

FLETCHING PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Gabriella Paterson-Griggs

E-mail: clerk@fletching-pc.gov.uk

Website: www.fletching-pc.gov.uk



MINUTES of the Meeting of **FLETCHING PARISH COUNCIL** held on Monday 10th November 2025 in the Village Hall, High Street, Fletching from 6.30 – 8.10pm

PRESENT: Councillors R Hannay (Chairman), N Collum, G Garland, D Greenish, C Logan, 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: 2

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were received from Councillor R Borton.

25/173. CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLOR

One application had been received for the casual vacancy for Parish Councillor. Councillors considered the application and asked questions of the applicant.

It was **RESOLVED** that Christopher Logan be co-opted to the role of Parish Councillor.

Chris Logan signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office which was witnessed by the Clerk as the Proper Officer.

25/174. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest

25/175. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the last meeting held on 13th October 2025 were a correct record and were duly signed by the Chairman.

25/176. MATTERS ARISING

The Actions List as prepared and circulated by the Clerk was noted. In respect of Wilderlands the current position was noted and it was agreed that the situation was concerning. Cllr Greenish agreed to look at all the correspondence received from Wealden DC and report back to the next meeting. It was suggested that the neighbours continue to keep a diary log whilst ensuring they were not putting themselves in any danger.

25/177. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Councillor Galley reported that from Monday 24 November 2025 the booking system for the household waste sites in East Sussex would come into effect.

He also stated that options were being considered by ESCC in order for it to reach a balanced budget for the year. It was noted that there had been a 7% year on year increase in adult social care and a 63% increase in Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP) for children. The three-year forecast for the County Council was being projected at an £88m deficit.

With regards to the road safety issue along the A275 near Trading Boundaries Councillor Galley confirmed that he was still waiting to hear back from the ESCC Road Safety Team.

Note: Cllr K Minch arrived at 7pm during this item.

25/178. REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Councillor Coleman reported that Wealden District Council had been predominantly dealing with the issue of Crowborough Camp having been identified by the Home Office to house 600 asylum seekers. It was noted that a Home Office representative had attended a Wealden DC Scrutiny meeting that morning and had apologised for the communication issues that had arisen and had confirmed that a decision had not yet been made.

Councillor Coleman advised the meeting that she had attended the planning committee and objected to the application for Wattles, Goldbridge Road but that it had been approved.

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25/179. COUNCILLOR ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Following the co-option of two new councillors the roles and responsibilities were updated with the following changes:

- *Community Safety* – add Chris Logan
- *Green Spaces* – new role (Grace Garland)
- *Health & Community Spaces* – add Grace Garland
- *Highways* – add Grace Garland
- *Highways Safety* – new role (Chris Logan)
- *Fletching School Liaison* – add Grace Garland
- *Fletching Historical Group* – Chris Logan to be added
- *Ashdown Forest Liaison Group* – add Grace Garland and Chris Logan

A275 Speed Watch – Cllr Logan updated the meeting in respect of his ongoing discussions with Speed Watch and it was noted that Steve O’Connell would be attending a meeting onsite to consider whether the area was safe for speed watch to be carried out. Cllr Galley to be invited to the meeting.

25/180. WORKING GROUPS / EXTERNAL GROUPS

- Neighbourhood Plan*: Nothing further to report.
- Fletching Recreation Ground Committee (FRGC)*: The Clerk reported that the AGM was due to be held on 3rd November 2025.
- Village Hall Committee of Management*: Cllr Hannay reported that the AGM was due to be held on Monday 24th November 2025. The works to the cottage to make it habitable were nearing completion.
- Wealden DC Parish Conference*: Cllr Hannay reported that he had attended the parish conference and that the areas discussed were funding opportunities, the Police elected official advisor, EV charging points and local government re-organisation opportunities. The timeline for the Local Plan was also highlighted with a further regulation 18 consultation taking place in Jan/Feb 2026 followed by the regulation 19 consultation in mid 2026 with the final plan being submitted in late 2026.

25/181. RESILIENCE PLAN

Councillors considered the draft resilience plan as circulated prior to the meeting and it was **AGREED** that the plan be adopted as a starting point. The Clerk to complete the contact details and circulate including to Wealden DC.

25/182. CORRESPONDENCE / CONSULTATIONS RECEIVED

- East Sussex County Council – Grass Cutting Options 2026/27*: Councillors considered the two options for the urban grass cutting service for 2026/27 and **AGREED** that Option one be chosen – two cuts over the course of the year to be carried out by ESCC at no cost to the Parish Council – the grass to be managed for safety purposes only.

25/183. FINANCE AND ASSETS

- The invoices and payments for November 2025 were **AUTHORISED** and the Council’s current financial position and bank reconciliation were noted.
- The quarter 2 update on the 2025/26 budget was noted.

25/184. BURIAL GROUND

There were no requests or permits received. It was noted that refurbishment works would be commencing on the Maryon Wilson burial plot over the coming months.

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25/185. ENFORCEMENT – PLANNING AND DRAINAGE

- i. *Flitteridge Farm*: It was noted that lorries had been offloading earth into the field where the TBIU was due to be placed and it was requested that incidents continue to be logged.

25/186. PLANNING APPLICATION – WD/2025/0922/MEA Land at Owlsbury Farm, Little Horsted

An update on the Wealden DC meeting attended by Councillor Greenish and Hugh Bullock on behalf of the Council was circulated prior to the meeting. The concerns raised as to the way the application promoters were minimising the objections were noted and the Parish Council wished to put on record that it was dissatisfied with the meeting. It was felt that to ensure that a level playing field was perceived there needed to be an opportunity for the parishes to make representations to the District councillors. It was **AGREED** that Cllr Greenish draft a letter to be sent to the other parishes involved.

25/187. PLANNING APPLICATIONS - RECEIVED

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

- i. **WD/2024/2186/LDE Woodside, North Hall Lane, Fletching TN22 3TJ**

Light industrial use (including storage, maintenance and processing of materials, plant and equipment and timber products used for and resulting from a landscape contractor's business).

This application was for noting only.

25/188. PLANNING APPLICATIONS – APPEAL DECISIONS

Planning Appeal decisions received since the last meeting:

- i. **WD/2024/2267/PIP Land at rear of Roselands, Goldbridge Road, Piltdown TN22 3TD**

Erection of two-bedroom single storey dwelling and associated works (DISMISSED 17 October 2025).

- ii. **WD/2024/2539/FR Woodside, North Hall Lane, Fletching TN22 3TJ**

Retrospective application for a change of use to a parcel of land from agricultural to residential and to retain secure store for bicycles and garden machinery. (DISMISSED 10 October 2025)

25/189. PLANNING APPLICATIONS - DECISIONS

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

Applications Approved

- 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. (APPROVED 9 October 2025)

Applications Refused – none since the last meeting

Applications Withdrawn – none since the last meeting

25/190. PARISH IN BLOOM 2025

The Clerk announced that the Council had been awarded Gold in the best parish category for 2025 and had again been the group winner. Thanks was given to all those involved in achieving this for the second year running.

25/191. ITEMS FOR THE PARISH MAGAZINE

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

- Appointment of new councillors
- Parish in Bloom result

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25/192. 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.

25/193. TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

The next meeting of the Parish Council is due to be held on Monday 8th December 2025 at 6.30pm.