



East Dean & Friston

P a r i s h C o u n c i l

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 2nd July in the Small Hall of the Village Hall, East Dean, commencing at 7.00 pm

Councillors present: Cllr Bustard, Cllr Fowler, Cllr Gaffney, Cllr Harvey, Cllr Hill, Cllr Larkin & Cllr Morris. County Cllr Shing and District Cllr Greaves

In attendance: Clerk & RFO Phil Burgess.

Public Session: One member of the public was present. No issue was raised.

2383 Apologies for absence. Cllr Greenway.

2384 Declarations of Interest. None.

2385 Co-option of Councillor. Angus Langford was co-opted onto the council and signed a declaration of acceptance of office.

2386 Member of Parliament report. Written report and MP visit due on 4th August noted.

2387 County Councillor Report. Cllr Shing had circulated a report prior to the meeting. The main points were:

- The National Trust (NT) has submitted a planning application to restore tidal flooding at Chyngton Brooks in the Cuckmere Valley.
- Cllr Shing has visited the parish with the Highways Steward and highlighted outstanding issues including the decade-old gully issue on Upper Street. He has suggested breaching sections or the roadside verge to allow drainage off the road. (Cllr Harvey pointed out that this had been tried before but is vulnerable to silting up if not maintained).
- Archaeological discoveries should not delay the Exceat works
- Cllr Shing has pressed for permanent solutions on the Meads to Gilbert's Drive road following the recent fatal collision on that stretch but has limited influence.

The Parish Council extended their condolences to the families affected by the accident.

Speeding & Parking Issues Gilbert's Drive

- Cllr Gaffney suggested a pneumatic road tube traffic measuring device to log speeds. Cllr Shing advised that Highways would assist with the cost depending on the severity of the issue and a similar process had been carried out in Jevington. *Action: Clerk to approach ESCC Highways*
- Community Speed Watch. Cllr Hill felt that word of mouth would be more effective than parish magazine appeals. *Action: Councillors will approach potential volunteers. Clerk will request that the Residents association display a poster at their Fete table.*
- Red lines are not appropriate for the area.

2388 District Councillor report. Cllr Greaves' written report would be circulated after the meeting. Main points as follows:

- Expansion of the Explore Wealden Wine trail
- Ward grant scheme is still open to organisations and funding is still available

2389 Minutes of the meeting on 4th June 2026. These were approved by council and signed by the chair.

2390 Matters arising and update on actions outstanding

Minute 2273 Phyllis Burningham Bequest. Final spot for the bench still undecided but the bus stop area outside the village hall may be appropriate. See also minute 2395 below.

Minute 2300 Roundabout Freeholds on private estate. Clerk still investigating and the results would be taken to the next Tri-partite meeting with EDDR.

Minute 2352 Wildflower Verges. Cllr Greenway has met Jonathan Timberlake and made proposals for Friston Green. Report and diagram will be presented at the August meeting

Minute 2369 Disability Plan See minute 2395 below

Minute 2375 Art Weekend. Rough costings have been received and Cllr Morris would progress at August meeting.

All other issues cleared.

2391 Payments and receipts. All approved as detailed.

2392 Bank Reconciliations. Both accounts agreed and signed by the chair.

2393 Recreation Ground Security. Replacement of the wooden stakes on the perimeter for those which had rotted or been damaged was approved. No further security measures to be taken at this stage. *Action: Cllr Harvey would visit site and engage Jozef to replace as necessary.*

2394 Cycles on Friston Hill. Signage for cyclists approved using existing posts on the condition that approval was obtained from the National Trust for signage at the Farrer Hall entrance to Hobbs Eares and replacement of the "kissing gate" for cycle access at the top of Hobbs Eares. *Action: Clerk to approach NT.*

2395 Downlands Way Improvements and Disability Issues (Including Disability Plan). A working group would be formed to advise council on the suggested improvements at Downlands and disability considerations. Cllrs Bustard, Gaffney and Morris would take part. The Residents' Association (RA) would be approached to nominate a representative to join the group.

Also to be considered are bench sitings for the disabled and elderly and objectives 1.2 to 1.4 of the disability plan (p12) together with disability improvements proposed in 12.9 of the Neighbourhood Plan. *Action: Clerk to Approach RA for nominee and arrange meeting.*

2396 Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks. Some councillors already had DBS certification through their occupations. Council would not require DBS certification but would meet the cost at the time should it become appropriate.

2397 Eastbourne Rd Telephone Box. It was noted that the box is not available for adoption by the council. It does not satisfy BT criteria owing to the fact that it is still used and mobile coverage is poor.

2398 Councillor Address Display. The law has recently been changed and does not now require councillor addresses to be displayed on their disclosures of pecuniary interest (DPI). As no councillor wished to have their address displayed the Clerk would arrange for redaction from DPIs. *Action: Clerk*

2399 Hedgehog Signs. The request for hedgehog signage was rejected. *Action: Clerk to notify applicant*

2400 **Disability Policy.** Please see minute 2395 above

2401 **Neighbourhood Plan Training.** Councillors did not feel that training on the Neighbourhood Plan (adopted earlier this year) was required. *Action: Clerk to notify our consultant*

2402 **CIL Spending.** No decision was made on the CIL funds already paid to the council (but due for reclaim by SDNP if unspent by the end of the year). A working group comprising Cllrs Bustard, Gaffney, Hill and Morris would meet with the clerk to report back to the August meeting. *Action: Clerk to arrange meeting.*

2403 **Urgent Items.** Cllr Morris reported that suggested changes had been received and the recreation questionnaire (compiled in liaison with the Cricket Club) was ready for release. *Action: Cllr Morris to liaise with Clerk to arrange distribution.*

2404 Reports.

- a) **Chair of the council.**
- b) **Defibrillators.** All checks up to date. Defibrillator positions are: Pavilion, Village Hall, Downlands Shops & Michel Dene Rd. Further unit near Friston church still under negotiation. Signs (stickers) indicating positioning should be placed at Eastbourne Rd phone box, Bus stops, shops, Village Hall within PC notice board as a minimum. *Action: Clerk*
- c) **Rights of Way and Highways.** Overgrown hedge on FP8 is OK at present but needs attention in the longer term.
- d) **Tree Warden.** Cllr Larkin reported a bough that had broken off the Ash trees near The Old Parsonage onto the Eastbourne Rd A259. These had previously been reported to ESCC who were said to be monitoring them. *Action: Chase required from Clerk*
- e) **Recreation Ground.** The Clerk reported that Janet Smith did not intend to return to her role as pavilion cleaner. Councillors were happy to continue with our replacement cleaner Simon Hoadley.
Health and safety Checks at the pavilion required by law were well underway, Electrical and fire extinguisher checks and remedies had already been carried out. A Legionella risk assessment had been carried out and tests were commencing. Regular temperature logging and checks required will be carried out. The cricket club will be notified of the risks regarding their water harvester and will be advised to test the contents a.s.a.p. A full H&S report will be submitted to council at the August Meeting. *Action: Clerk*
Rat Infestation The pest controller had visited on 2 occasions. On the second occasion, almost all poisoned bait had been taken. A third visit was required to ensure the problem was solved.
- f) **Downlands Estate Management Group.** Authorisation to proceed with the 20mph project had still not been received. *Action: Clerk to chase.*
- g) **Greensward meeting.**
- h) **Jevington Rd Group.** Meeting minutes noted. The Clerk reported that speed information was available for the area and will be provided prior to next meeting in August.

2405 Correspondence.

- a) Correspondence between a resident, our MP and ESCC would be taken into account by the Jevington Rd Junction group.
- b) A letter of thanks from St Wilfred's Hospice (this year's charity) was noted
- c) The council supported the views expressed in Mr Davies-Gilbert's email, which noted the benefits of the recent road closure.

2406 **Date of next meeting.** This will take place on Thursday 6th August 2026 at 7.00 pm.

Meeting Closed at 9.04 p.m.

Minutes confirmed as a true representation: Signed.....Date.....

DRAFT