



NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2023

Parish Council Meeting – 24th October 2023

Parish Councillors: -

- welcomed Mr. Dale Williams as a co-opted councillor. He has lived in the village for a number of years and has skills and experience which will be useful to the Council once he has had time to get up to speed with the Council's business and has attended training.
- noted there is still a vacancy for one more councillor. If you are interested, please contact the Proper Officer.
- agreed a contractor to refurbish the Village Map. This will commence as soon as possible.
- are looking into whether to allow a Hastings based cricket club to use Wood Field for their matches on Saturday afternoons during the Summer. Please contact the Parish Council if you have any comments to make about this.
- reviewed the budget for this year. It is progressing as planned. However, there are some items of expenditure that are more costly than were budgeted for, but the Responsible Financial Officer feels that we are still within the planned spend overall.
- responded following a question from a member of the public in respect of the external auditor's AGAR report. It was confirmed that the external auditors have received a letter from one elector stating concerns about the AGAR, relating to the Parish Council accounts for the year 2022/23. The external auditors will need to carry out a further preliminary evaluation in order to make a decision as to whether to undertake a fuller investigation. The Parish Council awaits communications from the external auditor on the next stage. We have been notified that the costs for the evaluation/investigation work will be charged in full to the Parish Council at a rate of £355 per hour or £2485 per day.
- agreed a contractor to carry out the tree survey in Knowle Wood. The surveyor will advise us of any remedial work that needs to be carried out.
- agreed unanimously to relinquish the new Community Hub Project and transfer it to an independent charity status organisation.
- adopted a new complaints policy, which is now on the Parish Council's website
- agreed not to contract ESCC for four additional urban grass cuts next year due to the rising costs.
- agreed to the Christmas Cracker event going ahead on Christmas Day in the Village Hall.
- approved Cllr Hohenkerk to be the representative on the Hastings Area Bus User group

During the Open Forum a question on speeding within the village was raised. If there is support, we will organise an event in the Village Hall to look at the problem and possible solutions. The Speed Watch group is always happy to welcome new volunteers.

It may well be that it will take more than signage round the village to change the attitudes to excessive speed for the road conditions of delivery drivers and some residents

DISH – Drop In Social Hub

With the closure of the village shop there is not a public space where the social and charity events can have a place to sell tickets and ask for donations etc. DISH on Mondays in the Village Hall between 10 and 4 is trying to fill that gap. Currently the Fairlight Players are selling tickets for their production of “A Bunch of Amateurs”.

From Monday 30th October poppies will be available to buy for the annual British Legion Poppy Appeal box ahead of Remembrance Day.

Christmas Cracker event

Christmas is on its way! Christmas Cracker will be happening again. This will be in the Village Hall on Christmas Day. There will be a full Christmas lunch with all the trimmings for a modest amount and a whole day of free fun, food, liquid refreshments and entertainment for anyone who wishes to drop in. For further details and tickets for Christmas lunch, please look out for the posters.

Collaboration with the FRA

The Fairlight Residents Association Committee has requested to work collaboratively with the Parish Council on some projects. This has been welcomed by the Parish Council as a way of taking schemes forward jointly and using the expertise of both organisations. The first venture is the repair and restoration of the village map. The FRA have offered to help with costs and the restoration of the map itself.

War Memorial

The new War Memorial has now received the additional planning permission and will proceed. The fund is still short of its target by about £5000. Any donations will be gratefully received.

Rural Rother Trust

The Rother Rural Trust offers small grants for individuals and organisations in need in rural parishes. Its aim is to relieve poverty, promote education and other charitable works. Please contact the clerk to Rural Rother Trust at Town Hall, Bexhill, phone 01580 881309 or email stephenhardy1948@gmail.com.

3 P's

Please remember the 3 ‘P’s’ rule for toilets especially with all the recent rain putting a strain on our sewerage system. The only things to go down the loo are “Pee, Poo and Paper”.

On that note have a good November!

Thank you

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