



NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2023

This month the Parish Council has: -

- Applied for and received a grant of £1000 for DISH from HVA;
- Hosted the well-attended Facts and Finance event, allowing discussion about the reality of the Parish Council budget;
- Verified the legality of the work being carried out on the edge of the badger's setts on the Market Garden site;
- Collated and arranged delivery of 895 envelopes containing the Parish Council Household Survey, Rother District Council's "Managing Ground Instability" leaflet, and adverts for new Parish Councillors, a new caretaker, and local businesses that might be able to carry out work for the council in the future;
- Had meetings with, and/or given email advice to residents about building work done by neighbours, worries about drains, possibly unauthorised work on Stream Lane, concerns about the cutting of the grass verges, using wood field for parties or sports events;
- Arranged the tree survey for Knowle Wood;
- Had a grant application to Rother to help with replacing equipment in the play area turned down, partly due to lack of community support;
- Arranged for and received an asbestos survey on the Activate Hut;
- Prompted Rother DC to send the bill for Compressor House electricity from January to date;
- Held meetings for Planning, Finance and Admin and the new Community Hut committees and the full Parish Council;
- Published the external auditor's report
- Updated the Dignity at Work and Email policies and started work on revising Standing Orders and the Complaints Policy;
- Attended meetings and briefings via zoom;
- Explored re organising the Parish Council bank accounts;
- Reviewed grants we might be able to apply for to improve the environment of Wood Field and Knowle Wood;
- Designed a new logo for the Parish Council incorporating of the new village sign, as we hope other village groups will do;
- And much, much more.

OCTOBER 2023 NEWSLETTER (cont.)

DISH and advice for those not able to access the Village Hall on Mondays

The Drop in Social Hub will continue on Mondays 10am – 4pm. For those who are not able to get there but would like access to the advice offered by DISH, or have questions for Councillors, this will be available from 6 -7pm in the Village Hall on the fourth Tuesday of the month.

East Sussex Police and crime commission survey

Closing soon - <https://forms.office.com/e/7bZZrdJC8n>

Newspapers

Since the closure of the Post Office, Sarah at the Old Butchers Shop in Pett has organised for Fairlight residents to be able to order papers and pay her for them. The papers are delivered to a box at The Cove each morning (except Sundays). Your name will be on your paper and so far, this system has worked well. If anyone else would like to be able to collect their daily papers this way, they can contact Sarah at the Old Butchers Shop Pett or tel 01424 812148. Many thanks to Sarah for this fantastic service.

New Community Hub on Wood Field

This project is currently a committee of the Parish Council. We have planning permission, all the necessary reports and are ready to move to the next phase. It is now proposed that a separate charity is created to take this exciting project forward to completion. The Parish Council will work with the proposed Charity's committee to ensure the handover is smooth and in a timely manner.

If anyone is interested in helping the proposed charity's committee, please contact Cllr Geoff Smith cllrgsmith.fairlightpc@gmail.com

Facts and Finance event and Budget for 2024-25

This event was well-attended. Robust and detailed questions were asked by many residents, most of these were done in a civil way with an interest in hearing factual answers. Several suggestions were made and noted. The Parish Council was thanked by several residents for a pleasant and informative meeting. It is hoped that the genuine interest shown by residents will continue and that Councillors will therefore be able to continue the dialogue.

The Parish Council will start the budget setting process for 2024/25 this month and will vote on the new budget in January 2024. The current year's budget is available on the website. For the new budget we are now looking in detail at each item to decide whether it will be affected by the cost of living, the needs of the community, or whether it can be reduced. If you have suggestions, please put them in writing to the Proper Officer.

Fairlight Household Survey

This has now been delivered to 850 households in the village. Many thanks to all those who helped with this, it was fortunate that the wind and rain held off until most had been delivered!

Once the forms have been returned the responses will be collated and discussed by the Councillors. The information will assist the Parish Council to compile a new five-year plan and action plan which will be budgeted for appropriately each year.

Thank you

Issy Horsley - Chair of Fairlight Parish Council Email: cllrihorsley.fairlightpc@gmail.com