

WESTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held at 7.00pm on Monday,
16 February 2026 at The Amenity Hall, Stone Cross School,
Adur Drive, Stone Cross, BN24 5EF

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

(* denotes WDC Councillor)

Also present at the meeting:

ESCC Cllr N Geary, WDC Cllr C Primett, Pevensey PC Chair Cllr P Lawton

1 member of the public

S. Sanders (Clerk)

307. Apologies

ESCC Cllr D Shing, Cllr D Axell, Cllr R Mayfield, Cllr P Quanstrom, Cllr A Taylor

308. Declarations of Interest

No Councillor declared an interest in the agenda items

309. Questions from members of the public

A member of the public spoke on Item 9 on the agenda (Minute 315)

310. Draft Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 19 January 2026 to be agreed as a true record and adopted by Council and signed by the Chair of the Council

The Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Monday 19 January 2026 are signed as a correct record by the Chair of the Council

Proposed and Seconded

Majority decision – 4 abstentions

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on Monday 19 January 2026 be agreed and signed by the Chair of the Meeting

311. To receive and note reports from East Sussex County Councillors and Wealden District Councillors on matters of interest

ESCC Cllr N Geary updated Councillors on the latest news including the reversal of the decision by Government to postpone elections for May 2026

WDC Cllr Primett updated Councillors on his current work at Wealden DC

WDC Cllr Fairweather updated Councillors at the meeting on the current situation at Wealden District Council

312. Financial Items recommended for approval:

- (i) Reconciliation and Financial Expenditure Reports and payment lists for December 2025 (Previously circulated to Councillors)

The reconciliation report for December 2025 was agreed by Council and signed by the Chair of the Council.

That the Payment List of £12,505.81 for December 2025 is approved

Proposed and seconded

Majority agreement – 1 abstention

Resolved: That the reconciliation report for December 2025 is agreed and signed by the Chair of the Council

- (ii) Bank statements for December 2025 (Previously circulated to Councillors)

The bank statement was approved by Council and signed by the Chair of the Council

Proposed and seconded

Majority agreement – 1 abstention

Resolved: That the bank statements for December 2025 are agreed and signed by the Chair of the Council

313. To update Councillors on a Feasibility Study for a crossing adjacent to Stone Cross School

Cllr Comfort updated Councillors on the latest information that had been received from East Sussex County Council (ESCC). The process has now changed and a new scheme has been released which is called the Community Funded Scheme Initiative. This scheme involves producing evidence of a whole community consultation covering residents, traders, drivers, and schools within the Parish area. This must be carried out and supplied to ESCC before a Feasibility Study can be considered. A fee of £500 must be paid.

Recommendation: that Cllr Comfort feedback to Stone Cross School for their consideration of the new ESCC Community Funded Scheme Initiative

314. Installation of Traffic Bollards at the edge of Canon Green and adjacent land

It had been agreed that up to 70 bollards should be fitted along Canon Green and the adjacent green land. This was because parking was causing irrevocable damage to the green area.

Although contacting a number of contractors the Clerk had only received three firm quotations for the work.

It was agreed to go ahead with the company who would order, supply and install the bollards as soon as possible.

Proposed

Seconded

Unanimous

Resolved: That the estimate for £16,100 + VAT be accepted and the work carried out as soon as possible.

315. Council to consider the original lease for the Amenity Hall and rooms in Stone Cross School with East Sussex County Council

Advice and information was offered from the County Councillor regarding the Estates Department of the County Council which would be the people to contact for information about leases and contracts.

The Council have asked the County Councillor if they could arrange for the Estates Department to contact the Clerk so discussions can take place regarding the original lease.

316. Clerks Update

(i) Grounds Maintenance Improvements Spring 2026

A number of improvements will be made in the parish during the coming year. This includes new benches in Adur Park with associated ground works. New covered litter bins to replace the open concrete typewill be installed in the area.

In Westham up to 70 bollards will be installed along the grass verge opposite Butchers Field to prevent parking which is ruining the grass in this area.

Canon Green will be maintained with the paths cleared and benches installed. The ivy will be cleared from the large displays at the front of the green.

New benches will be installed around the pond in Peelings Lane.

(ii) Complaints from residents of Westham regarding rubbish and the destruction of the grass verges in the area

The Clerk reported complaints are being received daily from concerned residents in Westham village. The grass verges are being decimated by thoughtless parking of vans and cars.

The situation is particularly bad on the corner of Peelings Lane and the High Street. Parking has now escalated to parking vehicles fully on the grass verge.

Both sides of the road by the station entrance and the pumping station opposite have been churned up by vehicles parking on them and with the pumping station side there is now no grass at all and is just mud. There is no need for this as there is plenty of room on the road. ESCC Highways have been contacted for a response.

(iii) Area Crime Statistics for December 2025

Noted: The Clerk updated Councillors on the December 2025 Crime figures for the parish area

(iv) A Letter of Complaint sent to the Director of Place, Wealden DC regarding the 'Focused' Draft Wealden (Regulation 18) Local Plan which is now out for consultation

A letter had been sent by the Clerk on behalf of the Council regarding the misrepresentations in the above Draft Plan.

A reply had been received from the Director of Place stating "a large part of the purpose of the Regulation 18 consultation is to help identify issues, errors and other areas of challenge in the draft documents, that we can review as we move towards Regulation 19 later this year. We cannot change the regulation 18 documents now but will absolutely commit to taking on board your concerns as we progress."

(v) A Breach of Condition Notice has been received

A Formal Notice has been received under section 187A regarding Land East of Hailsham Road, North of Peelings Lane, Stone Cross

317. 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 20.35pm

