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Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Thursday 24 September 2026 at 7.30 pm at Sayers Common Village Hall.

Members Present:	Cllr Claire Majsai (Vice-Chairman)	Cllr Duncan Ranger
	Cllr Michael Avery	Cllr Bob Sampson
	Cllr Susan Dyke	Cllr Julia Shorrocks
	Cllr Shaun Hole	Cllr Annette Street
	Cllr Rodney Jackson (WSCC/MSDC)	Cllr Lindsay Thompson

Also Present: Sarah Groom, Clerk to the Council, and Cllr Lyn Williams and Cllr Zeidler (MSDC).

In the absence of the Chairman Cllr Llewellyn, Cllr Majsai as Vice-Chairman chaired the meeting.

C26/27.066: Apologies for Absence: Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Sarah Baldey, Cllr Helen Bedford and Cllr Malcolm Llewellyn, and it was:

RESOLVED: That the Council ACCEPTS the apologies for absence for Cllr Baldey, Bedford and Llewellyn.

C26/27.067: Declarations of interest: Cllr Hole and Cllr Sampson declared an interest in the item regarding the Reeds Lane wood sculpture, as they were Chairman and Trustee of the Sayers Common Village Shop respectively (Minute C26/27.075).

C26/27.068: Previous Minutes: Members received the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 23 July 2026, and it was:

RESOLVED: That the Council ADOPTS the minutes of 23 July 2026.

C26/27.069: Adjournment for Questions from the Public: There were six members of the public present. One member of the public requested that the damaged road signs on the Hurstpierpoint High Street (outside Charlotte Grace and Maison B) were reported again to WSCC and that a date for their repair was given. It was also reported that the white lines on Highfield Drive had been forgotten following the recent tarmacking works.

C26/27.070: Reports from Other Authorities: Members received reports from representatives of other authorities:

C26/27.070.1: West Sussex County Council (WSCC): Cllr Jackson had circulated a written report. WSCC has allocated additional money for road improvements. These may include repairs to the Cuckfield Road where sewerage tankers have damaged the surface and verge. An increase in education and health care plans for children with special needs is putting pressure on Council budgets, so cases are having to be prioritised. A team of Highway Rangers is being trialled in Worthing. WSCC will maintain the overgrown verge around the bus stop on Wickham Hill. WSCC has been monitoring speeds on Gatehouse Lane following the residents request for a Traffic Regulation Order, in advance of the WSCC moderation meeting later this year. WSCC is reviewing the proposed 20mph zone extension for Hurstpierpoint and will be feeding back their amendments to the Parish Council following the formal consultation. Cllr Avery asked about the College Lane surface works and Malthouse Lane gulley sweeping.

C26/27.070.2: Mid Sussex District Council (MSDC): Cllr Jackson gave an update on the District Plan. Cllr Williams thanked all of the 1,771 different individuals and organisations for responding to the Main Modifications consultation. There were 7,614 different comments. The Government has announced a pause in the decision of the reorganisation of local government in West Sussex. The implications on time scales are currently unknown. Cllr Zeidler explained that £1million had already been spent by the local authorities in West Sussex on the preparatory work. He had been very impressed with the responses from the parish councils and local groups on the District Plan

Main Modifications consultation. Cllr Zeidler had expressed his concern over the process being followed by the District Council at its Full Council meeting the previous night.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Jackson, Cllr Williams and Cllr Zeidler for their reports.

C26/27.071: Committee Minutes: Members received and as appropriate, considered the recommendations of the:

C26/27.071.1: Planning Committee (3 August 2026): There were no recommendations for Council.

C26/27.071.2: Finance, Governance & Estates Committee (13 August 2026): There were no recommendations for Council.

C26/27.071.3: Planning Committee (7 September 2026): There were no recommendations for Council.

C26/27.071.4: Community Engagement Committee (10 September 2026): There were no recommendations for Council.

C26/27.071.5: Finance, Governance & Estates Committee (17 September 2026): There was one recommendation for Council to agree the use of Earmarked Reserves, as follows:

> **F26/27.042: South Avenue Cemetery Drainage improvements:** The Committee considered a briefing note setting out proposals to install a French drain on the southern boundary of the South Avenue Cemetery. Cllr Llewellyn suggested a number of access points were included for inspections in future if required, and it was: RESOLVED: That the Committee agreed to recommend to Council that Barcombe Landscapes be appointed to install the French drain at a cost of £5,885+VAT, and to use funds from the Cemetery Earmarked Reserve (320) currently holding £25,017, and it was:
> **RESOLVED: That Council AGREES that Barcombe Landscapes be appointed to install the French drain at a cost of £5,885+VAT, and to use funds from the Cemetery Earmarked Reserve (320) currently holding £25,017.**

RESOLVED: That the Council RECEIVES the minutes of the following Committees and AGREES the recommendations:

i. **Planning Committee (3 August 2026)**
ii. **Finance, Governance & Estates Committee (13 August 2026)**
iii. **Planning Committee (7 September 2026)**
iv. **Community Engagement Committee (10 September 2026)**
v. **Finance, Governance & Estates Committee (17 September 2026)**

C26/27.072: Councillor Co-Option: Members considered two applications to fill the two ordinary vacancies for the Hurstpierpoint ward, and following a unanimous vote it was:

> **RESOLVED: That the Council ELECTS Sue Kelly and Jayne Webb to serve as parish councillors on the Hurstpierpoint ward, and agrees their membership of the Planning and Finance, Governance & Estates Committees. Cllr Webb would join the Hurst Meadows Working Group and Cllr Kelly would join the Sustainability Working Group.**

C26/27.073: Review of 2025/26 External Audit Report: Members considered the 2025/26 External Audit Report, noting the one minor comment, and it was:

> **RESOLVED: That the Council ADOPTS the 2025/26 External Audit Report and thanks the Clerk and the team for the excellent outcome.**

C26/27.074: Internal Controls: Members considered the findings from the September 2026 internal controls exercise. Cllr Ranger explained that amendments to the delegations to the Clerk may be presented to the Annual Parish Council meeting in May 2027. Cllr Street suggested an amendment to Item 5B on page 6 , and it was:

> **RESOLVED: That the Council ADOPTS the findings from the September 2026 internal controls exercise.**

C26/27.075: Reeds Lane Wood Sculpture: Members considered a briefing note setting out the proposals for the Reeds Lane Wood Sculpture, and it was:

> **RESOLVED: That the Council AGREES to the proposal for carving the oak tree stump at Reeds Lane Recreation Ground and the design, to be commissioned by the Parish Council, and paid for by the Sayers Common Village Shop.**

C26/27.076: Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies: Members received reports from representatives on outside bodies as follows:

C26/27.076.1: High Street: Cllr Thompson raised the issue of ongoing shoplifting in the High Steet and had found the Sussex Police on-line reporting tool very easy to use. Cllr Dyke felt the Co-Op was an essential service for residents so must be protected. There was a suspected armed robbery at the Post Office on 12th August. Cllr Shorrocks had attended the late notice residents' meeting with the Police on 20 September 2026, at which some twenty-five residents were present, most of whom had had valuables stolen from their properties. The Police encouraged everyone to report any incident which helps them to get a wider picture of the problems and offenders. CCTV had been suggested as a possible aid. Cllr Dyke suggested another write up in our Hurst Life article encouraging residents to report crimes.

C26/27.076.2: Hurstpierpoint Society: Cllr Dyke reported that the Society had spent a lot of time on their excellent submission to the District Plan consultation. The Society was at the Festival Super Sunday event and will also be present at the Santa Saturday event, possibly within Hurst Works with a Museum Group exhibit.

C26/27.076.3: Sayers Common Village Society: Cllr Thompson reported that the Society was busy with bulb planting, organising Christmas carols and discussing options about the LVS School old chapel.

C26/27.077: Other Information Items

C26/27.077.1: MSDC Draft District Plan: Members noted the final submission by the Parish Council to the Main Modifications in the draft Mid Sussex District Plan and received a verbal update on the next steps. There will be further Public Examination Hearings held by the Planning Inspector from 3-6 November 2026, at which the Parish Council will be present. Cllr Dyke had found the website very difficult to use, despite MSDC stating that was their preferred form of receiving responses. The timing of the consultation was also very poor as most of it was during the school holidays. The Parish Council will discuss this matter further at its 22 October 2026 Council meeting.

There being no other business, the Vice-Chairman closed the meeting at 8.48pm.

Chairman