

Annual Report of the Parish Council



1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026

**Presented at the Annual Parish Meeting
on 12th May 2026 and
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Parish Council Website
www.hurstpierpoint-pc.gov.uk**

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1. REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

We enjoyed a well-attended annual parish meeting in May 2025, at which we received some good feedback on the 2024/5 year. This helped us to direct our focus for 2025/6 and beyond. It has been a very busy year for the Parish Council. Not only have we been completing our own significant projects, but we have also been directly impacted by some major external challenges like the draft Mid Sussex District Plan and local government reorganisation.

Draft Mid Sussex District Plan

The most significant of those challenges has been the work involved to influence the draft Mid Sussex District Plan. The Plan for 2021-2038 would see in excess of 3,500 homes being built, between Sayers Common and Albourne, and north of Hurstpierpoint around Goddards Green. Throughout the preceding consultations we have focussed upon: the weakness of the spatial strategy within the district; the lack of proposed additional development around the existing three major towns in Mid Sussex, thus making best use of existing infrastructure and brownfield sites; the disproportionate number of homes proposed without delivered improvements to supporting infrastructure; and that any proposed development should be planned and delivered as coherent, self-contained neighbourhoods with housing to meet local needs, and facilities such as active travel routes, good drainage and sewerage systems, schools, healthcare and community facilities. The Parish Council has made efforts through all available avenues to influence all these aspects. At every possible stage, the Parish Council has submitted objections to the volume of new dwellings and has called on Mid Sussex District Council to review their “spatial strategy” and to allocate the homes across a wider area.

The Parish Council called for a masterplan for the 2,000 new homes in Sayers Common/Albourne and was key in establishing a group of the local Parish Councils, pressure groups, village societies, the five relevant developers and MSDC to work together to progress the essential services needed. These plans will hopefully make the proposed enlarged Sayers Common/Albourne an even better place to live and work.

A new National Planning Policy Framework is being developed by the Government, and we are watching the drafting of the document carefully, as it will impact on how and when we update our own Neighbourhood Plan.

Local Government Reorganisation

There are three tiers of local government in West Sussex; the county council, district council and then town/parish councils. The Government decided to review the structure of councils within Sussex and a decision was due by the end of March 2026, but this has been delayed. A number of proposals were put forward by the existing councils for consideration (see image below), but the Government has suggested an alternative format which they will consult the public on over the Summer of 2026. Meanwhile we have paused the work on our Parish Strategy so that we can align it to the principal authority that we will eventually associate with.

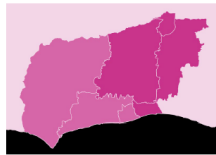
Viable options from the financial analysis

OPTION A – Single County Unitary



County Council and all seven District and Borough Councils together.

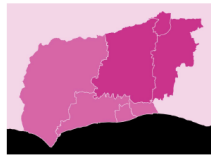
OPTION B1 – Two Unitaries



Two unitary councils split broadly on West/East lines and building on existing District and Borough boundaries. Adur in the East.

- | West: | East: |
|--------------|--------------|
| • Arun | • Adur |
| • Chichester | • Crawley |
| • Worthing | • Horsham |
| | • Mid Sussex |

OPTION B2 – Two Unitaries



Two unitary councils split broadly on West/East lines and building on existing District and Borough boundaries. Adur in the West.

- | West: | East: |
|--------------|--------------|
| • Adur | • Crawley |
| • Arun | • Horsham |
| • Chichester | • Mid Sussex |
| • Worthing | |

Hurstpierpoint Car Park Charges

Mid Sussex District Council has been planning the introduction of parking charges in the village car parks since it published its 2020-2030 Parking Strategy in 2019/20. Various implementation dates have come and gone, and now the latest definitive date of 1 May 2026 has also passed. The Parish Council recognises how important this is to residents, employers, their employees and volunteers etc and continues to lobby for the status quo until the new principal authority is established. Or at least, a fair and appropriate charging regime is agreed that recognises the impact on the High Street, the school runs, and the displacement of on-street parking elsewhere within the village.

Pointless and Expensive Vandalism

Sadly, and at great expense to all who pay Council Tax within the Parish, the amount of vandalism and graffiti continues to rise. The main targets are the bus shelters, public toilets, and the streetlights. Public toilets are an essential facility for many people while out shopping, dog walking and commuting etc. We know it is only a very small number of irresponsible individuals that ruin them for everyone else, setting them alight, ripping out electrics making them unsafe, sitting on the baby change units to pull them off the walls, the standard toilet rolls down the pan, thereby blocking the drains. We are very sorry that this means they are out of action whilst repairs are undertaken and major clean-ups are completed. The cost of vandalism to the Parish Council over the last 2 years now tops £50,000. This is unbudgeted expenditure which represents 14% of the Council Tax received. Achieving repairs diverts staff from delivering other services, whilst the cost of those repairs has to be found from within the existing budget. We report every incident to the Police, but if you witness any such damage being caused, please dial 999 and report it, so the Police can hopefully catch the vandals in the act.



Pitt Lane Public Conveniences

Parish Councillor Vacancies

There will be parish council elections in May 2027, so if you are tempted to put your name forward, why not join us now for a trial run as a co-opted councillor? We have two vacancies out of fifteen councillors and the next deadline for applying is 17th June 2026. Please see the final page of this report.

The Parish Council is non-political and members join in order to help make the local area a better place to live. The main priority of the council is to deliver those services, facilities and land for which it is directly responsible such as the Court Bushes Community Hub, the Reeds Lane Recreation Ground, and Hurst Meadows, but it is also here to help lobby other authorities and agencies to improve their facilities and services to residents.

And finally

My thanks to all the existing Parish Councillors and staff that work so hard all year round to achieve this aim. We sadly lost a great stalwart of the Council last September with the death of David Evans. His legacy lives on in the work the Parish Council does to help preserve the heritage, history, wildlife, nature and countryside of the parish. We thank Barry Forster and Helena Browne who stood down in April and September respectively last year for their time as parish councillors and welcome Shaun Hole as a new councillor from February 2026. The Parish Council believes in investing in ongoing training for its councillors and staff, and were delighted when Assistant Clerk Viv Aloy secured her Certificate in Local Council Administration qualification which is the gold star standard for clerks.

The Parish Council is always keen to hear from residents who want to ask questions or suggest improvements. Contact details are at the end of this report and on our website: www.hurstpierpoint-pc.gov.uk. We look forward to hearing from you.



Malcolm Llewellyn, Chairman of the Council

2. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Let me start with a massive thank you to the office staff, and to my diligent committee members who every month plough through all the planning applications for the Parish allowing us to send MSDC informed comments.

Along with the extensions and roof conversions, we are increasingly seeing the Government's new drive for more homes being applied by large developers in this area. With 5 sites in Sayers Common, Kemps' field, and Land North of Hurstpierpoint / West of Burgess Hill, our local area is taking a further 3,500+ homes.

This should concern the whole village, as anyone requiring Hassocks Station will have to negotiate passage through our High Street.

Already 4 of the 6 sites, west of the High Street, have submitted planning applications with only the largest site in Sayers Common and Kemps' field left to come. With the District Plan examination working its way through, it is likely that more sites will be put forward for development; watch this space.

As ever, everyone is welcome to attend one of the Council's meetings and we look forward to seeing you there and answering any questions on planning that you may have.



Julia Shorrock, Chair of the Planning Committee

3. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF THE FINANCE, GOVERNANCE & ESTATES COMMITTEE

Finance and Governance

The Committee establishes an annual action plan to ensure effective prioritisation and attainment of objectives. In addition to robust internal controls, the Parish Council undergoes regular audits: twice yearly by an independent internal auditor and annually by an external auditor at the conclusion of each financial year.

A comprehensive risk management strategy is actively implemented. Both policy and assessment records are reviewed by auditors, who have acknowledged the Council's conscientious approach to risk management. Each March, a separate financial risk assessment is considered by the Parish Council, providing oversight of income and expenditure risks and facilitating timely interventions as required.

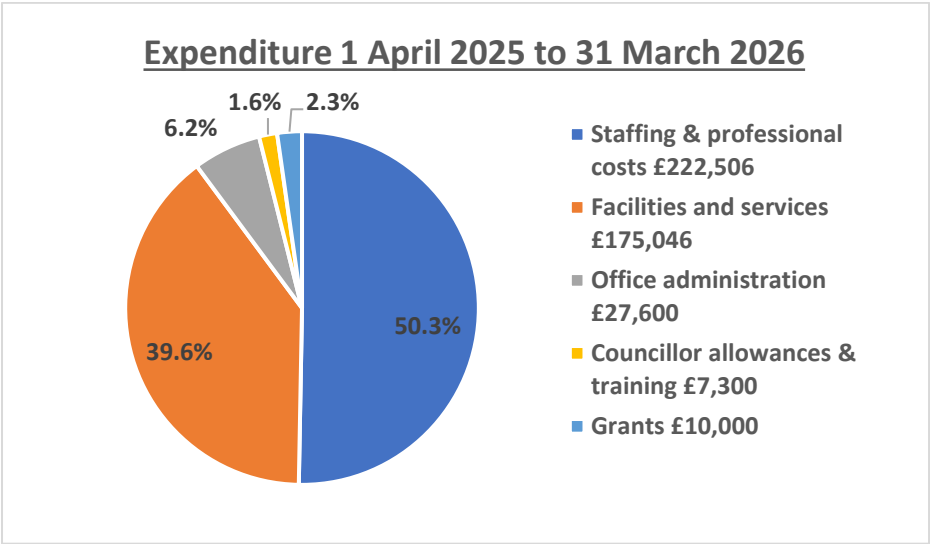
Asset management is meticulously maintained; land, buildings, and equipment records are updated regularly. The asset register is reviewed biannually in alignment with Internal Controls procedures and in accordance with the Asset Register Policy. Accurate valuation of total assets remains essential for the Annual Return submitted to the external auditor.

The Committee maintains monthly monitoring of all income and expenditure. Annually, it conducts reviews of charges and undertakes budget planning for the forthcoming financial year, subsequently recommending final figures to Full Council each December for implementation in April. The principal source of Parish Council income derives from the parish precept part of Council Tax.

Financial pressures persist within the broader community and similarly impact the Parish Council as it endeavours to sustain and enhance public facilities and services, which encompass play parks, community buildings, open spaces, allotments, the cemetery, waste bins, street lighting, and public conveniences. The Chairman's report highlights additional strain resulting from recent increases in criminal damage.

Review of 2025/26

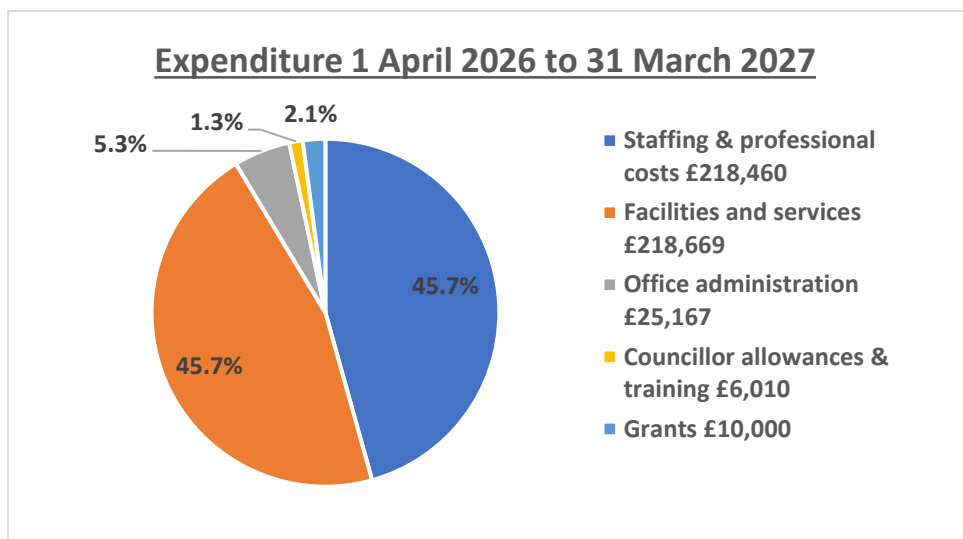
As of 31 March 2026, the Parish Council’s total funds stood at £625,943 with the General Reserve comprising £164,314 with the remaining £461,629 designated as Earmarked Reserves, primarily allocated for ongoing maintenance of Hurst Meadows, restricted solely for that purpose. The Council’s policy continues to focus on maintaining balanced revenue income and expenditure year-on-year, incorporating sustainable investment in facilities. Capital or one-off expenses are intended to be covered through grants. The pie chart shows where the funds were planned to be spent in 2025/26:



Despite ongoing economic challenges, the Council prioritises the upkeep and availability of recreation grounds, play areas, community buildings, allotments, the cemetery, street lighting, bus shelters, and public toilets. Where feasible, investments are directed towards maintenance and enhancements. Updates concerning service delivery are outlined in the subsequent Estates and Facilities section.

Council Tax 2026/27

For the 2026/27 fiscal year, the Parish Council part of the Council Tax bill, for an average Band D property will increase by 7.21% equating to 14p per week and totalling £7.14 per annum. Revenue from Council Tax, combined with other sources such as rents, hiring fees, allotment charges, and cemetery fees, is projected to cover operational and maintenance expenditures. These fees and charges are adjusted in line with the September 2025 Consumer Price Index (CPI X) rate of 3.8%. The pie chart below shows where the expenditure is allocated to be spent in 2026/7:



To support improvements and new projects, external funding, including S106 Developer Funds and grants, will be pursued; alternatively, earmarked reserves may be utilised when appropriate. In consideration of significant costs associated with estate vandalism and rising prices, the Council remains committed to sustaining the general reserve at its current level, maintaining essential operations, and avoiding closure of key facilities such as public toilets wherever possible.

Estates & Facilities Management

The Finance, Governance and Estates Committee is responsible for the stewardship of Parish Council properties and amenities, including Court Bushes Community Hub (Willow Way), the Village Centre (Trinity Road, a separate charity), Hurst Meadows (50 acres of open countryside), the Cemetery and Chapel (South Avenue), Chantry Stables (Charity Shop), Albourne Road allotments, parish-owned streetlights, South Avenue and Reeds Lane Recreation Grounds and play areas, two public toilets, and five bus shelters located throughout the parish.

The Council also operates a Speed Indicator Device (SID), periodically relocated to different parish locations for data collection and analysis.

There are six Parish Council-managed defibrillators, listed on our website: <https://www.hurstpierpoint-pc.gov.uk/services-information/defibrillators/>

Key Activities Undertaken During 2025/2026:

- Completion of phase two enhancements to play equipment at Reeds Lane Recreation Ground, Sayers Common -



Reeds Lane Recreation Ground

including a new main piece of equipment (as voted for by local children) and installation of new swings, additional bins, benches, picnic tables, fencing, and improved pitches on the northern side.

- Installation of a new trampoline at South Avenue Recreation Ground in March.
- Refurbishment of the South Avenue Cemetery Chapel, including repairs to stained-glass windows.

- Completion of drainage, verge edging, and resurfacing works on Parish Council property in South Avenue during Spring 2026.



South Avenue Resurfacing

- A proposal to extend the 20mph zone in Hurstpierpoint, facilitated by resident support and WSCC approval, planned for implementation in 2027.
- Ongoing assessment regarding provision of additional community space within the Parish, following the loss of the Methodist Church, ensuring cost-effectiveness.
- Upgrading of Public Right of Way footpaths from Cuckfield Road to Hurst College by WSCC, ensuring year-round accessibility; advocacy continues for providing a footpath along Chalkers Lane.
- Lobbying efforts with WSCC and MSDC to expand cycleway connections between Hurstpierpoint and Sayers Common, to The Triangle and The Ark, and eastward to Hassocks.



Cycleway St Georges Lane

And finally:

My personal appreciation is extended to Committee members for their thorough attention to detail, diligent testing of assumptions and priorities, and unwavering commitment to identifying optimal solutions for the community. Special thanks are offered to Clerk Sarah for her meticulous preparation and accurate recording of meeting outcomes, Assistant Clerks Gemma and Viv for their very efficient management of the halls, cemetery and allotment bookings, and Estates & Facilities Manager Stephen and Maintenance Officer Hamish for their steadfast support in all operations.



Duncan Ranger, Chair of the Finance, Governance and Estates Committee

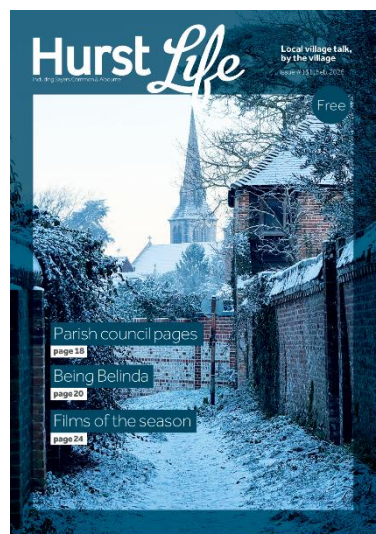
4. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The primary responsibility of our committee is overseeing the Parish Council's communication and media strategy including liaison with residents, businesses and local voluntary and statutory services. In doing this we seek to keep the public well-informed in a hopefully interesting manner and encourage the provision of services and facilities which will support the health and wellbeing of our whole community.

Communication

Our primary means of updating the parish on what the Parish Council is doing continues to be our pages in the monthly Hurst Life magazine which is delivered to every household. Please do take the time to read this.

In November we hosted another successful Community Forum. This is a valuable opportunity for local groups to share new initiatives and challenges and to identify gaps in provision.



This was again attended by a wide range of people representing charities such as Befriended, services such as the Social Prescribers from Mid Sussex Health Care and arts groups such as Hurst Festival.

Community Forum 2026

The key challenge for many of the groups at the moment is a shortage of volunteers. Giving back to your community by volunteering is rewarding and of proven benefit to mental and physical health. Local opportunities in the voluntary sector can be found on the Community People website:
<https://communitypeople.org.uk>

Despite our best efforts, our ambitious and groundbreaking Annual Parish Meeting format was not successful in attracting members of the public to attend though we had strong support from local groups. We have therefore made the difficult decision to hold a lower key APM this year but hopefully one that enables genuine community conversations.

We are persisting though with other priorities that so far have had limited or no success. This applies particularly to our attempts to encourage the provision of a youth club or similar facility for our young people. A couple of promising leads have not borne fruit, but we continue to try and frequently draw other authorities' attention to the importance of this provision in rural areas where they are most likely to be lacking.

Events

For relatively small communities, the villages of Hurstpierpoint and Sayers Common are fortunate in the many fantastic events which take place throughout the year. These are often run by volunteers whose hard work is much appreciated by the Parish Council.



Village Piano Day 2026

The Committee supports important Parish Events both established and new through a grants process as well as by organising and participating directly in events. Our priority is always those events that are inclusive and free to residents. We also support through publicising events at no charge and by providing venues such as the South Avenue Recreation Ground. Events supported through grants included Hurst Festival Super Sunday, St Lawrence Fair and the very first World Piano Day celebration to be held in our parish.

It is so rewarding to see the community coming together and having fun at these events sometimes despite the challenge of the extreme weather which sadly is becoming more frequent.

The weather did cooperate with a suitably frosty and dry evening for January's Wassail. This event, organised by the Parish Council with support from Hurst Rethink, was even more successful this time. About 250 people enjoyed the music, lights and dancing as the old and new apple trees in the Millenium Garden and Hurst Meadows orchards were encouraged to (and did!) bear a plenteous harvest. We were particularly pleased that St Lawrence primary school was able to take advantage of our offer of a free workshop for the children to learn the traditional wassail songs and dances which were going to be part of the later celebration.



Wassail 2026 - workshop and evening event

Hurstpierpoint High Street

Another priority for our committee is to support where we can with maintaining a thriving High Street. Visitors frequently comment on how lucky we are to have such a brilliant range of shops, cafes, restaurants and pubs. And this is within walking distance for most residents as well. Obviously, these businesses can only remain if enough customers use them – a challenge when many residents and visitors are struggling with the cost of living. We supported the traders' Santa's Fun Sunday via a grant and were also pleased to be able to advertise the village and most particularly our High Street by adding Hurstpierpoint to the Metrobus "Days Out" webpages.

Grants

A key part of the committee's role at every meeting is carefully and rigorously considering the grant applications which come into the Parish Council. We aim to spend public money wisely in line with the Council's priorities. It is heartening to see that even relatively small sums of money can make a huge difference to local projects and initiatives. A full list of grants awarded and the guidance for applicants is available on the grants page of the Parish Council website.

And finally:

Thank you to all those members of the public and community groups who have shared ideas, suggestions and comments with us. Thank you particularly to Assistant Clerk Viv Aloy for your hard work and always being positive and efficient freely sharing your own ideas and suggestions for improvement to our policies and processes. And thank you to the councillors (also volunteers!) who make up the Community Engagement Committee for being supportive, sometimes challenging and always good-humoured.



Claire Majsai, Chair of the Community Engagement Committee

5. SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY REPORT

The Sustainability Strategy Working Group consists of three members of the Community Engagement Committee who meet regularly to review progress with the Strategy which consists of an Action Plan with five objectives:

- Help nature to recover
- Reduce waste
- Increase access to green spaces
- Reduce carbon emissions
- Build resilience

The strategy is available in detail on the Parish Council website.

The Parish Council's ongoing commitment to sustainability can be seen throughout our work and is always a key consideration in any decision. This is reflected in the committees' annual reports and in our monthly articles in Hurst Life. In addition, Sustainable Community Grants are awarded to groups for projects which support these objectives. Last year's successful applicants include:

- The Allotment Association towards the creation of a community plot
- Hurst Rethink to fund artificial nesting cups for house martins on buildings in the High Street:



- The Monday Group to help maintain our local footpaths

We have a stunning example of nature recovering remarkably quickly in Hurst Meadows which is owned and managed by the Parish Council.

Please visit if you have not already done so and enjoy the bird song and the butterflies and other creatures which are now thriving in the mosaic of different habitats.

Becoming a more sustainable council can be challenging – for example it was disappointing to finally discover that the village centre roof was not suitable for solar panels and issues can be complex. Similarly, following extensive research, the Parish Council also



decided to buy the existing previously leased petrol council van. With very low annual mileage, this was more sustainable than leasing a new electric van due to the carbon emissions released during manufacture.

Research develops all the time in this area though and we try to make decisions based on this.

If you have suggestions for actions which could be included in our sustainability strategy, please do email the Parish Office. We are always looking for new ideas.

6. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING 13th MAY 2025

MINUTES of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held on Tuesday 13 May 2025 at 7.00 pm at the Village Centre

Present: Cllr Malcolm Llewellyn (Chairman of the Parish Council) and Claire Majsai (Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council & Chair of Community Engagement Committee). Nine parish councillors and four members of the Parish Council staff team. Plus 31 representatives of numerous local groups including the Sussex Police Community Speedwatch, Fire & Rescue Service, Social Prescribers and 4Sight Vision, the Monday Group, Befriended, Use It or Lose It, Groove Movement, Star Dance, Hurst Works, Lyona, Run Club, Cycling Without Age and Ella' Art Class, the Woodland Flora and Fauna Group, the Hurstpierpoint Society, Glendale and members of the public.

1. Introduction and Welcome

- 1.1 Cllr Helen Bedford opened the event, welcomed everyone to the meeting and ran through the housekeeping matters. Cllr Claire Majsai explained the format for the evening and that the theme was Wellbeing and what is available locally. Although there weren't very many members of the public present groups were encouraged to network and make useful contacts. The Annual Report of the Parish Council was available for all to read on the Parish Council website, and paper copies had been distributed. There was also the opportunity for all present to complete a feedback form at the back of the Annual Report.

2. Report of the Parish Council Chairman

- 2.1 The Chairman, Cllr Llewellyn welcomed all those present to the meeting and explained that the focus of the meeting is to update residents on the work of the Parish Council over the last year, and on listening to the local community to help shape future priorities. The Chairman reminded residents that there were only certain services that the Parish Council provided directly, as explained on the "What We Do" banner. The Parish Council's Annual Report covered most of the work completed over the previous year but he wished to highlight a few key areas of work.
- 2.2 The Reeds Lane Recreation Ground drainage project was completed last Summer and the phase two project for more play equipment was underway. In response to residents' requests, dog waste and litter bins had been audited, and new bins purchased and/or re-located.
- 2.3 The Parish Council had investigated the purchase of the old Methodist Church, which it had successfully registered as an asset of community value but had been prevented access to it until it was listed at auction. An offer had been made by the Parish Council

to try to secure the old Church for the community but despite the bid not being far off the final sale price, the Parish Council was not successful and it was sold to a developer.

- 2.4 Mid Sussex District Council (MSDC) were planning to implement parking charges in the Hurstpierpoint Trinity Road and Browns Twins Road car parks later this year. The Parish Council consulted residents and other key stakeholders and submitted a 44 page response objecting to the proposals. MSDC will carry out statutory consultation upon their charging plans later this year, and all were encouraged to respond.
- 2.5 The Mid Sussex District Plan to 2039 is currently on hold but last year the Chairman had spoken about the consultation phases and inspection stages by an independent (Government) Planning Inspector. The Stage One inspection examinations had taken place in October 2024 and were attended by the Parish Council, the Hurstpierpoint Society and "WILD". There has been no response yet from the Planning Inspector.
- 2.6 The Parish Council has been calling for a master-planning approach for the two large developments planned for the local area and has been successful in securing a meeting with MSDC and developers next week. The current Neighbourhood Plan from 2014 still carries weight in planning decisions, but once the District Plan is renewed the Neighbourhood Plan will require updating. With all of these changes and the concurrent developing plans around a Mayor for Sussex, a combined authority and new unitary authorities, the responsibilities for Parish and Town Councils may change. Therefore the plan to consult on a new Parish Strategy will be placed on hold.
- 2.7 Finally, the Chairman spoke about the rising cost of vandalism (such as the ten streetlights destroyed in Willow Way) and how it is not a victimless crime, as an increase in insurance claims may mean the Parish Council assets become un-insurable. The Chairman asked everyone to be vigilant against anti-social behaviour and criminal damage offences and concluded by opening up the floor to questions:

Q1 – A resident asked whether the old Methodist Church might come back on the market for sale, if the planning application wasn't successful. The Chairman reiterated that the Parish Council had looked to purchase the old Church as outlined previously and would watch the planning application outcome with interest. The resident felt the proposal for up to 6 dwellings on the site was an overdevelopment of the plot.

Q2 – A resident asked what the Parish Council's thoughts were on devolution. In response to the question, the Chairman explained that by May 2026, Sussex would be electing a Mayor of Sussex, which it was felt was generally a good idea, so that Sussex is represented nationally alongside e.g. Manchester and Wales. There are also plans for three combined authorities namely East, West and Brighton & Hove, which would replace the County Councils and District/Borough Councils by May 2028. The Government's intention is that these reorganisations will save money. Final arrangements are expected to be agreed before the end of this year. If agreed, there would be elections for both Parish Councillors and Unitary Authority Councillors in May 2027.

Q3 – In conjunction with the above question, a resident asked whether the Mayor is best placed to deliver strategic, sustainable development when the Mid Sussex District Plan presumably won't apply, and the Parish Neighbourhood Plan isn't applied by MSDC. The Chairman felt that a strategic level plan would be beneficial before the detail can be delved into. Therefore the Parish Council plans to update its Neighbourhood Plan once the final Mid Sussex District Plan to 2039 is agreed.

Q4 –A resident asked for an update on the plans for improved cycleways. In response, the Chairman explained that back in 2004, Sustrans identified a route to improve connectivity to Downlands School. The West Sussex County Council Safer Routes to School programme has now upgraded the Manor Road and Hurst Meadows section of the Sayers Common to Downlands School cycleway. WSCC has recently consulted residents on re-designating the St George's Lane to Highfield Drive footpath, into a shared-use cycleway. The Parish Council is particularly supportive of this as it will remove the need to cycle up St Georges Lane to Hassocks Road and round the Randiddles corner. Further improvements are planned to link the parish to the Green Circle and The Triangle in Burgess Hill, when funds become available. The Chairman asked for any suggestions to be sent in, so cycleways can be fed into the master-planning for the District Plan and our replacement Neighbourhood Plan.

The Chairman thanked residents for their questions.

3. Introduction to the Presentations: Cllr Helen Bedford introduced the speakers:

3.1 Sussex Police Community Speedwatch

Steve O'Connell gave an informative and in-depth presentation on the Police's support for community speedwatch volunteers such as those at Sayers Common, although there is not currently a Hurstpierpoint Community speedwatch team. Offending drivers are written to by the Police who check their details with the DVLA. The scheme proves quite effective on reminding drivers about their speed, with statistics showing that 94% of offenders do not re-offend within the year. Repeat offenders are dealt with under special measures which can include them ultimately having their driving licences revoked. Any volunteers interested in implementing a Hurstpierpoint speedwatch group should contact the Parish Council.

3.2 One Minute Pitches (Group 1)

Local groups were given one minute to speak about their activities in respect of wellness as follows:

- Befriended
- Groove Movement
- The Monday Group
- Star Dance
- U3A
- West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service

3.3 Social Prescribers

Amelia Drake explained the role of the social prescriber service offering free advice and support for people whose health issues aren't always clinical. The service is free and is based at the Mid Sussex Healthcare Trust (in Trinity Road Health Centre, and also in Hassocks and Ditchling). People are supported to take up social and physical activities that are of personal interest to them, and so help improve their physical and mental wellbeing.

3.4 4Sight Vision

Kirstie spoke about her personal story, losing her sight 27 years ago, practically overnight, and along with the trauma she also lost her driving license, her independence and her job. 4Sight Vision Support was established 100 years ago in West Sussex and there are 22 residents of the parish receiving their support. There are waiting lists for their services, which include financial support and advice regarding accessible technologies. Modern technology is excellent for helping connect people and to help them live their lives.

3.5 One Minute Pitches (Group 2)

A further set of local groups were given one minute to speak about their activities in respect of wellness as follows:

- Hurstworks
- Lyona
- Run Club
- Cycling without Age
- Move It or Lose It
- Ella Art Class
- Mid Sussex Healthy Walks

4. Conclusion

Cllr Helen Bedford invited any further questions, thanked the speakers, suggested further networking, and closed the event. Gail from Befriended said a thank you on behalf of the local groups for the support of the Parish Council and belief in all that they do.

Chairman

7. LIST OF COUNCILLORS, OFFICERS AND CONTACT DETAILS AT 7 MAY 2026

Councillors:

1. Cllr Michael Avery
2. Cllr Sarah Baldey
3. Cllr Helen Bedford
4. Cllr Susan Dyke
5. Cllr Shaun Hole
6. Cllr Rodney Jackson
7. Cllr Malcolm Llewellyn
8. Cllr Claire Majsai
9. Cllr Duncan Ranger
10. Cllr Bob Sampson
11. Cllr Julia Shorrocks
12. Cllr Annette Street
13. Cllr Lindsay Thompson
14. Vacancy
15. Vacancy

Officers:

Sarah Groom, Clerk to the Council
Viv Aloy, Assistant Clerk
Gemma Porteous, Assistant Clerk
Stephen Witchell, Estates & Facilities Manager
Hamish Raby, Maintenance Officer

Contact Details:

All Councillors and Officers can be contacted through the Parish Office:

Tel:	01273 833264
Email:	office@hurstpierpoint-pc.gov.uk
Postal Address:	Parish Office, Village Centre Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint West Sussex, BN6 9UY

9. Parish Councillor Vacancies

If you found this evening interesting and would like to be more involved, the Parish Council has two vacancies to be filled by co-option for the Hurstpierpoint Ward.



Could you spare three evenings a month?

Love our parish? Want a say in its future?
Then why not become a Parish Councillor!

The Parish Council is non-party political. We work together as a team to maintain and improve local services and quality of life for our residents.

Join Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common Parish Council
and help shape the place you call home.

We need someone who:

- Cares about our community
- Can listen, share ideas, and make decisions.
- Can spare 3 evenings a month

No experience needed – just your time, enthusiasm,
and community spirit.

To find out more contact the Parish Clerk:

✉ office@hurstpierpoint-pc.gov.uk ☎ 01273 833264

Or why not come along to one of our meetings:

<https://www.hurstpierpoint-pc.gov.uk/meeting-calendar/>

Applications are invited from interested members of the public, and especially from those with an interest in planning, finance or nature recovery and conservation land management.

Qualification criteria:

You MUST: ✓ Be at least 18 years old. ✓ Be a British, Commonwealth, Irish, or EU citizen. ✓ Meet at least <u>one</u> of the following criteria: • Be registered to vote in the parish. • Have lived or worked in the parish (or within 3 miles of it) for at least 12 months. • Have been a tenant, owner, or occupier of land/premises in the parish for 12 months.	You cannot ✗ Be a paid officer of the council. ✗ Have been declared bankrupt. ✗ Have a criminal conviction with a sentence of three months or more (suspended or not) within the last five years.
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This will be a *co-opted* post, but the Councillors will have the same responsibilities and powers as *elected* members. This is an unpaid post, and you would be expected to attend up to 3 evening meetings each month.

For more information and an application form, please contact the Parish Council Office:

Email: office@hurstpierpoint-pc.gov.uk
Telephone: 01273 833264
Website: www.hurstpierpoint-pc.gov.uk

Closing Date: 12 noon on Wednesday 17th June 2026.

Candidates who meet the qualification criteria above will be invited to attend the Council meeting on Thursday 25th June 2026 at 7.30pm where their application will be considered.