

WESTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Council Meeting held at the Amenity Hall on the 22 June 2026

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 C Hanson, Cllr M Hallett, Cllr R Mayfield, Cllr P Quanstrom, Cllr A Taylor

Also at the Meeting:

S. Sanders (Parish Clerk)

(* denotes WDC Councillor)

358. To agree the Quorate of the Council

A quorate of the Council was agreed.

Proposed and Seconded

Unanimous Decision

Resolved: That a Quorate of the Council was present

359. Election of Chairperson of the Council

Cllr D Upton was Proposed and Seconded for Chair of the Council.

Majority Agreement, 1 abstention

Resolved: That Cllr D Upton is elected Chair of the Council for the year 2026/027

360. To receive the Chairpersons Declaration of Acceptance of Office

This item would be taken to the July Full Council Meeting and Cllr Upton's period in office extended for one month

361. Record members present

Members present had been recorded earlier when the quorate vote was taken

362. Apologies

ESCC Cllr Caira, WDC Cllr C Primett, Cllr D Axell, Cllr D Upton*

363. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Baldwin left the room during the discussion of Minute No: 370 (i)

364. Questions from members of the public

None

365. Draft Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on Monday 26 May 2026 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 26 May 2026 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 26 May 2026 be agreed and signed by the Chair of the Meeting

366. Co-Option of Councillor for Westham Parish Council

The Council considered the application received for the vacancy of Councillor on Westham Parish Council.

It was **RESOLVED** that Nuala Geary be co-opted to serve as a Parish Councillor with immediate effect.

Cllr Nuala Geary signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office in the presence of the Proper Officer and took their seat at the table. Members welcomed Cllr Geary to the Council.

367. To receive and note reports from Wealden District Councillors on matter of interest to the Parish Council

No ESCC Councillors were present.

Cllr Fairweather said that there were two major matters currently at Wealden DC. These were the Local Plan which is progressing with Full Council approval hoped for in mid-September with a deadline of the 31 December looming.

Secondly, Local Government Reorganisation. With the changes being made in central government what does this mean for local government. Will there be a change of Minister and a change of Policy.

368. Financial Items for Approval:

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

The reconciliation reports for March and April 2026 was agreed by Council and signed by the Chair of the Council.

That the Payment List of £27,278.27 for March 2026 is approved

That the Payment List of £21,711.40 for April 2026 is approved

Proposed and seconded

Unanimous Agreement

Resolved: That the reconciliation reports for March and April 2026 are agreed and signed by the Deputy Chair of the Council

- (ii) Bank statements for March and April 2026 (Previously circulated to Councillors)

The bank statements were approved by Council and signed by the Deputy Chair of the Council

Proposed and seconded

Unanimous Agreement

Resolved: That the bank statements for March and April 2026 are agreed and signed by the Chair of the Council

369. New Adult Gym Equipment installed at Adur Park

The new adult gym equipment in Adur Park had now been installed. There had been a delay in fitting the equipment due to the difficulty in accessing the park earlier owing to the very muddy conditions on the field.

All the old equipment has been taken away and new updated equipment is in place.

370. Clerks Update

(i) Tree cutting on Council land at Cherwell Close

It had been reported to the Parish Council that work to trees and hedges had been carried out on Council land by a contractor not employed by the Parish Council. Apparently the contractor was engaged by a householder in Cherwell Close who asked that overhanging branches should be removed from their fence line.

While carrying this out the contractor has come on to Parish Council land and cleared a wide path behind the hedge / fence line on the Cherwell Close play area. This was at the request of the householder who has not asked permission of the Council for this work to be carried out.

This work has now weakened the hedge considerably.

Again on Council land two trees were considerably 'hacked back' and may need remedial work to save them from total removal.

After a short discussion it was decided by Council that a letter should be written to the householder enquiring why the Council were not notified of this work being carried out.

(ii) Fly Tipping of garden waste on Parish Council land

It has been reported to the Parish Council that garden waste is being frequently dumped on the lower end of Hamble Field and also along the pathway adjoining Rother Avenue.

The Council agreed that a letter should be written to householders encouraging them to use the recycling facilities or purchase a brown garden waste bin from Wealden District Council.

(iii) The Autumn Tree work programme

A large programme of work will be undertaken in the autumn months.

Trees in the area between Beaulieu Drive and Tillingham Way have mainly TPOs attached so permission is currently being sort for the work to start.

(iv) The maintenance of finger posts in the Parish area

Estimates have been sought for the repainting of the finger posts mainly in the Hankham area. Some of the posts are in a worse condition than others and remedial work will need to be carried out.

One estimate has been submitted but more will be needed.

(v) Crime figures in the Westham Parish area

The Clerk informed Councillors of the March crime figures for the Parish. The figures had remained steady with crime in the Westham area slightly increased.

371. Update on Swan Lake House, 2 High Street, Westham

There was no further information on this property but updates were expected in the next few weeks

- 372. To resolve to exclude Members of the Press and Public (Public Bodies [Admission to Meetings] Act 1960**
- 373.** There was an initial discussion of introducing charges for the use of the Amenity Hall from the autumn of 2026

The Meeting closed at 20.30 pm