

Hooe Parish Council

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Minutes of the Full Council Meeting of 20th July 2026 7pm Hooe
Village Hall.

Attendees: Cllrs Carey (DC), Manlow (JM) chair, Siddall-Ward (NSW), Crittall (KC), Loyd (AL), Thorpe (AT), Fuller (JF)

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

Approx 13 members of the public (MOP)

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

MOP asked about the disabled bays outside the VH and whether they could be repainted. The MOP also highlighted that an email has been circulated and is not from the person it purports to be from, anyone opening emails should check that it is the exact email address that it should be.

A MOP commented about the Millenium Wood. The wood is a mess. The gates are locked. AL explained that the gates were locked because of dog walkers going through and not picking up the dog mess. The MOP asked that a path is cut through. It was agreed that the gates would be opened and a plan to make a path through would be organised and costed. A MOP reported having walked along some of the footpaths and commented that the one that had previously been reported was still not open> the clerk commented that she had also reported it and was told that the Rights of Way team are going to once again contact the landowner. The clerk suggested involving the County Cllr to help get a resolution.

There were no further questions.

End of Public Participation.

Business Transacted.

FC26

1. The Chairs welcome to the meeting.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. To receive reports to note from:

- a. **Parish Councillor's** -no reports.
- b. **County Councillor**- report distributed earlier and will be appended to the minutes.
- c. **District Councillor** – no report.
- d. **Saint Oswalds Church** – the church warden read a report which is appended to the minutes.

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

There are no apologies

- I. To consider accepting apologies

Not required

- II. Other absences to note.

The County and District Cllrs had sent apologies as the meeting clashed with others.

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)

To consider granting dispensations if requested – not required.

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

- 5. To receive the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Full Council held on [8th June 2026](#) to be considered for approval as a true record and signed by the chair.**

Motion proposed and seconded, all agreed.

Resolved: The minutes of the full council meeting of 8th June 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.**

- 7. To discuss the finger posts in the village and agree any actions required.**

DC commented that it's been years since the fingerposts have had any maintenance and they do now need some. The clerk shared that having all posts refurbished in Ninfield for approximately £5,000

Resolved: the clerk was asked to get a quote from the specialist contractor to refurbish the fingerposts.

- 8. To consider the cleaning of the Village Hall and the sports pavilion and agree any actions required.**

The clerk reported that she had still not been able to get 3 quotes for the cleaning of the village hall and the pavilion having had meetings cancelled or no shows. She had received one quote for consideration.

The clerk presented the quote. Which included a deep clean before the regular cleans for both the VH and the pavilion.

The VH quote was a deep clean for £150 with fortnightly cleans at £50 per visit.

The pavilion, including the toilets, quote for a deep clean for £450 with a weekly clean at £50. The clerk had said it may not be needed if the pavilion had not been used. AT suggested that the VH clean and the Pavilion clean could be alternated if the pavilion is not being used every week.

Resolved: The clerk was asked to instruct the cleaning as above.

- 9. To agree an end date for advertising the receipt of expressions of interest in Parish council land known as the Allotment Gardens and agree any actions required.**

Resolved: The end date should be 31 August 2026.

- 10. To discuss the feedback from East Sussex Highways on Horsewalk and agree any actions required.**

The clerk explained that enforcement had been in touch and said that as they couldn't prove who had done the work so they couldn't put any enforcement in place and it would be left as it is.

Resolved: The clerk was asked to write to the County Cllr and ask for his help to have the areas of Horsewalk that have been dug out to be reinstated as they were.

- 11. To discuss outstanding resolution and agree any actions required.**

The clerk reported that she had not yet quotes for work as per the minutes from the last meeting. She reported that she had not been able to find anyone else to quote for hanging the doors on the pavilion toilets.

Resolved: the clerk to take the handyman to look at the doors to ensure that they re thick enough for the correct locks.

- 12. To consider a request from the stoolball team, to hold a tournament on the recreation ground and agree any actions required.**

Resolved: It was agreed that the Cllrs were happy with the idea, subject to being provided with more information. The cost would be the same as the charge for football hiring the rec for the afternoon unless they need it for longer.

- 13. To consider the following financial matters.**

i. To receive the statement of accounts to 30 June 2026 for noting

The Accounts to 30 June 2026 were published in advance and were noted showing £127,446.41 in all accounts.

ii. The bank reconciliation and corresponding bank statement to 30 June 2026 for noting.

The bank reconciliations were published in advance and were noted – appended to the minutes.

iii. To note the payments made during June 2026.

The payments were noted and signed by the chair and appended to the minutes.

iv. To agree payments to be made for invoices received since the last meeting.

Resolved: the payments were agreed as presented appended to the minutes.

14. To note the date of the next Full Council meeting 14th September 2026, 7pm at Hooe Village Hall.

County Councillor Update for Parish Councils

July 2026

Dear Colleagues,

Please find below a summary of recent news and developments from East Sussex County Council that may be of interest to your parish. As always, do get in touch if you would like more detail on any of these items or if there is a local issue you would like me to raise on your behalf.

Governance Services

Local Government Reorganisation — decision expected 17 July

The government consultation on local government reorganisation across East Sussex and Brighton & Hove has now closed. The consultation sought views on proposals to move Peacehaven, Telscombe, East Saltdean and Falmer into an expanded Brighton & Hove City Council from 2028, as part of wider plans to reshape local governance across Sussex following the creation of the Sussex & Brighton Strategic Authority. Ministers are now considering the responses, and a decision is expected by 17 July. I will share the outcome with parishes as soon as it is announced.

More information: <https://www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/article/4822/Closed-Government-consultation-Local-Government-Reorganisation>

Cabinet to review the 'State of the County' report

Cabinet will shortly consider the annual 'State of the County' report, which reviews the past year (2025/26) and helps set the council's priorities going forward. The report looks at residents' needs, the wider policy environment and the resources available to the council, and will inform decisions on services and budgets for the year ahead. Parishes with views on local priorities are welcome to raise them with me for feeding into this process.

More information: <https://news.eastsussex.gov.uk/news-releases/posts/cabinet-to-review-annual-report-that-will-guide-council-spending>

Communities, Environment and Transport

Historic finds at the Exceat Bridge site

Archaeological investigations ahead of construction of the new two-lane bridge at Exceat have uncovered pottery fragments believed to date from the Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman periods, potentially pointing to a former Iron Age settlement or farming area. Further excavation is under way across the site, including in the area where the new bridge will be built, to ensure any historic remains are properly recorded before construction begins. This may be of particular interest to parishes near the site and those with an interest in local heritage.

More information: <https://news.eastsussex.gov.uk/news-releases/posts/historic-finds-at-exceat-bridge-site>

Sussex Day 2026

Communities across East Sussex marked Sussex Day on 16 June, celebrating the county's heritage, culture and identity. Sussex Day marks the feast day of St Richard of Chichester and has been celebrated annually since 2006. Parishes may wish to consider marking the day locally next year.

More information: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cy8d678zy0wo>

Armed Forces flag flown at County Hall

The Armed Forces flag was raised at County Hall during Armed Forces Week and remained in place through Armed Forces Day on 27 June, in recognition of the service and dedication of veterans, cadets, serving personnel and their families.

More information: <https://news.eastsussex.gov.uk/news-releases/posts/flag-flies-in-recognition-of-dedicated-armed-forces>

Adult Social Care

Hundreds supported in first year of employment programme

More than 60 people in East Sussex facing barriers to work have found jobs through Connect to Work, a multi-million pound employment support programme funded by the Department for Work and Pensions and run by the county council. Since launching in June 2025, the programme has supported 284 people across the county who have disabilities, long-term health conditions or other complex challenges, with 52 people helped to stay in their jobs during the first year. This may be a useful signposting opportunity for residents in your parish who could benefit from this support.

More information: <https://news.eastsussex.gov.uk/news-releases/posts/hundreds-supported-in-first-year-of-employment-programme>

Children's Services

Children's favourite book announced at awards ceremony

Primary school pupils from across the county have chosen *The Whisperwicks: The Labyrinth of Lost and Found* by Jordan Lees as the winner of this year's East Sussex Children's Book Award. The award was presented at a ceremony at Uckfield Civic Centre, attended by 200 pupils from 11 primary schools. The book is the debut novel of the author and the first in the Whisperwicks fantasy series.

More information: <https://news.eastsussex.gov.uk/news-releases/posts/children-s-favourite-book-announced-at-awards-ceremony>

My Month – Committees, Casework, Round-Up

First Audit Committee

- I attended the first Audit Committee since the elections, as Vice-Chair.
- The replay and minutes are available on the county website, I had two particular areas of interest:

- The Council are implementing a new finance and payroll platform (Oracle), and I have some experience in this area, so have volunteered for a steering SubCo to provide oversight and guidance
- The annual Governance report for the Council was accepted and signed off. From a Governance perspective, (and having a significant background in this area professionally), I believe that ESCC is governed well, and has a good control environment (which can't be said for other County Councils in the UK...).

Casework

- Most casework continues to focus on Highways issues, drainage, and bus timetables. Over the coming months as an administration we intend to focus much scrutiny on the Council approach to Highways management.

As ever, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about the above, or any other matters affecting your parish.

Kind regards,

Stephen Potts

County Councillor for Wealden East

East Sussex County Council

St Oswald's report July 2026

Sorry that we (the Church) missed the last two Council meetings.

Three recent funerals since my last report. In May Geoffrey Baker, who was born and raised in the village. In June two in the same week, Caroline Formby from the Old Sunday School in Russels Green, the family involved in the village for many years and Susan Pattenden part of the Morris family at the top of Church lane. All were well attended and the weather allowed us to use the Morris field for parking. On Saturday, we had the Wedding of Daniel and Laura who have been attending at church since January. Well attended and a joyful occasion.

The two Church Wardens Nicki Murphy and me were sworn in on 17th June at St Mary's Battle an annual event this time by the new Archdeacon of Hastings.

News on the toilet extension. Wealden granted us planning permission on the 3rd July. There are some pre-conditions, which mainly require an Archaeologist on site during the excavation of the building process. Plans are being prepared, in order to send out to contractors for three tenders for the work. We are also now looking at possible grants but also have to have the agreement of the Diocese before we can start the building. The Diocese will need to see the plans the quotes and will want to know how we will finance it. They have people who can advise on fundraising.

We had a very successful Garden Party at the Church on the 4th July,. There was a large attendance and in the summer heat we raised £2500. Thank you for the continued support of the village, with special thanks to all those that helped on the stalls and the setting up and clearing away.

The Diocese of Chichester, as you may know are now without a Bishop. There is a committee appointed to search for possible candidates with interviews planned for the Spring 2027. One of the last appointments by the outgoing Bishop was the new Archdeacon of Hastings he arrived in the diocese in April. He came to St Oswald's on 12th July to take a joint service at Hooe with the St Mary's Ninfield congregation.

Hooe Parish Council Current Year

Bank - Cash and Investment Reconciliation as at 30 June 2026

Confirmed Bank & Investment Balances

Bank Statement Balances

30/06/2026	Unity Trust Bank	72,461.44
30/06/2026	Unity Trust Bank Savings	54,984.97

127,446.41

Receipts not on Bank Statement

0.00

Closing Balance

127,446.41

All Cash & Bank Accounts

5	Unity Trust Bank Current	72,461.44
6	Unity Trust Savings	54,984.97
	Other Cash & Bank Balances	0.00
	Total Cash & Bank Balances	127,446.41

Bank Reconciliation up to 30/06/2026 for Cashbook No 5 - Unity Trust Bank Current

<u>Date</u>	<u>Cheque/Ref</u>	<u>Amnt Paid</u>	<u>Amnt Banked</u>	<u>Stat Amnt</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>Cleared</u>	<u>Payee Name or Description</u>
01/06/2026	DDR	8.20		8.20		R ☐	UNITY TRUST BANK
08/06/2026			40.00	40.00		R ☐	Receipt(s) Banked
08/06/2026			40.00	40.00		R ☐	Receipt(s) Banked
09/06/2026	BACS	161.04		161.04		R ☐	ESALC
09/06/2026	BACS	-33.60		-33.60		R ☐	UNISERVE LTD
09/06/2026	BACS	138.02		138.02		R ☐	UNISERVE LTD
09/06/2026	BACS	2,952.00		2,952.00		R ☐	ORCHARD LANDSCAPES
09/06/2026	BACS	882.00		882.00		R ☐	Locum Clerk
09/06/2026	DDR	3.00		3.00		R ☐	LLOYDS BANK
12/06/2026	SO	60.72		60.72		R ☐	UNISERVE LTD
19/06/2026			40.00	40.00		R ☐	Receipt(s) Banked
29/06/2026	DD	20.39		20.39		R ☐	BRITISH GAS
29/06/2026	DD	155.64		155.64		R ☐	EVERFLOW
29/06/2026	DD	9.73		9.73		R ☐	VALDA ENERGY
29/06/2026	DD	-9.73		-9.73		R ☐	VALDA ENERGY
29/06/2026	DD	9.73		9.73		R ☐	VALDA ENERGY
30/06/2026	DDR	6.77		6.77		R ☐	UNITY TRUST BANK
		<u>4,363.91</u>	<u>120.00</u>				

Signatory 1:

NameSignedDate

Signatory 2:

NameSignedDate

Bank Reconciliation up to 30/06/2026 for Cashbook No 6 - Unity Trust Savings

Date	Cheque/Ref	Amnt Paid	Amnt Banked	Stat Amnt	Difference	Cleared	Payee Name or Description
30/06/2026			266.02	266.02		R 	Receipt(s) Banked
		<u>0.00</u>	<u>266.02</u>				

Signatory 1:

NameSignedDate

Signatory 2:

NameSignedDate

Nominal Ledger Analysis									
<u>Date</u>	<u>Payee Name</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>£ Total Amnt</u>	<u>£ Creditors</u>	<u>£ VAT</u>	<u>A/c</u>	<u>Centre</u>	<u>£ Amount</u>	<u>Transaction Details</u>
20/07/2026	CLEAR COUNCILS INSURANCE	BACS	1,463.31			4120	200	1,463.31	PC Insurnace
20/07/2026	MULBERRY LAS	BACS	144.00		24.00	4140	200	120.00	JF Training
20/07/2026	FOXHILL TREE SERVICES LTD	BACS	138.00		23.00	4310	345	115.00	Branch Mill Lane
20/07/2026	clerk	BACS	1,185.00			4110	200	1,185.00	Clerks Services
Total Payments:			2,930.31	0.00	47.00			2,883.31	