



SALEHURST & ROBERTSBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Volume 15

Issue 1

May 2021

Dates for your diary

Planning Committee Robertsbridge Hall	3 June
Parish Council Meeting Annual Accounts Robertsbridge Hall	24 June
Planning Committee Robertsbridge Hall	1 July
Parish Council Meeting Robertsbridge Hall	19 July
Planning Committee Venue to be confirmed	5 Aug

The Council has returned to face-to-face meetings.

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. June and July planning meetings will be held at the Village Hall, the venue for future planning meetings to be confirmed. Members of the public can attend meetings.

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 website, where comments on all applications can also be submitted.

ROBERTSBRIDGE RETURNS!

As we approach the Summer there is optimism that life is returning to 'normal'. Hurrah! Non essential shops and pubs have reopened, and trains have increased in frequency. Also some local events, like the Bonfire Society's 5K and 10K Run (preceded by a children's race) on 25th June and boot fairs on 4th July and 1st August, will be going ahead. Of course many of us are still working from home, and some annual events on Robertsbridge social calendar will not take place this year.

I hope like me you will support our local businesses as part of the Shop Robertsbridge Campaign. And I appeal to everyone to stay safe, act sensibly, social distancing and wearing masks where necessary. The village has pulled together magnificently and we have seen many individual and collective acts of kindness throughout these unprecedented times. We are all very fortunate to live in such a friendly and positive environment.

Cllr Nick Brown Chairman of the Parish Council

#shop
Robertsbridge

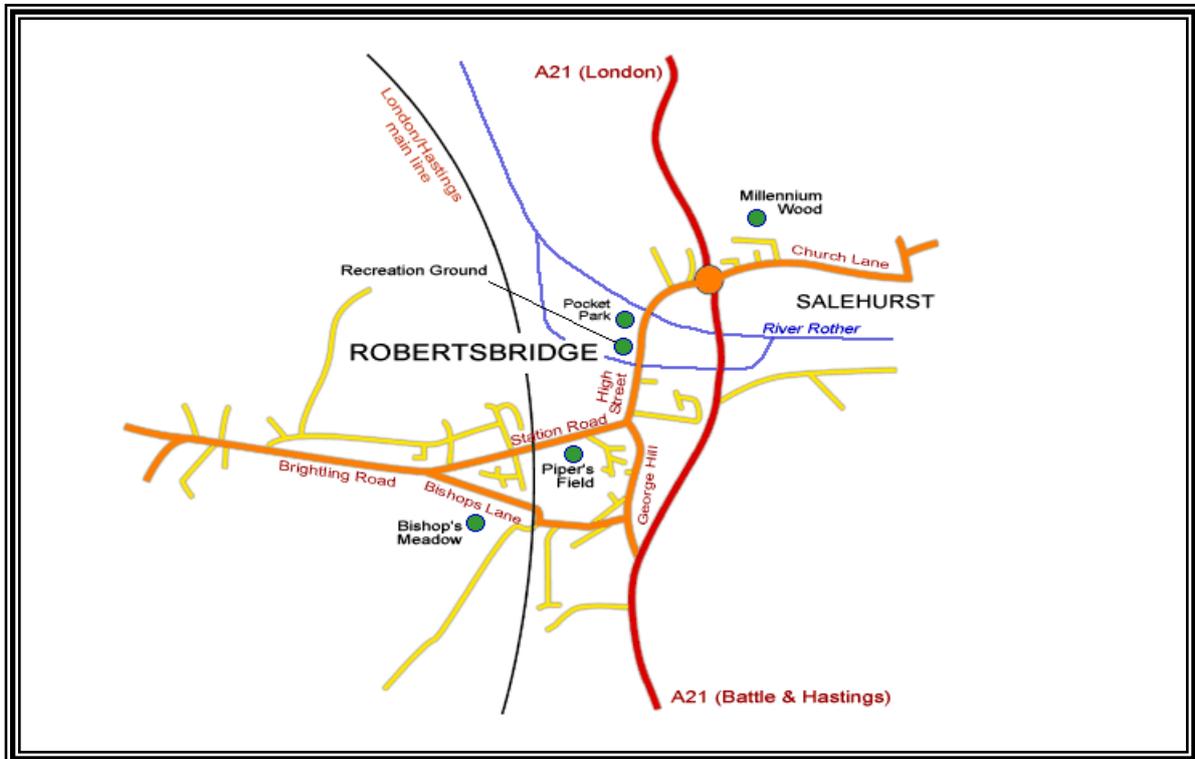
Shop Robertsbridge

During lockdown many local shops and services were forced to close, some could operate behind closed doors whilst others were forced to take a break. Essential services adapted admirably to the changing circumstances. We encourage everyone to support our local shops and services, who rely on our support. Last year the Parish Council introduced **Shop Robertsbridge** campaign, building on the work of Robertsbridge Enterprise Group (REG) which now focuses on Christmas Capers. Shop Robertsbridge helps to promote the work of local businesses on Facebook.

I have recently been appointed the Council's lead on local business and enterprise. If you have any ideas for supporting local business I would be pleased to hear them. *Cllr Gillian Branford*

WHERE is Pocket Park? Pipers Field? Bishops Meadow? Millenium Wood? Recreation Ground?

These are all green spaces in the village which, as well as the Jubilee Garden (the small area opposite Pipers Field at the entrance to Willowbank, with the carved man and willow arch) are managed by the Parish Council, apart from Millenium Wood which is managed by the Woodland Trust. More information is available on our website... In support of the Active Rother initiative, Parish Councillors recently agreed that private fitness instructors who live locally may use the Recreation Ground to run small training groups. All we ask is that these sessions do not interfere with other users (including play equipment and football matches) and that instructors advise the Parish Office of details / contact number, for admin purposes.



Parish Cemetery in Beech House Lane

I cannot think of a more peaceful view over the Robertsbridge valley than that from the pavilion in the Cemetery. It is a beautiful spot to sit and think of your loved ones past and present.

We are currently undertaking refurbishments to the cemetery environment in an unobtrusive and as sympathetic way as possible, to include the following:

- ◆ Refurbish, redecorate, and make secure the existing Pavilion to enhance storage and visitor experience. Replace the two water butts to make them more user friendly and secure.
- ◆ Repair and redefine the perimeter fencing and gateway.
- ◆ Cut back and tidy the perimeter hedges taking account of their environmental impact to the surrounding flora and wildlife.
- ◆ Ensure rubbish is cleared away regularly from the site and the pavilion is always kept clean and tidy.
- ◆ Re-define the central path leading to the old wooden cross which will itself be made safe and secure for future generations.
- ◆ Should you have any suggestions or requirements concerning the use of the facilities please contact the Parish Clerk or myself.



Cllr Roger Palamarczuk

<http://www.salehurst-pc.org.uk/cemeteries.asp>

ROBERTSBRIDGE & SALEHURST HELPING HANDS



It's been interesting times for Helping Hands since the last Parish Council Newsletter, and we wanted to take an opportunity to reflect on one year of operating a community voluntary organisation in COVID times and some thoughts on what on what the future might hold.

Firstly, we would like to take the opportunity to introduce ourselves - the new Chair Gillian Branford and Vice Chair Gail Augarde. We took over from the very hard double act to follow, Sue Prochak and Anne Wells who have done an amazing job over the life of Helping Hands. We were voted in at our Annual General Meeting on Zoom which was well attended with over 35 of our volunteers and Committee members. We hope we gave Sue and Anne the thank you they deserved with a surprise doorbell ring and some flowers and a gift. Send offs are never easy in such time, but with stealth planning by our Committee members, we hope it represented how appreciated they are. Both continue as active Committee members.

Business for Helping Hands over the year has taken place in partnership with the Parish Council and we have been blown away by the extent of volunteering by our existing volunteers and new Street Champions, who have ensured villagers have had provisions, companionship through calls from our amazing Telephone Team, safe transport to hospital appointments and vaccinations. The Prescription Team have delivered almost 900 prescriptions ensuring that villagers have had access to medicines without having to visit local dispensaries, keeping them safe and supporting the dispensaries.

We have also had great support to communicate with villagers through updates printed for us by the Darvell Community, delivered by volunteers and street champions. We would also like to give a special thanks to Amanda Fellowes and Ian Clark who updated our website with current information and resources, as it changed throughout the year.

We have worked and supported the Community Church Foodbank through a grant, to supplement food parcels with nutritious fruit and vegetables for some of our villagers. This is essential work we would want to continue and have successfully received a further grant to support the foodbank.

On reflection the year has been difficult for all sorts of reasons, all well rehearsed through the media, but we can only reflect on an amazing community effort across all organisations, which hopefully will continue into the future.

As for Helping Hands we are looking forward to the coming year and have begun to look at how we work more closely with the community, continue to use and support our volunteers and ensure that we have a strong supportive presence in the village. Our very successful street champion network who were your first port of call for assistance during the pandemic have now stepped down. If you need any help it is still available, you just need to ring the Helping Hands helpline for assistance on 07726 592739.

We have just launched an initiative called Incredible Edible which is about bringing the community together through vegetable planting schemes, sharing ideas about food and reducing food waste. Keep an eye out in the village.....

Gillian Branford
Chair, Helping Hands



Gail Augarde
Vice Chair, Helping Hands



Are you a new resident?

A very warm welcome to the village. You should receive a 'welcome card'. Please contact Helping Hands on 07726 592739 if you do not get one. Check out the village noticeboards, The Villager magazine, Parish Council website and local Facebook groups such as *Robertsbridge Family Information*, and *Shop Robertsbridge* for local information.

SALEHURST & ROBERTSBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

Phone: 01580 882066

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 normally open to the public on a Tuesday and Thursday afternoon, but the **Clerks are currently continuing to work from home**. They do have access to office phone messages and email, as normal. When the Youth Centre reopens (scheduled late June) the Parish Office will reopen to the public.

Rother District Council www.rother.gov.uk

Parish Councillors Tel : (all 01580)

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Rother District Councillor

Cllr Susan Prochak 881309
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The Family Funfair returns to Robertsbridge Recreation Ground on 20-22 August.



TRAFFIC IN THE VILLAGE...

The Parish Council has set up a Transport Working Group to look into traffic issues. We are conscious of safety concerns raised by residents about the volume, type and speed of traffic traveling through the village; it was therefore agreed that a Transport Working Group (TWG) would be formed to investigate these issues. Various 'pinch points' in the village have been identified and we have been working hard with East Sussex Highways to understand the issue. The next step in the process is to obtain specific traffic data however, we still have some work to do in obtaining the equipment and understanding the process so please bear with us. In the interim and whilst all this can be worked to a conclusion, we are also looking at providing the Parish with an active speeding deterrent (Vehicle Activated System) that will inform motorists when they exceed the speed limit. This is a 'mobile unit' that can be placed where and when it is needed, plans to get this up and running are also proceeding well so keep your eyes peeled.



Cllr James Tucker



Neighbourhood Plan /Planning Update

Neighbourhood Plan

At this time the only site which is the focus of development activity is Hodson's Mill (it has recently been tidied up prior to agreement on the final planning application). The developers have told us that they hope to retain some of the original mill façade as part of a reconstruction in keeping with the original mill building, necessary due to the poor state of the building. The adjacent footpath cannot be closed off unilaterally; any temporary closure/diversion would have to be agreed with the County Council. The Parish Council will liaise closely with the developers to ensure that any impact on the village, such as site traffic, is kept to a minimum. In addition, in response to Rother's recent call for sites for housing development, the Mill Site developers have submitted a proposal for a mixture of market price and affordable housing to the North of the Mill Site. No decision has been taken on this yet. If it did get accepted it would follow the same application process as any other planning application; it could not be tagged onto the Hodson's Mill application.

Other Planning Matters

The former Seven Stars pub in the High Street is not going to be a B&B. Harveys Brewery, who still own the building, have been doing essential internal maintenance works, after regular lobbying by the Parish Council amongst others. We have not been notified of any plans for redevelopment of the building. The old fish and chip shop in the High Street is currently being converted into holiday accommodation and a community space. We can confirm that the site is not going to become a fast food site eg. McDonald's.

For further info on planning matters see the Parish Council or Rother District Council websites.
Cllr Sean O'Hara

