7.30-9.30 at the Village Hall. I have to read the agenda and supporting documents and be able to express an informed opinion, and on rare occasions, vote on a divisive issue. Mostly though, we reach agreement fairly quickly. It helps that we're all there with the same aim - to preserve what's best in the village and to build on it while at the same time do our best to tackle the occasional not so good things that arise. One meeting doubles as the Annual Meeting at which we elect the Chair. If that's all you feel able to handle then that's fine but ideally we'd like you to step up and take on an additional role, for me that means...

Every month Planning Committee meeting on the first Thursday 7.30-9.00 at the Youth Centre. I have to read the agenda and supporting documents and feel able to express an informed opinion, and on rare....well, you get the picture. ...As required, the Finance Working Group! There are budgets to plan, expenditure to consider and value for money to be achieved. I have to read the agenda...Attendance at liaison meetings with East Sussex Highways: Every few months, usually on a Friday morning at the Youth Centre...Attendance at occasional seminars with councillors from other parishes to discuss the issues that face us all, e.g. the shortage of affordable housing, problems with parking enforcement, dog waste, street lighting, playing fields, donations to local causes such as Christmas Capers...and more (including the Annual Parish meeting which I always attend as the WI lay on an excellent spread.). One particular project which is worthy of mention is our Neighbourhood Plan which brought together many from the community and will help us to deliver on our objectives. Above all, it's an opportunity to do your bit to help make life in the village as pleasant, sustainable and friendly as possible. I really enjoy helping that to happen."

STATION ROAD CAR PARK & TOILETS

After many delays, the long awaited plan for the Parish Council to take over management of the car park and toilets is now in place, ensuring that the facilities are retained for the village, and that our off-street parking remains free.

This helps to keep our shops and businesses sustainable, and our village centre a pleasant place for everyone to visit and use.

The time-restricted 2 and 9 hour bays are to keep spaces available and avoid permanent or all-day parking. We can all help ensure that people can 'pop-in' to the village by respecting the timed and disabled bays.

Please help our Village Steward take care of your amenity area for the benefit of all the residents of the parish.

DOG-WASTE BINS - do we need more?



At the next meeting on 18 March, the Parish Council will be considering whether additional dog-waste bins should be provided in the village - and if so, how many and where they might be sited. Sadly, a number of people are still not cleaning up after their dog at all.

We currently have seven bins: Recreation Ground, the Clappers, Church Lane, Salehurst Church, Bishops Meadow, junction of Knelle/Langham Road, Jubilee Garden.

Each costs about £250 to buy and if we need to put a post in the verge there is a licence fee of £450. Each one costs £130 per year to empty. They have to be sited where the truck can safely stop to empty them each week.

George Hill and the top of Fair Lane have both been suggested to us as good sites. If you have any thoughts please contact the Parish Office by 16th March.

Salehurst Oak Tree - sadly, this treasured village tree is showing signs of root damage by vehicles. ESCC's Tree Officer has concluded that to prevent further damage, driving/parking near the tree must be restricted. He accepted our view that to prevent parking completely in that area is simply not feasible, so a small area around the tree will soon be sectioned off with wooden posts.

SALEHURST & ROBERTSBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

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

The Parish Office:
Robertsbridge Youth Centre
The Grove, George Hill
Robertsbridge TN32 5AP
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)

Cllr Nick Greenfield (Chairman) 880998
nick.greenfield@salehurst-pc.org.uk

Cllr Sean O'Hara (Vice Chairman) 881234
sean.ohara@salehurst-pc.org

Cllr Jemima Bolton 388041
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Cllr Nick Brown 389159
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Cllr Ruth Hardy 860149
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Cllr Stephen Hardy 881309
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Cllr Roger Palamarczuk 880639
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Cllr Gillian Smith 880810
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Cllr Anne Wells 880832
anne.wells@salehurst-pc.org.uk

East Sussex County Councillor

Cllr Angharad Davies 831969
cllr.angharad.davies@eastsussex.gov.uk

Rother District Councillors

Cllr Graham Browne 860118
cllr.Graham.browne@rother.gov.uk

Cllr Susan Prochak 881309
cllr.susan.prochak@rother.gov.uk

Who Does What: a Useful Reminder

East Sussex County Council: 0345 60 80 190

www.eastsussex.gov.uk

Responsible for: **Education** (find term dates etc), **Rights of Way** (public footpaths and bridleways) etc.

East Sussex Highways: 0345 60 80 193

www.eastsussexhighways.com

Everything roads (not A21 – see Highways England below), **pot-holes, gritting, some grit bins, highway drains, traffic signs, verges, pavements** (including overhanging vegetation).

Rother District Council: 01424 787000

www.rother.gov.uk

Responsible for: **household waste collection, recycling, road (and pavement) sweeping, litter bins, licensing, environmental health, planning and building control, council tax, dog fouling and control, housing, graffiti removal, fly tipping.**

Parish Council: 01580 882066

www.salehurst-pc.org.uk

Responsible for: **Station Road car park and toilets, street lights** (but not on the A21), the **Cemetery in Beech House Lane** (not the Churchyard), **bus shelters, public seats, dog waste bins, some grit bins, War Memorial and clock, Bishops Meadow** in Bishops Lane (including the play equipment), **Pipers Field and Jubilee Garden** in Station Road, **the Recreation Ground** on the Clappers (including the play equipment, football field, football pavilion, toilets and car park (but not the cricket field/pavilion, which is privately owned by Robertsbridge Cricket Club) and the **Pocket Park** situated to the north west of the Recreation Ground.

Environment Agency: 03708 506 506

www.environment-agency.gov.uk

Responsible for: **Robertsbridge Flood Alleviation Scheme** (flood walls, banks/bunds, pumps, flood gates at The Clappers and Station Road), **Flood Warning Scheme, Main Rivers i.e. River Rother** (and, because we have flood defences, the EA is also responsible for all the smaller waterways/streams within the parish).

Highways England: (Contractor for maintenance) 0300 123 5000

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/highways-england>

Responsible for: **trunk roads only, i.e. the A21 (bypass) and related matters.**