

ROTHER ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (RALC)

Minutes of Meeting Held on

11th October 2023, 2.30 pm Incorporating the AGM

Staplecross Village Hall TN32 5QG

Attendees: Tracy Dixon, Karen Ripley, Steve Bunn, Bob Franklin, Peter Lamont, Julie Ramus, John Barnes, Joanna Coleman, Pauline Glen, Jonathan Vine-Hall, Sue Prochak, James Kelly, Lynda Roller, Geoff Thomas, Keith Robertson, David Young, David Penfold.

AGENDA

Item Number	Agenda Item	Lead
1	Welcome The Chair welcomed attendees.	
2	Apologies for absence Philip Allard, Dale Wheeler, Cllr Wilson, David Todd, Pauline Barton, Lorna Ford.	
3	Accuracy of Minutes of the meeting held on 12th July Approved + amend item 8 to Kara Tomkin	
4	Matters arising from previous meeting (items on agenda only) Parish On-line. An update was requested to confirm if data from ESCC and RDC can be or has been merged with Parish on Line.	
5	Election of Executive Officers, Committee and Secretary/Treasurer a) Chairman. David Young b) Vice Chairman Keith Robertson c) Executive Committee Add Joanna Coleman (Brightling) d) Secretary/Treasurer Alex Sharp	
6	Appointment/ Confirmation of representatives to outside bodies a) Rother Audit and Standards Committee Keith Robertson b) ESALC Directors (David Young, John Barnes, Keith Robertson.	
7	Finance <ul style="list-style-type: none">Year audited accounts to 31 March 2023 were previously published but have not been audited.KR confirmed there is sufficient funds to pay for the 23-24 mapping fees and the secretary's allowance only.KR asked all members to pay the fees due. Most present said they have not paid because they did not receive an invoice. KR explained that individual invoices will not be send and asked all to pay on the list that will be resent within a week.The budget for 2024-25 has not been set because we do not yet know which Parishes will be paying fees for both RALC and the Parish on line mapping system for 2024-25. The assumption for now is for no change in fees for 24-25. An update will be made as soon as fees for 2023-24 have been collected.	Keith Robertson

	END OF AGM	
8	<p>Energize Sussex Presentation on Saving energy and the help available in Rother.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chris Richards presented a summary of the services provided by ES. This includes advice on energy savings, solar panels, heat pumps and advice for grants. For advice on for homeowners or for larger Parish owned projects please contact Chris direct it. Crowhurst Parish update on their project to install a solar farm and noted that for technical reasons mainly on connecting the national grid it may be several years before the project comes on line. Energy options will be an agenda item for the November Parish meeting with RDC to include an update on the Solar Farm project being developed by Crowhurst Parish Council, 	David Young
9	<p>Rother Matters</p> <p>To receive an update following meetings with RDC. Sue Prochak read highlights from the report (distributed).</p> <p>KR updated members on the quarterly meetings with RDC/RALC. The agenda items being: Risk, Service Priorities and Training for Councilors ref planning applications. RDC to revert with more data and dates for each.</p> <p>To receive an update on Rother District Council Energy Project for Village Halls.</p> <p>David Young reported that the funding application for Village Hall energy projects have been issued by RDC.</p> <p>Noted that Rother community grants are now open with application to be received by the end of November 2023.</p>	David Young/Keith Robertson
10	<p>East Sussex Highways</p> <p>To receive an update on ESCC Action Road and Repair Strategy.</p> <p>KR noted that a reply ref the adequacy of funding to maintain roads in a safe condition was received from Karl Talor(Assistant Director Operations, Communities, Economy & Transport) This stated that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The intervention criteria takes into account the type of road as well as the volume and speed of traffic and is consistent with other Highway Authorities across the country. Also noted that ESCC Place Scrutiny Committee is proposing to examine the criteria and any recommendations arising from this review will be considered by Cabinet later in the year. ESCC do not have a breakdown of maintenance schemes or repairs needed or completed by district as the Council works on a countywide basis rather than by parish or district. It was agreed to ask ESALC raise the issue of clarity around safety on Rother area roads this winter with ESCC. <p>James Kelly from ESCC Highways introduced himself as the new manager.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> James noted that he and the Stewards are there to help and for Councils to contact and say what they need. James outlined a new policy of patching larger areas around potholes rather than just re-filling the holes which will 	Keith Robertson

	<p>provide an better and longer lasting solution.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members asked why the website was no longer able to provide updates on reports of issues raised. The function is still there but members must re-register now that the new contractor is in place. <p>To receive an update on Quiet Lanes. The proposal text to be provided by Bob Franklin while sent was not received. This will be resent and this item deferred to the Jan 2024 meeting.</p>	
11	<p>Police, PCSOs and Engagement with Communities.</p> <p>Noted that on each occasion that we have new inspector (there have been many in the past few years) the established methods of communications with PCSO's changes.</p>	
12	<p>To confirm dates of next meetings. Next meeting is 13 December 2.30pm Staplecross Village Hall. (Meeting is now Cancelled).(Meeting Cancelled)</p>	