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## Minutes of the Full Council Meeting of 9th February 2026

**Attendees:** Cllrs Carey (DC), Thorp (AT), Manlow (JM), Siddall-Ward (NSW), Crittall (KC), Loyd (AL) Chair

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

Approx 8 members of the public (MOP)

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

MOP commented that as the Top Rod is closed it would be an ideal time for litter picking.

End of Public Participation.

### **Business Transacted.**

**1. The Chairs welcome to the meeting.**

The chair welcomed MOP's and Cllrs to the meeting. The chair commented that residents should have received their food waste bins, if not just call Wealden and report it.

**2. To receive reports to note from:**

**a. Parish Councillor's**

NSW commented that the gate allowing access to the footpath HOO/21/1 is locked.

JM commented that table tennis is thriving.

**b. County Councillor**

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

**District Councillor**

Cllr Fairweather (MF) reported that the new Local Plan has been published for consultation for 6 weeks until March 20th.

**c. Saint Oswalds Church**

The church warden's representative read out a short report in the meeting which included that Simon Pattisson, who had been a church warden and bell ringer for thirty years, had sadly passed away 28<sup>th</sup> January and his family wish that Simon's ashes be buried at St Oswalds.

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

Apologies received from Cllr Fuller 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)

NSW disclosed an interest as a neighbour to the applicant in item 12.

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 [12th January 2026](#) 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 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026 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.

With the agreement of all cllrs the chair brought item 12 forward for consideration as District Cllr Fairweather had to leave the meeting early.

NSW declared that her interest may be prejudicial, she left the room and took no part in this item.

The chair outlined the application and explained the height and length of the screen. After discussing the application, the cllrs agreed to submit an objection.

**Resolved:** The cllrs agreed that the council object due to the structure being visually oppressive and out of character with typical garden boundaries in the rural area. The council feel that soft landscaping would be more appropriate.

**7. To hear an update regarding dropping the curb on the Green agree any actions required.**

The clerk explained that WDC had indicated that planning permission would not be needed but that the council could apply for a lawful development certificate after the work has been done. The clerk is awaiting the thoughts from ESCC on where they would support the access. The council will await further input from ESCC.

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

The clerk explained that she had met the tree surgeon on site. He made suggestions for the council to consider. The tree surgeon confirmed that there is no need for the tree to be felled.

The tree could be cobra braced.

Two options were given – to lightly prune the canopy on the southeast side to reduce the weight and likelihood of the side of the tree falling – or to prune and shape the whole tree by 2m.

After considering the costs and the advice that the tree was in good condition and should continue growing for decades the cllrs agreed to monitor the tree ongoing and that a sign should be erected alerting passersby of the crack in the trunk.

**Resolved:** The council will monitor the tree and review in 6 months to see if there is further deterioration. The clerk was asked to organise a health and safety sign.

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

**i. To receive the statement of accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025 for noting**

The Accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> January were published in advance and were noted showing £116,402.74 in all accounts.

**ii. The bank reconciliation and corresponding bank statement to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025 for noting.**

The bank reconciliations were published in advance and were noted.

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

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

G. Pont £1,125.00 Grounds Maintenance

J. SCARFF CLERK £1,471.50 Clerk services

POWDER MILL TRUST £10.00 Annual Subscription

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

The actuals v budget report was noted and the cllrs noted that there will be a surplus at the end of the year which should help inform the discussion in item 11 where WDC terms and conditions say that if approved WDC will pay up to 80% of a requested amount.

**v. To agree the booking of the year end audit by the Internal Auditor**

**Resolved:** the clerk was authorised to book the audit.

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

The clerk has circulated information regarding the disposal of council land at the January meeting. DC commented that the previous council had not continued to lease the land. There was a discussion about the options as the land is not in good condition. AT discussed the issue of clarifying the acceptable uses of the land and needing these to be clarified. The chair reminded cllrs that approx. two years ago the land was advertised for grazing. AL suggested that the piece of land could be advertised acknowledging that it was not in the best condition and the council were looking for expressions of interest to rent the land. AT suggested the conditions be listed if the council were to advertise. NSW suggested contacting Sussex Nature Conservation or British Trust for conservation volunteers who look for places to use where they can teach hedge laying and look for stretches of land to run the courses and lay hedging.

**Resolved:** The clerk was asked to draft an advert for expressions highlighting any conditions that need to be met and the condition of the land and bring it to the next meeting in March.

**11. To discuss the grant application to be submitted to WDC, to agree the priorities and any actions required**

The clerk explained that there had been an informal meeting to discuss priorities which needs to be agreed by full council.

The current suggestions are to install Wi-Fi.

To replace the windows, porch at the front and the back fire door.

To put solar panels on the roof to help cut the bills.

DC suggested that the carpark should be included. The clerk explained that planning permission for the carpark would need to be in place before being able to apply for the grant. This could be applied for in the next application window.

KC asked if residents should be asked. AL explained that there had been a vote in the village, which had a high turnout, and residents were clear that they wanted to keep and improve the current village hall.

AL commented that the topic of the village hall and other facilities could be featured at the Annual Parish Meeting.

AT commented that something to think about for the next application is acoustic treatment in the hall.

**Resolved:** The cllrs agreed that the priorities should be the installation of Wi-Fi, new windows, fire door and porch area and the solar panels. The clerk was asked to fill in the application and have it submitted before the end of March.

**12. To discuss the following planning application and agree a response to WDC planning department.**

[WD/2024/1789/FR](#)

Springfield House, Denbigh Road, Hooe, TN33 9EU

Part retrospective application for new privacy screen in garden.

This item was discussed at the beginning of the meeting.

**13. To note the date of the next meeting is 9<sup>th</sup> March 2026, 7pm at Hooe Village Hall.**