

FLETCHING PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Gabriella Paterson-Griggs

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Website: www.fletching-pc.gov.uk



MINUTES of the Meeting of **FLETCHING PARISH COUNCIL** held on Monday 8th September 2025 in the Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Church Street, Fletching from 6.30 – 7.41pm

PRESENT: Councillors R Hannay (Chairman), K Minch, L Schofield and D Woollven.

Also in attendance: Gabriella Paterson-Griggs (Clerk and RFO) and Councillors C Coleman (WDC) and R Galley (ESCC).

Members of the Public in Attendance: 3

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A Abraham, R Borton, N Collum, W Constantinou and D Greenish.

25/139. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest

25/140. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the last meeting held on 14th July 2025 were a correct record and were duly signed by the Chairman.

25/141. MATTERS ARISING

The Actions List as prepared and circulated by the Clerk was noted.

25/142. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Councillor Galley reported that with regards to Devolution the constituent authorities – ESCC, WSCC and Brighton & Hove – would each be meeting separately before the end of September 2025 where there was an expectation that consent would be given for the creation of the Mayoral Combined County Authority for Sussex. He expressed some concern about the increasing emphasis on the power of the newly formed role of mayor as, although they would be elected, they would be able to appoint commissioners for services such as police, fire and health who would not be elected. It was noted there were other areas such as transport that would move under the mayor's jurisdiction.

Councillor Galley informed the Parish Council that jet patching had now taken place along the road all the way from Trading Boundaries to the junction with the A272. Councillors thanked him for persevering to get the works carried out. However, concern was raised as to the non-communication from ESCC Highways with either the Parish Council or the businesses in Fletching village as to the road closures that took place without prior warning. It was noted that there were a number of issues being raised by Parish Councils across East Sussex in respect of Highways and that these were being collated by East Sussex Association of Local Councils in order for a meeting to take place with the Assistant Director.

Note: Councillor L Schofield arrived at 6.43pm during this item.

25/143. REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Councillor Coleman gave a report that covered the following areas:

- *Wealden DC Finances:* the Council's finances were in robust health with no debt in the General Fund (the only authority in Sussex without debt) despite misleading BBC headlines stating otherwise. The Council has agreed that, with local government reorganisation on the horizon, funds raised within Wealden were to be spent on projects that would benefit the long-term future of Wealden's communities.
- *Councillor Millward:* Councillor Rachel Millward, co-leader of Wealden DC, had been elected as deputy leader of the national Green Party.
- *Wilder Wealden:* Wealden had entered into a 5-year nature partnership with Sussex Wildlife Trust. Funding of £1.2m would be invested in exciting and new projects throughout the programme. Wealden would also become a formal partner of the Weald to Waves project.

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- *Ashdown Forest*: The Council has donated £450k to the centenary celebrations of Winnie-the-Pooh to help promote and protect the Forest.
- *Local Government Re-organisation*: the process was still ongoing despite the Government re-shuffle. District Councillors considered that there were no longer any benefits to being in the priority programme particularly as there was no additional funding.
- *Speeding along A275*: concern about speeding along the A275 between Danehill and Sheffield Green had been raised with Cllr Coleman by local residents. Cllr Galley confirmed that he was also aware of the concerns and was dealing with the signage issues. In respect of speedwatch monitoring it was not clear whether the (now dormant) group had ever requested to monitor that road. It was suggested that Cllr Coleman contact the original organiser to find out.
- *Ward Grant*: Danehill historical society had requested a scanner under the grant scheme. Cllr Coleman had suggested that they may like to offer its use to Fletching but the society was concerned about moving it. The Parish Council explained that the majority of its history was already digitised but that if they were in need of a scanner it would be useful to have access to one under supervised use.

25/144. GRANT APPLICATIONS

The following grant applications were considered:

- Fletching Music and Arts Festival*: £1179 towards the inaugural music and arts festival to support setting up the website, filming the events and a card machine.
- Fletching Bonfire Society*: £500 towards rebuilding the bonfire trailer that was over 20 years old.

It was **RESOLVED** to award both of these grants in full.

25/145. WORKING GROUPS / EXTERNAL GROUPS

- Neighbourhood Plan*: Cllr Hannay reported that the 17 responses received to the last consultation, some of which were very full, were being analysed and would be incorporated into the final draft which would then come back to the Parish Council for consideration.
- Fletching Recreation Ground Committee (FRGC)*: The Clerk reported that the cricket and stoolball seasons had now finished. Unfortunately, the toddler group would not be starting up again but the Parish Council would continue to meet in the Pavilion. The AGM was due to be held on 30th September 2025.
- Village Hall Committee of Management*: Cllr Hannay reported that the new caretaker had started and was working very hard already. The cottage was still being refurbished and was going to have to be re-wired. The Management Committee was meeting on 15 September and was intending to apply for a Community Led Infrastructure Fund (CLIF) grant from Wealden DC for a complete refurbishment of the Village Hall.
- Wealden District Association of Local Councils*: Cllr Minch reported that she had attended the meeting where the main subject was the local government reorganisation. It was noted that this would be dealt with in more detail at the Wealden Parish Conference being held on 21 October that Cllrs Hannay and Greenish would be attending. The CLIF grant had also been raised.

25/146. CORRESPONDENCE / CONSULTATIONS RECEIVED

- Parking Issues in Fletching High Street*: a resident had reported that parking had been occurring on both sides of the High Street during the summer. It was noted that at the time the photo was taken there had been additional events taking place in the village. Councillors were reminded of the work that the Parish Council had undertaken in the past in respect of the parking issues and how these were affected by the District Council's decision not to charge for parking. It was agreed that an explanation be included in the parish magazine article.

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25/147. FINANCE AND ASSETS

- i. The invoices and payments for August 2025 were **NOTED** and for September 2025 were **AUTHORISED** and the Council's current financial position and bank reconciliation were noted.
- ii. Councillors considered the proposal to move to a different payroll provider and the savings that would realise. It was **RESOLVED** that Bee Happy Payroll Ltd be appointed for the October payroll and going forward.
- iii. The External Auditor's Note and Certificate for 2024/25 were **NOTED**.

25/148. BURIAL GROUND

- i. The following items were **AGREED**:
 - a. Grant of Exclusive Rights of Burial – Susan Scott-Gatty
 - b. 2nd inscription on an existing monument – t/l Andrew Johnson
- ii. It was reported that Cllr Greenish had investigated the rights of access to the burial ground from Cherry Cottages and it was **AGREED** that he approach Wealden District Council with a view to formalising the existing position.

25/149. ENFORCEMENT – PLANNING AND DRAINAGE

There were no enforcement or drainage issues reported.

25/150. PLANNING APPLICATIONS - RECEIVED

It was **RESOLVED** to make the comments as set out after each application in respect of the following:

i. **WD/2025/1775/F Little Lodge, Shortbridge Road, Piltdown TN22 3XJ**

Proposed first floor extension over existing garage to form new open plan room.

The extension is not easily visible from adjoining properties and, although the height of the building is effectively doubled, it will still be lower than the height of the main house. The proposed use of the additional storey is not finally settled but is shown on the drawings as being either a home office or an additional bedroom, possibly with a en-suite shower room. The Parish Council SUPPORTS the application subject to the imposition of the usual conditions that (i) the additional space should be used only for domestic purposes as ancillary accommodation for the main house and (ii) the garage building should not be disposed separately from the main house.

ii. **WD/2025/1919/LDE Moses Farm, Goldbridge Road, Piltdown TN22 3XN**

Evidence of commencement works to WD/2020/2290/F (the construction of a new detached garage with garden store and stairs to home and office above abutting existing driveway).

The Parish Council considers that the planning consent WD/2020/2290/F could not be lawfully implemented as there was no listed building consent given. The application site lies within the curtilage of a listed building and therefore, listed building consent would have been required. Consequently, a lawful development certificate for existing use should not be issued.

The following applications for a Certificate of Lawful Development for Existing Use were **NOTED**:

i. **WD/2025/1462/LDE Shortbridge Lodge, Mill Hill, Shortbridge, Piltdown TN22 3YH**

Use of land as garden for other ancillary residential purposes.

ii. **WD/2025/1782/LDE 1 Bonswick Cottage, Mill Lane, Fletching TN22 3PY**

Use of land for the purpose incidental and ancillary to the residential occupation of 1 Bonswick Cottage.

25/151. PLANNING APPLICATIONS - DECISIONS

Planning decisions **RECEIVED** from Wealden District Council since the last meeting:

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Applications Approved

- i. **WD/2025/0889/F Archers Cottage, North Hall Lane, Fletching TN22 3SA**
Two storey rear extension to replace existing single storey extension. (APPROVED 9 July 2025)
- ii. **WD/2025/0914/MFA Land south of Copwood Farm and to west of A22, Uckfield Bypass, Uckfield TN22 3PT**
Variation of conditions 3, 5, 28 & 31 of WD/2021/2001/MFA. (APPROVED 31 July 2025)
- iii. **WD/2025/1350/FR Roselands, Goldbridge Road, Piltdown TN22 3XL**
Retrospective consent for a detached single storey outbuilding. (APPROVED 23 July 2025)
- iv. **WD/2025/1704/FA Malling Farm, Down Street, Piltdown TN22 3XU**
Variation of condition 2 of WD/2024/0103/F to allow for minor amendments to the design of the proposed dwelling. (APPROVED 1 September 2025)
- v. **WD/2025/1499/LDE Bluebell Wood Stables, Golf Club Lane, Piltdown TN22 3XB**
To confirm planning permission WD/2017/0120/F has been lawfully implemented by the construction of the approved access track. (CERTIFICATE ISSUED 30 July 2025)
- vi. **WD/2025/1599/LDE South Bungalow, Down Street, Piltdown TN22 3XU**
Occupation of the dwelling in breach of agricultural occupancy condition. (CERTIFICATE ISSUED 27 August 2025)
- vii. **WD/2025/7033/AD Flitteridge Farm, Daleham Lane, Splaynes Green TN22 3TQ**
TB isolation unit (TBIU) cattle barn. (PRIOR APPROVAL NOT REQUIRED 14 August 2025)

Applications Refused

- i. **WD/2025/1677/LDE Woodside, North Hall Lane, Fletching TN22 3TJ**
Established use of the land for storage, maintenance and process of works of a plant and machinery, timber cutting and preparation etc. in relation to a business concerned with landscape contracting. (CERTIFICATE NOT ISSUED 29 August 2025)

Applications Withdrawn

- i. **WD/2023/2989/F Piltdown Poultry, Fairhazel, Piltdown TN22 3YE**
Conversion of existing barn into a single dwelling. (WITHDRAWN 21 August 2025)

25/152. ITEMS FOR THE PARISH MAGAZINE

It was agreed that the following items be included for the next edition of the Parish Magazine:

- Parking – explanation of de-criminalised parking and double yellow lines
- Grants awarded at the meeting

25/153. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

It was requested that Councillors contact the Clerk with any items they wish to be considered at the next meeting.

25/154. TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

The next meeting of the Parish Council is due to be held on Monday 13th October 2025 at 6.30pm in the Pavilion.