



DRAFT (Amended) Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7pm on Wednesday 17th September 2025

Present: Cllr Deborah Harwood (Chairman) (DH); Cllr Karen Nash (KN); Cllr Mark Rawlings-Smith (Vice Chairman) (MRS); Jasmine Hathaway (JMH); Cllr Alan Higginson (AH); Cllr Philip Maber (PM)
7 member of the public also attended.

Agenda Item 1 – Apologies for Absent – SS

Agenda Item 2 – Declaration of Interests/ Dispensation Requests - There were no declarations of interest or dispensation requests.

Agenda Item 3 - Minutes of the last Parish Council Meeting – to approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting and the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 17th September 2025. It was **Resolved that** that the minutes were correct, all councillors agreed, DH signed the minutes.

Agenda Item 4 – Chairmans Report –

Thank you to all who have turned up today, I hope you have had a wonderful summer. Stuart Stapes has resigned due to his work commitments not allowing him to give his attention to the parish council, I would like to thank him for trying. Tony Marshall has also resigned as he is moving onto pastures new. I would like to say that although he and I didn't always see eye to eye, he was a phenomenal councillor whose attention to detail, his research skills and his ability to never take no for an answer have been invaluable to our community and I know that we would all like to pass on our gratitude and wish him well further up the country. Revival, there was so little traffic through the valley that it was hard to imagine it ever happened, of course that may not be true to the A286 but the valley was left alone. I would like to thank Dan Garlick and Goodwood for delivering a huge improvement on the traffic problems of the past, especially as they had very challenging weather. MOP pointed out that the numbers were down due to the weather. KN reported that the signage was correct which helped the situation, however there was no signage at the entrance to Singleton from the A286 but it didn't seem to make any difference. JH mentioned that sometimes having not signage is works better, the Goodwood carparks were very busy but access to the site seemed less busy, probably again due to the weather.

Agenda Item 5 - County Councillor Report – Mr Jeremy Hunt, Chichester North Division WSCC

Update on County Council, the adult services social care services had a CQC inspection in June and their report has just been released and it came out as good. So, services are in a good place, children's services are also in a good place, with seven children's homes which are good or outstanding, fire and rescue services are up to scratch and are good or adequate in all fields. The only challenge now is continuing to fund it. The government published their fare funding review in June which was quite good until the end when they are introducing a thing called tax equalisation which involves looking at counties and how much they can raise through council tax, This means that funding will be taken from wealthier counties, like West Sussex and re-distributed to poorer counties – mainly in the north. We calculate that we could lose around £30m of funding, equal to a 5% increase in council tax. We are waiting for a response from the consultation, not expected until late October/November. Local government reform, new minister Alison McGovern. There was a worry that everything could change, however, the treasury are behind it as they see it as creating big savings. As far as we know we are putting our submissions in next Friday 26th September, District Council are doing the same. We understand that the Government will be holding a public consultation in November/December and the decision on whether the county should be one single unitary or split

into two unitary's will probably be in February/March. Five of the districts and boroughs in the county are putting in their preference for two unitaries, The County Council is putting in for a single unitary, they are all using the same business case. One unitary would cost around £60 million and the payback would take 2 1/2 years, whereas splitting the services into two unitaries would more expensive and the payback period would be just over 6 years. This is because of the greatly reduced savings generated by having two unitaries, rather than one. Once established, the estimated savings for a single unitary would-be c£49m per year, whereas the savings for two unitaries would only be around £19m per year. Brighton and Hove are suggesting five unitaries but they haven't consulted with anybody. A286 was resurfaced during the summer break but still haven't finished the cats eyes. Resurfacing from Singleton to Cocking will be next summer. JH will pick up the poor state of Town Lane.

DH reported that WSCC Highways have sprayed weed killer around all the trees, signs, edge of path on The Leys parking area. It is assumed that they did this to make the grass cutting easier. This looks unsightly and has totally spoilt the area. They have also sprayed the grass that is supposed to be growing on the parking spaces. She asked JH to contact the department that is involved with this fiasco and tell them to come back and re-turf the area, also can he enquire what weed killer was used and if it can damage the trees. JH agreed to contact the necessary people and also arrange for them to meet up with DH.

JH thanked the council for inviting him to the village event, it was a pleasure to attend.

Agenda Item 6 – District Councillor Report – Henry Potter, Goodwood Ward

Consultation between the West Sussex Local Authorities continue to finalise a business plan for the Devolution of Power Bill and the introduction of Unitary Authorities which will be considered and agreed by the Full Council on 23/09 before a Plan and covering letter will be sent to the Home Secretary's Office on the 26th. It will then be a wait until March next year for a decision on the proposals in the Plan. The next step after that will be the election of a Mayor for the whole of Sussex and the designation of the Unitary Authorities. There is unlikely to be a Local Election in 2027 so I may be in office for a further year. If the timetable slips none of this may happen anyway.

You will all be aware that the new Chichester District Local Plan was approved by the Planning Inspectorate with some main modifications which were agreed by the Council, and adopted by the Council at its meeting on the 19th August. This plan supersedes the previous Plan and covers the period 2021-2039. The preparation of the review of the Plan spread over a considerable period of time and the Planning Officers were congratulated for the diligent attention to so many constraints the District faces.

Because of these constraints, The Inspector, in his report, has allowed initially for a delivery figure of 575 Homes per annum, for about 5 years, increasing as progress is made gradually to achieve the delivery of 11,484 new homes during the Plan period. Unless dramatic improvements to the A27 are made I fear that any increase may not be achievable. Only time will tell!

On the subject of delivery, it is becoming apparent that there is a distinct lack of enthusiasm among Registered Housing Providers/associations to come forward and adopt the 30% affordable homes within certain developments. Last Tuesday 02/09, the Cabinet took the decision to recommend to Full Council that £950,000 be awarded to Worthing Homes in order to provide 19 affordable and or shared ownership homes on a permitted site in North Mundham when no RHP was prepared to adopt the 6 low cost/affordable homes. In this proposal there are to be no Market Value houses provided. £533,000 will come from a 'Commuted Sums' fund and the balance of £417,000 from General Reserve Funds. I questioned if this was a wise idea and might it set a precedent for future small to medium sized developments. This grant will be dependent on a £1 million grant from Homes England towards the total cost, if this is not forthcoming then the proposal cannot go ahead. HP repeated the information that JH had covered concerning the unitary options.

Agenda Item 7 – Public Open Forum

MOP asked HP about the statement made in his report saying that there was a lack of enthusiasm by registered housing associations to adopt affordable housing, and why was that? **HP** reported that the associations have to spend so much money on existing properties to bring them up to a certain standard that they are not investing in new ones at the moment. HP then talked about new housing saying that a developer applied to CDC planning authority to vary section 106 so that they can build 4 market value houses and pay a sum into a community fund to compensate for the homes that they are not going to build as affordable homes. This sum will be used to support other sites so that

<p>they can build more affordable housing. This sum will be used to support other sites so that they can build more affordable housing. JH said that the County Council are putting £500,000 from their reserves into buying 6 houses on the site at North Mundham. Worthing Homes have applied for a grant of £950,000, £500,000 from reserves to build affordable homes.</p> <p>With regard to existing social housing, HP confirmed that WSCC have never run social housing, district council runs social housing register but when there are allocated affordable houses they go to a housing association to run. There was a discussion about existing affordable homes and the fact that when homes become vacant in Singleton the association and selling them rather than renovating them because it is not viable to spend £100,000 on the houses. DH pointed out that you can't build a new house for £100,000, and asked why didn't they spend a £100,000 on doing up the house and we get to keep some social housing in our community? HP responded that it wasn't viable. It is understood that money raised from selling affordable homes is used for building new affordable homes but there is nowhere to build new affordable homes in Singleton, therefore the number of affordable homes in Singleton is diminishing. HP pointed out that Hyde bought the Leys housing from the District Council, they are responsible for running and maintaining the houses. It was suggested that the parish council should write to Hyde.</p> <p>An MOP asked if Goodwood had been asked about the increased activity of helicopters during Goodwood main events. Also, there seems to be a permanent encampment of camper vans on the Trundle and the other night it was witnessed that there seemed to be significant anti-social behaviour taking place. DH reported that the camper vans haven't been mentioned to Goodwood but the helicopters were discussed, MRS attended the aerodrome meeting and it was confirmed that they are looking into the sightseeing helicopters. There is another aerodrome meeting before the next members meeting and there will be more information on what they are doing about it.</p> <p>Another MOP raised the issue of the large gates that have been erected at April Cottage. There has been much public discussion about them and the general feeling is that they should have obtained planning permission, could the parish council check whether they are legal or not? DH said no, the reason being that any member of the public can contact planning to find out if these gates are allowed or not allowed and they can submit complaints. SDNP notify the parish council of planning applications in our parish and we respond accordingly. We totally understand how people are feeling but are unable to police the whole parish and anyone who is unhappy should contact SDNP Planning. HP suggested that planning enforcement should be contacted and they will investigate. He asked the MOP to email him with the information on what has happened and if possible send pictures and he will investigate. KN asked about the Village Design Statement and didn't it cover the look of the village. The clerk confirmed that there was a decision taken not to submit it to the SDNP, therefore it has no relevance.</p> <p>JH reported that he received an email from someone visiting the village about the state of the war memorial. He requested a contact for the PCC, the clerk will forward Rev Sarah's email to him.</p>	
<p>Agenda Item 8 – Village Matters</p> <p>Singleton Oil Field – At the last parish council meeting it was agreed that there would be an oil field working party. JMH has spent the last two months reading through all the information available about the oil field and has highlighted some really very serious topics that need investigating. It is so complex and so big that it has been suggested that we don't have a working party but bring it back into the parish council so that all councillors are involved, this was agreed. The intention is to involve Andrew Griffith. JH pointed out that he was previously consulted and he did research with the environment agency and others and came back with responses and it appeared that the environment agency were on top of everything. JMH reported that radioactive waste is being pumped into the ground and also being brought in from other sites. There is no fire risk plan in the public domain. JH commented that the fire and rescue service inspect the site regularly. He did some research earlier this year on the fire service and was assured that they do regular checks, they don't have a specific plan for the oil field but if there is a fire in the forest, there are national plans and guidelines about how to attack overall forest fires. He will talk to the fire and rescue service about the fire breaks and express the parish councils concerns and find out what should be in the public domain</p> <p>JMH reported that the fire break around the oil field is not being maintained and that there is methane escaping from the pipes when it should be flared off. There is also a lot of black smoke coming out of the pipes. The aquifer is a level 3, it needs to be re-classified to level 1. It was suggested that if the aquifer was re-categorised this would hopefully stop the reinjection of radioactive waste.</p>	

<p>JH asked how this information had been obtained, it was confirmed that is was via a planning application to pump radioactive waste into the ground, which is in the public domain. There was also an application to install electric cable, this was granted. The oil field’s licence runs out in 2031, the oil is running out but the gas is still there it was suggested that this is why they want to put the electric cable in.</p> <p>DH said that her greatest concern that there appears to be no transparency. The feeling is that the environment agency, SDNP and WSCC don’t care, everyone appears to pass the buck, which is why Andrew Griffith will be consulted. JH said the parish council needs to put together a detailed paper and be very careful of the wording, try to take the emotion out of the situation, before approaching Andrew Griffith</p> <p>A question was asked as to whether Portsmouth Water check for radioactive contamination, it was confirmed that this was unknow and that Portsmouth Water would be contacted.</p>	
<p>Agenda Item 9 – Council Matters</p> <p>Councillor Information on the Parish Council Website – All councillors are happy that their emails are shown on the website.</p> <p>Savings Account Interest Rates – It was agreed to move the funds in the Barclays savings account to a higher interest account, to the Hampshire Trust Bank which is currently 4.5%. All funds are protected by the FSCS.</p> <p>New Email Addresses – MRS will help with installing the new .gov.uk emails.</p> <p>Insurance Renewal – two quotes obtained one from Clear Council the current supplier and the other from Zurich. Zurich quote was double that of Clear Council. Zurich gives greater coverage, MRS confirmed that Clear Council offer enough cover for our needs. It was agreed to renew with Clear Council.</p>	
<p>Agenda Item 10 – Finance</p> <p>Balance in Current Account (12/09/25) - £26,353.92</p> <p>Balance in Savings Account (12/09/25) - £7,251.62</p> <p>2025/26 Reserves to date:</p> <p>Playground Maintenance – £2,392.68, General Maintenance £1576.01.</p> <p>Funds Received since 14/07/25 – Precept £15,299.50</p> <p>Significant Payments since 14/07/25 – Laptop for the clerk - £579.00</p> <p>VAT not claimed - £1,214.97</p>	
<p>Meeting Closed – 20.28</p>	
<p>Confirmed that these minutes are a true and accurate record of the meeting.</p> <p>Signed: DEBORAH HARWOOD</p> <p>Name & Position: CHAIRMAN</p> <p>Date:</p>	