

WESTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held at 7.00pm on Monday,
15 September 2025 at The Amenity Hall, Stone Cross School,
Adur Drive, Stone Cross, BN24 5EF

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

(* denotes WDC Councillor)

Also present at the meeting:

ESCC Cllr N Geary, WDC Cllr C Primett,
S. Sanders (Clerk)

246. Apologies

ESCC Cllr D Shing, Cllr D Axell, Cllr P Baldwin, Cllr P Quanstrom

247. Declarations of Interest

None

248. Questions from members of the public

None

249. Draft Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on Monday 21 July 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 21 July 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 21 July 2025 be agreed and signed by the Chair of the Meeting

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

ESCC Cllr N Geary

Previously Cllr Geary had sent a full report with the latest ESCC information and news to the Clerk. This was then circulated to Councillors.

Cllr Geary informed Councillors that in the last few weeks there have been ongoing discussions about the Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation. These discussions are now progressing towards 26 September 2025 when proposals must be submitted to central government

A draft document has been produced that has been sent to all borough and district councils for their cabinets to consider. A decision should be made to submit the draft plan called “One East Sussex”

At the Parish Council meeting it was revealed that a number of district councils were not happy with the draft plan and had asked for changes. Talks were now ongoing as the submission time was in a number of days

Cllr C Primett – Wealden District Council

Cllr Primett told Councillors that Wealden district councillors had received a briefing decisions. The board will involve tenants, council officers, councillors, on the draft proposals last week. These discussions would continue all next week. All Cabinets had to debate and decide their decision by 26 September 2025. The dilemma was how to move forward from this position

Cllr Primett said that all the Councillor budgets for their wards were now live on the Wealden website. The budgets can be used in a Councillors own ward or a neighbouring one. The only comment was that the criteria was very restrictive

Cllr M Fairweather – Wealden District Council

Cllr Fairweather stated that there were a number of major policies to come to the Council in the Autumn. These included: Nature Recovery, Local Government Reorganisation, and One East Sussex

251. Financial Items recommended for approval:

- (i) Reconciliation and Financial Expenditure Reports and payment lists for July 2025
- (ii) The reconciliation reports and payment list for July 2025 previously circulated were agreed by Council and signed by the Chair of the Council
- (iii) That the Payment List of £24,581.48 for July 2025 is approved

Proposed and seconded

Unanimous decision

Resolved: That the reconciliation report and payment list for July 2025 are agreed and signed by the Chair of the Council

252. Bank Statements for July 2025

The statement for July 2025 had previously been circulated to Councillors

Proposed and seconded

Unanimous decision

Resolved: That the bank statement for July 2025 is agreed and signed by the Chair of the Council

253. Recommended for a decision by Council on the proposed allotment site at Wells Estate

The proposed allotment site had been on the Council agenda for a year with intensive discussions regarding how to advance an allotment site from a piece of

land that had been given to the Parish Council. There was no mains water connection at all, no fencing and electricity lines around the outside of the land, work to connect water to the site involved road works, trenching works, laying water pipes etc.,

The Parish Council had then reached out to Persimmon for further information about the electricity cables that may cross the proposed site

They asked Persimmon to provide the Council with a correct plan showing the important precise up to date location of any electrical cables and services underneath any of the land required for allotment growing use within the original Planning Permission granted. Encompassing all land which would be transferred to Westham Parish Council including the car park and also extending down to the ditch at the southern end, which seems to be in the conveyance. No information was forthcoming

Councillors were very sad that a positive decision could not be made with regard to this site so it was decided that the site be given back to the Management Committee

Proposed and Seconded

Majority Decision with 2 against and 2 abstentions

Resolved: That the proposed site is given back to the Management Committee

254. Recommendation to install a new lighting column in Peelings Lane, Westham. This is to replace a light (on pole bracket B). Cost replacement £5,495.04

A lamp on a pole in Peelings Lane has been found to be faulty by ESCC street light and they have notified the Parish Council that a complete replacement is required

The cost of a new lamp and column is £5,495.04

ESCC street lighting will install a 6mtr column to back of path 6mtr c/w Part night cell, Install DNO service, Disconnect streetlighting equipment on pole bracket and remove equipment - Peelings Lane Pole Bracket B

After a short discussion about the merits of ESCC lighting and the time taken to carry out repairs to street lights in the parish area it was decided to agree the installation of the new lamp

Proposed and Seconded

Unanimous agreement

Resolved: that a new lamp and column will be installed in Peelings Lane at Pole Bracket B at a cost of £5,495.04

255. Recommendation: agreement to replace the adult gym equipment in Adur Park

The Clerk has sourced three quotations for replacement adult gym equipment in Adur Park

Each of the quotations were for different layouts

The first quotation was for a complete overhaul of the adult gym equipment with all new equipment and new surfacing. This was the most expensive at £24,133

The second quotation was for limited new equipment and new surfacing. This was £17,474

The third quotation was for basic new equipment and the same surfacing made good. This was £9,324.40

Councillors discussed the frequency of use of the gym equipment and decided after questions to agree the third quotation for basic new equipment and the same surfacing

Proposed and seconded

Unanimous decision

Resolved: That the quotation for £9,324.40 is accepted for new gym equipment and the current safety surfacing made good

256. To agree to install large stones instead of fencing for land opposite Butchers Field, Westham

The Clerk had been tasked with finding large stones that could be used instead of fencing in the grassed area opposite Butchers Field.

Large stones had been found and now it must be determined how many should be placed across this area

A Councillor suggested that the installation of large stones up to the price of £3,000 or less should be agreed by Council. If the price for installing the stones were over this price then this item should be returned to Council for further discussion

Proposed and Seconded

Unanimous decision

Resolved: that the cost of supplying and installing the large stones should not be above £3,000. If this was the case this item should return to Council for further discussion

257. Wealden Police crime statistics for the Stone Cross, Hankham and Westham area for July 2025

Councillors received an update on the July crime figures for the Parish area.

There were a number of areas that were a cause for concern but hopefully with the support from the PCSO team these should be able to be addressed

The Clerk said that she would attend a meeting in October about crime, policing and community safety in your area with the Neighbourhood Police Co-Ordinator

258. 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

No local contractors can be found so the search goes on for someone to carry out repairs

(ii) Requirement for a gov.uk domain name

Although the org.uk domain name is acceptable it has been decided to change the Westham domain name to a gov.uk domain name. The change will take place during November and this will be in line with a number of new policies about GDPR, access to information, and how information is kept by the Parish Council
More information will be available from October 2025

(iii) The refurbishment of finger posts in the Parish area

Regarding the fingerposts and the maintenance contract, the problem is finding accredited contractors that would quote for the work. I am afraid finger post painting is not high on their lists of work
Also, ESCC have said that if the posts are in poor condition, then they have to be replaced with a new type of brown and green posts
This is the difficulty as the Parish Council want to keep the black and white posts as they are part of the fabric of the parish
I think this will have to be discussed further before we come up with a working solution

259. 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 20.40pm

