

# RUSPER



## Parish News

October 2023

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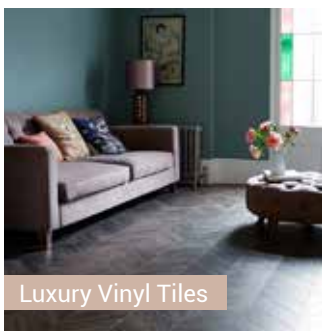
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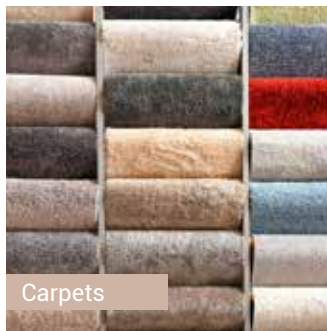
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MCFHP  
MAFHP

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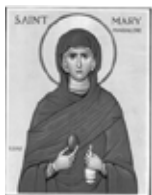


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tel.: 07792 032141 / e-mail: lauraahutt@btinternet.com



**THE PARISH OF RUSPER  
SERVICES AT ST MARY MAGDALENE'S CHURCH  
RUSPER  
OCTOBER SERVICES**

Subject to Government restrictions and Church of England advice,  
details may vary. See Facebook and Website for updates.

**Holy Communion every Sunday at 8am [said] and 11am [sung with hymns]**

**October**

Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup>	Harvest Thanksgiving	11am Holy Communion
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Durrants Village	10.30am Holy Communion
<b>NON-RESIDENTS WELCOME</b>		
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Pet Service	11am <b>NO</b> Holy Communion
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup>		11am Holy Communion
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup>		11am Holy Communion
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup>	All Saints Requiem	11am Holy Communion

Information on services is updated monthly on: [www.rusperchurch.org.uk](http://www.rusperchurch.org.uk)

Why not visit the Rusper Church website and follow Nick on Facebook?  
If a priest is required at short notice and Nick is unavailable, please  
contact the Churchwardens.

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Rector	Revd Nick Flint	01293 871251
Authorised Lay Minister	Mr Chris Pearce	01403 268047
Churchwarden	Mr Stephen Busby	01293 871279
Churchwarden	Mrs Maggie True	01293 871722
Treasurer	Mrs Lorna Reeves	01293 871012
Organist		

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## Harvest of Souls

We think of Harvest Thanksgiving as a tradition steeped in antiquity, but the English rural idyll it suggests was a Victorian invention, itself a nostalgic feeling for a world vanishing beneath the growing industrial landscape. My kinsman and former Rector of Rusper, John Wood was 'very easy in his demands for tithes' while his successor and cannier nephew, while at the same time standing up for the agricultural workers of the 1830s remained happy to take his full share under the unpopular system.

Today the gifts from village and largely our school have for many years gone to support the sadly increasing needs that Crawley Open House was set up to alleviate. The fairly recent spectacle of the current Rector publicly eating from a dog food can is a memorable image highlighting a serious and under the current Government, growing crisis for the poor.

Something that unites street people, sofa surfers and the more fortunate in society is our love of animal companionship and we look forward to meeting all creatures great and small at what has now, probably thanks to Dawn French become the annual village event of the church pet service.

Nothing however is more unifying than our essential mortality. At the end of this month, we celebrate the Christian hope in the Resurrection and pray by name for departed loved ones, those who have publicly professed the faith and those whose faith is known to God alone in his mercy.

From the beginning of the month there will be a chantry list for you I church to add the names of any departed ones you would like us to remember at the altar on that occasion.

*Nick*

**Check Website and Church Facebook for news and updates. Email Nick if you would like to receive the weekly update.**  
**[rusperchurch.org.uk](mailto:nick@rusperchurch.org.uk)**



**NEXT MONTH: CONFESSIONS OF A CHURCH  
CRAWLING CYCLIST!**





*Nick is here to minister to all who have need in our parish. He is keen to be told if someone has moved in and to have an opportunity to visit newcomers. Holy Communion can be arranged for the housebound or those who are sick. Nick tries to take Friday as a rest day each week, so he kindly suggests that you only contact him on a Friday in matters of urgency*

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## **NEWS FROM THE PCC**

Would you like to serve on the PCC helping to shape our church for present mission and future planning? We are open to new faces, fresh ideas and the skills and experience you might bring. In particular.....

### **Could YOU be a GREEN Champion?**

Rusper Church is signed up to the Eco Church network, but we want our membership to be more active. As well as thinking globally we need to act 'gebe-ally' as the diocese have now signed a contract with developers to build on the field. Could YOU take on the roll of receiving news and highlighting areas where we could improve our own GREEN credentials? Please contact Nick if you are interested.

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## **DONATIONS TO RUSPER PARISH NEWS**

**DONATIONS** This month we have received 3 donations. Thank You. Please either leave at the Post Office or in my letter box. The Bank details for direct transfer are : Sort Code 30 94 41 Account 00007348 Name PCC RUSPER – MAGAZINE. Considering nearly 400 copies are hand delivered , very few people give anything and the Editorial Team would appreciate a bigger response. Just £5 annually from each household is fine.

*Valerie Bowles (871 412)*

## **RUSPER CHAT 2023**



**Friday 27 October 2.30 pm**  
**Lorna, 4 Steeres Hill. 871012**

**PLEASE CONTACT THIS MONTH'S HOST IF A LIFT  
TO ANY CHAT MEETING WOULD BE HELPFUL**

**ALL WELCOME!**

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**CHARITY BARN DANCE**  
**In aid of St Catherine's Hospice**

Saturday November 4<sup>th</sup> 7.30-11pm  
Drill Hall, Denne Road, Horsham

Dancing to Moves Afoot band

£21.00 to include fish and chip supper  
£13.00 without fish and chip supper  
Raffle, roll £1.00 coin

Bring own drinks  
Raffle prizes greatly appreciated  
Tickets available from 01293 871377  
or mobile 07545 894 070

*Marion Fenton*

## RUSPER VILLAGE HALL REFURBISHMENT

We are delighted to announce that after several years of fund raising within our community and a generous grant from the Hope Keith Trust, work has commenced on the refurbishment of Rusper Village Hall.

The initial phase comprises the replacement of the roof tiles including the



fitting of insulation to keep the building warm and reduce heating costs. This work is estimated to last from 8-10 weeks and the car park at the rear of the building will be out of use during this time. Inside the building it will be business

as usual apart from the inevitable extra noise as work progresses.

The second phase of work will focus on the redevelopment of the former snooker room into a “hub” area renamed as “The Hope Keith Room” and aimed specifically at Rusper’s elderly residents who are currently unable to use our facilities during weekday daytimes as the School and the Playgroup make full use of the two halls during these times. We hope that work will start this during the Autumn and will include provision of a disabled toilet and wheelchair access via the front door.

*Roland Allen on behalf of Rusper Village Hall Trustees*

[ruspervillagehall.org.uk](http://ruspervillagehall.org.uk)

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## HOPE KEITH TRUST

Sadly we no longer have an Age UK village agent but the search for a new Rusper village agent continues. You will be pleased to know that the coffee morning previously organised by Age UK will continue for the time being and we hope to see you on Tuesday 10 October at 11am at The Star Inn for a cuppa and a chat.

## SALSA AND MERENGUE EVENING



Saturday night in the village hall was a bit like 'Strictly' at the Blackpool Tower Ballroom with a twirl of Latin dancing.

A special thanks to our dancing experts Marion and John Fenton who ran the evening superbly, making the night a lively experience for everyone.

It was very generous of them to give up their time and thanks as well to everyone involved in organising the evening and making it such a success.

The evening raised well over a thousand pounds towards the church renovation fund.

Olé

*Louise Holford-Walker*



Thanks to Marion and John for the Salsa Evening which raised £1323 for the North Aisle Fund

*Nick*

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## CHURCH CLEANING

October 6 <sup>th</sup>	Pat Newman	01293 871354
October 13 <sup>th</sup>	Ros Maiden	01403 257088
October 20 <sup>th</sup>	Judy Easter	01403 251979
October 27 <sup>th</sup>	Joan Beedle	01403 267937

*Sue Matthewson 01293 871266*

## RUSPER CHURCH 200 CLUB

Thank you to all those people who continue responding to the request for new members. The Rusper Church 200 Club is one of the continuing forms of income to our lovely church during these challenging times. You can continue to help by joining the 200 Club or buying additional shares. All the details about the Rusper Church 200 Club including past winners, the Rules and an Application Form, are on the Church's web-site at [www.rusperchurch.org.uk](http://www.rusperchurch.org.uk) under "THE CHURCH IS YOU" tab. Just print off and complete the Application Form and then either e-mail it to me at [johnmichaeljory@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:johnmichaeljory@yahoo.co.uk) or send it to me at: Elsinoro, Horsham Road, Rusper, Horsham, RH12 4PR. Many thanks to all of you who have been regularly contributing to enable us to make a significant contribution towards the running costs of the Church over the past few years.

The results of the latest draws are:

	August 2023.	September 2023
1 <sup>st</sup> Prize - £200	176 Ian B	86 Shirley A
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize - £75	117 Graham H	2 Angie H
3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize - £50	69 R B B	107 Tracey M

*John Jory*

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## THANK YOU TO EVERYONE IN RUSPER FROM POSTIE STEVE

A big THANK YOU for your very generous leaving gift and the card with lots of kind messages. For those people that I never got to see before I left I am still with Royal Mail but at their Guildford Office and am driving trucks taking the mail to the delivery offices during the night within the GU postcode area, I think I'm finally used to the midnight starts! I would especially like to thank David and Hilde for my flight to the Isle of Wight, the weather and the views were fantastic and we had a lovely lunch as well.

It has been a real pleasure to be your postie over the last 18 years and I will miss you all.

**STEVE**



## CAPEL CHRISTMAS FAIR

A charity fair raising funds for Capel & Ockley Parish Churches and the Motor Neurone Disease Association.

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2023

12 noon until 4pm

Capel's Parish and Memorial Halls, RH5 5LD

- \* Bigger and better for our third fair with exciting new stalls as well as familiar favourites.
- \* More shopping opportunities with unique, local stallholders.
- \* More refreshment opportunities for breakfast, lunch, snacks or tea.
- \* Raffle with cash prizes and gorgeous hampers to be won!

### Current confirmed stalls include -

Hive and Keeper \* Charlie Cha \* Silent Pool \* K & M Stained Glass \* Teal Creative \* Lavender Lime \* Abinger Crafts \* Wonder of Books \* Bramble Cottage Crafts \* The Country Dog Barn \* Cody's Waffles \* Little Sundry \* Surrey Hills Candle Company \* French Soap Store \* Tropic Skincare \* M&M Supplies \* Helen More Faux fur accessories \* Olivia Rose Jewellery \* Whinny Poo \* Tracey Pearson Jewellery \* Vestimenta Ltd \* MNDA \* Scott Broadwood PTA \* Tiffany Budd Art \* Crafted by Mummy Jewellery \* Surrey Hills Tinies \* Gem Design \* Shirley's cushions \* Heidi Rebecca Jewellery \*

For updates follow us on social media @capelchristmasfair

Contact us at [info@capelchristmasfair.co.uk](mailto:info@capelchristmasfair.co.uk)

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## RUSPER CHURCH CHOIR

If you enjoy singing and would like to join us on Sundays why not try it out!? You are very welcome to be part of a small but very friendly group of loyal and keen singers!!

No auditions and enquiries are welcomed to Nick or Steve 

*Steve Busby*

## RUSPER CHRONICLE

### POSTCARDS

“One more for your Collection” writes an unnamed correspondent from “Oaklee” in Rusper to her friend Miss Robins in Kentish Town in January 1918 – but she is pleased to report that she got a pound of cheese as easy as winking but no butter (shades of war-time food shortages?) Oh, and Reg apparently sent good wishes also. The picture on the front of the card is an interior of Rusper Church published by Walter Martin of Rusper Stores.

This is rather typical of the messages sent by postcard in the early 1900s. There were no postcards before 1895 as the Post Office did not allow pictures on a card. Originally only the address was to be on the reverse so even when pictures were first allowed there was nowhere to write a message – until the back was divided into two parts. But it was probably the coming of the halfpenny stamp which started the postcard passion, a means of communicating for everybody to use – and to collect. It lasted till the First World War, though cards produced by Walter Martin at Rusper Stores were still circulating in the 1920s, perhaps as a form of advertising his business.

Collecting postcards is still popular today, as we found at the Rusper Chronicle meeting in September when both Jean Wood’s and Derek White’s albums were there for exploring, together with old Property for Sale catalogues and the Tithe Map.

Imagine the poor photographer cycling up to Rusper, perhaps from Faygate Station, on his trusty steed looking for something to photograph. Some things were certainties like the church and the pubs but a lot of Rusper was a building site. Walter King was busy replacing the old cottages by the church with his new ones, old Puckcroft was getting an Edwardian frontage, Normans was becoming a large Edwardian house instead of a simple farmhouse, small houses were falling down and becoming ‘unfit for human habitation’ like Old Park Farm (one of the oldest houses in the village) – so no wonder he didn’t make it each time to more remote areas like Friday Street and Lambs Green. Others like the shop were new so maybe not so attractive? Maybe too some householders were not keen to have their properties made public. For whatever reason the coverage of the parish is mixed.

NEXT MONTH: Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October, 7-10 in Rusper Village Hall when we have more information on our Mosquito bomber Tony Wickham, oak trees in the Parish and looking for the early brickworks. Everyone welcome.

*Margaret White*

**CALLING ALL NEW (and old) DOGS IN THE VILLAGE**  
***Bring your owner to church on Sunday October 8<sup>th</sup>***

**St. Mary Magdalene's Church, Rusper welcomes all creatures great and small to our 'Pet Blessing Service' – a service for all the family including your much loved pet. Be it dog, cat, rabbit or guineapig.**



The blessing of pets and animals is often celebrated in early October at the feast of St. Francis of Assisi. We invite you to join us to bless your pets and remember all that they do to enrich our lives on:

*Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup> at 11 am*

We do hope that you and your furry, feathered or scaly friends can join us.

*Louise Holford-Walker*

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**MUSICAL NOTES FROM THE ORGAN LOFT AT RUSPER CHURCH**



Fantastic Concert

Sounds and Rhythm on 25th November @ 7 pm

In aid of The North Aisle Development Fund at Rusper Church

Music old and new for harp, organ, voice and other instruments

Tickets priced £15 from Maggie True on 01293 871722 and to include refreshments.

**SEE YOU THERE!!**

*Steve Busby*

# 52nd ANNUAL ART EXHIBITION

RUSPER  
ART  
GROUP



SAT 28-SUN 29 OCT 10AM-4PM  
RUSPER VILLAGE HALL

\* FREE ADMISSION

\* ORIGINAL ARTWORKS \* TEA, COFFEE AND CAKES

Proceeds to the Village Hall and Rusper Church

## RIDE & STRIDE

Thank you to everyone who sponsored me for this year's Ride & Stride event to raise some much needed funds for our church.

I visited 15 churches in total and cycled from Rusper to Crawley, then to Handcross, Staplefield and Slaugham. I then rode to Lower Beeding and Nuthurst before taking a break for lunch at Holy Innocents church in Southwater. During the afternoon, I visited churches in Itchingfield, Slinfold, and Broadbridge Heath before finishing my ride with visits to churches in Horsham.

It was a very hot day, and I'm grateful to those people whom I met along my journey who supplied me with extra water and food. I will be writing about the fantastic things I experienced on my journey in due course.

I raised £175 in total from sponsorship, but if you would like to donate some money towards this worthy cause, please visit the Sussex Historic Churches' website and donate in favour of St. Mary Magdalene church, Rusper.

Thank you again to everyone for your kind generosity and support.

*Chris Pearce*

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## RUSPER PARISH COUNCIL

### Summary of Rusper Parish Council meeting & Planning Committee meeting – August

**2023** *The full Minutes of these and all other meetings are available to view on the Rusper Parish Council web site [rusper-pc.org.uk/meetings](http://rusper-pc.org.uk/meetings). These Minutes are **draft and subject to change** until they have been confirmed at our next meeting. To get regular updates from us, including local roadwork notifications, please visit our website and*



subscribe: [www.rusper-pc.org.uk](http://www.rusper-pc.org.uk). **The combined Planning and Council Meeting took place on the 29<sup>th</sup> August 2023 Rusper Village Hall. Agreed responses to the following planning applications.**  
**Apologies**

Cllrs K Nagle (WSCC), Cllrs T Hogben (HDC), V Hanstad-Pilcher.

### **Declaration of Interests**

**Members were reminded to make any declarations of a personal and/or pecuniary interest that they may have in relation to items on the agenda.**

No declarations were made.

### **Climate Emergency**

To **acknowledge** that there is currently a climate emergency, and to ensure that all decisions made within meeting have consideration to this.

### **Minutes of previous meeting**

**It was RESOLVED** to approve the Minutes of the previous Council meeting.

### **Open Forum**

4 members of the public were present. Andrew Cadnam Treasurer of CAGNE referred to Agenda item 7 and 22 in relation to the CAGNE grant application. Noted that papers were distributed in advance of the meeting. Questions relevant to the grant application were asked by the Parish Council. Strategy, recommendation, quotations were all noted and required feedback from CAGNE. Key concern is the Parish Council did not want to donate towards an endless project. Noted that noise reports paid for by CAGNE would be made available to the Parish Council once they are complete. ***Agenda item 22 – to consider grant application from CAGNE was brought forward for consideration by the Chair of the Parish Council.***

Proposal to commit up to £2000 on the basis of seeing documents on legal proposals. Noted that other Parishes have contributed similar amounts. Proposed by Cllr Sallows, seconded Cllr White all were in favour. Clerk to issue an email to CAGNE requesting the information and will report back at the next Parish Council meeting.

### Report from other Authorities

District Councillor Liz Kitchen – noted the reasons for the dismissal of appeal at Bonwyks Farm and reasons for dismissal should be noted by the Planning Committee. Hope Keith Trust – noted that a volunteer has come forward to run the Age UK coffee morning and that the trust were looking to put funds towards the employment of a Noted there is a photo of Hope Keith available for the Parish Council to use. The Local Plan update Meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> September will be attended by the

District Councillors. There is no further news on water neutrality. It was reported that the Rusper Road has traffic lights and cones have been knocked over but no works seem to have been commenced. **Acon** Cllr S White to follow up and feedback to the Council.

### Active Planning Applications

*Chairman of the Planning Committee Cllr G Sallows chaired this section of the meeting.* **Gatwick Planning Application for Emergency 2<sup>nd</sup> Runway**

Noted that CAGNE wanted formal confirmation of representation to register an interest. It was proposed that the Council confirm their opposition to the runway and confirmed the support of CAGNE – all were in favour.

**It was RESOLVED** that the Parish Council oppose the 2<sup>nd</sup> runway and confirm their support to CAGNE against the application for a 2<sup>nd</sup> runway.

### **DC/23/1422 Ifield Park Kennels, Bonnetts Lane, Ifield, West Sussex RH11 0NY Conversion of existing buildings to create 7no. dwellings, with associated demolition works, car parking, and landscaping**

Ifield Park Kennels Bonnetts Lane Ifield

West Sussex RH11 0NY Ref. No:

DC/23/1422 | Validated: Fri 21 Jul 2023

**It was RESOLVED** that there are no objections to this application. The Parish Council considered their support of the application based upon it being brownfield site, within walking distance to bus stop, sustainable brownfield site.

**Application to confirm the continuous use of land for mixed use comprising general open air vehicle storage (Use Class B8) purposes and as a motorcycle track for a period in excess of ten years (Lawful Development Certificate - Existing)**

Woodside Park Charlwood Road Ifield West Sussex

Ref. No: DC/23/1448 | Validated: Wed 26 Jul 2023

**It was RESOLVED** that the Parish Council objects to the motorcycle track and objects to the multiple abandoned vehicles on site and the environmental hazards along with that. **Agree responses to planning applications received since publication of the agenda.**

**DC/23/1576** Midwinter Farm Orltons Lane Rusper West Sussex

Application to confirm the building works for the erection of a detached building were substantially completed more than four years before the date of this application (Lawful Development Certificate - Existing).

**It was RESOLVED** that there are no objections to this application on the condition that it is only for agricultural use.

***Chair of the Parish Council continued.***

**Local Plan Workshop 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023** – invitation from HDC to attend a meeting was received and papers were distributed in advance of the meeting. Acon: Clerk to inform HDC with the list of attendees.

**Operation Watershed – The Mount**

The Clerk reported that an increase in price is expected due to the me between quotes. Item to be carried as no response yet from Landbuild. Clerk to report back at the next meeting. **Parking Outside Rusper Stores** Following approval at the last meeting, the Clerk reported that a white 'H' line had been requested from WSCC Highways following completion of the on-line ordering system with photos and measurements attached. The Clerk has spoken to the resident and Rusper Village Stores to engage on this issue. Carried to next meeting.

**Removal of hedge West of Ifield** - Carried to next meeting.

**Reports from Representatives**

Cllr M Fillmore – Gatwick - Jeremy Quin MP dialogue continues and is copied to the Clerk to be saved on the dropbox file. It was requested that Enforcement notices to be included on the Planning agenda again as a standard item, this was **agreed**.

Cllr G Hussey – repairs to the playground chat room are complete. Clerk to issue the photo to the Chair.

Cllr G Adams – the salt bin report was submitted and there was a query that one bin was missing. This has been cross checked and the report is accurate to the number of bins within Rusper. Clerk to report back to HDC.

Cllr F Maitland-Smith – HALC meeting attended at the end of July, the meeting was an AGM for HALC and a joint meeting of HALC and HDC, minutes have been circulated. HALC voted and agreed to a zoom as soon as LP is published to provide an HALC view on whether HALC supports the LP or not. Noted that the NPs cover 15 years but it has statutory power for 2 years which may be increased to 5 years. HALC to work together for cross Parish issues. John Milne, Marn Boffey, Catherine Howe were present at the joint meeting. Public questions had been removed from the HDC meeting agendas which was requested to be reversed. Helen Peacock Environment Officer Community and Nature reported that funds were available for bat boxes and swift boxes. The Clerk enquired about planning training for Parish Councillors which was likely to be held in October. **Acon** Clerk to chase the HDC planning training for Councillors.

Cllr R Gat – Village Hall roof has commenced. Hope Keith Trust have donated all the money for the roof. Extra funding will be used to refurb the Village Hall further such as the heating.

Cllr G Sallows – noted that there is an issue with water supply to the Pavilion and is to be repaired by Southern Water. **Acon** Clerk to write a letter Southern Water.

Cllr M Cooke – IT side for the Parish Council is being assessed. Subscribers for Parish Council website is 14 on the Facebook page there are 227 followers, the Village Facebook has 3300 followers. It is hoped to move the email to Outlook to help with the live calendar issue.

## Clerks Report

Report items are covered within the Agenda with the exception of the complaint against closed Footpath 1549. A comprehensive response to the long-term closure and plan for this footpath was received by the Council. It was agreed that the Clerk can forward the report to the resident concerned about the footpath.

### Recreational Ground

Noted that the Courage Dyers grant has been paid for the Pavilion refurbishment on 25<sup>th</sup> August. The Parish Council thank Courage Dyers for their kind support.

### Rusper Stores Recycling Bin

Following approval at the previous meeting the Clerk reported the HDC recommended dual waste and recycling bin which is on a 5 weeks lead time. This will be delivered to Rusper Village Stores once it has been approved, HDC will then remove one waste bin following its installation outside Rusper Stores. Rusper Village Stores have been informed and have kindly agreed to take delivery of the item. **Acon** Clerk to contact Broxap.

### Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Update by Cllr Maitland-Smith – last meeting was on 31<sup>st</sup> July and a new member joined. The group discussed the LP housing numbers which were lower than the previous draft, West of Ifield is expected to be allocated, the group discussed constraints on water supply, noted that Homes England may have to provide alternative Golf facility. Detail of resident's questionnaire which will go out after the group have seen the Local Plan. Date of the next meeting was 4<sup>th</sup> and will be rescheduled.

### Transport Survey

The Transport Survey was received and **adopted** by the Council. **Acon** Clerk to find out what the payment covers and a breakdown and what is covered within the extra works. **TPO Summerswood Estate**

It was **agreed** that a TPO would be requested again based upon the attached report. **Action** Clerk to reapply for a TPO on the line of trees.

### Winter Offer Plan

The Council **agreed** to take up the offer. Clerk to write back to HDC with an updated Local Winter Plan. **Acon** Clerk to ensure that the salt bin email is confirmed as correct. Clerk to ask what roads in Rusper are gritted. Clerk to



issue Local Winter Plan no later than 10<sup>th</sup> November 2023, this will be reported back at the next meeting before release.

### Financial

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the financial report, this was signed by the Chair.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve a grant of £2000 in principle for CAGNE following completion of the data requested by Cllr M Fillmore as minuted.

The papers for the Village Hall roof grant were **noted** as **correct** and payment is to be issued as per the Grant application form.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the schedule of payments, this was signed by the Chair with the exception of the extra work for Alan Bailes which has been carried until the Clerk has received further information.

### Next combined Parish Council and Planning meeting is on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2023

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## SAVE WEST OF IFIELD CAMPAIGN

### SAVE WEST OF IFIELD PUBLIC MEETING – 14<sup>th</sup> September

It was standing room only as more than 80 residents attended the SWOI AGM and public meeting in Rusper village hall.

The first of three guest speakers was Henry Smith, MP for Crawley, who ran through the reasons why the development was not viable – the unique character and heritage of the area, the impact on biodiversity and the unsustainable pressure on infrastructure such as roads, health services, public transport and water resources.

Henry said “This area has taken its fair share of new housing. Local people should not be called NIMBYs for pointing this out.” He explained that government policy is that brownfield sites should be developed – not greenfield – and that there is in fact plenty of brownfield land in the south-east.

Henry will deliver his petitions against the West of Ifield development to Parliament in October or November, and he encouraged the campaign not to give up: "The Homes England plans can be defeated."

The next speaker was Simon Collins of the River Mole Watch group. Simon reminded us that the Mole actually rises just south of Rusper village, and that much of Rusper, Colgate and Crawley is in the Upper Mole catchment. The West of Ifield site is in a valley of impermeable clay soil surrounded by hills and ridges – hence its' a 'wet spot' (WSCC classification) and a Flood Risk Area (Environment Agency). Homes England have yet to provide detail on how they would mitigate the flood risk, and to what extent they are taking account of it increasing due to climate change. Simon explained how development can increase flood risk, sewage overflows and other pollution and how this will adversely affect areas downstream in Surrey. The Mole is already a stressed river, with nine major sewage works discharging into it and for much of its length running through urban areas. Urbanising one of the remaining rural sections threatens the whole river still further.

The final speaker was Alison Cornell, West Sussex County Councillor, who spoke about the horrendous impact of the plans on road layout and traffic volumes across a wide area. Homes England may claim that people will walk or cycle rather than use their cars – the so-called 15-minute neighbourhood – but there is no evidence at all that this might happen. In fact there will be thousands of additional car journeys a day, many rat-running through the small roads of Rusper and Crawley. Alison also noted the lack of any sensible regional planning process.

Questions and points from the floor covered a wide range of topics. Fenella Maitland-Smith (SWOI Chair) and Cathy Durrant (SWOI Treasurer) presented their annual reports as part of the AGM and thanked all those who had helped the campaign. They also set out the future challenges and need for everyone to keep writing to Horsham Council with their objections, and the need for funding. The AGM reports can be found on the SWOI website: <https://www.savewestoffield.co.uk/>

*Fenella Maitland-Smith* [savewestoffield@gmail.com](mailto:savewestoffield@gmail.com)

## EDITORS

Please remember to let the editor underlined below have all items for the November 2023 edition by 14 October 2023.

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