East Dean & Friston Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 6th August in the Small Hall of the Village Hall, East Dean, commencing at 7.00 pm

Councillors present: Cllr Bustard, Cllr Gaffney, Cllr Greenway, Cllr Hill, Cllr Larkin & Cllr Morris. District Cllr Greaves

In attendance: Clerk & RFO Phil Burgess.

Public Session: Two members of the public were present.
Lesley Schillinger laid out the plans for the return of the Art Weekend in the village. Current budget projections had a large shortfall particularly when the hire of the Village Hall for the full weekend was taken into account. Tim Pontin was also present and offered to provide financial details for previous years which largely used private properties with limited use of the Village Hall. Lesley was seeking council approval in principle prior to reviewing projected costs for the event planned for September 2027. Cllr Greaves suggested grant funding from the members' grants scheme, but the application would need to be made through an organisation such as the Residents' Association.
Tim Pontin asked the council to consider a regular newsletter, which he had raised at the Annual Village Meeting. He also enquired about progress on the 20 mph speed limit project. This had recently been chased by the clerk, and the response had raised further issues despite previous correspondence indicating all was well. Cllr Hill suggested a meeting with Paul Seeley who had been involved with the scheme from its outset. This would be arranged once the promised further response had been received from ESCC.

2407 **Apologies for absence.** Cllrs Fowler, Harvey & Langford. County Cllr Shing.

2408 **Declarations of Interest.** Cllr Morris declared an interest in the Art Weekend agenda item. The organiser is a close friend.

2409 **Member of Parliament report.** Written report noted.

2410 **County Councillor Report.** None.

2411 **District Councillor report.** Cllr Greaves' written report would be circulated after the meeting. Main points as follows:

- WDC has initiated "operation ignite". Forward planning for wildfire occurrences.
- Arlington Reservoir extension, expected delivery not until 2057
- Wealden Councillors have been asked to serve another year until 2028 when unitary authorities will take full effect. Cllr Greaves will stand down in May 2027, however.
- Water quality assessed at Birling gap recently was excellent.
- Food waste collections have accounted for over 1500 tons since being introduced in March.

2412 **Minutes of the meeting on 2nd July 2026.** These were approved by council and signed by the chair.

2413 **Matters arising and update on actions outstanding**

2387 Pneumatic road tube traffic measuring device to log speeds. *Clerk has approached ESCC Highways on 2 occasions. Enquiries closed by ESCC without response! Still chasing*

Community Speed Watch *Advertising poster dropped off with RA for the Fete. CSW now has a full complement*

2393 **Recreation Ground Security.** Replacement of the wooden stakes on the perimeter. *Work is underway. Now completed*

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. *Oct Agenda*

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. *Lesley Durso will represent the RA. Meeting report to October PC meeting.*

2404b **Defibrillators.** Signs (stickers) indicating positioning should be placed at Eastbourne Rd phone box, Bus stops, shops, Village Hall within PC notice board as a minimum. *Stickers arrived – placed at notice boards, A259 bus shelter eastbound and Phone Box. 2 remain* Defibrillators – *similar link will be placed on EDFPC website once the survey tab is no longer in use*

2414 **Payments and receipts.** All approved as detailed.

2415 **Bank Reconciliations.** Both accounts agreed and signed by the chair.

2416 **Pavilion Health and Safety.** Fire Extinguisher, Electrical and Legionnaires disease checks are all up to date. On-going Legionnella checks to be carried out by Cllr Fowler. Asbestos testing not considered necessary at this point. Risk assessment checklist will be completed by clerk and Cllr Fowler and held on file. *Clerk to advise CC of H&S checks carried out. Update at next agenda - done*

2417 **Pavilion Rat Infestation.** This issue has recurred and the pest controller has attended again. On-going external contract not required but the internal situation will be monitored. *Action: Clerk. Done*

2418 **Resident Sport and Leisure Survey.** The electronic version is nearing completion, and the link will be introduced to the council website. Paper versions for the parish magazine will be folded and inserted by councillors at the village hall for distribution. The return deadline will be set for the end of September *Action: Cllr Morris will arrange in liaison with the clerk.*

2419 **Budget Progress.** Healthy budget situation noted.

2420 **Downlands Wall.** Cllr Hill had arranged 3 quotations for rebuilding of a shortened wall. A brick pillar would be added to the remaining stable part of the wall. A quotation of £2400 was approved for a brick pillar, flint infill to wall and levelling of tarmac. Although this was not the cheapest quotation, it included steel reinforcements for the pillar and an early start date was possible. Cllr Greenway had a contact to purchase the remaining flint. *Complete, still chasing insurance claim*

2421 **CIL Spending.** The following projects were agreed as priorities to ensure CIL receipts would be spent within the allotted time-frame:

1. Friston Pond £6400 started
2. White Lining Downlands £1282 due to start 30th September
3. Footpath along West side of Jevington Rd (approx. £3000)
4. 2 disabled spaces in top car park near Tiger (WDC permission required, limited spend)
5. Disabled space by East Dean Church (ESCC permission required, limited spend)
6. Disabled parking space by Friston Church – potentially a disabled drop-off. (limited spend)
7. 20 mph if permission given by ESCC (£7,000 expected spend already earmarked) *Action: Items 3-7 still ongoing*

2422 **Art Weekend.** Council was in favour of the proposed Art weekend. Any financial assistance required would be revisited once more detail was known.

2423 **Emergency Plan.** The emergency plan update was approved conditional on amendments to item 6 to accommodate war and wildfire as types of emergency. Cllr Gaffney would review the plan from a disability perspective. The confidential "PERT" team list would be circulated to councillors. *Action Clerk and Cllr Gaffney*

2424 **Gilbert's Drive Overgrown Verge.** Assistance would be requested from ESCC as this is unregistered land. Response to be referred back to council. *Action: Clerk - reported* HED006795

2425 **Recreation Ground Maintenance.** Approval was given to the tree and vegetation maintenance plan and engaging a tree surgeon and digger driver to undertake work required. Cllr Greenway would arrange the digger, and the clerk would contact Jack Futter for the tree work. *Action: Cllr Greenway and Clerk (Clerk to liaise with estate also).JF contacted and work arranged. Digger OS*

2426 **Tri-partite meeting with EDDR and RA.** Cllrs Langford and Harvey would be asked to attend the meeting on 24th August with Cllr Bustard and the clerk.

2427 **Friston Green Proposals.** No areas within Friston Green had been identified as suitable for wildflower planting. All proposals deferred with the exception of the footpath to the west side of Jevington Rd see minute 2421 above, and the setts to the northern edge of the central island to deter turning and protect the bank. *Action: Clerk to contact ESCC on 2nd point. Reported* GEN022753

2428 **Urgent Items.** Cllr Bustard reported back from the MP visit this week regarding the Meads to Gilbert's Drive road. The council will be pushing for an enquiry on the situation with the enquiry leader having access to a multi-agency forum. At present many groups are trying to achieve a result and there is little co-ordination. James MacCleary was in favour of this approach and also approved of an initiative by Lesley Durso of the RA to prepare a petition. The council would offer support for the petition and request sight of it prior to release for any agreed amendments. *Action: Clerk to contact Lesley Durso Done*
Cllr Hill advised council that the development to the rear of Paddock House on Gilbert's Drive had a planning condition regarding the planting of semi-mature trees along the driveway. This has not been satisfied as yet. *Action: Clerk to check conditions and contact Mr H Goucher.Contacted Phillip*

2429 **Reports.**

a) **Chair of the council.**
b) **Defibrillators.** All checks up to date.
c) **Rights of Way and Highways.** Persistent obstructive parking outside the house on the west corner of Michel Dene Rd is a traffic hazard. *Action: Clerk to investigate*
d) **Tree Warden.**
e) **Recreation Ground.**
f) **Downlands Estate Management Group.** See minute 2421 above
g) **Greensward meeting.**
h) **Jevington Rd Group**. Meeting to be arranged shortly.

2430 **Correspondence.**

a) Disappointing ESCC response to Jevington Rd junction representation was noted.
b) Forceful letter from BHC regarding Beachy Head Rd was noted.

2431 **Date of next meeting.** This will take place on Thursday 1st October 2026 at 7.00 pm. Meeting Closed at 9.26 p.m.

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

DRAFT