



Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common Parish Council
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Village Centre
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Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Thursday 27 March 2025 at 7.30 pm at Hurstpierpoint Village Centre.

Members Present:

Cllr Malcolm Llewellyn (Chairman)	Cllr Barry Forster	Cllr Julia Shorrocks
Cllr Michael Avery	Cllr Rodney Jackson	Cllr Annette Street
Cllr Sarah Baldey	Cllr Claire Majsai	Cllr Lindsey Thompson
Cllr Helen Bedford	Cllr Duncan Ranger	
Cllr Susan Dyke	Cllr Bob Sampson	

Also Present: Sarah Groom, Clerk to the Council, plus Cllr Joy Dennis (WSCC), Cllr Geoff Zeidler (MSDC), and one member of the public.

C24/25.154: To receive and accept apologies for absence: Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Helena Browne and Cllr David Evans, and it was:

RESOLVED: That the Council **ACCEPTS** the apologies for absence for Cllr Browne and Cllr Evans.

C24/25.155: To receive and record declarations of interest: There were no declarations of interest.

C24/25.156: To receive and accept the minutes of the previous meeting of the Council held on 13 March 2025: Members reviewed the minutes of the previous meeting, and it was:

RESOLVED: That the Council **AGREES** the minutes of the meeting held on 13 March 2025.

C24/25.157: Adjournment for Questions from the Public: There was one members of the public present who spoke in support of the Sayers Common Village Hall Section 106 request (Minutes: C24/25.161).

C24/25.158: Reports from Other Authorities: Members received reports from representatives of:

C24/25.158.1: West Sussex County Council (WSCC): Cllr Dennis updated Members on the progress being made on the devolution agenda and the position of WSCC. The Chairman had attended the MSALC Conference on 20 March and was advised that there may be a further White Paper issued in July 2025 that will include issues such as asset transfers to town and parish councils. Cllr Dennis reported that 87% of families had been allocated their first choices for school places. Arrangements for the new Burgess Hill Brookleigh schools will be revised in light of latest developments with the operators. WSCC Libraries are celebrating their 100th year anniversary. WSCC are promoting a new partnership with Carewise, to offer advice to the elderly on funding social care. The WSCC Highways Steward had walked the High Street with the Chairman to discuss missing bollards and places for additional bollards, and a quote is due soon. The WSCC Road Safety Team will also be consulted on the type and style of bollard. The kerb at the Mansion House and the pavement width outside the Chemist were also discussed.

Cllr Dennis thought the drainage inspection and jetting around Kingsland Cottages in Reeds Lane had been completed and the riparian owners had been written to. Unsafe steps had been cut into the bank on the Brighton Road and WSCC were taking steps for these to be removed. The Chairman requested an update on the proposals for a vehicle weight limit on Reeds Lane (except for access) and for Sat Navs to be updated to remove the option for drivers. Cllr Dennis explained that the new District Plan will influence the plans and timing for this matter. Cllr Avery raised the issue of bus stops not being marked out again, and Cllr Dennis confirmed a WSCC Team is working on bus stop issues. The Hurstpierpoint and Partridge Green Fire Stations had been broken into and Sussex Police had increased the resources for their Rural Crime Team.

C24/25.158.2: Mid Sussex District Council (MSDC): Cllr Zeidler had submitted a written update and was happy to take any questions. Cllr Jackson confirmed The Ark (Centre for Outdoor Sports) will be opening in a couple of weeks and this will include the new link road. MSDC has reviewed its Sustainability Strategy and received a Standards Committee report. There are plans to double the size of the Burgess Hill Burial Ground. Cllr Zeidler mentioned the clearing of the trees in the land between the A23 and Christ Church, Sayers Common where there are proposals for new houses. There followed a short discussion on Biodiversity Net Gain. Cllr Majsai stressed that systems must be put in place to deter developers from destroying nature in the first place, rather than just being held accountable after the event.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Jackson and Cllr Zeidler for their reports. Councillors Dennis and Zeidler left at 8.24pm.

C24/25.159: Committee Minutes: Members received the minutes of the:

C24/25.159.1: Planning Committee (3 March 2025): There were no recommendations for Council.

C24/25.159.2: Finance, Governance & Estates Committee (20 March 2025): There were four recommendations for Council:

- i) **F24/25.117: Savings and Investments Policy:** The Committee reviewed the Savings and Investments Policy and agreed to recommend its adoption to Council as amended, and it was: RESOLVED: That the Committee AGREED that the Savings and Investments Policy would be recommended to Council for adoption, and it was: RESOLVED: That Council AGREES and ADOPTS the Savings and Investments Policy.
- ii) **F24/25.118 Internal Controls:** The Committee reviewed the findings from the March 2025 internal controls exercise, and it was: RESOLVED That the Committee AGREED the findings from the March 2025 internal controls exercise and to recommend their adoption by Council, and it was: RESOLVED: That Council AGREES and ADOPTS the findings from the March 2025 Internal Controls exercise.
- iii) **F24/25.119 Financial Risk Management Review:** The Committee reviewed the Parish Councils exposure to financial risk in 2024/2025 and considered any necessary changes or actions required for 2025/2026, and it was: RESOLVED: That the Committee AGREED the Parish Councils Financial Risk Management Review for 2024/2025, as amended and AGREED to recommend it to Council for adoption, and it was: RESOLVED: That Council AGREES and ADOPTS the Parish Councils Financial Risk Management Review for 2024/2025.
- iv) **F24/25.122 Year End Adjustments:** The Committee considered the provisional adjustments required for the year end, and the proposed transfers to or from the General Reserve and Earmarked Reserves, and it was: RESOLVED: The Committee AGREED the provisional adjustments to be made at the year end in order to complete the accounts for 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025; and to recommend the transfer to and from Earmarked Reserves to Council for approval and adoption, and it was: RESOLVED: That Council AGREES the provisional adjustments to be made at the year end in order to complete the accounts for 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025; and the transfers to and from Earmarked Reserves, including any net surplus on the Court Bushes Community Hub Cost Centre is transferred to the South Avenue Earmarked Reserve, and subject to any changes required at year end.

RESOLVED: That the Council RECEIVES the minutes of the following Committees, and AGREES the recommendations where appropriate or as amended:

- i. Planning Committee (3 March 2025)
- ii. Finance, Governance & Estates Committee (20 March 2025)

C24/25.160: Mayoral Combined Authority for Sussex and Brighton Consultation: Members considered responding as a Parish Council to the government consultation, which is specific to the Sussex and Brighton region, by the 13 April 2025. It was noted that the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Cllr Dyke had already submitted their individual comments, and it was:

RESOLVED: That the Council AGREES that councillors should respond individually to the government consultation.

C24/25.161: Sayers Common Village Hall S106 Request: Members considered supporting an application from the Sayers Common Village Hall to Mid Sussex District Council for Section 106 funds, and it was:

RESOLVED: That the Council AGREES to support the application from the Sayers Common Village Hall to Mid Sussex District Council for Section 106 funds.

C24/25.162: Reports from representatives on outside bodies: Members noted the reports as follows:

C24/25.162.1: Mid Sussex Association of Local Councils: The Chairman and Cllr Jackson had attended the MSALC conference on 20 March 2025 and had received presentations from the Leader of WSCC, the Chief Executive of MSDC and the Police and Crime Commissioner. A further White Paper to be issued in July 2025 may include more issues that directly affect town and parish councils such as asset transfers from District to local councils and from local councils to the new Unitary Authorities (e.g. street lights).

C24/25.162.2: South Downs National Park Authority: Cllr Dyke had submitted a written update on the parish council liaison zoom meeting she and Cllr Jackson had attended on 19 March 2025. Cllr Dyke had questioned how Ditchling had achieved a new village centre car park in the National Park, and the response was that each case would be considered on its merits in respect of landscape assessments.

C24/25.162.3: Hurstpierpoint Society: Cllr Dyke had submitted a written update which had been circulated. The Society were working on the Latchetts Lane signage project and the blue enamel street signs project. Five new lime trees had been planted by the Parish Council on the South Avenue Recreation Ground due to the Society's generous grant and Section 106 funding. The Society will be approaching the owner of the bramble patch on Pitt Lane and asking them to improve the area. The Society had noted the plans for WSCC to improve the footpath surface from Cuckfield Road, through Tilley's Copse to the College.

C24/25.162.4: Sayers Common Village Association: Cllr Forster related comments made by the new Chairman of the Association, with regards to arrangements for the public display in the Sayers Common Village Hall, of their plans for a new village centre, and the Parish Council's consultation on a piece of new play equipment. The Chairman explained the current proposed arrangements.

C24/25.163: Information Items:

C24/25.163.1: New Cycleway from Highfield Drive to St George's Lane: The Chairman reminded Members that WSCC were currently consulting on the proposed change of the designation from footpath to mixed use cycleway and Members were encouraged to register their support via the consultation link in the April Hurst Life article.

Members RESOLVED that in view of the confidential nature of the following items, the press and public be excluded under section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

Confidential Matters:

C24/25.164: Methodist Church: Members received a verbal update in the sale of the venue at 42 Cuckfield Road, Hurstpierpoint which had sold at auction on 20 March 2025 for £360,000, and it was:

RESOLVED: That the Council AGREED to make a public announcement about the sale of the Methodist Church.

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.47pm.

Chairman