

FAIRLIGHT PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of Full Council Meeting held on Tuesday 22nd November 2022 at Fairlight Village Hall at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillors – Ms I Horsley (Chair), Mr S Stewart, Miss C Sharpe. Mr D Shortman, Mr D Greenup, Ms L Cooke, Mr G Smith, Ms A Hohenkerk

County and District Councillors – Mr A Mier, Mr R Bird and Mr C Maynard
Proper Officer/RFO - Mrs P Collins

ACTION

2117 Apologies for absence (Including resolutions to accept reason for absence by
2222 Councillors)
189 Apologies received from Cllr R Turnbull
Resolved to accept the reasons for absence

2219 Code of Conduct and Disclosure of Interests

0 (a) To receive any disclosures by members, of personal or prejudicial interest in matters on the agenda
Agenda item 12(b) Rent reviews – Cllr I Horsley – member of the Tennis Club and Cllr G Smith as a Committee member of Activate Youth Club

2219 Public questions in respect of items on the agenda

1 A member of the public representing the Tennis Club raised a question in respect of agenda item 12(b).

2219 County and District Councillors reports

2 Councillors Maynard and Mier had sent in reports prior to this meeting which were circulated. Cllr Bird had nothing to add.

2219 Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 25th October 2022

3 The minutes were distributed to Councillors prior to the meeting and made available to the Public at the meeting.
Resolved to approve and the minutes were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

2219 Matters arising from the minutes not otherwise on the agenda

- 4 Agenda item 22176 - Cllr Mier reported that the planning application for Bairns Bourne, Sea Road will not be called in.
Agenda item 22179 – The RDC invoice for electricity for the compressor will be paid now but the vat charge has been queried.

2219 Parish Councillor Co-option

- 5 An application had been received from Mrs Ann Hohenkerk
Resolved to co-opt Mrs Hohenkerk as a parish councillor

ACTION

2219 Financial Matters

6

- (a) To consider and approve schedule of payments and receipts for November 2022
Resolved to approve the payments for November 2022.
- (b) To delegate approval of payments for December 2022 (no meeting) to Chair and Vice Chair. (Cheques to be signed in December and reported to January meeting)
Resolved to delegate approval of payments to Chair and vice Chair for December 2022
- (c) To consider and sign the monthly bank reconciliations.
Resolved to note and sign the bank reconciliations as correct.
- (d) To consider monthly budget figures (Clerk's report)
The Clerk had previously circulated the budget monitoring figures. No issues to report.
- (e) To note and approve the back dated payment to the Clerk of the 2022-23 National salary award
Resolved to note and approve the back dated payment to the Clerk of the 2022-23 National salary award
- (f) To agree the launch of the Parish Council grants scheme for 2023/24 (January 2023)
Resolved to launch of the Parish Council grants scheme for 2023/24
- (g) To launch the Christmas lights/decorations competition, agree judges and approve the prize money of £50 and £25 (charitable donations)
Resolved to launch the competition and approve the prize money. Judges to be Cllrs Hohenkerk, Smith and Horsley.

CLERK

AH/GS/IH

2219 Planning Committee

7

- (a) To receive the monthly report
Details of the planning applications, decisions and comments from the Planning Committee meetings were reported (see below).

2219 Land Management Group
8

- (a) To receive the monthly report
- Cllr Smith – Wood Field and Highways
Cllr Smith reported on Wood Field and Highways.
 - Cllr Sharpe – Fixed Assets
Cllr Sharpe reported on the grit bins and the availability of grit
 - Cllr Horsley – Water/drainage issues
Cllr Horsley reported on issues (see below).
Southern Water Pathfinder Project has now begun and Cllr Cooke will be the link between the project and Parish Council.
- (b) To receive and update on the Walking Football project (Cllr Stewart)
This is an ongoing project. Hastings Athletic FC are asking other Parish Council to advertise for participants.

2219 Community Hub Committee (Faircomm.)
9

- (a) To receive the monthly report (Cllr Stewart)
Cllr Stewart reported on progress to date. Quotations are being chase from Pump House.
- (b) To discuss and approve the appointment of Nice Work to organise a 10K run to help raise funds for this project.
Resolved to appoint Nice Work to organise a 10K run on behalf of the Parish Council.

ACTION

2220 Finance and Administration Committee
0

- (a) To receive a monthly report (Cllr Horsley)
Cllr Horsley reported on this Committee (See below).
- (b) To discuss and approve the rent reviews for Fairlight Bowls Club, Fairlight Tennis Club and Activate Fairlight Youth Centre – Rates and review period
Standing orders were suspended for a member of the Tennis Club to speak. The Chair was passed to Cllr Stewart due to Cllr Horsley's declaration of interest.
Resolved to defer any decisions on new rents until January 2023 Parish Council meeting and to hold additional meeting with all clubs involved in rent reviews prior to this meeting.

CLERK

2220 Fairlight Christmas Cracker and Warm Up Fairlight events

- 1 (a) To receive an update on Fairlight Christmas Cracker (Christmas day event)
Cllr Sharpe provided an update on this project. Tickets are on sale. Volunteers have come forward to help. Donations have been received.
- (b) To receive an update on the Warm Up Fairlight project
There has been a good response during the weeks this has been running. Donations have been received from local businesses. Several activities such as knitting, sewing etc have been introduced. It was also requested that a subscription to Netflix be acquired.
Resolved to subscribe to Netflix (Cost £4.16 plus vat per month)

CLERK

2220 Parish Council Website and Facebook

- 2
- (a) To receive a monthly report (Cllr Stewart)
Both websites and Facebook pages continue to be updated
- (b) To discuss and approve the application for a “.gov” website domain
Resolved to apply for a .gov website domain

CLERK

2220 War Memorial Steering Group

- 3
- (a) To receive an update on the project (Haydon Luke)
EB are continuing to source a stone. The receipt of donations and pledges is on-going

2220 Hastings Country Park

- 4 (a) To receive a monthly update (Haydon Luke)
Cllr Horsley has met with Murray Davidson HBC and reported that the belted Galloway cattle will not be grazing on the Country Park this year. The gorse will be cut mechanically this year.

2220 Neighbourhood Watch

- 5 (a) To discuss the current neighbourhood watch scheme
The current scheme is run by Grahame Gambrell at the Post Office. It was suggested that a Facebook page be created called Fairlight Watch to cover the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme and perhaps Speedwatch. To be progressed.

2220 Budget 2023/24

- 6 (a) To discuss/consider draft 2023/24 budget (Final approval at January 2023 meeting)
The proposed budget had been circulated. A final decision was required at the January Parish Council meeting.
Resolved to remove £2000 from Faircomm 10k run.

CLERK

ACTION

2220 Meetings/training attended

7 Cllr Sharpe reported on the training attended (report below)

2220 Correspondence

8 All correspondence had been circulated to Councillors and was available to the Public.

2220 Information and/or Future Agenda Items

9 None

2221 Confidential Items

0 To resolve that pursuant to section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and press leave the meeting during consideration of the following matters.

CLERK

Resolved to deal with these items as confidential under the statute above

2221 Date of next meeting – Tuesday 24th January 2023 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.

1

2221 Close of meeting

2 Meeting closed at 9.45 pm

Open Forum

No points raised

Signed: _____
Chair

Date: 24/01/23

REPORTS FOR PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – 22ND NOVEMBER 2022

Agenda item 8(a) To consider and approve schedule of payments and receipts for November 2022

PAYMENTS	Date Paid	Invoice Date	Payee	Gross	Net	VAT	Details
DIRECT DEBITS							

DD	10/11/2022	02/11/2022	EE	24.72	20.60	4.12	Mobile phone inv V02045270239
PAYPAL							
37093551S2371403E	02/11/2022	02/11/2022	Fasthosts	12.00	10.00	2.00	Web hosting inv 70221748
5M458085TR841061 J	02/11/2022	02/11/2022	Zoom	14.39	11.99	2.40	Zoom meetings INV1
	19/11/2022	19/11/2022	Viking	125.74	104.79	20.95	Stationery
CHEQUES							
Cheque no							
2689	22/11/2022	25/11/2022	Pauline Collins	****	****	0.00	Salary - November 2022
2690			Pauline Collins				Expenses - £84.50
"		24/10/2022	Fairlight PO	10.00	10.00	0.00	Rolls - WUF
"		21/10/2022	Rye Shoe repairs	20.85	17.37	3.48	Keys - WUF
"		23/10/2022	Good life innovations	33.65	33.65	0.00	Thermometer - WUF
"		01/11/2022	Royal British Legion	20.00	20.00	0.00	Poppy Wreath
2691	22/11/2022	01/11/2022	Countrymans Contractors Ltd	377.15	314.29	62.86	Grass Cutting 7 of 7 SI-3661
2692	22/11/2022	01/11/2022	Fairlight Village Hall	46.00	46.00	0.00	Hall Hire October 2022
2693	22/11/2022	17/11/2022	Mr P Banbury	180.00	180.00	0.00	Caretaker contract - Nov 22 inv 11
2694	22/11/2022	01/08/2022	Rother Ass of Local Councils	85.00	85.00	0.00	Subs for RALC/Parish online inv 15/2022
2695	22/11/2022	28/10/2022	Mulberry & Co	60.00	50.00	10.00	Cllr training inv 50943
2696	22/11/2022	22/11/2022	Activate Fairlight Youth Centre	50.00	50.00	0.00	Use of hut by HFC for September 2022 Replacement Q
2697	22/11/2022	22/11/2022	Activate Fairlight Youth Centre	50.00	50.00	0.00	Use of hut by HFC for October 2022
Returned cheque							
2688	25/10/2022	25/10/2022	Activate Fairlight Youth Club	-50.00	-50.00	0.00	Use of hut by HFC for Sept 2022
TOTAL				3819.25	3713.44	105.81	

Agenda item 9 Planning

Weeks 42 – 44 – no applications received

Week 45

RR/2022/2640/P Halladale, Commanders Walk, Fairlight TN35 4BE – To be discussed

Demolition of existing garage and porch, extension on single storey to the west, replacement of hipped roof for gable ended roof at increased pitch. Erection of a domestic detached outbuilding comprising replacement garage, domestic workshop and art studio to western end of rear garden.

Planning Decisions

RR/2022/2097/P Datcha, Clinton Way, Fairlight TN35 4DL – Approved conditional

RR/2022/2106/P 1 The Close, Ness View, Fairlight TN35 4AQ – Approved conditional

RR/2022/2069/P Former Market Garden, Lower Waites Lane, Fairlight TN35 4DB – Approved conditional

RR/2022/753/P Fairhurst, The Avenue, Fairlight TN35 4DE – Approved conditional

Agenda item 10 - Land Management Group

- Cllr Horsley – Water/drainage/sewerage issues

LWLRMA have secured the Pathfinder project from Southern Water and are requesting information about any water that is not where it should be in the village, i.e., wells, boggy areas, springs overflows etc. Our congratulations go to LWLRMA for securing this which should benefit the village enormously.

- To receive and update on the Walking Football project (Cllr Stewart)

I have been in touch with the coach from Hastings AC re Walking Football.

Other PC's have been asked if they would like to join in and this will be discussed at various other Parish Council meetings in the area.

Instigated by the leader of Hastings AC junior Football coach and Fairlight PC the plan is once other Councils have agreed that they want to participate, along with parents of those children who play at Woodfield who have also expressed a wish to participate, then the coach will be in touch with Fairlight PC to move the project forward.

Agenda item 11(b) -To discuss and approve the appointment of Nice Work to organise a 10K run to help raise funds for this project.

Taking the costs that we have been given by Nice Work: - minimum cost for full race management £950, first aid £300, toilet hire £350, race licence and returns £100 = £2040 inc vat. If we assume the entry fee to be a modest £18 then subtract £2 for UKA members (worst case scenario all entrants get the discount) and £2 for chip timing, that leaves £14 per entrant. 5k and 10k seem to cost the same. If we also assume that trophies, medals and race bibs are paid for by sponsors, this would make the break-even entry number to be 146 runners.

Agenda item 12 - Finance and Administration Committee

(a) To receive a monthly report (Cllr Horsley)

The Finance and Admin Committee met on 8th November 2022. We looked at earmarked reserves and highlighted work that needs doing in the next financial year. Pauline is working on next year's budget. The precept will be rising. We had a discussion about what budget allowances need to be made, in view of the cost of living and fuel costs, in the next financial year. The electricity cost for the compressor house is going

to increase by 60% under the new RDC contract. Also, the need for Warm Up Fairlight may still be there next winter.

The grant fund will be kept at the same level as last year as we anticipate more requests even though this year the fund has not been totally used.

Staff costs will increase (see confidential report).

(b) To discuss and approve the rent reviews for Fairlight Bowls Club, Fairlight Tennis Club and Activate Fairlight Youth Centre – Rates and review period

The F&A Committee have discussed this item and have suggested that all three users should pay an annual rent of £100 from 1st April 2023 and this should be reviewed every three years.

Agenda item 13 - Fairlight Christmas Cracker and Warm Up Fairlight events

(b) To receive an update on the Warm Up Fairlight project (Cllr Horsley and Sharpe)

The early weeks have been encouraging and numbers of “Wuffers” i.e., those present at our sessions on Monday, Wednesday and Friday has been increasing. The soup has been excellent. Also, the supply of cakes and goodies. We thank all those who are supporting us through donations, time or supportive words.

The sessions are developing in response to ideas from those attending and we encourage anyone to drop in for refreshments, a chat or for information about help or funding that can be obtained during the current ecumenic tough climate.

We have now been running for 6 weeks and I believe it is going really well. Mondays in the Village Hall is our busiest day where we now have a number of “regulars” and there’s a vibrant buzz throughout the day. Wednesdays are held in St Peter’s Church Centre, and although not as busy, it also has its regular visitors and is a much more intimate space. We have had a lot of support from local businesses: -

The Village Hall has provided the space free of charge, Franconia Bakery gives us fresh muffins and bread rolls each week, we’ve also had support from Jempsons and Charles & Co and often get donations of cakes from events in the Hall. We are now starting to introduce activities such as knitting and crafting, and we now have a TV licence so we’re able to show films etc. We are steadily building a network of WUFFER’s and I’m pleased to say that I believe Warm Up Fairlight is reaching the people and doing the job it was intended to do. It is growing week on week will no doubt attract more people as the weather gets colder.

Agenda item 17 – Neighbourhood Watch

In view of recent burglaries and attempted break-ins in the area, we are looking to reactivate the Neighbourhood Watch scheme. It has been suggested that we have a website for this. If we adopt this it will need to be carefully monitored to ensure content is acceptable.

Agenda item 19 Meetings/training attended

Winter Readiness Training attended on Thursday 10th November over Zoom (Cllr Sharpe)

Covering:

How to spot the signs of someone in need of help.

Where to direct them to get that help, like getting them on the Priority Services Register.

How to help them maximise their household income, checking if they’ve received the Warm Home Discount and the Cost-of-Living Payments.

Advising them of how to avoid scams.

Advising on how to make the best use of their particular heating systems.

How to make energy efficiency measures without impacting on their quality of life.

What they can do to make savings on their energy bills.

What Government support is available.

We were given a good many links to help and information which will be added to Fairlight Focus as soon as possible.

District Councillor's Report -Cllr Andrew Mier

24 October 2022 updated 14 Nov

1. The proposed closure by Freedom Leisure of the Rye Swimming Pool has caused much understandable consternation. I know that many people from this area use the facility.

Freedom Leisure ("FL") is Rother's contractor for the delivery of leisure facilities and receives money from Rother for that purpose. The increased cost of energy has hit businesses hard, and bills are much higher, despite government support until the spring. The additional cost of running the Rye facility is said to be about £92,000 per annum. FL is unable to absorb that cost, much of which will be due to the Pool. FL have chosen to close Rye pool rather than Bexhill because the Bexhill facility is much more heavily used, affecting more people. It generates more income, and the costs of closing it would be greater. The rest of the leisure facilities at Rye will remain open.

Rother has its own financial problems caused by the current crisis. Our own energy costs have increased, inflation means contractors are expecting more when contracts come up for renewal, and staff have to be paid fairly. On the income side Rother can set the precept only once per year in the spring, and increases are at present capped by government at 2%. Most fees and charges are fixed by law, leaving little scope for increased income. This makes it very difficult or impossible for Rother to give further support to FL. For the Record Rother's share of Band D council tax is £193.38 per annum. Rother collects the rest on behalf of other authorities (County Council, Police, Parish etc) but does not benefit from it.

Rye Town Council is campaigning against the closure and is in contact with Rother. On 17 October a District Councillor for Rye, Howard Norton, and I addressed Rye Town Council, explaining the difficulties. On Saturday 22 Oct I attended the public meeting called by Rye TC. On Friday 28 Oct Friday Rother's Chief Executive, the responsible Cabinet member (Cllr Hazel Timpe), the CEO of FL the Clerk to Rye Town Council and a representative of Sally-Ann' Hart MP's office met.

Sally-Ann Hart MP is in touch with central government in order to see whether targeted funding might be available.

Rother is urgently considering allocating CIL funds in order to improve the energy efficiency of the pool. That will require technical advice as to whether it can be done and whether the energy cost saving would be sufficient. It would also require the consent of ESCC as freehold owner.

A Google search shows that swimming pools across the country have been closing, even before the energy crisis. Rye is not unique, and FL also proposes to close the pool at Milton Keynes.

One possibility would be for Rye TC to contribute to the running of the pool, and surrounding parishes could consider their position.

It would be a great shame to lose the pool. It is only 20 odd years old, very pleasant, and built-in part by public subscription. It has very good disabled facilities (ramp into the water) and local primary school children use it as part of their curriculum.

2. I'd like to correct some misunderstandings about the "Town Hall Renaissance" project.

Rother's Town Hall at Bexhill sits on a site of 0.58 hectares, similar in size to our own Market Garden. The original buildings date from 1895 and 1908. They provide an attractive and usable council chamber and committee room, but are grossly energy inefficient. Staff are accommodated in rooms behind and above the public parts ("the attic") and in two converted Victorian villas to the side. The standard of accommodation is deplorable and inaccessible to wheelchairs. Much of the site is underutilised car park and former commercial buildings.

It would be remiss to have no plan to exploit the potential of this central site. Councils are encouraged by central government to "regenerate" their districts, especially town centres. This can have the additional benefit of providing an income. Rother already owns the freehold of Budgens in Battle, Sainsbury's in Bexhill and the Beeching Road industrial estate freehold, providing not only income, but also securing control of strategic sites for the long term. The Town Hall project would include lettable office space above Rother's requirements.

The plan has been to retain the "heritage" building, but to upgrade it to a far better energy efficiency standard and repair the deteriorating structure. The Victorian villas and some other buildings would be demolished and replaced with a modern block, creating an attractive public courtyard behind and parking space.

On 13 October a planning application for the above scheme came before Rother's planning committee. The application was narrowly refused due to the appearance of the new block and its relationship with the heritage buildings. (I voted in favour of the application which I felt met material planning considerations, though I concede improvements to the design of the office block are desirable).

It remains to be seen whether the application will come back in a modified form.

October's decision was on planning, not financial, grounds. It is a separate matter whether the scheme is economically viable. The intention has always been that it would be self-financing from letting office space. Whether that can be achieved in current difficult conditions is something else which remains to be seen. Either way doing nothing is not a valid option as the repairs and

upgrading to the existing building will have to be done in order to preserve the fabric, reduce energy costs and meet Rother's carbon objectives.

3. Market Garden Site. On 10 November Rother's planning committee (I am a member) allowed a variation to the permission already granted on appeal to a planning inspector. This variation was subject to a minor concession by the applicant designed to deter the use other than for parking of two of the houses' garages.

Cllr Horsley addressed the planning committee. Members were very impressed by what was said, but had to acknowledge the reality was that a refusal at this stage would lead to another successful appeal.

East Sussex County Council Report – October 22 (Received 16/11/22)

From Cllr Maynard

Children's Services

New Film Released to Encourage People to Become Foster Carers

A new film seeks to reach people who may be interested in working alongside their local authority to provide nurturing and positive homes for children and young people. Entitled 'Childhood', the film follows 'Sophie' and 'Charlie' from a difficult home situation to being supported through foster care to attend school and enjoy their hobbies and interests.

The project was coordinated by The Council Advertising Network and produced by Reel Twenty-Five. It has been jointly funded through a national collaboration between 56 local authorities across England.

View the film 'Childhood' and find out more information about fostering with East Sussex County Council [here](#). (or via the ESCC Fostering website).

Career Path Scheme Provides Insight and Experience to Young People

More than 20 businesses have signed up to East Sussex County Council's annual 'Open Doors' scheme. The scheme is aimed at giving young people real-life experience of the workplace as well as the opportunity to learn about possible career paths. Students will tour buildings such as courts, museums and galleries, meet employees and learn about employability skills and available career opportunities.

Supported by the East Sussex Careers Hub, the scheme will run from November 2022 until June 2023, ensuring that as many Year 7 to Year 13 students as possible can benefit. Several industries will be represented in this year's scheme, including accountancy, manufacturing, engineering and consultancy.

Businesses interested in getting involved with Open Doors and welcoming students can contact OpenDoors@eastsussex.gov.uk

More information about this story can be found [here](#).

Communities, Economy and Transport

East Sussex County Council Takes Action to Save Vital Bus Service

East Sussex County Council has agreed to subsidise several bus services that were under threat due to falling passenger numbers and rising costs. With bus use struggling to recover to pre-Covid levels alongside significant increases in operating costs, some operators are having to make changes to services – most of which involve reduced service frequencies.

From the end of October, East Sussex County Council will subsidise seven services operating across Eastbourne, Hastings and parts of Rother. The funding will initially be in place until March 2023.

Following the outcome of competitive bids, Stagecoach will continue to run the services which would have been withdrawn with funding from East Sussex County Council. This follows a range of discounts for passengers as a result of County Council funding, including a new £5 East Sussex single operator day ticket, family and group travel tickets, and an off-peak unaccompanied young person £1 flat single fare ticket.

More information about this story can be found [here](#).

East Sussex County Council Approves Environmentally Sustainable Procurement Policy

On 11 October, the Lead Member for Resources and Climate change resolved to review and approve the County Council's adoption of the Environmentally Sustainable Procurement Policy.

Aligning with East Sussex's Environment Strategy and the Climate Emergency Plan, the policy will prepare prospective suppliers for the environmental consideration changes and expectations that will be implemented into the Council's future contracts. Its implementation is expected to increase environmental considerations across the Council's procurement activity, presenting a significant opportunity to influence a reduction in carbon emissions across the Council's services.

New Highways Contractor for East Sussex Announced

Balfour Beatty Living Places Ltd has been awarded the County Council's new contract for highways and infrastructure services. The contract is valued at £297 million and will run for an initial seven years from May 1, 2023. There will be an option to extend this period to a maximum of 14 years, worth up to £730 million.

Balfour Beatty Living Places will be responsible for maintaining the county's highway network and infrastructure, as well as providing winter gritting and delivering highway improvement schemes. During the extensive procurement process, bidders were asked to demonstrate how they would support the County Council's efforts to reduce its carbon footprint, ensure quality of work, provide value for money and improve social wellbeing.

More information about this story can be found [here](#).

South East Business Initiative Programme Boosts Jobs and Profits

Since launching in July 2020, The South East Business Boost “Big Ambitions” programme has helped 85 businesses within East Sussex. The project has helped businesses in a variety of sectors, including beauty and food and drink. From those enrolled in the programme, 55 businesses reported an increase in total turnover of £5.5 million, as well as the creation of 48 new jobs. The programme is part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund and East Sussex County Council. It is delivered by Digital Islands and provides advice from subject experts. More information about this story can be found [here](#).

Eastbourne Library Event Supports Men’s Mental Health

On November 9, the free event ‘Let’s Talk...Men’s Mental Health’ will be held at Eastbourne library. The free event will allow an opportunity for men and women to have an open conversation about men’s mental health, as well as providing further information and support links.

The event will be supported by the Eastbourne-based organisation ManKind, alongside the Samaritans and The Old Bank Wellbeing Trust, who provide counselling amongst other support services. The evening will be hosted by Paul Roskilly, who established ManKind in 2020 alongside Ian Pickard.

The East Sussex library service maintains a collection of online tools and resources to support men’s mental health year-round, including book recommendations, event information, and links to podcasts and forms offering help and advice.

Book a free place at the event [here](#). Urgent mental health help and advice can be found on the [NHS website](#). More information on ManKind, including advice on how to join their meetings, can be found [on their website](#).

More information about this story can be found [here](#).

Celebration of Apprentices Graduation Ceremony

An East Sussex graduation ceremony on 19 October celebrated the commitment and hard work of those who completed an apprenticeship between 1 September 2019, and 1 October, 2022. Four special awards were presented to celebrate the achievements of all those involved in the completion of the apprenticeships.

The first of its kind since the pandemic, the ceremony marked the importance of apprenticeships within the local economy and celebrates the contribution of local businesses and educators.

The event was organised by Sussex Council of Training Providers and was supported by East Sussex County Council and East Sussex College Group. Other sponsors included NCFE, the South East Apprenticeship Ambassador Network and OHM Energy. Businesses can find out more information about apprenticeships [here](#).

More information about this story can be found [here](#).