



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 14th May in the Small Hall of the Village Hall, East Dean, commencing at 7.00 pm

Councillors present: Cllr Bustard, Cllr Fowler, Cllr Greenway (joined meeting later), Cllr Harvey, Cllr Hill & Cllr Morris. County Councillor Shing.

In attendance: Clerk & RFO Phil Burgess.

The clerk took the chair pending election.

Public Session: Four members of the public were present. The following issues were raised.

Eastbourne Rd A259 The road had been patched with a surface which reduced tyre noise significantly between the Downs View Lane and Upper Street junctions. Could a request be placed to ensure future surfaces have this noise-reducing effect. *Action: Clerk to write to ESCC requested any future surface has reduced road noise.*

Hillside A resident thanked the council for addressing the hedge issue between Hillside and Dene Side.

2328 Election of Chair. Cllr Bustard was elected chair and signed a declaration of acceptance of office

2329 Apologies for absence. Cllr Larkin, District Cllr Greaves.

2330 Declarations of Interest. None.

2331 Election of Vice Chair. Cllr Fowler was elected vice chair and signed a declaration of acceptance of office.

2332 Resignation of Councillor. Cllr Baker's departure from the council was noted. She was thanked for her contribution to the council.

2333 Co-option of Councillor. Dr Mark Gaffney was co-opted onto the council and signed a declaration of acceptance of office.

2334 Standing Orders. The Standing orders were reviewed and re-adopted

2335 Financial Regulations. Financial regulations were reviewed and re-adopted.

2336 Internal Auditor. Mulberry and Co were re-affirmed as internal auditors.

2337 Planning Committee Terms of Reference and Election of Officers.

- a) Terms of reference were reviewed. An amendment should be made to 4.1 of the T.O.R to take into account the design guidance of the recently "made" Neighbourhood Plan. The responsibilities section would also be amended in this regard. *Action: Clerk*
- b) Cllr Fowler was re-elected as Planning chair, Cllr Morris was elected as vice chair.

Cllr Greenway joined the meeting at 7.18

2338 Lead Councillors. The following Councillors were elected to the roles indicated:

- Rights of Way and Highways Cllr Harvey (chair) north of A259, Cllr Hill south of A259
- Recreation Ground Cllr Fowler
- Environment Cllr Larkin (*to be confirmed by Clerk*)
- Tree Warden Cllr Greenway
- Defibrillators Cllr Larkin
- Website Parish Clerk
- Disability Cllr Gaffney
- Pavilion Project Cllr Morris (chair)
- Tourism Strategy Not allocated as yet
- Greensward Cllr Greenway

2339 Other Appointments. The following were elected to the roles indicated:

- Village Hall Trust Cllr Bustard
- East Sussex Association of Local Councils. Cllr Fowler elected dependent on work commitments. Clerk would request representation from another councillor if needed.
- Emergency response Team (Emergency Plan) Cllr Gaffney would be added and departing councillors removed. *Action: Clerk*
- External roles
 - a) Pavilion Caretaker Mrs Jan Smith, temporary replacement Simon Hoadley
 - b) Council Honorary Solicitor David George
 - c) Flag Master Graham Street
 - d) Bus Shelter Officer Graham Street

2340 Review of Council Policies. Review to be staggered each quarter.

2341 Review of Council Banking Arrangements. Mandate had been completed to add Cllr Bustard and Fowler and remove Cllrs Hill and Seeley. Not actioned by Barclays as yet.
Action: Clerk to chase

2342 Charity of the year. St Wilfred's Hospice Eastbourne was selected. *Clerk to Action*

2343 Minutes of the meeting on 9th April 2026. These were approved by council and signed by the chair.

2344 Matters arising and update on actions outstanding

2273 Phyllis Burningham Bequest. *Action: Bench site to be considered and finalised at next meeting.* Still under consideration Cllrs Greenway and Fowler to agree a site near the Village Hall

2300 g Roundabout freeholds on private estate. Still under investigation

Public Session 9th April Local Green Space Issue at the Bowls Club still outstanding

2307 Exceat contractors Jacksons – Stakeholders meetings are taking place. See Cllr Shing report for further suggested action.

2320 Provision of Public Toilets. The Hikers Rest and Tiger have a relaxed attitude towards the public using their toilets. Nonetheless it was agreed that the arrangement should be formalised with the estate perhaps through the Wealden scheme. *Action: Clerk*

Disabled Persons Issues. Downlands and parking spaces still under investigation by Cllr Bustard and the Clerk

All other issues cleared.

2345 **Member of Parliament report.** Written report noted.

2346 **County Councillor Report.** Cllr Shing advised the following:

- The County Council elections resulted in no overall control with Reform being the largest party.
- Cllr Shing had been elected Mayor of Polegate.
- He suggested the best way forward on the Jevington Rd junction was to prepare a petition directly to ESCC councillors and request a specific change to the junction, rather than contacting Highways.

Action: Clerk to arrange a working party to include Cllrs Harvey, Morris, Bustard and Gaffney. Cllrs Morris and Hill would prepare a report on the Exceat meeting at Ringmer.

2347 **District Councillor report.** Cllr Greaves' written report included in agenda attachments

2348 **Payments and receipts.** All approved as detailed.

2349 **Bank Reconciliations.** Both accounts agreed and signed by the chair.

2350 **Annual Village Meeting final arrangements.**

- Cllr Harvey would handle the "roving mic" for questions after the presentation.
- Some Cllrs would arrive at 5 to lay out the tables
- Questions would be restricted to 20 minutes
- Cllr Fowler would handle the bar

2351 **Pavilion Cleaning Services.** A rate of £15 per hour was agreed for both the temporary cleaner and our regular cleaner on her return from sick leave. *Action: Clerk to inform both*

2352 **Wildflower verges.** Suggested areas for the verges included Friston Pond and Eastbourne Rd. *Action: Cllr Greenway would consult Jonathan Timberlake.*

2353 **Budget Performance 25-26 year.** The budget and reserves figure of £115,000 were noted.

2354 **Youth Ambassador.** The appointment of an ambassador in the age range 18-25 was approved. The issue would be raised at the AVM and the post would be advertised through the Residents Association and the Parish Magazine. *Action: Clerk*

2355 **Urgent Items.** None

2356 **Reports.**

- a) **Chair of the council.**
- b) **Defibrillators.** Cllr Larkin was absent. However, all defibrillators had been tested and were in working order.
- c) **Rights of Way and Highways.**
 - Letters have been written to 2 Hillside and 42 Elven Lane. The former has agreed to trimming back the hedge.
 - Pooh Corner on Downs View Close had responded to a letter to confirm they had no intention of removing their hedge.
- d) **Tree Warden.**

- e) **Recreation Ground.** Cllr Fowler advised that Mark Pankhurst had carried out some internal work at the Cricket Club to block access between the 2 shower rooms after a theft
- f) **Downlands Estate Management Group.**
- g) **Greensward meeting.**

2357 **Correspondence.** Following contact from a resident regarding flags on the highway, the council should make clear their policy on the green and their apolitical stance on other flags in the village. *Action: Clerk*

2358 **Confidential Item.** Minuted in confidential item M3.

2359 **Date of next meeting.** This will take place on Thursday 4th June 2026 at 7.00 pm.

Meeting Closed at 8.58 p.m.

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

DRAFT