

MINUTES

**Herstmonceux Parish Full Council Meeting
Monday 20th June 2022, 7.00pm
Herstmonceux Village Hall**

Councillors in attendance:

Herstmonceux Parish - Jo Angear; Ketill Game; Emma Goodsell; David Harding; Heather Kenward; Graham Lee; Bryan Naish; Peter Watson.

Wealden District – Cllr Ray Cade

East Sussex County Council – none

Clerk/RFO/Admin Assistant in attendance – Clare Harrison

Members of the Public – 1

Number	Item	Action
AGENDA ITEMS		
1. FCL_2022.06.01	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES</p> <p>The Chair opened the meeting at 7.03pm. The Chair reminded all that the meeting was being recorded.</p> <p>Apologies had been received by the Clerk from the following Councillors: Cllr Jenny Alder – family commitment Cllr Ian Stewart – family commitment</p> <p>Apologies were accepted.</p>	Apologies Recorded
2. FCL_2022.06.02	<p>TO RESOLVE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING</p> <p>i Minutes for Approval and Adoption</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Full Council Meeting 21st March 2022 (outstanding)- Extra-Ordinary Full Council Meeting 21st March 2022 (outstanding)- Full Council Meeting 25th April 2022 (outstanding) <p>It was RESOLVED to accept that the Minutes of the Full Council Meetings above, which were not recorded on previous Full Council minutes as having been approved, now be Approved. Proposed by Cllr Kenward seconded Cllr Game. All in favour. Minutes were adopted and signed as a correct record.</p> <p>- Full Council Meeting (Annual Meeting) 16th May 2022</p> <p>It was noted that Cllr Kenward was on Zoom and not Cllr Harding. It was noted that the spelling of Cllr Kenward's name needed a slight amendment. The minutes were amended by the Chair to reflect this. With these minor amendments, it was RESOLVED to accept that the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting on the 16th May 2022 be Approved. Proposed by Cllr Kenward seconded Cllr Game. All in favour. Minutes were adopted and signed as a correct record.</p> <p>Cllr E Goodsell joined the meeting at 19.07</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Approval of scheduled Council meeting dates for the remainder of 2022 and 2023 <p>The meeting dates were approved as per Appendices of the Full Council Minutes, 16th May 2022 – 2023. Proposed Cllr Angear, seconded Kenward. All in favour.</p>	
	<p>ii Any outstanding actions - No outstanding actions were advised.</p>	

3. DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS
FCL_2022.06.3 Declarations of Member's Interests were as declared at beginning of this administration term. There were no interests specific to this agenda.

4. MEMBERS DISPENSATION REQUESTS
FCL_2022.06.4 There were none.

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS RELATING TO ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA
FCL_2022.06.5 This item shall last not more than 15 minutes or at Chairman's discretion and no contribution shall last more than 3 minutes.

No members of the public were present at this time of the meeting proceedings.

6. COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT –
FCL_2022.06.6 i Monthly reports – circulated prior to this meeting
The ESCC update from Cllr Bowdler had been circulated prior to this meeting. Please see Appendix 1.

Cllr Bowdler sent his apologies via Cllr Cade. Cllr Bowdler was attending another Parish's FCL meeting.

Cllr Watson joined the meeting at 19.09

Cllr Doodes sent her apologies via Cllr Cade. Cllr Doodes was unable to attend for health reasons.

Cllr Ray Cade provided some update information regarding the Ukraine Crisis work undertaken jointly by ESCC and the District and Borough Councils. Please see Appendix 2.

Cllr Cade informed all that the new leader of the Council is Cllr Anne Newton. There are some changes to portfolios for the Wealden Councillors.

It was reported that Cllr Doodes is now a Cabinet Member. Cllr Cade is now lead for waste management. Waste services are now trying to clean up following the strike. Additional collection cycles are taking place until the backlog is cleared, anticipated to take up to 4 weeks. Bin collections will be starting from 6.30am for this interim period.

In excess of 900 Ukraine refugees have arrived in East Sussex since Russia's invasion of Ukraine. A large number of the refugees are being supported in Wealden. Cllr Cade provided some detailed information as to living arrangements being made for refugees in Wealden and other activities that WDC were taking to support the situation, such as employment support. Updates are circulated by the Local Authorities every Friday, briefings are held every fortnight. 3VA are now key to the hosting families arrangements in Wealden, funded by the County, reporting to the District and Borough Councils.

Interested MOP or community organisations should be put in contact with Cllr Cade so he can signpost them to already established activities and support lines that can be supported by interested parties.

ii Urgent Matters – there were none.

7.
FCL_2022.06.7

INTERNAL AUDIT

- i Receive and Note Internal Audit completion, 16th June 2022, and report for Financial Year 2021-2022

A member of the public joined the meeting at 19.28

The Internal Audit had taken place on the 16th June as planned. The report had been circulated prior to the meeting. The report summarised that:

“Our sample testing did not uncover any errors or misstatements that require reporting to the external auditor, nor did we identify any significant weaknesses in the internal controls such that public money would be put at risk.

It is clear the council takes governance, policies and procedures very seriously and I am pleased to report that overall, the systems and procedures you have in place are fit for purpose and whilst my report may contain recommendations to change these are not indicative of any significant failings, but rather are pointers to improving upon an already well-ordered system.

It is therefore our opinion that the systems and internal procedures at Herstmonceux Parish Council are well established and followed.”

Statements M and N received a necessary response of ‘No’ from the Internal Auditor due to the roll over late approval date of the 2020/2021 HPC AGAR (after 1st July 2021, the date required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015), which was disclosed in that year’s AGAR.

- ii Discussion of recommendations

There were no specific recommendations from the Internal Auditor for the Parish Council.

- iii Agree necessary actions

Report to be referred to FGP for identification of any information and guidance for further tightening and improvement of HPC’s good financial practice and processes.

Proposed Cllr Harding, seconded Cllr Kenward. **All in Favour.**

**Internal Audit
to website and
External
Auditor**

**To FGP
Agenda**

8.
FCL_2022.06.8

AGAR - FINAL ACCOUNTS AND ANNUAL RETURN 2021-2022 Signing off Final Accounts and Annual Governance and Accountability Return prior to submission to External Auditor, as per Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015

Noting the:

- Year End 2021 – 2022 Final Accounts, approved for Recommendation to FCL minute reference FGP_2022.03.06.i-vi;
- FGP_2022.03.06.viii (meeting date 12/04/2022); Approved at FCL, minute reference FCL_2022.04.08 (meeting date 25/04/2022);
- AGAR S2 Accounting Statements 2021/22 presentation FGP

- i. Herstmonceux Parish Council **Completion and Approval** of Section 1 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2020/21, Form 3, for publication on the Parish Council website before 1 July 2022

The AGAR had been circulated prior to the meeting. The completed Internal Auditor’s responses were revised by the Council at the meeting and duly noted.

The Chair read out Statements 1 – 9 in **Section 1 of the** Herstmonceux Parish Council **Annual Governance Statement 2021/2022**. All statements were agreed as ‘Yes’ with the exception of Statement 4, for the historic reasons given above at FCL_2022.06.7i, as per the Internal

Auditor's report. Statement 9 was Not Applicable. It was **Proposed** and seconded to **Agree** the statements of the presented Annual Governance Statement Section 1, as detailed in this minute. **All in favour.**

RATIFIED. The Annual Return was signed by the Chair of Herstmonceux Parish Council and the Clerk of Herstmonceux Parish Council in the presence of the Council.

- ii. Herstmonceux Parish Council **Completion and Approval** of Section 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2020/21, Form 3, for publication on the Parish Council website before 1 July 2022

It was **Proposed** by Cllr Game and seconded by Cllr Watson to **Agree** the presented Herstmonceux Parish Council **Annual Governance Statement Section 2 Accounting Statements**, including the prepared **Explanation of Variances** for which an explanation had been provided by the RFO for sections 3, 4 and 6. **All in favour. RATIFIED.**

- iii. **Authorisation to sign** the Final Accounts and Annual Return on behalf of the Parish Council

As above at bullet point FCL_2022.06.8i. All supporting papers were signed by the Chair.

- iv. **Acknowledge** publication of the notification of the commencement date of the period for the exercise of public rights.

The dates set for the period for the exercise of public rights are:

Commencing on the 22nd June 2022

Ending on the 2nd August 2022/

The notice had been prepared for publication.

- v. **Acknowledge** publication of all other supporting end of year documents on the Parish Council website

Noted.

- vi. **Authorisation to submit** the following to External Auditor by 30th June 2022: **To view all of the documentation below, please see this page of the website:**

<https://www.herstmonceuxparish.org.uk/accounts-and-audit.html>

- Form 3, Completed and Approved;
- Bank reconciliation as at 31 March 2022;
- An explanation of any significant year on year variances in the accounting statements;
- Notification of the commencement date of the period for the exercise of public rights;
- Annual Internal Audit Report 2021/2

It was **Proposed Cllr Game** and seconded Cllr Watson to **Authorise** the RFO to submit the 2021 – 2022 Year End documentation to the External Auditor as per above. **All in favour. RATIFIED.**

9.

FCL_2022.06.9

FINANCIAL OFFICERS REPORT AND PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Approval and Ratification of the following:

Month end reports – March 2022 (previously noted at FGP but not formally approved at FCL); April 2022 (previously noted at FGP but not formally approved at FCL); May 2022;

- i Bank Reconciliations
- ii Barclaycard Reconciliation
- iii Bank Summary

- iv Reserves Balance and Transfers report
- v Cost Centre report (Net)
- vi Payments and Receipts May 2022
- vii Any further payments that cannot be held over to the next meeting

The above month end reports 9i-9v, plus the Statement of Accounts for 31.05.2022, were approved.

VAT detail to be added to V75

The Payments of Accounts (as shown below) had been circulated prior to the meeting and Recommended by FGP Committee. The Clerk presented this month's payments totalling £7,861.79, plus additional payments of £637.72 and receipts totalling £6.91. It was **Proposed by Cllr Watson** and seconded Cllr Game to accept the above reports and the June 2022 Payment of Accounts. **All in Favour.**

Additional matters:

- viii 2021 – 2022 CIL Monitoring Return

The CIL monitoring return will be circulated by email by the RFO once all CIL spending information has been added. Approval for submission to WDC will be sought via return email.

CIL report to be finalised

ix Approval of the Deed of Indemnity for the S106 footpaths works. The above Deed of Indemnity had been recommended for approval by the FGP Committee. It was **Proposed** to accept and sign the document by Cllr Harding, seconded by Cllr Kenward. **All in favour.** The document was signed by The Chair and Chair of the Finance in the presence of the Council.

Signed Indemnity Agreement to be returned to the Local Authority

The Council suggested it be prudent to contact the Contractor to advise the Indemnity Agreement had been returned and to request further discussion as to any changes to the original quote which was now over six months old.

Clerk to contact Roadways

x Approval of received quotes for works (not discussed at FGP)
There were none.

xi Any other financial matters which cannot be held over until the next meeting
There were none.

14 June 2022 (2022-2023)

Herstmonceux Parish Council
PAYMENTS LIST

Voucher Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Cheque No	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
59	20/05/2022	FCL	Unity Trust Current 20	Direct Debit	Street Lighting Electricity Supp	Kent County Council - Laser	L	3.39	0.17	3.56
60	20/05/2022	FCL	Unity Trust Current 20	Direct Debit	Street Lighting Electricity Supp	Kent County Council - Laser	S	557.80	111.56	669.36
61	30/05/2022		Unity Trust Current 20	Direct Debit	Printing and Photocopying Cha	Principal	S	75.49	15.10	90.59
62	30/05/2022		Unity Trust Current 20	Direct Debit	Barclay Card Payment	Barclay Card	Z	4.50		4.50
63	30/05/2022		Unity Trust Current 20	Direct Debit	Lease of Land	Wealden District Council	Z	150.00		150.00
64	31/05/2022		Unity Trust Current 20	Direct Debit	Water Supply	Castle Water	Z	6.89		6.89
65	23/06/2022	FCL	Unity Trust Current 20	Bank payment	Hall Hire	Herstmonceux Village Hall	Z	140.00		140.00
66	23/06/2022	FCL	Unity Trust Current 20	Bank payment	Public Toilet Cleaning	Fresh Cleaning Maintenance	S	128.00	25.60	153.60
67	23/06/2022	FCL	Unity Trust Current 20	Bank payment	Locum	Bob Franklin	Z	120.00		120.00
68	23/06/2022	FCL	Unity Trust Current 20	Bank payment	ICT Subscriptions through Uni	Uniserve Southeast Ltd	S	84.40	16.88	101.28
69	23/06/2022	FLC	Unity Trust Current 20	Bank payment	Waste disposal	Recycling Partnership Ltd	S	92.07	18.41	110.48
70	23/06/2022	FCL	Unity Trust Current 20	Bank payment	Allotments Association Subs	Allotments Association	Z	12.00		12.00
71	23/06/2022		Unity Trust Current 20	Bank Payment	Refreshments	Cllr Jo Angear	Z	16.95		16.95
72	23/06/2022		Unity Trust Current 20	Bank Payment	Plants	Flowers Green Plants	S	55.90	11.18	67.08
73	23/06/2022		Unity Trust Current 20	Bank Payment	Printer Paper	Amazon	S	22.49	4.50	26.99
74	09/06/2022		Unity Trust Current 20	Direct Debit	Water Supply	Business Stream	Z	6.00		6.00
75	09/06/2022		Unity Trust Current 20	Direct Debit	Photocopier Lease Arrangem	BNP Parabis	Z	270.20		270.20
76	07/06/2022		Unity Trust Current 20	Direct Debit	ICO annual subscription	The Information Commission	Z	35.00		35.00
77	07/06/2022		Unity Trust Current 20	Direct Debit	Phone and Internet charge	O2	Z	11.17		11.17
78	09/06/2022		Unity Trust Current 20	Direct Debit	Street Lighting Electricity Supp	Kent County Council - Laser	S	487.01	97.40	584.41
79	10/06/2022		Unity Trust Current 20	Direct Debit	Street Lighting Electricity Supp	Kent County Council - Laser	L	3.28	0.16	3.44
80	23/06/2022		Unity Trust Current 20	Bank Payment	Allotment Grass Cutting	Honeysett Groundcare	Z	60.00		60.00
81	10/06/2022		Unity Trust Current 20	Bank Payment	Grass Cutting	Honeysett Groundcare	Z	1,120.00		1,120.00
82	23/06/2022		Unity Trust Current 20	Bank Payment	Clerk Salary	Clare Harrison	Z	1,400.08		1,400.08
83	23/06/2022		Unity Trust Current 20	Bank Payment	Administration Assistant Sala	Maxine Hoad	Z	703.56		703.56
84	23/06/2022		Unity Trust Current 20	Bank Payment	Handyman Salary	Jamie Noukes	Z	619.41		619.41
85	06/07/2022		Unity Trust Current 20	Bank Payment	Clerk Tax	HMRC	Z	388.60		388.60
86	06/07/2022		Unity Trust Current 20	Bank Payment	Clerk NI	HMRC	Z	168.27		168.27
87	06/07/2022		Unity Trust Current 20	Bank Payment	Clerk NI Employer Contributor	HMRC	Z	200.92		200.92
88	23/06/2022		Unity Trust Current 20	Bank Payment	Clerk Pension	Local Government Pension S	Z	136.05		136.05
89	23/06/2022		Unity Trust Current 20	Bank Payment	Clerk Pension	Local Government Pension S	Z	380.93		380.93
90	23/06/2022		Unity Trust Current 20	Bank Payment	Clerk Pension	Local Government Pension S	Z	71.16		71.16
91	13/06/2022		Unity Trust Current 20	Direct Debit	Admin Asst Employee Pension	NEST	Z	29.31		29.31
Total								7,560.83	300.96	7,861.79

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1 of 1

17 June 2022 (2022-2023)

Herstmonceux Parish Council
PAYMENTS LIST

Voucher Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Cheque No	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
96	23/06/2022		Unity Trust Current 20	Bank Payment	Internal Audit	Mulberry and Co	S	173.10	34.62	207.72
97	23/06/2022		Unity Trust Current 20	Bank Payment	Jubilee Photo Booth	Paul Henderson	Z	280.00		280.00
98	23/06/2022		Unity Trust Current 20	Bank Payment	Jubilee Beacon	Halbham & District Young Fa	Z	150.00		150.00
Total								603.10	34.62	637.72

16 June 2022 (2022-2023)

Herstmonceux Parish Council
RECEIPTS LIST

Voucher Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Receipt No	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
11	16/06/2022		Barclays Premium 109	Bank Payment	Bank Interest	Barlays Premium	Z	6.91		6.91
Total								6.91		6.91

10.
FCL_2022.06.10

FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
Approval of all Recommendations of the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting date 14th June 2022

Various. See FGP minutes

The minutes of the FGP meeting had been circulated prior to Full Council. The Chair of the Finance and General Purposes Committee outlined the recommendations from their meeting on the 14th June. It was **RESOLVED** to accept that the Recommendations of the Finance and General Purposes meeting of the 14th June 2022 be **Approved**. Proposed by Cllr Angear seconded Cllr Game. **All in favour.**

11.
FCL_2022.06.11

AMENITIES COMMITTEE
Approval of all Recommendations of the Amenities Committee Meeting date 23rd May 2022

This item is deferred as the minutes are still pending.

12.
FCL_2022.06.12

PLANNING COMMITTEE
Approval of all Recommendations of the Planning Committee Meeting date 7th June including:
- Revised Terms of Reference (TOR)

The slight changes to the TOR were **Proposed** by Cllr Game, seconded Cllr Angear. **All in favour.**

13. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

FCL_2022.06.13

13.1

Application No. WD/2022/1006/F

Application Type: Full

Expiry date for comments: 1 July 2022

Case Officer: Sally Simpson

Tel: 01892 602551

Location: TROLLILOES BARN, TROLLILOES LANE, BN27 4QR

Description: REPLACEMENT OF EXISTING FIRST FLOOR ROOFLIGHTS WITH ESCAPE ROOFLIGHTS AND REUSE OF SALVAGED ROOFLIGHTS ABOVE EXISTING KITCHEN

Applicant: Mr & Mrs Ryan Fuller

Agent: Julian Bluck

Comments and observations to WDC

Comments and observations:

The Parish Council support this application.

13.2

Application No. WD/2022/1079/F

Application Type: Full

Expiry date for comments: 4 July 2022

Case Officer: Sally Simpson

Tel: 01892 602551

Location: OLD STUDDENS, STUDDENS LANE, BN27 4QS

Description: FIRST FLOOR EXTENSION TO CREATE NEW MASTER BEDROOM AND ENSUITE

Applicant: Mr & Mrs Koops

Agent: Julian Bluck

Comments and observations to WDC

Comments and observations:

The Parish Council support this application.

14.

FCL_2022.06.14

BUSINESS AND ACTION PLANNING 2022 – 2025, including Neighbourhood plan management – update

Clerk to investigate with WDC the Planning Permission query for the Lime Cross Sports Ground Football Pitch raising level. To be raised by 1-2m. Received info to be forwarded to the project management group.

Clerk's comms

Business Plan updates for the monitoring sheet and for Amenities Agenda:

- i Addition Flagpoles actions
- ii Addition of Footpath from Bowls to Playpark – rec footpath extension circa £11k

Cllr Harding / Admin Assistant

15.

FCL_2022.06.15

TO ACCEPT WRITTEN / VERBAL REPORTS AND NOTE CORRESPONDENCE:

- i Levelling Up Bill and Planning Reform – Huw Merriman correspondence

Communication noted. Council support the MP views regarding planning reform behind the Levelling Up Bill.

- ii Proposed change of flight path to Gatwick – Resident communication

Changes will more affect the Redhill area as the flight path already crosses Herstmonceux. The Council agreed a response for the Clerk to issue.

- iii Ukraine support – Resident communication
As per WDC Officer report.

iv Sussex Police Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group and Samaritans Visit - Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner
Herstmonceux PCSO will be asked to visit following incidents on Saturday night. Information and comments on community facebook have now been removed.

PCSO unable to attend next FCL meeting but aims to attend August FCL.

Correspondence for noting that had been received and circulated to Full Council following publication of this agenda included:

- additional bulletin regarding National Response Policing Week of Action, from Katy Bourne, Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner;
- the latest edition of the NALC Chief Executive's Bulletin;
- MANAGING AVIAN FLU – RESPONSE TO CASE IN BEXHILL.
This urgent communication has been posted on the HPC facebook and website.
- Appeal on Colins Honda site. Informal meeting

16. CLOSE OF MEETING

FCL_2022.06.16 The meeting closed at 21.08

Date of next meeting – 18th July 2022

Appendix 1.
East Sussex County Council – Update for May 2022
From Cllr Bob Bowdler

Adult Social Care

Funding for volunteer groups to support Ukrainian refugees

East Sussex County Council plans to provide £490,000 funding to support Ukrainian refugees, which will be distributed across three voluntary organisations.

The three groups – 3VA, Hastings Voluntary Action, and Rother Voluntary Action – will, between them, help refugees across the entire county. The voluntary organisations will deliver a range of support and integration services to enable Ukrainian people to settle into East Sussex communities.

The latest figures showed there were 704 known arrivals in East Sussex, staying in 307 properties. Local councils and voluntary organisations have already provided significant support, but the additional funding will allow for longer-term infrastructure to be put in place which will last for at least twelve months.

Communities, Economy and Transport

Events across East Sussex to celebrate Queen's Jubilee

A series of events are scheduled across the county to celebrate the Queen's 70-year reign.

East Sussex libraires are holding a series of Jubilee themed events, including Rhymetime and Storytime sessions, crown making craft workshops and author-led storytelling events.

All the events are free to attend and because no celebration would be complete without cake, library visitors to Bexhill, Hailsham, Heathfield, and Rye libraries are invited to celebrate the Jubilee with a slice.

More information about library celebrations is available on the East Sussex libraries website.

A list of other local events – from a disco on the pier to a vintage tea dance – is available on the Your East Sussex website.

Grass cutting programme is underway

Each year, the East Sussex Highways team cuts around 560 hectares, or 1,381 acres, of grass on verges and at junctions across the county.

The highways grass cutting programme began in April and continues until November. The majority of urban verges, which are along roads in built up areas, are cut twice a year.

Verges on rural roads also receive two cuts a year and additional cuts are made at junctions where it is necessary to increase visibility for safety reasons. This year, the trial to reduce rural grass cutting to once a year in some areas is ongoing. The trial aims to further support biodiversity across the county.

Designated wildlife verges are cut once year, in the autumn once the annual flowering has finished. There are now 176 wildlife verges in East Sussex and rare wildflowers, such as the Lizard orchid and the Spiked Rampion, have flourished in some locations.

Some Parish and Town Councils will receive six urban cuts annually if they choose to pay East Sussex Highways to carry out an additional four cuts per year. Parish and Town Councils also have the option to take on the responsibility to deliver all the urban grass cutting in their area.

The highways grass cutting schedule is available on the East Sussex Highways website and is updated weekly.

Welcome Wednesdays return to The Keep

The Keep Archive Centre's Welcome Wednesday visitor introduction sessions will be restarting from Wednesday 1 June. The sessions were stopped during the Covid-19 pandemic but will resume on the first Wednesday of each month, between 10am and 12pm.

The Keep is a world-class centre for archives, housing the collections of the East Sussex and Brighton and Hove Record Office, the University of Sussex and the Royal Pavilion and Museums Trust.

The centre cares for thousands of historic documents which record every aspect of the county's people, organisations, and way of life. The earliest document dates from the 1090s.

Welcome Wednesday visitors will have the opportunity to see the centre's state-of-the-art document repositories, conservation studio, and digitisation suite. The suite was recently used to digitise over six million local parish records, spanning over 450 years of Sussex history. These documents are now available online through the Ancestry website.

Expert staff will be on hand during the sessions to answer questions, show visitors how to navigate The Keep's website and catalogue and book documents, and provide a brief introduction to the reference and reading rooms.

More information about The Keep is available online.

Work to secure £41m bus service funding underway

East Sussex County Council has received an indicative funding allocation from central government to improve bus services across East Sussex.

Officers are now working to develop detailed plans to secure the funding, a total of £41,415,002, which will be used to implement its Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP).

The BSIP sets out several proposals to improve services and increase the use of public transport. Proposals include investment in key bus corridors across the county, improvements to services linking rural and town communities, improvements to town centre services, and reducing and simplifying fares.

Once the county council knows the level of funding secured, full details and costs on specific schemes will be developed.

*Cllr Bob Bowdler
Walden East Division*

Appendix 2

17 June 2022 An update for MPs, councillors and parishes

English language classes for Ukrainians

A number of English language courses are available for those Ukrainians that wish to develop their English language skills. These include:

- Learning | East Sussex Libraries
- Pre-entry ESOL programme – 11 week courses through East Sussex College Group in Hastings and Eastbourne

- Babbel - the language app, is offering free courses in English for Ukrainian refugees:
- Busuu language app is also offering its premium service free to Ukrainians for 3 months.
- Sanctuary Cafe

🕒 Fridays between 10am and midday (12pm).

- 📍 All Souls Church Hall, Wellesley Road, Eastbourne
- Ukrainian Café Hub

🕒 Tuesday afternoon 1-4 pm

📍 Robertson Street, Hastings – conversational English groups

- Education Training Consortium Sussex - based in Hastings and St Leonards. Currently offering Beginner-Elementary and Pre-Intermediate English lessons as well as IT lessons. Currently offering 8 classes per week. Looking to set up coffee mornings for conversational English.
- Refugee Buddy Project - based in Hastings and Rother - provide informal English conversation workshops, 1hr per week, helping with understanding bills, council tax, housing, driving theory.

For more information on education and training opportunities for Ukrainians in East Sussex, they can now visit the East Sussex College Ukraine Support website [here](#).

Recruitment days for Ukrainian guests

Recruitment days are being held in the coming weeks to support Ukrainian guests in finding work. Local employers will be attending and actively recruiting for jobs. These events will take place at the following:

📍 Eastbourne Jobcentre 24th June

📍 Hastings Jobcentre 29th June

Ukrainian guests can contact their Jobcentre Plus Work Coach for more information.

Host payments: change to first payment

Local boroughs or district councils are now contacting hosts to advise them how to claim their optional £350 monthly 'thank you' payment, funded by the national government.

East Sussex County Council and our partners want to say an additional 'thank you' so we'll be topping up the first month's payment to £500 (for those who wish to claim) in recognition of the incredible support and commitment our hosts have provided and the costs that can come with this.

Free membership with Freedom Leisure

Freedom Leisure Centres across the south east of England are currently offering Ukrainians free access to their facilities for the next 3 months, including use of the swimming pool, gym and fitness classes.

Participating centres are located across Hastings, Rother, Wealden, Brighton, Woking, Guildford and Arun.

To redeem this offer, Ukrainians should visit their local Freedom Leisure Centre where they will be able to sign up on arrival.

Host support workshops

Sponsors of Ukrainian guests are invited to attend a workshop designed to help them in their role of hosting families displaced from their homeland by war in Ukraine.

The workshop is organised by the 3VA and the Association for Family Therapy.

The workshop will aim to help participants feel more confident about what to expect, how to negotiate and manage difficult areas and how to recognise when more help is needed. We recognise the kindness and generosity of those offering to host and we hope, through this workshop, to help make their experience a successful one.

The workshops are free and available at the following:

- 📍 Eastbourne 25th June 🕒 12:30-3pm 📧 Register here
- 📍 Wealden 23rd June 🕒 12 – 2.30pm 📧 Register here
- 📍 Lewes 26th June 🕒 12:30 -3pm 📧 Register here

More than 960 guests now in East Sussex

Guest arrivals by borough and district in East Sussex

Latest figures show that at least 960 guests have arrived in East Sussex under the Homes for Ukraine scheme. Our thanks to every host and every community making our guests welcome.

The guests are at 374 different properties across the county. More than 280 school places have been allocated to Ukrainian children.

The figures suggest we can expect more than 1,460 Ukrainians to come to East Sussex in total, meaning the county has received a little over 60% of our number of anticipated arrivals.

We use this newsletter to bring you updates about how East Sussex and its communities are working with our Ukraine guest. You can unsubscribe at any time.

If you have further questions, you can contact us at ukraine@eastsussex.gov.uk

We wish everyone a great weekend.