

RUSTINGTON PARISH MEETING

MINUTES: of the Annual Assembly of the Parish Meeting held on 11 April 2024

PRESENT: Rustington Parish Councillors J Bennett (In the Chair), Mrs V Allen, Mrs C Broomfield, M Broomfield, Mrs A Cooper, A Cooper, R Grevett, G Lee, Ms L Lloyd, Mrs S Partridge, Ms M Revell and D Rogers, Mrs C Ward, Ms R Costan and Mrs C Harris (Rustington Parish Council), County Councillors R Elkins and Dr J Walsh, District Councillors Ms L Edwards and S Gunner, A Allchin and Mrs A Allchin, M Clayden and C Fuller (Arun Community Transport), K Daly and Mrs J Onslow (Rustington Players), Mrs J Grevett, P Hilland and Mrs C Hilland, Mrs L May and N Taylor (Rustington Short Mat Bowls), D Moss-Bowpitt (Arun East U3A), PCSO R Raju and Sergeant D West (Arun Neighbourhood Policing Team), K Revell, Mrs R Rowley, R Saunders, R Sherman (Georgian Gardens Community Primary School), R Thomas, Ms S Thomson (Blind Veterans UK), Ms D Wade, D Ward (Rustington Park Estate Ltd.) and M Warrington

APOLOGIES: Rustington Parish Councillors J Ceiriog-Hughes, Mrs P Gregory, G Tyler and P Warren, S Blowen (Rustington Cricket Club), Miss A Bowers and Mrs G Elliott (Georgian Gardens Community Primary School), C Doidge (Sea Estate Residents Association), Ms S Flook (The Laurels), A Gess (Woodlands Table Tennis Club), Mrs S Marsden (Rustington Heritage Association), Mrs S Meekings and J Todd (Summerlea Community Primary School), Ms M Smailes (Rustington Community Primary School) and Inspector R Wickings (Arun Neighbourhood Policing Team)

Prior to the formal business, Sergeant Daniel West, Arun Neighbourhood Policing Team addressed the Meeting and provided an overview of the operation and extent of work of the Arun Neighbourhood Policing Team, with particular emphasis on the current low level of criminal activity in Rustington, which was not the cause of any major concern for the Police.

During his Presentation Sergeant West referred to/reported on the following:-

- **West Sussex split into three Districts for Policing - Crawley, Adur, Worthing and Shoreham and Arun and Chichester**
- **Arun and Chichester District working out of three Stations - Littlehampton, Bognor Regis and Chichester**
- **Neighbourhood Policing not 24 hours' service**
- **Number of PCSOs employed now being increased**
- **Main incidents recently in Rustington - Shoplifting, Anti-Social Behaviour, Domestic, Fraud and occasional Burglaries.**

Sergeant West then responded to a number of questions posed by those parishioners in attendance.

The Chairman then thanked Sergeant West for his most interesting Presentation and for taking the time to attend the Meeting. He also thanked PCSO Raju for accompanying Sergeant West.

1. WELCOME BY THE CHAIRMAN

Prior to the commencement of the formal business of the Meeting, the Chairman welcomed all present to the Meeting and thanked them for taking the time to attend.

2. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual Assembly of the Parish Meeting held on 13 April 2023 were approved by the Meeting and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

3. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE RUSTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Chairman, Councillor Bennett, reported on the activities of the Parish Council during the preceding year. A copy of this Report is attached and forms a part of these Minutes.

4. AUDITED STATEMENT OF THE PARISH COUNCIL'S ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

The Meeting received the Audited Statement of the Parish Council's Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023.

The Clerk reported that the External Auditors, Moore East Midlands, had stated that the information contained in the Council's Annual Return was in accordance with proper practices and, apart from two minor technical breaches with the Inspection Period for the Exercise of Electors' Rights and the publishing date for the Notice of Public Rights, no other matters had come to their attention to give cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements had not been met.

The Clerk said that these Accounts were available for inspection in the Council Offices.

5. FINANCES FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2024 AND 31 MARCH 2025

The Meeting received a Report from Councillor Cooper, Chairman of the Parish Council's Finance and General Purposes Committee, on the Council's finances for the years ending 31 March 2024 and 31 March 2025. A copy of this Report is attached and forms a part of these Minutes.

6. LOCAL SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES

The Chairman advised the Meeting that the Governing Bodies from each of the three Primary Schools in Rustington were invited to submit a written Report to the Council prior to the Meeting, to enable them to be distributed to everyone in attendance. Representatives from the Schools could then attend the Meeting, if they so wished, to respond to any questions that might be posed 'from the floor'.

She then confirmed that written Reports had been received from Miss Amie Bowers, Headteacher and Mrs Gemma Elliott, Chair of Governors, Georgian Gardens Community Primary School, Ms Marie Smailes, Headteacher, Rustington Community Primary School and Mrs Sue Meekings, Chair of Governors, Summerlea Community Primary School.

Formal Transcripts of all of the aforementioned Reports are attached and form a part of these Minutes.

7. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

(a) County Councillor Mrs Alison Cooper

Councillor Mrs Cooper provided a comprehensive Report on County Council matters as follows:-

- New Fire Service Training Centre opened in Horsham during the past year - A state of the art facility - Has had a really positive effect on the service
- Childrens Services now have all six Children's Homes open, two rated outstanding and four rated good - County Council continuing to address huge demand for foster parents
- Increasingly complex cases have caused challenges in meeting the needs of children and young people with Special Educational Needs and disabilities, along with a significant increase in requests for assessment of children with Education, Health and Care Needs. Budget increased by £1.6 Million towards funding of measures to assist with reducing the wait time associated with these assessments

- Adult Social Care - Due to have CQC Rating Assessment in the next 18 months - A new measure and a massive amount of work has gone into self-assessment and the subsequent improvement plan - Scrutiny Committee continuing to monitor progress, as well as keeping abreast of local NHS operational CQC assessments - The Committee continues to keep pressure on Central Government regarding NHS dental provision in the area
- Major County Council issues, by far, Highways related. Inconsiderate parking, verge damage and deterioration of roads over the past two years made much worse by the sustained increase in rainfall - Demand huge, and prioritising proper scheduled repairs, alongside temporary emergency repairs, particularly challenging - Highways Budget provides for gross expenditure of £83.1 Million, 4,000 kms of roads and 3,956 kms of footways maintained across the County
- Anticipating an additional £67.6 Million from Government Grants over the next 10 years, but £4.5 Million added for highway improvements and the additional demand in drainage capacity following significant changes in rainfall patterns causing a higher number of local flooding events. Funding will improve investigative capability and its ability to respond to new incidents
- On target to achieve clearance of additional 30,000 gullies, patching of 9,000m² of carriageway and repairing of over 2,000 additional potholes
- Operation Watershed remains fully funded to allow Parish Councils to apply for drainage schemes that are of priority to the Parish.

(b) County Councillor Roger Elkins

Councillor Elkins then provided the Meeting with an overview of the County Council, advising that it spent £2 Billion per year and had 6,000 employees - £507 Million being spent on Adult Social Care and £960 Million being spent on Education.

He also reported on other County Council matters as follows:-

- 94% of Schools/Academies in the County had been rated good or outstanding
- Level of recycling achieved 53% - National Average 47%
- New Contract for Carers' Support for unpaid Carers
- Highway Matters - Emphasis on the need to keep on reporting potholes, gulleys, flooding, etc.
- Increase of £18 Million in Adult Social Care Budget.

(c) County Councillor Dr James Walsh

Councillor Dr Walsh, echoed the matters covered by Councillor Mrs Cooper in her Report.

He then referred to the following issues in connection with the County Council:-

- Potholes - Process of temporary 'fill' has not proved to be very satisfactory - Approach to repairs needs to be more comprehensive to make sure they are more timely and as permanent as possible
- Waste Collection Services - Noted that Arun District Council had agreed to take part in food collection which would increase recycling
- Member of Health Services Scrutiny Committee - Following recent temporary closure of Zachary Merton Hospital - Marker put down requesting programme of refurbishment and re-opening from the NHS

- Proposed IT System Replacement - Estimate increased from £6 Million to £40 Million - Concern raised across the whole Council.

(d) Arun District Councillor Shaun Gunner

Councillor Gunner then reported on District Council matters as follows:-

- Council moved from Conservative controlled Council to Coalition in 2023
- Council currently reviewing Local Plan - Will be required to provide additional 11,250 houses
- Instrumental in helping Parish Council to achieve funding for new Multi-Use Games Area and Outdoor Fitness Equipment from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, and also the Changing Places Toilet Grant Funding
- Continuing to work hard to achieve increased street cleaning regime in Rustington
- Temporary closure of Zachary Merton Hospital - Currently no commitment or plans announced to repair building and re-open - Petition currently ongoing online - Urged everyone to sign, as imperative to retain this facility
- Forthcoming closure of NatWest Bank in Rustington - Staff only advised 24 hours before public announcement - Currently working with Peter Bottomley, MP, to try to get decision reversed - If not possible, then will work as hard as possible to get a Banking Hub in the Village, as so many people reliant on the service currently being provided - Petition launched - Forms available at Meeting to sign

The above-mentioned County and District Councillors then responded to a number of questions from individuals in attendance.

The Chairman conveyed his thanks and appreciation to Councillors Mrs Cooper, Elkins, Dr Walsh and Gunner for taking the time to attend the Meeting and for addressing the issues raised by attendees.

8. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

- (a) Concern expressed regarding felling of tree outside of Turners' Pies, in The Street - *Felled by County Council due to being diseased with Ash Dieback - To be replaced in due course*
- (b) Concern raised regarding the number of vacant retail units in the Village Centre - *Parish Council has no control in this regard*
- (c) Chris Fuller, Arun Community Transport - Reported that one of Towns/Village with the largest number of individuals using the service was Rustington - Also, advised that the Service had recently purchased a new Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle
- (d) Concerns raised about the danger of potholes for passengers on bus journeys.

The Meeting concluded at 8.40 pm.

Chairman:

Date:

RUSTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PARISH MEETING – 11 APRIL 2024
REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL
COUNCILLOR JAMIE BENNETT

Good Evening everyone and thank you for kindly giving up your time to attend this year's Annual Assembly of the Parish Meeting.

As many of you will be aware, Councillor Graham Tyler, who was elected as Chairman last May, suffered a serious brain injury following a fall in June and, in October, it was agreed by his family that, whilst he was still fighting hard to return to full fitness, it was unlikely that he would be able to return to his Council duties for the foreseeable future. With effect from 30 April 2024, Graham has decided to stand down as a Member of the Parish Council.

I would, at this point, like to take the opportunity to express not only the Council's thanks and appreciation to Graham, but also my own personal sentiments of gratitude. He has served as a Councillor for over 28 years, and throughout that time has worked diligently to help to ensure that the Parishioners have always had the best possible service from their Parish Council. His contribution to many of the major Projects undertaken by the Council has been invaluable, and as an established County and District Councillor for a number of years, has always ensured that Rustington's voice was well and truly heard by both of those Councils, when it mattered the most! His presence at Council Meetings has already, and will continue to be, sorely missed. When I first joined the Council, some 14 years ago, I was introduced to Graham as 'Mr Rustington', and he has certainly always lived up to that name!

The Council, at its monthly Meeting on 25 September 2023, chose me to step into the role of Chairman, for which I am most grateful and honoured. This is my second term as Chairman, having held the position from 2017 to 2019, and I can assure you that I am doing, and will always do, my utmost to ensure that I serve the Parishioners of Rustington well at all times.

I would like to start by thanking Councillor Andy Cooper, who swiftly 'stepped up to the plate', and was appointed at the same Meeting, as Vice-Chairman. Andy is a most experienced and established Councillor, who has previously served two terms as Chairman of the Council. He is providing wholehearted support for me. I would also like to thank all of the Members of the Council, who work so hard for the benefit of the Parishioners, attending many Meetings during the year and often having to make difficult and controversial decisions. Thank you all so much.

And now, to all Members of the Council's truly committed personnel team, who work so hard, and on many occasions far beyond the call of duty, to ensure that the Council's services are delivered professionally and most effectively, on a daily basis. Like other Chairmen before me, I would like to record my heartfelt gratitude. As you know Carole, our Clerk, heads up the Team, along with the Deputy Clerk, Rosie Costan and Finance Manager, Caroline Harris. They are supported by Elaine (PA to the Clerk), Nicky and Jo (Administrative Officers), together with the three personnel members at the Samuel Wickens Centre, namely Emma, Jules and Linda, plus Jim, our Leisure and Amenities Officer, Claire, the Museum Manager and Bill, who is Caretaker for both the Youth Centre and the Samuel Wickens Centre. My sincere thanks go to them all.

I would also like to thank all of the District Councillors who represent Rustington and, in particular, Councillor Shaun Gunner, who regularly provides most informative Reports

for the Full Council Meetings, on all matters concerning not only our community, but the entire Arun District.

And yet more colleagues to thank – I would like to convey my thanks and appreciation to Councillor Alison Cooper, in her capacity as our main County Council representative who provides the Council with a most detailed report on West Sussex County Council matters on a monthly basis. And, not forgetting County Councillors Roger Elkins and Dr James Walsh who, represent smaller areas on the outskirts of the Village.

I would also like to express my appreciation to all of the Community Groups, Organisations, Clubs and Individuals, within the Village, and some in close proximity, who voluntarily provide services, activities and entertainment for everyone to enjoy.

And, now moving to the official business of the Meeting.

My aim is to provide brief understanding of how the Council operates, by giving you an idea of the services and facilities it provides, and just some of the Projects and works that have been progressed during the past twelve months and those that are ongoing and soon to be introduced for the coming year.

I will also provide you with a summary of the roles of the Council's Committees.

As a Parish Council, we operate all of the Public Toilet provision within the Village, which is now the 'exception rather than the rule'.

In 2023, the three Public Toilet Units in the Village again received excellent Awards in the Loo of the Year Competition, namely a Platinum Plus Award for both the Churchill Car Park Toilets and the Broadmark Lane Mobile Unit, plus a Platinum Award for The Woodlands Centre.

The former Public Toilet Unit in the Parish Church Hall Car Park in The Street will, very soon be re-opening as a 'Changing Places' Toilet Unit, which is, in the main for use by older and less abled people, including those with profound physical and learning disabilities, who will benefit from being able to utilise such an accessible public facility.

The Christmas Lighting Scheme was reviewed last year, and a further five-year Contract was entered into, with some changes being made to the lighting column decorations. This is now wholly funded by the Parish Council and Store Property Investments Limited, and the display of festive lights is always appreciated by the local community and visitors alike.

The Council has continued to contribute financially to the Number 12 Bus, which was extended to include East Preston, courtesy of funding from East Preston Parish Council, in May of last year. The Council has been reviewing its major financial commitment to this Bus Service and recently agreed that, taking account of the continuing and increasing financial constraints it is faced with, its support should be withdrawn with effect from 31 May 2024. This is, however, going to be re-considered, following the receipt of a further proposal from Compass Travel, at the next Council Meeting on 22 April 2024.

Rustington is also served by the regular No. 700 and the hourly No. 9 buses, so most locations will still be able to be accessed by bus users.

In May 2023, the Coronation of King Charles III was celebrated nationally, and the Council hosted a Musical Concert, with the Littlehampton District Lions Club hosting a

Coronation Quiz, here in the Village Memorial Hall. There was also a small 'Coronation' Exhibition at the Museum.

The Council's Annual Civic Thanksgiving Service, Remembrance Sunday Parade and Service and the Community Carol Concert were all successfully held in September, November and December respectively.

At this point, I would just like to touch on the most major Project that this Council has been working towards for many years, and which is now moving forward and will hopefully come to fruition, in part, in the next year or so. That is the Major Refurbishment/Reconfiguration of the rear Section of The Woodlands Centre. The Planning Application has been submitted and a Public Works Loan Board Application is being prepared in anticipation of planning permission being granted.

Another exciting Project that will be undertaken in this financial year, is the replacement of both the Multi-Use Games Area and Outdoor Fitness Equipment, along with new cycling infrastructure, on the Woodlands Recreation Ground, this has been made possible courtesy of a grant from the UK Shared Prosperity Funding programme, via the Arun District Council, with match funding by the Parish Council.

A new, and much needed Stage Lighting System is due to be installed within the next few months in the Village Memorial Hall, and it is hoped that a new PA System will follow shortly after. The Hall floor will also be undergoing a major resurfacing programme during the Summer.

And on a slightly different note, the 80th Anniversary of D-Day will be commemorated by the Council in June of this year, with a 'themed' free entry Musical Concert, again hosted by the Littlehampton Concert Band, being held on 8 June 2024. There will also be a small Exhibition in the Museum and two 'Lamp Lights of Peace' will be lit as part of the Nation's Tribute on 6 June 2024, by representatives from the Council at the War Memorial and the Chaucery Memorial.

And, now, moving on to the Council's Committees...

Finance and General Purposes

I would like to thank Councillor Andy Cooper, for doing such an impressive job in his first term as Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee. Andy will be presenting his Report in respect of the Council's finances for the years ending 31 March 2023 and 31 March 2024, to you later.

My thanks also go to the Members of this fundamental Committee.

Leisure and Amenities

Thank you to Councillor Alison Cooper, who is 'back at the helm' as Chairman, following a break during her time as Chairman of the Council, of this very important Committee, which is responsible for the majority of services provided by the Council, including the Public Toilets, Public Seats, Noticeboards, Street Maps, Beach and Bus Shelters, some Street Lighting, Grass Cutting in the centre of the Village, the Planting, Design and Maintenance of the Floral/Planted Displays plus any other associated functions.

The Youth Centre and The Woodlands Centre are also managed by this Committee, as are the Woodlands Recreation Ground and Woodland Park Sportsfield. And, finally, the Committee is responsible for the Samuel Wickens Centre (incorporating the Community Hall, Museum and the Information Centre).

A very effective and conscientious Committee. Thanks must go to all of its Members, with such a wide range of areas of responsibility, they all have a most active and important role to play, and again, have to regularly make very difficult decisions.

Planning

This Committee is consulted on all Applications within the Parish by both the Arun District Council, as the local Planning Authority and, in certain cases, West Sussex County Council.

The Planning Committee is most ably Chaired by Councillor John Ceiriog-Hughes, a well-established Member of this Committee for many years. The Committee is also knowledgeably supported by the past Chairman of the Committee, Councillor Warren, who continues to provide detailed descriptions and comprehensive observations at Meetings for all Planning Applications on which the Committee is consulted. This is always of great assistance to the Committee in its deliberations.

Thanks to John, Peter and the Members of the Committee.

Allotments

I would like to thank Councillor Mrs Peggy Partridge, Chairman of the Allotments Committee, and the Committee Members, for continuing to oversee the management the three Allotment Sites in the Parish, to a very high standard.

Emergency Planning

Again, Chaired by Councillor Ceiriog-Hughes, this Committee monitors the Council's Emergency Plan, and makes sure that procedures are in place for the provision of The Woodlands Centre as a Rest Centre in the event of an emergency within the Parish.

Thank you, John, and your Committee.

The Council is also represented on a number of external Bodies, and continues to have Working Parties looking at ways of improving the way we work.

As I am now at the end of my Report, can I thank you once again for your attendance at this Meeting tonight.

Just one more thing - You are all most welcome to stay for some refreshments after the Meeting, and to take the opportunity to talk with all of the Councillors here tonight on a one-to-one basis.

RUSTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PARISH MEETING – 11 APRIL 2024
ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE FINANCE
AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
COUNCILLOR ANDY COOPER

Thank you, Chairman and Good Evening Everyone.

I would now like to present my Annual Report to you in respect of the Council's finances for the last financial year that ended on 31 March 2024 and for the current financial year ending 31 March 2025.

At this point, I would like to thank Caroline Harris, the Council's Finance Manager, and her Administrative Officer, Johanna Mason, with whom, as Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee, I have a close working relationship. Obviously, my thanks and appreciation also extend to every member of the Council's committed, hard-working and most loyal Personnel Team.

Before moving on, I would like to address the Council's recent decision to set its 2024/2025 Precept at £786,000.00. The upshot of this is that the annual Parish Council charge on a Band 'D' property in Rustington will increase to approximately £130.00, just over £6.00 on the previous year, equating to 62p per month over the 10-month period.

Moving on, I would like to refer in a little detail to the major Project that the Council has been progressing since 2021, and will continue to, hopefully to a successful conclusion in the coming year, and that is the first phase of the Refurbishment and Upgrading of The Woodlands Centre, covering the rear section, including the Entrance, John de Bohun Room, Roger Barwick Room, Roger Montgomeri Room, Kitchen, Toilets and the Museum Storage Room. The electrical system throughout the Centre will also be upgraded.

Planning Permission for both phases of the Project, has been submitted and a decision is currently awaited.

Other major expenditure items have been the £50,000.00 match grant funding, towards the new Changing Places Toilet Unit in The Street, for which a grant of £40,000.00 was achieved by the Arun District Council on the Council's behalf.

The Council has also continued to provide many services for its community, including:-

- The management and maintenance of The Woodlands Centre, including the Council Offices, the Youth Centre and the Recreation Ground
- Funding of the Youth Club, via a Service Agreement with Arun Youth Projects
- The management and maintenance of the Samuel Wickens Centre, incorporating the Village Information Centre and the Museum
- The management and maintenance of the Woodland Park Sportsfield, which has included significant expenditure in reconnecting both electric and water supplies for the recently installed Changing Rooms/Toilets by the Rustington Otters Youth Football Club
- The management and maintenance of the three Allotment Sites in the Village

During this financial year, the Council will continue to provide a wide range of local services, most of which I have just referred to. But, in addition to these, I would like to mention that the Council is also responsible for 80 plus public seats, the beach shelter and wooden bus shelters throughout the Village and some 44 street lighting columns in private roads.

The Council provides the floral displays in the central shopping area and at various other locations around the Village, and in partnership with Store Property Investments Limited, the Council funds the, always impressive, Christmas Lighting Scheme. It also provides grants to a number of local Clubs and Charitable Organisations, including the Citizens' Advice Bureau and the Littlehampton District Lions Club.

One off projects which will be completed during the next 12 months will include:-

- The total refurbishment of the Village Memorial Hall Floor
- The purchase and installation of a new Stage Lighting System in the Village Memorial Hall
- The replacement of the Multi-Use Games Area and Outdoor Fitness Equipment on the Woodlands Recreation Ground, for which match funding of £40,000.00 will be made by this Council

To be able to operate effectively and efficiently, the Council has to provide a central organisation which requires major expenditure, including staffing, security and sufficient insurance cover for all of its assets.

Before signing off, I would just like to record my appreciation to all of my fellow Councillors for their dedicated commitment to achieving and maintaining the objectives of the Council, whilst being mindful of the financial constraints it continues to be faced with.

The challenges placed upon the Council will, of course, continue to increase but, as is always the case, I can only assure you that it will face and overcome each one of these for the benefit of the Parishioners of Rustington.



Georgian Gardens CP School

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Website: www.georgiangardens.w-sussex.sch.uk

Head Teacher: Miss A Bowers

Report for Rustington Parish Council 11.4.24

Georgian Gardens has continued to grow from strength to strength this year. This report will summarise some of the key initiatives and exciting new ventures which we are currently working on.

New playgrounds

Our most recent exciting news is that two of our playgrounds have had a complete refresh, thanks to the brilliant fundraisers that are organised by the PTA. The new games are proving a great success at break times and the netball team are very excited by the new court markings!



Music Provision

Our music provision continues to grow, with opportunities for pupils to take part in both high quality peripatetic and Curriculum lessons. At the end of last year, the music department wrote and created a 'mini musical' including musical scores, lyrics, acting and dancing. The production, entitled "Joanna's Piano" was an incredible achievement for such a young group of musicians.



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OUR NEW VISION – S.T.E.A.M School status

As part of the on-going work we are doing at school, we are excited about our ambition to transform into a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) specialist school. While this transformation is just beginning, we are already laying the groundwork for an enriching and innovative learning experience for our pupils.

One of our key focuses is the development of our outdoor learning spaces. We hope this will provide an engaging space for exploration and experimentation, fostering creativity and critical thinking skills in our pupils. In the coming weeks, we will be sending out more details about opportunities for local companies to get involved with sponsorship of this exciting development. Through enhancements to our outdoor areas, we aim to provide more opportunities for hands-on learning experiences that integrate our STEAM principles.

Additionally, we are currently in the process of reviewing our current curriculum to ensure that it aligns with our vision for STEAM education. By incorporating interdisciplinary approaches and real-world applications into our teaching, we aim to continue to inspire curiosity and a passion for learning in our students.



Pictures:

- Pupils met with Professor Bhavani Narayanaswamy, deep-sea ecologist & microplastic researcher from the Scottish Association for Marine Science.
- Our Goblin car ready to race this summer!
- Children experiencing virtual reality to visit the pyramids. All pupils in upper KS2 now have their own ipad to support their independent learning.

Out and About!

We continue to have a wide range of opportunities for pupils to get out and about with their learning. We visit a wide range of different venues to learn more about our local area, for example, Arundel Castle and the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum. Recently, year 6 have been on a train journey to practice their independence as they prepare for secondary school and very soon you will see them out on their bikes for Bikeability week.



**Artsmark
Gold Award**
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Going Green

Following the installation of solar panels a few years ago, this year we were successful in a bid to access carbon funding money. This has allowed us to replace all of the windows and doors throughout the school to improve our energy efficiency. It looks very smart too!

Top reading and Author visits

Our children continue to be passionate about reading and enjoy using the library which was so kindly supported by local business a few years ago. It makes such a difference to have a bright and welcoming library for the pupils to use. We have recently had some brilliant author visit including David Fuller and Mike Payne.



Thrive

At Georgian Gardens we use an approach called Thrive. We know that children learn best in school when they are happy and settled. At Georgian Gardens we are using the Thrive Approach to help us develop our pupils' emotional and social well-being.

Thrive helps us to check children's readiness to learn, to identify any gaps and then plan to meet them. Through doing so, we will be able to make sure that all of our pupils have what they need to make the best possible progress in their learning.

This year we have started to offer Thrive Family Workshops for parents at the school.



Why are we a Thrive school?

- Positive relationships are at the heart of Thrive.
- We will use these relationships, together with play and creative activities, to give children key experiences at each different stage of their development.
- Thrive teaches the understanding of children's behavior as communication, improves learning skills and leads to greater attainment.
- It promotes productive learning for all children.
- It supports practitioners, providing them with confidence to work with more challenging and vulnerable children, and with parents and integrated teams.
- It leads to better relationships at home and in school.



With over 100 children now in receipt of Free School Meals (Pupil Premium) we continue to look at ways in which we can support both them and all families at the school. We are very grateful to St. Peter and St. Paul's Church who continue to run a regular food pantry at the school. We are about to open our own second hand uniform shop on the school playground as well.

We are so thankful that our children have such great support from the local community via donations, volunteers or Governance roles. We currently have a full Governing Body and have recently appointed a volunteer coordinator to ensure that there is good communication for those that support the school (Including a termly opportunity for some tea and cake!). All roles within school are subject to safeguarding checks, but we would love to hear from you if you think that you can support our work.

We look forward to continuing to work with the local community in the year ahead.

Miss Amie Bowers (Headteacher) & Mrs Gemma Elliott (Chair of Governors)



Artsmark
Gold Award
Awarded by Arts
Council England



Rustington Community Primary School

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Academy Trust

Building children's
futures together



Headteacher: Ms M Smailes PGCE, BA (Hons), MA (Ed)

Deputy Headteacher: Miss A Powell PGCE, BA (Hons)

Dear Mrs Ward,

With reference to the Parish Council Meeting on 11th April 2024

Rustington Community Primary School continues to be in a strong place academically. We have been focusing on an adaptation to teaching this year called Quality First Teaching. This means that teachers support learners through scaffolded learning, to reach a high level of attainment, as opposed to the traditional method of teaching where you group children according to ability and give them work set to a certain level. The latter method can produce a ceiling on potential learning whereas the former method follows the principle that everyone can achieve if given the correct support.

Our focus on having a positive mental health continues throughout the school after getting a national award for it last year. Children are taught mindfulness strategies and we have staff called Nurture Ninja's who are trained and available to support children with anxiety or worries. Schools all now have at least one trained Mental Health First Aider who can recognise concerns in staff and parents and guide them to external support groups. Whilst enabling this support to be in place our drive is also to create a positive mindset and a solution focus that builds resilience for every child's future.

Our local families and staff continue to need support from the community for food and guidance towards financial help. We have a food bank on site run by the team at St Peter and St Paul's which is in regular use and have close links with the Foodbank in Littlehampton where we can refer families to. Our PTA is also actively supporting families by running subsidised or free events for children e.g. discos and Summer Fayre events, so we ensure an equality of provision and experiences for every child.

This year all of the locality schools (ourselves and Summerlea in Rustington) are working together on a Water Safety project. This idea came from linking with the Police and Council in Littlehampton to try and tackle anti-social or unsafe behaviour around our rivers and beaches. With input from the RNLI and Southern Water we are creating Art work that will show how we keep safe – this will be on show in the Littlehampton museum in July and August.

Regards,
Ms Smailes
Headteacher





WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

SUMMERLEA C.P. SCHOOL



WINDSOR DRIVE, RUSTINGTON

WEST SUSSEX, BN16 3SW

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'Growing thoughtful learners and independent thinkers'



May 2023 - April 2024

Dear Rustington Parish Council,

I am pleased to be able to send this report and have the opportunity to update you on the past year at Summerlea Community Primary School. Our new Headteacher Mr Joe Todd took over full time in May 2023 and is making great progress in leading the school forward and addressing all areas highlighted in the last Ofsted as requiring improvement.

Following the second RI judgement Summerlea was issued with an Academy order after extensive research by governors, leaders and the school community it was decided to join the Schoolsworks Academy Trust. It is hoped the conversion will take place towards the end of the summer term but no final date has been agreed yet, another exciting chapter in the Summerlea story.

Moving on to other events that have happened at Summerlea throughout the year:-

Summer Term 2023

Highlights of the Summer Term obviously include our new Headteacher Mr Todd starting full time, lots of drop in 'Meet Mr Todd' sessions were held and it was great to see so many parents taking the opportunity to come and say hello and share their thoughts.

A very successful careers fair was held and it was wonderful to see all the volunteers/companies/industries and professionals who have given up their time for the children.

Our Year 4 children went on a residential visit to Lodge Hill, Pulborough, accompanied by Mr Todd. The children were all absolutely amazing and had the time of their lives! They demonstrated our personal, learning and thinking skills in bucket loads and everyone was so impressed with their teamwork and resilience.

Also, cricket is back on the map at Summerlea! Mr Michica took a team of players for a very, very 'tough' day out at West Wittering Beach - where the team were crowned champions and then this Tuesday, the girls repeated the feat by winning at Arundel Castle.

We also had a helicopter landing at school - it was incredibly dramatic and very exciting - the message behind all the drama though was all about being safe in the water - and with our school being so close to the beach, gave our children valuable safety tips about keeping themselves and others safe. Finally the term ended with the wonderful Year 6 performance of 'Shrek' a fitting way to give everyone a great send off.



Autumn Term 2023

The new academic year started with the opening of our new wrap around care club ' METEORS' We currently offer a breakfast club between 7.30 and 8.20am (including breakfast) and an after school club between the hours of 3.00-5.30pm five days a week.

The wrap-around-care takes place in two newly refurbished rooms with their own separate access point and the children have the opportunity to take part in a wide range of activities and provision.

Throughout the summer break, our highly motivated and creative year 6 students have been busy planning, designing and creating products and services to sell or offer to friends and neighbours. They have worked tirelessly to come up with various fundraising activities, including bake sales, lemonade stalls, personalised jewellery and keyrings. We believe that this project has provided our pupils with invaluable life skills, such as teamwork, problem-solving, and a sense of responsibility. We hope that the experience has empowered them to believe in their ability to make a difference in their school community and beyond. We had 18 pupils taking part and the total funds raised so far are £140.00, with more to be collected.

The year 6s had an exciting residential at Mill on the Brue and by all accounts were absolutely incredible - although thoroughly exhausted!

Harvest assemblies collected good for the Littlehampton & District Foodbank, a significant amount was contributed by Summerlea families.

As always children took part in Children in Need by coming to school in their spotty clothes raising £289.60 in the process, another annual event is anti-bullying week which is a really good focus.

On a sporty note, we have taken part in a festival at TLA this week - some of the children who went there were representing Summerlea for the first time. In addition, our boys went to the Albion Cup on Tuesday. This is the first time for a while that Summerlea has entered this national competition and the boys reached the semi-finals before losing to the overall winners.

Summerlea children also took part in the Christmas jumper day and held a Christmas Cowbell Assembly, as well as Carols by candlelight, EYFS and Year 2 productions, all wonderful to watch.

Spring Term 2024

We have spent a great deal of time working hard, on the parking around the school. I would say, most of our community use the surrounding roads with care and consideration but we are not at 100%. We have raised some money through our wonderfully passionate and forward-thinking School Pupil Council and have ordered some new signs - this has come at a great cost to the school and it is another thing that we are doing to try and help the situation.

Years 2, 3 and 4 have new windows and doors installed and these will serve to ensure that these classrooms are more economical and pleasant for the adults and the children. The roof remains a constant challenge with leaks everywhere, making some areas difficult to use.

A team of year 6s went to - and won - the Albion Curriculum Cup at The Amex Stadium this Wednesday. We took a team of 8 year 6s to the event, which was hosted in the Focus Lounge at the stadium. The children had to go through a variety of mathematical, language based, science and team challenges and ended up working so well as a team to win the overall event by 1 point!

We celebrated World Book Day at Summerlea - the children all looked fabulous. The English team at school put together lots of fun activities all week from competitions to a staff performance.

More sporting news includes the Years 3 and 4 football team finished 4th in the LASP event, only losing one game and beating the top 2 teams! The Albion Cup event waits for some of them in the coming weeks. We sent a team of gymnasts to the local event - for some of these children it was the first time representing school at gym

The term finished on a really positive note with a progress review meeting by the Local Authority recognizing the significant improvements made by Mr Todd and his team – thank you.

Our website continues to be updated during the year to including a Twitter feed so that families, staff, governors, our community and visitors can follow all the latest news and events at our wonderful school.

As always, our school's newsletters are available on our website <http://www.summerlea.w-sussex.sch.uk> and you can now also follow us on Twitter @Summerleahearts.

The Parish Council's support and interest in the school is appreciated. Members of the council are always warmly welcome to visit us and see the school in action.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sue Meekings". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'S' at the beginning and a long, sweeping tail that ends in a small flourish.

Mrs Sue Meekings
Chair of Governors