

# FAIRLIGHT PARISH COUNCIL

Website: [www.fairlightparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.fairlightparishcouncil.org.uk)

Proper Officer/RFO: Mrs Pauline Collins

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## Minutes of Full Council Meeting held on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at Fairlight Village Hall at 7.00 pm

**Present:** Councillors – Ms I Horsley (Chair), Mr S Stewart, Miss C Sharpe. Mr D Shortman, Mr D Greenup, Ms L Cooke, Mr R Turnbull

County and District Councillors – Mr A Mier and Mr C Maynard

Proper Officer/RFO - Mrs P Collins

### ACTION

**23001 Apologies for absence** (Including resolutions to accept reason for absence by Councillors)

Apologies received from Councillors - Mr G Smith and Ms A Hohenkerk

**Resolved** to accept the reasons for absence

**23002 Chairman's Report** (Civility and respect, code of conduct, public participation etc)

Councillor Horsley re-iterated details of the civility and respect pledge, the code of conduct and public participation.

**23003 Code of Conduct and Disclosure of Interests**

(a) To receive any disclosures by members, of personal or prejudicial interest in matters on the agenda

Agenda item 12(b) Rent reviews – Cllr I Horsley – member of the Tennis Club

**23004 Public questions in respect of items on the agenda**

None

**23005 County and District Councillors reports (See below)**

Councillor Horsley informed the meeting of Cllr Bird's resignation and thanked him for his service and work on behalf of Fairlight.

Councillors Maynard and Mier had sent in reports prior to this meeting which were circulated.

**23006 Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2022**

The minutes were distributed to Councillors prior to the meeting and made available to the Public at the meeting.

**Resolved** to approve and the minutes were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**23007 Matters arising from the minutes not otherwise on the agenda**

Minutes item 22199 – Community Hub Committee (Faircomm.)

The 10k race will not now be taking place in 2023/24.

Minutes item 22205 - Neighbourhood Watch

This item will continue to be progressed.

**23008 Financial Matters**

- (a) To consider and approve schedule of payments and receipts for December 2022 and January 2023

**Resolved** to approve the payments for December 2022 and January 2023.

- (b) To consider and sign the monthly bank reconciliations.

**Resolved** to note and sign the bank reconciliations as correct.

- (c) To consider monthly budget figures (Clerk's report)

The Clerk had previously circulated the budget monitoring figures. No issues to report.

- (d) To note the winners of the Christmas lights competition

1<sup>st</sup> place – 27 Woodland Way

2<sup>nd</sup> place – 8 Knowle Road

**23009 Planning Committee**

- (a) To receive the monthly report

Details of the planning applications, decisions and comments from the Planning Committee meetings were reported (see below).

**23010 Land Management Group**

- (a) To receive the monthly report

- Cllr Smith – Wood Field and Highways

Cllr Smith reported on Wood Field and Highways.

- Cllr Sharpe – Fixed Assets

Cllr Sharpe reported on the grit bins and the availability of grit

- Cllr Horsley – Water/drainage issues

Cllr Horsley reported on issues

- (b) To receive an update on the Southern Water Pathfinder Project (Cllrs Cooke and Horsley)

Work has commenced on the project; flow meters are to be installed and some pipes are being lined with epoxy. Also, springs in the area are being mapped.

Southern Water has invited Cllr Horsley to join future meetings as a representative of the Parish Council and Preservation Trust.

- (c) To discuss and approve the quotation for remote access for the CCTV

**Resolved** to accept the quotation of £455 for the new equipment and £35 per month connection fee

**23011 Community Hub Committee (Faircomm.)**

- (a) To receive the monthly report (Cllr Stewart)

Cllr Stewart reported on progress to date. Quotations are being chase from Pump House. Once received they will be discussed by the Committee and report to the Full Council

**ACTION**

**23012 Finance and Administration Committee**

- (a) To receive a monthly report (Cllr Horsley)  
Cllr Horsley reported on this Committee (See below).
- (b) To discuss and approve the rent reviews for Fairlight Bowls Club, Fairlight Tennis Club and Activate Fairlight Youth Centre – Rates and review period  
**Resolved** the following rents with effect from 1st April 2023  
Bowls Club - £75, Tennis Club - £70, Activate Youth Centre - £50.  
Leases to be drawn up when appropriate.

**CLERK**

**23013 Fairlight Christmas Cracker and Warm Up Fairlight events**

- (a) To receive an update on Fairlight Christmas Cracker (Christmas day event)  
Cllr Sharpe provided an update on this project.
- (b) To receive an update on the Warm Up Fairlight project  
Cllr Sharpe provided an update on this project. Donations of both money and food continues. New contacts have been made with the managers of the Guestling Hall Hotel and the Carers Association who wish to give their support.

**23014 Parish Council Website and Facebook**

- (a) To receive a monthly report (Cllr Stewart)  
Both websites and Facebook pages continue to be updated

**23015 War Memorial Steering Group**

- (a) To receive an update on the project (Haydon Luke)  
A meeting has been arranged with EB on 25<sup>th</sup> January to discuss the way forward for this project in respect of sourcing a stone etc. The receipt of donations and pledges is on-going

**HL/GS/CLERK**

**23016 Hastings Country Park**

- (a) To receive a monthly update (Haydon Luke)  
The variation to hours planning application has been approved.  
A new scanning device has been installed near the Coastguards station by the Border Force Agency. This is only temporary.

**23017 Grant Application 2022/23**

- (a) To discuss and approve a grant application from the remaining 2022/23 funds - Fairlight Residents Association - £800  
**Resolved** to approve this application but payment in two parts - £150 upon FRA purchasing licences and insurance and £600 upon completion of the work.

**23018 Budget and Precept 2023/24**

- (a) To discuss and approve the budget and precept request for 2023/24  
**Resolved** to approve the budget for 2023/24 and precept request of £90,000 from RDC for 2023/24. This will be reported in the next PC newsletter.

**CLERK**

**23019 Meetings/training attended**

- RALC meeting – 11<sup>th</sup> January 2023 was reported on

**ACTION**

**23020 Correspondence**

All correspondence had been circulated to Councillors and was available to the Public.

- **East Sussex Fire** and the proposed downgrading of the Ridge fire station was discussed.

**Resolved** to send an initial letter to EFRS

- **RDC Budget Consultation**

**Resolved** the Parish Council will not be commenting on this subject.

**23021 Information and/or Future Agenda Items**

- Parish Assembly – booked for Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May at 6pm – NOW Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2023.
- Elections – 4<sup>th</sup> May 2023 – Councillors will need to consider if they are standing and complete and return packs to RDC
- Article 4 – Cliff Protection – Activation date 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023 – information to discuss.
- King Charles III coronation – possible events
- Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

**23022 Date of next meeting** – Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.

**23023 Close of meeting**

Meeting closed at 8.15 pm

**Open Forum**

Residents raised issues in respect of the Market Garden development, the road drainage and doctor's surgery in the village hall

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

## REPORTS FOR PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – 24<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2023

### Agenda item 8(a) - To consider and approve schedule of payments and receipts for December 2022 and January 2023

PAYMENTS	Date Paid	Invoice Date	Payee	Gross	Net	VAT	Details
<b>DIRECT DEBITS</b>							
DD	10/12/2022	02/12/2022	EE	24.72	20.60	4.12	Mobile phone inv V02054856590
<b>PAYPAL</b>							
9BN37679XY8422536	02/12/2022	02/12/2022	Fasthosts	12.00	10.00	2.00	Web hosting inv 70510879
4R617084WR125162S	02/12/2022	02/12/2022	Zoom	14.39	11.99	2.40	Zoom meetings INV178259062
7AT50504387573728	25/11/2022	25/11/2022	Netflix	4.99	4.16	0.83	Netflix 25/11/22 -24/12/22
4CK08771UM911240M	25/11/2022	25/11/2022	Viking	104.94	87.45	17.49	Stationery inv 9628511
<b>CHEQUES</b>							
<b>Cheque no</b>							
2698	05/12/2022	05/12/2022	Mrs G Jones	1000.00	1000.00	0.00	Fairlight Playgroup
2699	20/12/2022	23/12/2022	Pauline Collins	***	***	***	Salary - December 2022
2700	20/12/2022		Pauline Collins				Expenses - £250.04
		29/11/2022		17.96	17.96	0.00	Aldi - WUF supplies
		05/12/2022		8.43	8.43	0.00	Aldi - WUF supplies
		02/12/2022		141.80	141.00	0.80	SLCC - publication
		02/12/2022		30.60	30.60	0.00	WH Smith - Publication
		02/12/2022		51.25	51.25	0.00	Tesco - supplies for Cracker
2701	20/12/2022	20/12/2022	HMRC	2600.70	2600.70	0.00	Tax and NI Oct - Dec 2022
2702	20/12/2022	20/12/2022	Activate Fairlight Youth Centre	50.00	50.00	0.00	Use of hut by HFC for November 2022
2703	20/12/2022	22/11/2022	AB Fire & Security	69.55	57.96	11.59	CCTV Nov inv 357199
2704	20/12/2022	25/11/2022	Rother District Council	1737.33	1737.33	0.00	Compressor Electricity Jan - Jun inv 86237666
2705	20/12/2022	29/11/2022	AB Fire & Security	57.25	47.71	9.54	CCTV Dec inv 357551
2706	20/12/2022	30/11/2022	Fairlight Village Hall	46.00	46.00	0.00	Hall Hire November 2022
2707	20/12/2022	06/12/2022	The Old Butchers Shop Pett	59.20	59.20	0.00	Supplies for Cracker event inv 1890
2708	20/12/2022	09/12/2022	Fairlight Handyman	155.00	155.00	0.00	Blocking off slide inv 091222
2709	20/12/2022	20/12/2022	Activate Fairlight Youth Centre	50.00	50.00	0.00	Use of hut by HFC for December 2022
2710	20/12/2022	13/12/2022	AB Fire & Security	57.25	47.71	9.54	CCTV Jan inv 357691
2711	20/12/2022	15/12/2022	Mr P Banbury	180.00	180.00	0.00	Caretaker contract - Dec 22 inv 12
2712	20/12/2022	18/12/2022	Autela Payroll Services	52.31	43.59	8.72	Payroll Oct - Dec 2022
Cancelled invoice		25/10/2022	Rother District Council	2051.62	2051.62	0.00	Compressor Electricity Jan - Jun inv 86235413
Cancelled invoice		22/11/2022	AB Fire & Security	78.85	65.71	13.14	CCTV Dec inv 357208
Credit note		25/11/2022	Rother District Council	2051.62	2051.62	0.00	Compressor Electricity Jan - Jun CN 86237658
Credit note		29/11/2022	AB Fire & Security	-78.85	-65.71	13.14	CCTV Dec credit note 357550
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>8856.57</b>	<b>8789.54</b>	<b>67.03</b>	

<b>PAYMENTS</b>	<b>Date Paid</b>	<b>Invoice Date</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Gross</b>	<b>Net</b>	<b>VAT</b>	<b>Details</b>
<b>DIRECT DEBITS</b>							
DD	10/01/2023	02/01/2023	EE	24.72	20.60	4.12	Mobile phone inv V02064239315
<b>PAYPAL</b>							
04915265K77479100	02/01/2023	02/01/2023	Fasthosts	12.00	10.00	2.00	Web hosting inv 70823407
82A43344FS923721S	02/01/2023	02/01/2023	Zoom	14.39	11.99	2.40	Zoom meetings INV182457495
6X7469557J9035116	25/12/2022	25/12/2022	Netflix	4.99	4.16	0.83	Netflix 25/12/22 - 24/01/23
3SX01746X2328205R	13/01/2023	13/01/2023	Viking	116.98	105.51	11.47	Supplies inv 9867805
<b>CHEQUES</b>							
<b>Cheque no</b>							
2713	24/01/2023	24/01/2023	Pauline Collins	***	***	***	Salary - January 2023
2714	24/01/2023		Pauline Collins				Expenses - £285.48
		20/12/2022		127.97	127.97	0.00	Tesco - Supplies for Christmas Cracker
		21/12/2022		8.51	8.51	0.00	Lidl - Supplies for Christmas Cracker
		21/12/2022		26.00	21.66	4.34	Poundland - Supplies for Christmas Cracker
		22/12/2022		8.99	7.49	1.50	Amazon - Supplies for Christmas Cracker
		22/12/2022		16.59	13.82	2.77	Amazon - Supplies for Christmas Cracker
		22/12/2022		11.99	9.99	2.00	Brada Collections Ltd - Supplies for Christmas Cracker
		21/12/2022		24.00	20.00	4.00	High Speed Training - Food Hygiene C Sharpe
		12/12/2022		4.17	4.17	0.00	Aldi - Warm Up Fairlight Supplies
		12/01/2023		15.94	15.94	0.00	Aldi - Warm Up Fairlight Supplies
		22/12/2022		16.32	16.32	0.00	Post Office - stamps
		19/01/2023		25.00	25.00	0.00	Post Office - gift voucher
2715	24/01/2023	31/12/2022	Fairlight Village Hall	90.00	90.00	0.00	Hall Hire December 2022
2716	24/01/2023	09/01/2023	Breakthrough Communications & Strategies Ltd	36.00	30.00	6.00	Training - I Horsley INV20210648
2717	24/01/2023	20/12/2022	Ian Williams (Fairlight Handyman)	155.00	155.00	0.00	Blocking off slide inv 091222
2718	24/01/2023	19/01/2023	Mr P Banbury	225.00	225.00	0.00	Caretaker contract - Jan 23 inv 13
2719	24/01/2023	16/01/2023	Barby Keel Animal Sanctuary	50.00	50.00	0.00	Charity Donation - 1st Prize Christmas Light Comp
2720	24/01/2023	14/01/2023	Office Needs Direct (UK) Ltd	2700.00	2250.00	450.00	New playground train inv
Returned Cheque							
2708		20/12/2022	Fairlight Handyman	-155.00	-155.00	0.00	Blocking off slide inv 091222
			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6430.34</b>	<b>5938.91</b>	<b>491.43</b>	

**Agenda item 8(d) - To note the winners of the Christmas lights competition**

1<sup>st</sup> place – 27 Woodland Way

2<sup>nd</sup> place – 8 Knowle Road

## **Agenda item 9 - Planning**

**Weeks 46 – 50 2022** – No applications

**Weeks 1 – 2 2023** - No applications

### **Planning applications**

**(i) RR/2022/2724/PN 57 Battery Hill, Treetops, Fairlight TN35 4AP**

Application to determine if prior approval is required for the erection of an extension which would extend beyond the rear wall of the original dwelling by 4.54m, for which the maximum height would be 2.45m, and for which the height of the eaves would not exceed 2.45m.

Following discussions, the Committee agreed the following comments:

- (a) The Planning Officers will be making a decision on this application. However, the Parish Council would like to raise concerns in respect of this submission. It would appear to be a development providing a new separate two bedroom living area within the current property.
- (b) A single width drive presently exists with no provision for additional vehicles parking or extra traffic on and off the property.
- (c) The additional living space should only be used by a family member rather than a holiday let/air bnb which would require additional planning permission.
- (d) Neighbours comments should be considered

**(ii) Hastings Country Park Visitor Centre, 148 Martineau Lane, Hastings TN35 5DR  
(NGR: E586015, N111648)**

Telent Technology Services Ltd – HM Coastguard radio network  
infrastructure replacement – Prior Consultation

**To be discussed**

**(iii) RR/2023/64/T - Mays Platt, Clinton Way, Fairlight TN35 4DL**

T1 - Eucalyptus - reduce tree by 3m from the side of barn and removal of lateral. T2 - Eucalyptus - Crown reduction by 4m and lateral reduction to prevent overhang on dwelling. T3 to T9 - Firs - reduction to prevent encroachment on the dwelling.

**To be discussed**

### **Planning Decisions**

RR/2022/2640/P Halladale, Commanders Walk, Fairlight TN35 4BE - **Approved conditional**

RR/2022/2315/P Bairns Bourne, Sea Road, Fairlight TN35 4DR - **Refused**

RR/2022/2724/PN 57 Battery Hill, Treetops, Fairlight TN35 4AP – **Prior approval not required**

HS-FA- 22-00601 Hastings County Park Bale Centre - **Approved**

## **Agenda item 10 - Land Management Group**

- Cllr Smith – Wood Field and Highways

### **Highways**

Nothing much to report this month. I have received no complaints from residents involving highways. I have reported quite a few issues on the Highways website such as pot holes and road surfaces which have been or are being dealt with. Once the weather subsides a little, I will inspect all roads and lanes and report another pile of issues. I am aware the lanes have suffered with this weather. As well as a close inspection of roads by the Market Garden site. Just to note there will be lights for planned electric board works on Pett Level Road from 25th- 27th January.

### **Wood Field**

Nothing to report other than I will be chasing up new net for goal posts and hopefully arrange the filling in of the waterlogged dip. Hopefully the 'spoil' from the rubber matting work in playground can be used.

### **Knowle Wood**

Not much has taken place due to holiday and weather

### **Swing Park**

We have met with a contractor to discuss the installation of rubber matting for the new toddler equipment. Also, we are just ironing out some points with the help from Wickstead who inspected the playground equipment on 12th January. The report is not ready yet.

All being well the new equipment will be installed soon pending unknown lead times at present.

The slide situation has become clearer after a discussion with the Wickstead inspector and quotes for repairs will be sought soon.

### **Other**

When time and weather allows I will soon commence work on quotes for repair of fixed assets and finalise the BBQ and housing for it.

### **Agenda item 12 - Finance and Administration Committee**

(a) To receive a monthly report (Cllr Horsley)

The Finance Committee met on the 10th January to look at the proposed budget. The budget was discussed and agreed with a few amendments which will be presented to the Parish Council.

The rent reviews were considered and it has been proposed that the Bowls Club pay £75 rent this year, the Tennis Club pays £70 this year and Activate Youth Club to pay is £50.

The Bowls club has a lease which will run until 2024. The other two clubs do not have a lease and we will therefore be taking legal advice and drawing up leases for these clubs.

We reviewed the project management specification policy which I circulated earlier to the Councillors. The Finance Committee agreed that this was a good idea and we will therefore request the full Parish Council approves this.

We have one question from members of the public concerning grant allocations for this year this will be dealt with by the Grants Panel.

### **Agenda item 13 - Fairlight Christmas Cracker and Warm Up Fairlight events**

#### **Christmas Cracker**

I am pleased to report that the Christmas Cracker event in the Village Hall on Christmas Day was a great success. We had half a dozen or so elves come on Christmas Eve to set up the Hall and do some food preparations. On the day itself, we had ample elves to help cook the meal as well as a couple of special elves who acted as taxi drivers for the day. People started arriving as soon as we opened and made themselves at home.

Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors, they were able to enjoy a range of alcoholic drinks, chocolates, fruit, crisps, cakes and all sorts of goodies.

In the week leading up to Christmas, the numbers were going up and down almost on a daily basis. Some people were coming down with various bugs and colds as others were recovering and deciding to come after all. We also had a couple of drop-ins that stayed for lunch. We ended up with 18 people sitting down to Christmas lunch which was well received with quite a few coming back for seconds! There was a comforting buzz of conversation throughout the day which only stopped temporarily for the momentous occasion of the King's Speech. We were very fortunate to have the Village Voices to lead us in some Carol singing, what we lacked in talent, we made up for with enthusiasm! A good day was had by all and I even had a few people telling me they will come again next year.



## **Warm Up Fairlight**

The Warm Up Fairlight (WUF) sessions have evolved somewhat from when we first started them back in sunny October! We found that MOPPs more than satisfied the need on our Friday sessions. The people who attended found that MOPPs was far more exciting as it provided entertainment and raffles along with a two-course meal for a very reasonable fee. So, the Friday WUF sessions naturally phased themselves out just before Christmas and MOPPs now has more members!

The Wednesday sessions in St Peter's Church Centre continue to be a little disappointing. We do have regulars attending, just not very many of them.

However, the Monday sessions in the Village Hall have become a regular buzz of community gathering and we are getting good numbers attending week after week. I am constantly amazed and delighted at the generosity of our little village. Our supporters seem to be growing with frequent donations both monetary and materially. We now have a wonderful band of elves making cakes, soups, Cornish puddings, scones and donations of breads of all descriptions and Danish pastries and the like.

When we started this project, we thought the main need would be for the warm space, but it is becoming apparent that the need for companionship is just as great. The groups involved with this project will be meeting this week to discuss how we want to move forward with this.

## **Agenda item 17 - Grant Application 2022/23**

A grant application has been received from Fairlight Residents Association for the sum of £800 to assist with the manufacture and delivery of a new style village sign. (Copy of application etc circulated to all Parish Councillors). This application has been reviewed by the Grants Panel and they have recommended this be approved in full by the Parish Council. It is suggested by the Proper Officer that any payments be made in stages to ensure that appropriate licences and insurance have been requested/acquired before the first payment (£150) is made and the work has been completed before the final payment (£650) is made. This is to protect public funds in case the licences are not approved and the new sign is not erected.

## **Agenda item 19 - Meetings/training attended**

### **RALC – Cllr Horsley**

I attended a meeting of the Rother Association of Local Councils on the 11th January. We had a presentation from Rother District Council summarising the budget plans for the next year and also discussing the housing supply. A new local plan for housing is being prepared and Rother Planning officers are meeting with each Parish Council to discuss housing supply within the parish. We are hoping to meet with Rother before the end of February if you have any comments on this please let Issy Horsley know.

Also, present was the Police Inspector from Battle who covers our area. She outlined how they are trying to get more community involvement with increased patrols. She emphasised once more that if incidents are not reported the police and they do not know anything about them. Even though they may not be serious, the volume of reports helps the police build up an idea of what is happening in local areas. If you wish to report a non-urgent crime you should use the 101 number. The average answer time for this number is seven minutes or it can be reported online and this is looked at on a daily basis.

The subscription to RALC will remain the same for 2023.

## **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S - REPORT FOR PARISH COUNCIL - 24 January 2023**

1. Rother has appointed a new planning Development Manager, Olukemi (Kemi) Erfevieme who starts on 24 February. We look forward to meeting her. (The Development Manager is in charge of applications and enforcement, rather than planning policy). Kemi takes over from Myles Joyce who was a temporary appointment. Myles has made great progress in clearing the backlog of applications and improving systems. Planning applications on hand are now 34% lower than at the end of March 2019 despite the number of new applications holding up.
2. The Article 4 Direction (to ensure that any cliff top development which might affect stability requires planning permission) will come into force on 30 September. The consultation produced no representations and the Secretary of State (DLUHG) confirmed last month that the Directions are policy-compliant and that the SoS will not intervene. Rother will write again to all affected residents to give them this update. Additionally, there will be site notices and an advert in the Observer. Professor McInnes, Rother's coastal science consultant, is writing a leaflet advising householders how to minimise risk from coastal erosion and ground instability when undertaking works. A draft of the leaflet will be sent to Fairlight PC and FPT for comment before it is finalised.
3. Rye Pool. Constructive talks have taken place between the responsible Rother cabinet member and Rye Town Council. I gather that both parties now understand the other's concerns and are moving forward constructively towards a means of securing the long-term future of the pool. I cannot promise any imminent re-opening of the pool. In their recent announcement central government has not given further support for pools nationally.
4. Rother is proceeding with plans to devolve assets to towns and parishes. This particularly affects parishes with public lavatories, e.g., at Pett Level. Rother will carry out a survey of the structures etc. Lavatories are expensive to run and maintain and parishes will have to consider proposals carefully. There is a real risk of facilities being closed if agreement cannot be reached. The new Bexhill Town Council has agreed to take on responsibility for the town's lavatories.
5. Parish and District elections will be held in May. Due to national legislation voters at polling stations will have to show recognised photo identification for the first time. (This will not apply to postal voters). The Electoral Commission will mount a publicity campaign soon to ensure voters know what is required. There are concerns about the timetable for implementation of the measures, but I work on the assumption they will be in force by May. A free "Voter Authority Certificate" or VAC will be made available for those without any other authorised means of photo ID.
6. Blackfriars Development, Battle. There has been a serious cost overrun on the spine road to serve the new development of 200 houses, and we await a full report on the reasons. The road issue is separate from Rother's housing company, which deals with the houses themselves.
7. In answer to a question at 19 December Full Council it was stated that £730,117 has so far been spent on the project to redevelop the Town Hall site while preserving and enhancing the recently listed Grade 2 1895 – 1908 structure. The project was narrowly refused planning permission and is with officers to see where we go from here, but it is stalled for the moment due to current financial uncertainty.  
  
The accommodation for officers in the aptly-named "attic" and the converted Victorian "villas" is unsuitable for modern purposes and grossly energy-inefficient. Redevelopment of the site would rectify the current defects, reduce carbon emissions and provide a commercial opportunity by letting commercial space. I hope a way forward will be found, but that depends on planning and financial certainty.
8. There has been publicity about enforcement of fines for littering and fly-tipping. Rother's agreement with National Environmental Services (NES) came into force last summer. NES staff are authorised to issue on-the-spot fines. The contract stipulates that certain percentages of fines issued will be imposed in relation to different categories of offence. This prevents NES from enforcing only offences which are cheap and easy to spot and ensures that money from the simpler offences is used to investigate serious offences of fly-tipping. There have been some teething problems and some uncertainty in the minds of the public about what conduct constitutes an offence. Anyone disputing a fine should follow the set down procedure via NES, but I would encourage them to let me know too.  
Before entering the agreement Rother lacked the resources and systems to deal with fly-tipping which is expensive to investigate and prosecute and where Biffa's charges for removal of the rubbish fall on Rother.
9. Rother has been successful in bidding for over £19 million from the government's levelling up fund to upgrade the grade 1 listed De La Warr Pavilion and to provide community facilities in Sidley, a very deprived area.
10. Cllr Cathy Harmer (Rother Chair) and I (Vice-Chair) are happy to attend local functions in our official capacities. To extend a formal invitation please email Jane McCullough at [Jane.McCullough@rother.gov.uk](mailto:Jane.McCullough@rother.gov.uk)  
I am equally happy to attend events informally.

Cllr Andrew Mier

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## **County Councillor report - Cllr Carl Maynard, Communities, Economy and Transport**

### **Historic proclamation document to be displayed in County Hall**

On the 6<sup>th</sup> of December, the High Sheriff of East Sussex presented a framed version of the proclamation of King Charles III to the Chairman of East Sussex County Council, Councillor Peter Pragnell. The proclamation was presented at the start of Full Council, and will go on display at County Hall.

The proclamation contains the words which were read from the steps of County Hall in September to proclaim the new King after the death of Queen Elizabeth II. The High Sheriff, Jane King, said she wanted to present the gift as 'a reminder and souvenir of that very momentous day'. The council plans to display the document in a place which will allow as many people as possible to view it.

### **Environmentally-friendly gritters ready for winter in East Sussex**

Gritters running on low emission biodiesel will be working to keep East Sussex moving safely this winter. Preparations are underway to ensure the 21 'green' gritters are ready for snow forecasts or when the road surface temperature falls near to or below freezing.

The vehicles and their drivers were recently tested during Operation Snowdrop, an annual event which allows the gritters to be thoroughly checked and sent on trial runs of the county's gritting routes. In addition to the gritters, the Highways team has over 9,500 tonnes of salt stored in four depots across the county, with 766 grit bins countywide refilled over the summer for use on public roads and footpaths.

Over the winter, the gritters will treat all A and B roads along with some C roads – a total of 42 per cent of roads across the county, with over 1,252km of roads treated on a primary route gritting run.

*More information on this story can be found [here](#).*

*Safety advice for drivers and the East Sussex Highways winter service is available [here](#).*

*Any problems on the roads can be reported online [here](#).*

*School closure updates can be found [here](#), and other information concerning disruption to council services can be found on the [East Sussex news page](#).*

### **Refurbishment projects announced for three libraries**

Improvements to three East Sussex libraries mean that customers will find it even easier to access services. Work will take place in Rye, Newhaven and Hollington to improve their layout to enhance customer experience, with children's areas and study spaces being upgraded and new seating installed. The improvements will support the library service to deliver its aims, including improving child and adult numeracy and literacy.

The schemes will also help to reduce the libraries' carbon footprints with a range of improvements to the buildings themselves.

Work at Rye Library began last month with a new children's library planned, new furniture, an improved layout and more flexibility for customers to stay, enjoy and study within the space.

Extensive refurbishment work will begin at Hollington Library later in the spring, with a range of works being undertaken to update the building. Details of any closures will be advertised in libraries and online as soon as they have been confirmed.

### **Apprenticeship training funding boost**

Funding to cover the full training costs of an apprenticeship is being made available to small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) across the county. Through the council's Apprenticeship Levy transfer scheme, the Transform programme is offering small and medium businesses in East Sussex the chance to apply for a share of over £300,000.

The Transform project aims to help SMEs in East Sussex access apprenticeship advice and funding and is part-funded by the European Social Fund and led by East Sussex County Council. It is delivered by the Sussex Council of Training Providers (SCTP).

Apprenticeships offer an opportunity for people to take the first steps onto the career ladder, change career paths or develop new skills in a current role, earn money while training and gain qualifications from entry level to the equivalent of a master's degree.

Several local businesses have already benefitted from the advice and support offered by SCTP's Transform Skills Advisers.

Small and medium enterprises in East Sussex that would like support accessing apprenticeships and apprenticeship funding should contact [transform@sctp.org.uk](mailto:transform@sctp.org.uk) for further information.

Businesses can also visit the Sussex Council of Training Providers website to access the free and impartial Transform skills support service at [www.sctp.org.uk/transform-programme](http://www.sctp.org.uk/transform-programme).