

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March 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 Bryant

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

Public Session: There were 4 members of the public present

Presentation: East Dean & Friston Cricket Club (a copy of the presentation is filed with these minutes)

Minute No.	Item	Action / Responsibility
2012	<b>Apologies for absence</b> Cllr White's apologies were accepted	
2013	<b>Declarations of interest</b> No declarations of interest were made	
2014	<b>To Approve the Minutes of 6<sup>th</sup> February 2025</b> The minutes were agreed and signed as a correct record of the meeting.	Clerk to publish
2015	<b>Report from MP</b> None received. He has advised that a public session is to be planned for August on The Green	
2016	<b>Report from County Councillor</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ESCC agreed for a 4.99% on Poll Tax.</li> <li>Cllrs asked the Council to use the £1.6m election funding (for elections that will not be taking place) to pay for the £1.5m cuts to local services. Unfortunately, this was not agreed to, and previously proposed services will be reduced or stopped.</li> <li>Exceat bridge project has been put on hold currently.</li> <li>Discussions are taking place towards building a new Unitary authority. A project plan to 2028 has to be submitted by 21<sup>st</sup> March. An elected mayor is expected to be in place by 2026 with a shadow election of the unitary authority in 2027, with the full authority being in place 2028.</li> </ul>	
2017	<b>Report from District Councillor</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WDC – He again raised the state of VH Car Park with aggregate disappearing and causing lots of damage. WDC has surveyed the Car Park and looking at a cost of £50k for repair.</li> <li>WDC poll tax has gone up by 2.99% which is the maximum. WDC has built up prudently a good reserve. There was a motion to use this rather than putting Council Tax up. The motion was defeated. <a href="#">A Poll Tax reduction scheme has been enhanced.</a></li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Members allowances were proposed at 5%, and the motion was approved 22 to 17.</li> <li>Street cleaning – Cllrs advised on the issue of drainage from Gilberts Drive to the old pond. The road needs a good cleaning. This will be raised with WDC</li> <li>Cllrs advised that a License (permit) is awaited from the Council for extra market days at Easter etc. Tina Ford at WDC will be contacted.</li> </ul>	<p>Cllr DG to action</p> <p>Cllr DG to action</p>
2018	<b>Update on Actions from meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2025</b> All actions have been completed or are on the agenda	
2019	<b>Payment and Receipts</b> Payments for March were noted and approved.	Clerk to make payments
2020	<b>Business in Progress</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emergency Plan – <b>It was resolved the Chair &amp; Vice-Chair to be lead, and the revised Plan be adopted.</b></li> <li>Website / Email – it was noted that old email addresses will cease to work beyond 31.3.25. The Clerk's will be redirected.</li> </ol>	Cllr Fowler to confirm with MK
2021	<b>Neighbourhood Plan</b> MB advised it is the intention to submit the NP by the end of the month. Cllrs raised concerns that the Design statement is still an addendum. The Consultant's view is that this could be incorporated into the document. Cllrs agreed that it would be preferable to have it within the main document. It was suggested that the NDHA list could go into an appendix instead and be replaced with the Design statement. It was noted that there is a process described in the Plan on Housing Analysis, but it is unlikely that there will be any large housing allocation. Therefore, the analysis should be an appendix instead. It was agreed that the purpose of the NP was to get an updated and statutory binding version of the Village Design Statement. Following a brief discussion, <b>the Council resolved to approve the Neighbourhood Plan for submission to SDNPA.</b> The Council agreed that it was a great piece of work, and the PC expressed their thanks to the NPSG for all their work.	<p>Clerk to advise consultant of the changes</p> <p>Consultant to submit the Plan to SDPNA</p>
2022	<b>Proposed Signage to the Village Shops</b> A sign design was proposed to the Council. <b>The Council resolved to approve the permanent signage on the condition of the temporary signage being permanently removed</b>	Cllr Seeley
2023	<b>SDNPA Local Plan Consultation</b> The Clerk gave a summary of the proposed response, in which the Neighbourhood Plan policy was used to shape the Council's response. <b>The Council resolved to approve the response.</b>	Clerk to submit response

2024	<b>Any Urgent Items not on the Agenda</b>	
2025	<p><b>Reports</b></p> <p>a. <u>Chair of the Council</u> Awards for the village – 25-year celebration of the Village Hall is this year. It was suggested a joint event with VHT and PC take place, to include an awards event. <b>The Council resolved to commit to this event, the date being agreed as Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October event in the Village Hall.</b> Cllr Baker to lead on this event. It was suggested a maximum of 6 key awards would be appropriate.</p> <p>SDNPA Parishes Meeting 19.3.25 online meeting is to be attended by Cllr Baker &amp; Cllr Fowler.</p> <p>b. <u>Finance Budget Report</u> Expenditure at the end of February was noted as £70,813 against year-end budget figure of £79,672. Income to the end of February was noted as £118,624 against a year end budget figure of £78,818. This higher than budgeted figure is due to higher-than-expected grant income and a legacy gift from a previous resident. The Clerk advised that consideration should be given to moving some of this money into earmarked reserves. The Chair advised a further £5k legacy is likely to come to the PC. The funds have come from a Phyllis J Burningham. The Parish Council noted the report.</p> <p>c. <u>Defibrillators</u> 22 people attended in the training session in the village hall, and it was very well received.</p> <p>Request for a defibrillator in Friston was noted. Such a defib will need to be solar charged due to lack of access to power. North side bus stop is a potential site. <b>It was resolved for Cllr Larkin to investigate a solar powered Defib, as well as investigate Solar power for 30mph sign on Gilberts Drive (rather than batteries).</b></p> <p>Cllr Baker suggested having an Epi pen location within the village, perhaps at the shop or café.</p> <p>d. <u>NPSG</u> Nothing to add to earlier conversation.</p> <p>e. <u>Rights of Way &amp; Highways</u> SLR meeting minutes were noted. Footpath 25 – is no cycling from Friston Church to Upper Street. <b>The Council resolved No Cycling signs to be erected.</b> Two very dangerous footpaths from Hillside to A259. 'Danger' exits have been put up. The latter is not identified as a public right of way.</p>	<p>Clerk to circulate details</p> <p>Clerk to arrange another training session with Eastbourne responders. Cllr Larkin to investigate Cllr Baker to investigate.</p> <p>Cllr Hill to liaise with the Clerk on procurement</p>

	<p><b>The Council resolved to put up barriers to block the access to the footpath that has not exit onto the A259.</b></p> <p>Gilberts Drive drainage goes into the silted-up pond in Horsefields. Balfour Beatty are to speak to the Estate and try to clear it, and to the resident groups that are seeking to have the pond re-instated.</p> <p>Pavement outside the Thai restaurant is getting ruined as lorries are driving over it to avoid parked cars. Road from Upper Street to Lower Street is going to closed for 4 weeks which will cause lorries to be turning in Went Way. The Council resolved to Cone the road to stop the parking to allow lorries to turn safely.</p> <p>Bark has been laid on paths around the village.</p> <p>1 bench has been installed, and another will be for the Southside Bus Stop. A further one will be installed as a replacement in the Recreation ground, the replacement will go on the tennis court.</p>	<p>Cllr Hill to talk to the shops and the contractors in the village to gain their views and agree a safe solution.</p> <p>Cllr Hill to oversee.</p>
	<p>f. <u>Tree Warden</u> Bottom of Hillside – a beech hedge needs cutting back.</p>	To be referred to the Roads Company.
	<p>g. <u>Recreation Ground</u> Council noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The metre has been read and sent to EDF Energy.</li> <li>• External repairs have been done to the Pavilion.</li> <li>• Playground training inspection has been arranged online for Cllr Fowler.</li> <li>• Playground inspection records circulated.</li> <li>• Cllr Fowler to be point of contact for the sports pavilion plans.</li> </ul>	
	<p>h. <u>Downlands Estate Management Group</u> ESCC lead will be invoicing us for the Road Traffic Order (preferably before 31.3.25). A lot of work has been done on getting resident's permission on the Estate. There will need to be some flexibility on where the signs will go, to be suitably placed so everyone is happy with the siting. Greensward Association agreed to signage and the Residents' Association have agreed poles with mirrors can be used for signage.</p>	Clerk to follow up
2026	<p><b>Correspondence</b> The Council noted:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Consultation by Transport for South-East on their Transport Strategy. <b>The Council resolved to approve the draft response.</b></li> <li>b. Exeat Bridge Proposal – ESCC correspondence was noted, as discussed under Cllr Shing's report.</li> </ol>	Clerk to submit

	c. Recreation facilities The Council resolved to replace the basketball nets and put up a rack in the Court for coats etc.	Clerk to action
	<b>Confidential Recruitment</b> 28.3.25 is the closing date of the advert for applications through ESALC. <b>The Council resolved to:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pay the current Clerk up to 5 hrs a week in April to support Year-End. This will be on a self-employed basis</li> <li>• To appoint Julia Foster as locum clerk 12 hrs a week until a permanent Clerk is in place.</li> </ul>	

Meeting closed at 20.45 pm

Signed: .....

Date: .....

PAYEE	DETAILS	SUB TOTAL	VAT	TOTAL
Wicksteed	Playground repairs	£1,149.99	230.00	£1,379.99
ESCC Pension	Clerk Pension	£459.46		£459.46
Graham Street	Bus Shelter February	£60.00		£60.00
HMRC	Underpaid NI Sept.24	£136.94		£136.94
P Hill	Hanging baskets	£112.04	9.82	£121.86
EDF	Pavilion	£74.13	3.71	£77.84
St Wilfreds Hospice	Grant donation	£200.00		£200.00
Eastbourne Responders	Defib Training	£200.00		£200.00
Clerk	VE Flag	£30.60		£30.60
Grants Eastbourne	Grass mowing	£680.00	136.00	£816.00
Hamptons Electrical	Pavilion Repairs	£280.76	52.60	£333.36
ESALC	Year End Training	£35.00		£35.00
HMRC	PAYE & NI	£322.89		£322.89
Clerk	Salary and allowance	£1,514.43		£1,514.43
Village Hall	Hire February	£63.00		£63.00
VCWebsites Ltd	Emails	£563.00		£563.00
WDC	Bin Emptying	£286.00	57.20	£343.20
G Fowler	Noticeboard Repairs	£244.00		£244.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£6,168.24</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>£6,657.57</b>
<b>RECEIPTS</b>	<b>DETAILS</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>		
HMRC	VAT	£1,099.36		
Legacy		£25,000.00		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£26,099.36</b>		