

Hooe Parish Council

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Minutes of the Full Council Meeting of 12th January 2026

Attendees: Cllrs Carey (DC), Thorp (AT), Manlow (JM), Siddall-Ward (NSW), Fuller (JF), Crittall (KC)

In attendance: Jackie Scarff – Clerk (Proper Officer/RFO)

Approx 15 members of the public (MOP)

Public Questions - The chair reminded MOP's that questions were welcomed for items on the agenda.

End of Public Participation.

Business Transacted.

1. The Chairs welcome to the meeting.

The Vice Chair of the council took the chair and welcomed MOP's and Cllrs to the meeting.

2. To receive reports to note from:

a. Parish Councilor's

JM commented that table tennis is thriving.

b. County Councillor

BB had sent a report that will be attached to the minutes.

District Councillor

Cllr Fairweather (MF) reported that he and the other DC have reorganised who attends which parish council meeting due to diary clashes. The DC have been busy with the devolution agenda and then the news of a site in Crowborough being used for asylum seekers.

MF reminded cllrs about the grant opportunities, AL commented that the council are obtaining quotes and moving forward.

c. Saint Oswalds Church

The church warden sent a report which will be attached to the minutes.

3. To receive apologies and reasons for absence in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972 S85 (1)

Apologies received from Cllr Loyd for personal reasons.

I. To consider accepting apologies

Resolved: Apologies were accepted.

II. Other absences to note

None

4. Disclosure of Interests.

In accordance with the Localism Act 2011 and the Parish Council Code of Conduct to receive disclosures by members of personal interests in matters on agenda, the nature of the interest and whether the member regards the interest as prejudicial under the terms of the revised code of members conduct.

I. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

II. Other Interests (non-pecuniary)

There were no interests declared.

To consider granting dispensations if requested.

Nb. Any changes to a member's register of interests should be notified to the clerk immediately.

5. **To receive the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on [8th December 2025](#) to be considered for approval as a true record and signed by the chair.**

Motion proposed JM, Seconded JM, all agreed.

Resolved: The minutes of the full council meeting of 10th November were agreed and signed as a true record.

6. **Public Exclusion: in accordance with section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, and as extended by Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, the public, including the press, be excluded from the meeting because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted**

There was no requirement for this motion.

7. **To hear a proposal to consider land known as The Bogs as a local Nature Reserve and agree any actions required.**

8. **To consider opening a CCLA account with The Public Sector Fund and agree any actions required.**

The cllrs received information about the account in advance of the meeting.

Resolved: The cllrs agreed that the account should be opened and the clerk should prepare the application.

9. **To consider work required to an oak tree at The Bogs and agree any action required.**

The clerk explained that this item would be carried forward as due to the Christmas break and the wet weather the tree had not been inspected.

10. **To consider the following financial matters.**

- i. **To receive the statement of accounts to 31st December 2025 for noting**

The Accounts to 31st January were published in advance and were noted.

- ii. **The bank reconciliation and corresponding bank statement to 31st December 2025 for noting.**

The bank reconciliations were published in advance and were noted.

- iii. **Payments to be made in January for invoices received for authorisation**

Resolved: Payments were agreed as presented the clerk was authorised to add them to the bank account for authorisation.

- iv. **To receive the draft budget details for the year ending March 2027 for discussion and agreement.**

- v. **To agree the precept demand to be submitted to WDC for the year ending March 2027**

- vi. **To review the EMR's and agree any actions required.**

Resolved:

11. **To consider use of Dunks Field and agree any actions required.**

The clerk has circulated information regarding the disposal of council land. The information was noted and the clerk was asked to put the item on the February agenda for discussion.

Resolved: The clerk will send the cllrs details and add an item to the February agenda.

12. **The date of the next meeting.**

It was noted that the next meeting will take place Monday 9th February 2026 at 7pm in Hooe Village Hall.

Members' Update – East Sussex County Council – December 2025
Cllr Bob Bowdler - Wealden East Division - “The Heart of Wealden”
(Heathfield, Horam, Hooe, Herstmonceux, Ninfield, Warbleton & Wartling parishes)

LOCAL ISSUES:

Apologies if this report appears sparse, but there is quite a lot (or not) happening on LGR/Devolution which we are awaiting confirmation of, one way or the other. Briefings have been arranged with Ministers in January so we hope to have more clarity we are able to share by my next report. We have no information on the proposed May 26 elections, that is a decision for Central Government only!

Wealden DC – Councillor Ward Budget Scheme

Don't miss out you lucky Wealden residents! Here you can find the details of the Wealden funding opportunity you are now able to bid for under their Councillor Ward giveaway scheme – “Good Luck”:

<https://www.wealden.gov.uk/councillors-and-committees/councillor-ward-budgets-scheme/>

REPORT

Adult Social Care

Support for adults wanting to quit smoking

A new digital tool called AI Quit Coach is being piloted in East Sussex to support adults who want to stop smoking. The WhatsApp-based service provides 24/7 personalised guidance, including strategies for managing triggers, distraction techniques, providing encouragement and staying focused on quitting goals. The initiative is commissioned by One You East Sussex, a lifestyle service funded by East Sussex County Council with the help of funding from the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities, Department of Health and Social Care.

Local public health officials say the tool is intended to complement existing stop-smoking services, which already include nicotine replacement therapies, e-cigarettes, and one-to-one support. Last year, more than 1,700 residents used these services to successfully quit smoking. The AI tool is available to residents aged 18 and over and can communicate in multiple languages.

More information can be found [here](#)

Communities, Economy and Transport

Winter events for everyone at East Sussex Libraries

A programme of free events is taking place in libraries across the county over the lead up to Christmas. Adults and children are being invited to visit their local library this winter to enjoy festive craft activities, songs and story sessions, author events and storytelling experiences. Library events are free, but booking may be required. For more information on the events taking place over the coming weeks, visit the Winter Events section on eastsussex.spydus.co.uk.

More information can be found [here](#)

Tourism contributed over £4 billion to Sussex economy in 2024

New research from Experience Sussex shows that tourism made a significant contribution to the East and West Sussex economy in 2024. According to the report, 50.6 million visitor trips generated more than £4.06 billion for the region (excluding Brighton & Hove). The report also notes a 21% increase in overseas visitors staying in Sussex compared with 2023.

Experience Sussex provides free marketing, training, networking and funding guidance for businesses operating in the visitor economy. The programme is co-funded by East and West Sussex County Councils and works in partnership with Visit England, Visit Britain and Visit Brighton, aiming to strengthen the attraction of high spending visitors to the area.

Further information is available at [Sussex Visitor Economy Resources & Toolkits](#).

The full report can be found [here](#).

Governance Services

Secretary of State welcomes ambitious Get Sussex Working Plan

East Sussex County Council, alongside Brighton & Hove City Council and West Sussex County Council, have launched the Get Sussex Working Plan – a bold strategy to boost employment, tackle inequalities and build a thriving local economy. The initiative has been co-designed by a partnership comprising the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and the Sussex Chamber of Commerce. The Get Sussex Working Plan sets out 6 strategic ambitions to help residents access good jobs and develop new skills for employment. It aims to create a dynamic workforce, supported by integrated services across employment, health, post-16 education and skills.

It has been drafted in collaboration with more than 200 stakeholders across Sussex, including local employers, community organisations and people who access employment support services, drawing on a comprehensive data-mapping exercise. The plan addresses key challenges facing Sussex communities, such as economic inactivity and health-related barriers to work, skills shortages and unequal access to opportunity. A collaborative, place-based approach is central to delivering the plan's vision of a dynamic Sussex economy, where all residents are empowered to aspire and to develop the skills they need to access meaningful employment.

The plan identifies priority groups for support, including:

- young people not in education, employment or training (NEET)
- unemployed adults
- residents with a disability or long-term health condition
- global majority communities
- migrants and refugees
- parents and unpaid carers
- adults with low skill levels and low incomes

More information can be found [here](#)

For your info: **Meetings I attended in December as your County Councillor:**

District & Borough Armed Forces Champions
ESCC Full Council
Cabinet Briefing
3 x Weekly DCS/ADCS Briefing
South East Lead Member Network
Briefing by SE Water on works in Horam
Lead Member for SEND & Disabilities
Bexhill Veterans Association
Lead Member for Transport & Environment
Once Voice – Glyndebourne
RPPR Whole Council Forum
People Scrutiny Committee
SERFCA Briefing – Brighton (South East Reserve Forces & Cadets Association)
Herstmonceux Parish Council
ESCC Cabinet
ESCC Governance
ESCC Safeguarding Children Partnership



2/1/26

Report from The Church January 2026.

A brief report from St Oswald's and apologies for not being able to attend.

Report

A busy month preparing for Christmas The Carol Service was well attended and the weather was kind. The bus was well used making parking easier.

Christmas day followed without any problems.

We had a visit from the Popinjay Archers who were testing out the church as a venue for a future event. I think I might have mentioned them before, if not more details next time.

There have been two Coffee mornings since my last report which were well supported.

The toilet extension is first on the list for January emails and action about to start. Note for your diaries on the Saturday 7th March 9.30-12.00 we have a Church and Church yard Spring clean. We hope that the villagers can help clean and tidy both the church and the church yard. Coffee tea and biscuits will be available. There will be other dates later in the year for more assistance. There are a couple of large bushes that we would like to prune, but we will need any chainsaw safe volunteers to help and willing gofers to move the debris to the bonfire sight.

That is all for now, we wish the Council and the Village a Happy New Year.

Jack Rist Church warden