

WESTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held at 7.00pm on Monday,
16 March 2026 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 R Mayfield, Cllr P Quanstrom, Cllr A Taylor, Cllr D Upton*

(* denotes WDC Councillor)

Also present at the meeting:

ESCC Cllr D Shing, WDC Cllr C Primett, Pevensey PC Chair Cllr P Lawton,
Pevensey PC Clerk S Mosedale, Hailsham Active S Wennington

S. Sanders (Clerk)

318. Apologies

ESCC Cllr N Geary

319. Declarations of Interest

No Councillor declared an interest in the agenda items

320. Questions from members of the public

None

321. Draft Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 16 February 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 16 February 2026 are signed as a correct record by the Chair of the Council

Proposed and Seconded

Majority decision - 1 abstention (Minutes not read)

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on Monday 16 February 2026 be agreed and signed by the Chair of the Meeting

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

ESCC Cllr D Shing updated Councillors on the latest news from County Hall.

ESCC Cllr Geary had previously sent a monthly report to Councillors

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

323. Financial Items recommended for approval:

- (i) Reconciliation and Financial Expenditure Reports and payment lists for January 2026 (Previously circulated to Councillors)

The reconciliation report for January 2026 was agreed by Council and signed by the Chair of the Council.

That the Payment List of £14,060.72 for January 2026 is approved

Proposed and seconded

Majority agreement – 1 abstention (Reconciliation and Financial Expenditure papers not read)

Resolved: That the reconciliation report for January 2026 is agreed and signed by the Chair of the Council

- (ii) Bank statement for January 2026 (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 (Bank statement not read)

Resolved: That the bank statement for January 2026 are agreed and signed by the Chair of the Council

324. Update Highways, Ecology, Archaeology and design statement received from Wealden DC.

Application for extension of response time for comments from the Parish Council requested from Wealden DC

Three reports have been received by the Parish Council from Wealden DC regarding a new development in Peelings Lane, Westham.

Cllr Durling informed Councillors of the current news about the development.

Apparently the Ecology Report had errors and omissions that needed to be corrected before Westham PC could make and comment on the reports.

Hopefully a appropriate assessment of the Ecology Report would be undertaken and submitted to Wealden DC for their consideration.

325. Application for a dog bin licence for installation on Rattle Road

The Clerk explained to Councillors that there had been a number of requests for a dog bin on the lower part of Rattle Road. The new estate have brought a large number of people that have dogs and walk frequently around this area.

It was recommended that an application should go forward for a new dog bin in this area and the Clerk contact the relevant Councils for progress

Proposed

Seconded

Unanimously agreed

326. Planting of an Orchard at Castle Bolton green space

Cllr Hallett had been exploring the idea of an orchard at the Castle Bolton Green site. He explained to Councillors that this project should include input from the local community and hoped that residents would be able to take over the care of the fruit trees.

There would be 18 fruit trees with varieties of apple, pear, plum and nut. The budget for the project would be in the region of £900.00.

A water container would be needed and this would have to be filled locally and the trees watered during the summer months. Again, this would need community help. A leaflet drop of the local area would be undertaken to inform residents of the project.

A recommendation to further this community initiative is agreed with regular reports back to Councillors

Proposed

Seconded

Unanimous agreement

Resolved: to further this community initiative is agreed with regular reports back to Councillors

327. Clerks Update

(i) Grounds Maintenance Improvements Spring 2026

The Clerk updated Councillors with the latest improvement work that had been carried out in the parish area. This included work to clear the paths, cut back the shrubs and overhanging trees at Cannon Green.

There were reports of vandalism to the picnic bench in the childrens play area of Adur Park. This included setting fire to deodorant cans and burning the surface underneath the bench. This may mean the bench being removed from the site.

The Clerk reported they were now receiving frequent reports of cars being left for weeks on the car park next to Stone Cross School. In conjunction with Wealden DC owners were being made aware that their car may be removed from the car park.

Councillors discussed if a time limit should be placed on the car park such as 'no overnight parking' or 'parking for 23 hours only'. Further information would be needed and this would be brought back to future meetings.

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

329. An update on Parish Council information

Councillors discussed the future use of the Stone Cross building

The Meeting closed at 21.15pm