

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 6th February 2025 in the Small Hall of the Village Hall, Gilberts Drive, East Dean, commencing at 6.30 pm

Councillors present: Cllr J Greenway, Cllr P Hill, Cllr P Seeley (Chair), Cllr T Larkin, Cllr Fowler, Cllr Baker, Cllr Bustard, and Cllr D White.

In attendance: Cllr Shing, and Clerk & RFO Fiona Chalk.

Public Session: There was one member of the public present

Minute No.	Item	Action / Responsibility
1096	Apologies for absence Cllr Greaves & Cllr Bryant	
1097	Declarations of interest No declarations of interest were made	
1098	To Approve the Minutes of 9th January 2025 The minutes were agreed and signed as a correct record of the meeting.	
1099	Report from MP None received.	
2000	Report from County Councillor Cleaning of gullies at Upper Street will likely have to be actioned by a private contractor as Council cannot provide access. ESCC still has a deficit budget and will be voting for the Council tax increase next week, which might also see cutting of services such as day centres. Government announced devolution agreement for East & West Sussex and Brighton & Hove to become a Unitary authority, with a mayor, and the cancellation of elections.	
2001	Report from District Councillor The report was circulated. It was noted that a number of complaints have been received from residents with contractors' vehicles parked in East Dean village on yellow lines. It is inhibiting bin collections and emergency vehicles access. Cllr Greaves to be notified	Clerk to advise Cllr Greaves
2002	Update on Actions from meeting on 9th January 2025 Alan Saunders to be asked, when he does Downs View Lane, to do Old Willingdon Road, if it still needs doing. A bench has been ordered for the tennis court at Recreation Ground.	Cllr White to follow up on 25 Summerdown Lane
2003	Payment and Receipts Payments for February were noted and approved. Additional to those listed in the report, payments for the electrical works at the Pavilion, hedge cutting back between Friston and Upper Street, Cllr expenses were approved.	Clerk to make payments

2004	Business in Progress <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Website – a link to the new website holding page had been circulated. Cllrs commented that the new website is an improvement. b. Emergency plan – the Clerk advised she will put this in Dropbox so Councillors can add amendments. A revised version will come to the March meeting. c. Complaints Policy – This is due for update and has been reviewed. The Council resolved to approve the policy. d. 1 Waterways Cottage – The Council noted actions to date and await WDC's response. 	<p>Clerk to finalise Emergency Plan</p> <p>Policy to be added to the website</p> <p>Clerk to follow up</p>
2005	Playground Inspection The Council resolved to approve a formal recording process for playground inspections and approved the policy. Cllr Fowler to lead on this reporting. Wicksteed report once a year on condition.	<p>Cllr Fowler to attend playground inspection training.</p>
2006	Speedwatch The Chair advised that the PCSO is keen to have this re-actioned. The police have done some work outside the village hall. Put a request for volunteers into the Parish Magazine	<p>Clerk to put in the parish mag.</p>
2007	Grant Request Form The Council noted the grant application from St Wilfred's Hospice and resolved to approve a grant of £200.	<p>Clerk to advise</p>
2008	Annual Village Meeting The Council discussed the upcoming AVM and resolved to approve the suggested format, including an Awards Scheme, the presentations of which may take place at a later date. Presentations from groups at the AVM will be at the invite of the Parish Council.	<p>Clerk to invite clubs to attend and have a table.</p>
2009	Any Urgent Items not on the Agenda None.	
2010	Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. <u>Chair of the Council</u> VE Day on 8th May. Light beacon at 8.30pm and some fireworks. Cricket Club to be asked to open the facilities. Collection will be by Royal British Legion and split with RNLI and Beachey Head Chaplaincy. <p>Concrete Bollards by Gore Farm Close and the village car park. There has been a personal injury. A light has been put up on a nearby garage to improve sighting of the bollards, but concern remains on the flint material. Consideration to be given to a different material such as smooth concrete bollards or wooden plant posts with reflective material. There may be some historical significance.</p>	<p>Clerk to confirm arrangements.</p> <p>Historical Society to be consulted</p> <p>Clerk to get some quotes.</p>

	<p>Traffic entering Gore Farm Close as a result of new café signage. A meeting has been had with the café owner regarding signage, and he has been written to. At Michel Dene Road, there is a nameplate on both sides of the road. There could be signage added, signposting village shops and café. The sign on the bus stop could be amended with a different arrow to better direct traffic. The Council resolved to draw up a proposal for new signage and discuss with shop owners.</p>	Cllr Seeley to draw up the proposal
	<p>b. <u>Finance Budget Report</u> Expenditure at the end of January was noted as £67,706 against year-end budget figure of £79,672. Income to the end of January was noted as £92,525 against a year end budget figure of £78,818. This higher than budgeted figure is due to higher-than-expected grant income. The Parish Council noted the report.</p>	
	<p>c. <u>NPSG</u> Next meeting of the Steering Group is on 18th February. There have been alterations which will be considered and then submitted to the Parish Council meeting in March for approval and further submission to SDNP.</p> <p>The Chair and Cllr Bustard attended a SDNP meeting on the consultation of their new Local Plan. Some green spaces in the village are mentioned in their Local Plan. They have not included the Greensward as a Green Space in their Local Plan. The consultation is still open for comments until 17th March 2025. Councillors are asked to forward their comments on the SDNP Plan, to the Clerk.</p>	Cllrs to make comment to the Clerk. Clerk to collate responses to the Plan.
	<p>d. <u>Rights of Way & Highways</u> Some blockages of the footpath 25 from Upper Street to Friston following the high winds, which have now been cut back. Residents have asked if the PC are going to put bark chips on the footpaths as usual - Climpsons usually deliver, and Rustic Gardens spread it. The Council resolved to approve selected paths where there is a requirement. The Information Board at the pond is being repaired. There is an ongoing issue with tourists walking down the Road in Gilberts Drive. Do we need new signage? It was resolved the PC will discuss at the SLR meeting on 25th February and liaise with NT and Brighton & Hove buses. Consideration could be given to a Cuckmere shuttle bus to Birling Gap?</p> <p>SLR agenda was discussed and agreed.</p>	<p>Cllr Hill to organise.</p> <p>Cllrs/Clerk to action</p> <p>Clerk to circulate</p>

	e. <u>Tree Warden</u> Wenthill Close twitten.	Clerk to monitor and follow up with Cllr White
	f. <u>Recreation Ground</u> Maintenance works been undertaken at the Cricket Club. Cllr Fowler to work with Wickstead and undertake playground observations. There will be electrical costs for new lighting in the toilets and halogen heating repairs. Some work needed on the rear of the building on the block work to prevent damp coming through. The Council resolved for the work to proceed to prevent further damp problems	
	g. <u>Downlands Estate Management Group</u> The PC have written out to various organisations and properties for approval of 20mph signs. Agreement has been given by the organisations. There are 4 private homeowners, and alternative sites will be sought to any objections. ESCC have been written to asking they proceed with the road traffic order.	Clerk to follow up.
	h. <u>Defibs</u> All checked.	
2011	Correspondence The Council noted: a. The response for the Draft Transport Strategy Consultation (Transport for the SE) b. East Sussex County Council's Rights of Way Access Plan consultation c. East Sussex County Council / SDNP proposed signalised pedestrian crossing at Seven Sisters Country Park. d. WDC – Sports Infrastructure Fund launched	

Signed:

Date:

	PAYMENTS			
PAYEE	DETAILS	SUB TOTAL	VAT	TOTAL
Jozef Zelinko - Rustic Garden	Friston Pond clearing, path clearance Upper Street-Church, bollard installation	£280.00	56.00	£336.00
SLCC	13th Ed Local Council Administration	£141.50	0.90	£142.40
SLCC	New Clerk Series training 1 Of 5	£20.00	4.00	£24.00
HMRC	PAYE & NI	£463.10		£463.10
Grants Eastbourne	Grass mowing	£680.00	136.00	£816.00
Clerk	Salary and allowance	£1,514.43		£1,514.43
ESCC Pension	Clerk Pension	£459.46		£459.46
Village Hall	Hire January	£88.00		£88.00
EDF	Cricket Pavilion	£68.86	3.44	£72.30
Graham Street	Bus Shelter December	£60.00		£60.00
ESALC	New Clerk Training	£90.00		£90.00
Graham Street	Bus Shelter January	£60.00		£60.00
Clerk	Expenses - stamps	£52.10		£52.10
Mythic Beasts	Domain name registration	£192.00	38.40	£230.40
Rustic Garden	Footpath clearance after storm	£120.00	24.00	£144.00
Grant Fowler	Cricket Pavilion Internal Maintenance	£900.00		£900.00
Cllr Hill	Commonwealth Flag	£11.99		£11.99