

WESTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held at 7.00pm on Monday,

21 July 2025 at The Amenity Hall, Stone Cross School,

Adur Drive, Stone Cross, BN24 5EF

Present: Cllr D Axell, Cllr P Baldwin, Cllr L Comfort, Cllr F Durling, Cllr M Fairweather*, Cllr K Farley, Cllr M Hallett, Cllr C Hanson, Cllr Mayfield, Cllr P Quanstrom, Cllr A Taylor, Cllr D Upton*

(* denotes WDC Councillor)

Also present at the meeting:

WDC Cllr C Primett, ESCC Cllr D Shing

Pevensey PC Cllr S MacKinnon, Sarah Mosedale, Pevensey Parish Clerk

S. Sanders (Clerk)

233. Apologies

ESCC Cllr N Geary

234. Declarations of Interest

None

235. Questions from members of the public

None

236. Draft Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on Monday 16 June 2025 to be agreed and confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair of the Meeting

The Minutes had previously been circulated to Councillors.

The Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Monday 16 June 2025 were agreed and signed as a correct record by the Chair of the Council

Proposed and Seconded

Unanimous decision

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 16 June 2025 be agreed and signed by the Chair of the Meeting

237. To receive reports from East Sussex County Councillors and Wealden District Councillors

ESCC Cllr D Shing

Cllr Shing informed Councillors that the last few months have been very quiet. Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation was at the heart of most discussions with processes progressing towards September 2025 when proposals must be submitted to central government.

It has been confirmed that elections for a directly elected Mayor would take place next May 2026.

Cllr C Primett – Wealden District Council

Cllr Primett told Councillors that a new Wealden and Tenants Together Housing Board has been established to give Wealden tenants a greater voice in housing decisions. The board will involve tenants, council officers, councillors, and independent members to influence and shape housing services. This initiative aims to strengthen local democracy by actively engaging customers in shaping and taking decisions on housing services.

The representatives would include two tenant reps, two independent reps, a Councillor rep (Cllr Primett), the head of housing and other officers.

The aim was to have the right type of housing for the right need.

Cllr M Fairweather – Wealden District Council

District Councillors are still awaiting the guidelines for CLIF funding.

A new £2million fund has been launched by Wealden District Council to support community buildings, green spaces, cultural infrastructure and other leisure/sports projects across the district.

The money could be spent on adaptations to community buildings, energy efficiency measures, access improvements to outdoor spaces and installing new facilities and equipment.

The process to agree guidelines for the funding will most probably be finalised by the end of August at the earliest.

Also, District Councillors were still awaiting guidelines for the £10,000 funding that they had been given to be spent in their wards.

238. Agenda Item 11 moved to Item 6

The Vice Chair of Pevensey Parish Council, Cllr Shirley MacKinnon would like to give the Council a verbal update on the plans to refurbish the Pevensey and Westham sports club pavilion

Cllr MacKinnon gave an update on the proposed refurbishment of the sports pavilion on the Pevensey Recreation Ground.

She said that users came from all areas to use the facilities. The sports were mainly football, cricket, stoolball. Dog walkers used the field daily.

It was explained to the Parish Council that Pevensey Parish Council had no developments in their parish so could not rely on CIL funding to pay for the refurbishment costs. A professional fundraiser had been contracted to find funding. The amount required for refurbishment was in the region of £300,000.

A tender pack was now ready to be approved at the Pevensey PC September Full Council meeting. The pack would then be ready for the government Contracts Finder website.

Cllr Daniel Upton (Chair of the Council) then asked that Standing Orders be suspended so that Councillors could ask questions about the proposed refurbishment.

Standing Orders Suspended (7.15)

Proposed and Seconded

Unanimous agreement

Standing Orders Reinstated (7.25)

Proposed and seconded

Unanimous agreement

239. Financial Items recommended for approval:

(i) Reconciliation and Financial Expenditure Reports and payment lists for May 2025 and June 2025

(ii) Bank statements for May 2025 and June 2025

The reconciliation reports and payment list previously circulated were agreed by Council and signed by the Chair of the Council.

That the Payment List of £54,529.18 for May 2025 is approved

That the Payment List of £24,595.46 for June 2025 is approved

Proposed and seconded

Unanimous decision

Resolved: That the reconciliation reports and payment list for May 2025 and June 2025 are agreed and signed by the Chair of the Council

240. Bank Statements for May 2025 and June 2025 to be approved

The bank statements for May 2025 and June 2025 were approved by Council and signed by the Chair of the Council

Proposed and seconded

Unanimous agreement

Resolved: That the bank statement for May 2025 and June 2025 are agreed and signed by the Chair of the Council

241. Recommendation: That Councillors agree that the Open Space land at Castle Bolton (west side of Penrith Way, Langney) is to become a Field in Trust

The Chair of the meeting explained to Councillors the importance of making this green open space a Field in Trust.

All Councillors agreed this land should be registered as soon as possible and the recommendation was agreed.

Proposed

Seconded

Unanimous agreement

Resolved: That Councillors agreed to the Green Open Space land at Castle Bolton (west side of Penrith Way, Langney) become a Field in Trust

242. The refurbishment or renewal of finger posts in the Parish area

Fingerposts in the Parish area are some of the most loved pieces of street furniture.

They have been in situ for many years and from time to time have had to be renovated and repainted.

There are eight posts in the Parish and all are now in need of repainting.

Enquiries will be made with other parishes as to how they maintain their fingerposts as most are installed on ESCC land.

Further information will be brought to the September Full Council meeting.

243. Wealden Police crime statistics for the Stone Cross, Hankham and Westham area for May and June 2025

The Clerk read out the crime figures for April and May 2025.

Again, the Councillors were concerned about the level of crime particularly on the new estates along Rattle Road. The Clerk was asked to contact the local PCSO to see if there was an undercurrent causing the uptick of violence in these areas.

244. Clerks update report on Parish Council work and work priorities for July

(i) Adur Park path maintenance update

Enquiries have been made to find a local company that can carry out repairs and maintenance to the all access/all-weather path in Adur Park. A number of companies have been contacted but currently no one locally can carry out maintenance and repairs.

Enquiries will continue as the company that installed the path are based in Essex and having the carry out repairs is not cost effective for the Council.

(ii) New licences for litter and dog bins to be installed in Hankham

Applications have been made to the County Council for a licence to install a litter and a dog bin on the verge close to the periphery of Hankham Primary School. These licences have now been agreed and the purchase of the bins will be made in the next few weeks. These bins will be installed on the verge agreed by ESCC Highways.

This area has in recent months become very popular with dog walkers and recreational walkers.

Hopefully, the litter and dog bins being installed in this area will be beneficial to both residents and walkers.

(iii) Fly tipping on Council land particularly Hamble Field (Pylon Field)

Fly tipping in the Parish area is becoming a problem particularly in the Stone Cross area. This is becoming an extra cost for the Parish Council to bear as removal costs can start from £150.00.

Washing machines and childrens toys and garden waste are among items that have had to be cleared from the paths that run behind the houses in Stone Cross.

The pylon field has now become a dumping ground for items such as a trampoline and large amounts of garden waste.

Adjacent to the pylon field is a 'Right of Way' that runs alongside the Bluebell Nursery. A large locked wooden gate has been forced open, a

fence broken down and an unofficial path from the Kiln Grange Estate has been made.

Ongoing enquires about this pathway are still in progress.

(iv) Fencing on land opposite Butchers Field

A small green open space opposite Butchers Field has a small fence which has been broken for some time.

The Clerk asked if Councillors would like the fence replaced or removed. After a short discussion it was decided to remove the fence and instead place large stones or boulders.

The Clerk said that enquiries would be made with local companies to locate any large stones that would be ideal for this site.

(v) Wells estate proposed allotment (awaiting information from Persimmon)

Questions about the site and the location of electricity cables on updated site maps are among queries that have been sent to Persimmon via Wealden District Council. These issues need to be answered before any further progress can be made.

As of the afternoon of this Council meeting no reply had been forthcoming.

245. To resolve to exclude Members of the Press and Public (Public Bodies [Admission to Meetings] Act 1960

There were no matters to be discussed

The Meeting closed at 20.20pm

