

FLETCHING PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Gabriella Paterson-Griggs

Tel: 07534 959772

E-mail: clerk@fletching-pc.org

Website www.fletching-pc.org



8th January 2025

FLETCHING PARISH COUNCIL MEETING - Monday 13th January 2025

To Members of the Fletching Parish Council: You are summoned to attend a meeting of Fletching Parish Council on Monday 13th January 2025, 6.30pm at the Pavilion, Fletching Recreation Ground, Church Street, Fletching.

Signed: *Gabriella Paterson-Griggs*, Clerk and RFO

Public Questions

The first ten minutes, before the start of the meeting, are available for public participation. Members of the public may ask questions or make representations, in respect of the business on the agenda. They may only speak at other points during the meeting, at the Chairman's discretion, if they have knowledge or information that will aid the discussion.

This meeting may be audio recorded for the purpose of minute taking

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence as reported at the meeting.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive Declarations of Interest in respect of items on the agenda, as required by the Members' Code of Conduct.

3. MINUTES

To resolve that the minutes of the meetings held on 9th December 2024 as circulated on the agenda are confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. – [see attached](#)

4. MATTERS ARISING

Update on any matters arising from the last meeting not covered elsewhere on the agenda. To note any action taken or agree further action to be taken. – [see attached](#)

5. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

To receive a report from the County Councillor Roy Galley.

6. REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

To receive a report from District Councillor Christina Coleman.

7. WORKING GROUPS / EXTERNAL GROUPS

To receive reports/updates from the Working Groups and External Bodies:

- i. Neighbourhood Plan – Cllr Hannay
- ii. Fletching Recreation Ground Committee – Clerk

8. COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PLAN

To approve the Community Resilience Plan for Fletching – [to follow](#)

9. CORRESPONDENCE / CONSULTATIONS RECEIVED

To note any correspondence / consultations received since the last meeting and agreed any actions:

- i. Wealden District Council: Wealden's Climate Green Paper – consultation – [see attached for link to consultation. To decide whether the Parish Council should respond and which cllr would lead on the response. Closing date 12 February 2025.](#)
- ii. MHCLG: Strengthening the standards and conduct framework for local government – consultation – [see attached to access the consultation. To decide whether the Parish Council should respond. Closing date 26 February 2025](#)

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- iii. Transport for South-East: Draft Transport Strategy – consultation – [see attached for link to consultation. To decide whether Parish Council should respond and which cllr would lead on the response. Closing date 7 March 2025.](#)
- iv. MHCLG: English Devolution White Paper – [see attached News Release from ESCC. White Paper was circulated separately when it was published.](#)

10. FINANCE AND ASSETS

- i. To approve the invoices and payments for January 2025 and note the Council's current financial position and bank reconciliation. – [see attached](#)
- ii. To adopt Level 1 allowances as recommended by the report of the Wealden Parish Independent Remuneration Panel – [see attached](#)
- iii. To approve the budget and precept for 2025/26 – [see attached proposed budget. Precept to be agreed at the meeting.](#)
- iv. Chairman to confirm and sign the precept request from WDC for submission by 14th January 2025

11. BURIAL GROUND

- i. To approve any requests or permits for the Burial Ground. – [none received](#)
- ii. General Grounds Maintenance – to consider the current contractor's quote for various aspects of additional grounds maintenance for the burial ground – [see attached](#)

PLANNING AND LICENSING

12. ENFORCEMENT – PLANNING AND DRAINAGE

To discuss any issues/updates raised related to suspected breaches of planning or other regulations.

13. PLANNING APPLICATIONS – RECEIVED – [see attached](#)

To agree comments to be submitted to Wealden District Council for the following applications:

- i. **WD/2024/2539/FR Woodside, North Hall Lane, Fletching**
Retrospective application for a change of use of parcel of land from agricultural to residential.
Retrospective application to retain secure store for bicycles and garden machinery. (Comments to be submitted by 14 January 2025)
- ii. **WD/2024/2695/FA Malling Farm, Down Street, Piltdown TN22 3XU**
Variation of condition 2 of WD/2024/0103/F to make minor amendments to the siting of the proposed development. (Comments to be submitted by 14 January 2025)

14. PLANNING APPLICATIONS - DECISIONS

To note the planning application decisions from Wealden District Council received since the last meeting(s):

Applications Approved

- i. **WD/2022/1491/F Byerly, Large Barn, Bell Lane, Fletching TN22 3YB**
Proposed conversion of a redundant barn to a single residential dwelling together with associated landscaping. (APPROVED 20 December 2024)

Applications Refused

- i. **WD/2024/2301/F Piltdown Cottage, Golf Club Lane, Piltdown TN22 3XB**
Proposed two storey rear extension and internal alterations. (REFUSED 12 December 2024)
Officer Response to the Parish Council
While the Parish Council's support is noted, WDC cannot agree with their comments on the design of the proposed development. As outlined below, the extension would add an overly large and bulky two-storey element to the rear of the property which would be at odds with the linear character of the existing cottage. Its roof form would also be unsympathetic and contrived. While there is no objection to the principle of a two-storey extension at the property, this design is not appropriate and cannot be supported. It is also noted that while the extension would not be visible

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from the highway, it would be readily visible from the adjacent public right of way, particularly in the autumn and winter when trees and shrubs have lost their leaves.

Applications Withdrawn

i. **WD/2024/2122/F Moses Farm, Goldbridge Road, Piltdown TN22 3XN**

Construction of two new self-build dwellings on vacant land east of Moses Farmhouse with associated landscape works. (WITHDRAWN 19 December 2024)

15. ITEMS FOR THE PARISH MAGAZINE

To agree any items to be included in future editions of the Parish Magazine

16. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

To discuss and note any future agenda items

17. TIME AND DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

To agree the time and dates of the next meeting of the Parish Council.

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MINUTES of the Meeting of **FLETCHING PARISH COUNCIL** held on Monday 9th December 2024 in The Pavilion, Fletching Recreation Ground, Fletching (6.30 – 7.30pm).

PRESENT: Councillors D Greenish (Vice-Chair in the Chair), R Borton, N Collum, S De St Croix and K Minch.

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

Members of the Public in Attendance: 1

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A Abraham, W Constantinou and R Hannay

24/193. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting

24/194. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the last meeting held on 11th November 2024 were a correct record and were duly signed by the Chairman.

24/195. MATTERS ARISING

The Actions List as prepared and circulated by the Clerk was noted. The Clerk updated on the following items.

- *CIL Funds* – it was noted that the handrail was still to be installed and that a quote had been requested for the path in the burial ground.
- *Historical Documents* – Councillor Hannay had made contact with Geoff Isted.

24/196. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Councillor Galley reported that the local government settlement announcement was due on 19 December. He also stated that he was meeting with Cllr De St Croix to look at Highways issues within the parish and that some drainage works had been undertaken in Church Street with more to follow in February.

With regards to the drainage issues along the A272 in Piltdown, raised by a member of the public, and the lack of communication from ESCC Highways on the matter despite a formal complaint being raised, Cllr Galley requested photos and further details to be sent to him (and cc'd to the Clerk) so that he could raise the issue directly with the officers.

Note: Cllr Borton arrived at the meeting at 6.41pm prior to the following item.

24/197. REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Councillor Coleman reported that Wealden's Big Conversation took place on 3 December 2024 and that it had been a very positive day with over 100 organisations represented. It was noted that Wealden's Climate Change Strategy was being prepared and that the Local Nature Recovery Strategy report was now available.

Councillor Coleman stated that the Alliance Partnership at Wealden had been changed and now included the two Labour Councillors. A Motion on the Pensions Bill had been passed at the Full Council meeting to urge the government to support pensioners that were not receiving the heating allowance and for more home insulation to be provided.

It was noted that the new NPPF was expected imminently as well as the Devolution White Paper that was expected to announce the introduction of unitary councils across the country. This would likely be East and West Sussex and Brighton. With regards to the Local Plan it was explained that this would be on hold until the implications of the new NPPF were understood.

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24/198. WORKING GROUPS / EXTERNAL GROUPS

- i. *Fletching Recreation Ground Committee (FRGC)*: The Clerk reported that the Committee had met and considered the budget for 2025 which was indicating a deficit but it was hoped that bookings would increase over the coming year.

24/199. COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PLAN

Cllr Minch reported that the Community Resilience Plan had been drafted and that she had achieved the inclusion of a representative for all parts of the Parish. The next step would be for the Plan to be approved at the next Parish Council meeting and a meeting held with all the representatives.

24/200. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

MHCG Enabling Remote Attendance and Proxy Voting at Local Authority Meetings - consultation: Members AGREED the response to the consultation as circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting.

24/201. FINANCE AND ASSETS

- i. The invoices and payments for December 2024 were **AUTHORISED** and the Council's current financial position and bank reconciliation were noted.
- ii. *Draft Budget 2025/26*: the first draft budget for 2025/26 was noted.
- iii. *Piltdown Village Gates*: Councillors noted that the licence had been transferred to the Parish Council from the Piltdown Residents' Association free of charge by ESCC. The gates were also insured by the Parish Council and included on the asset register.

24/202. BURIAL GROUND

- i. *Surrender of Grant of Burial Rights*: the request to surrender a grant of burial rights was **APPROVED**.
- ii. *Maryon Wilson Graves*: the request made by the family representative for the funds held by the Parish Council to be used as part of a wider refurbishment project for the graves and memorial was **APPROVED**.
- iii. *Kissing Gate and Railings*: the quote received to repair the kissing gate and railings in the burial ground was **APPROVED**.

24/203. ENFORCEMENT – PLANNING and DRAINAGE

Pollution Issue – Piltdown: Councillor Coleman confirmed that, in respect of a different property that had raised concerns regarding trees dying, dye tests had been undertaken by Wealden DC and there was no direct link from the garage and no toxins had been found. It was thought that the issue with the leylandii was the boggy conditions.

24/204. PLANNING APPLICATIONS - RECEIVED

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

- i. **WD/2024/1594/F + 2098/LB Knabbs Farm, High Street, Fletching TN22 3SX**

Conversion of redundant barn to create ancillary accommodation to host property. Change of use of land to residential to include remaining part of barn.

This application is for the conversion of a redundant agricultural barn to residential use. The barn lies within the curtilage of Knabbs Farmhouse which is a Grade II listed building. The site lies within the Fletching with Splaynes Green Conservation Area. The proposal is that the converted barn will then be used as ancillary residential accommodation for the owners and occupiers of Knabbs Farmhouse. In addition to the planning application, there is also an application for Listed Building consent.

This is the response to both applications.

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Although under Saved Policy DC8 proposals for the conversion of agricultural buildings outside development boundaries would not be permitted unless (i) suitable efforts have been made to establish an alternative business use or (ii) the conversion is a subordinate part of a scheme for business re-use, the Council takes the view that a business use for this barn would not be appropriate. Furthermore, the Council considers that the proposal (subject to the imposition of appropriate conditions) meets the criteria specified in paragraphs (1) to (5) of Saved Policy DC8 (including, in relation to the Listed Building Application, Saved Policy EN22).

The Council does have reservations over the proposal to extend the residential curtilage to the area of grassland shown hatched in red on the Block Plan and has concerns over the lack of detail of the design of the courtyard and parking areas. In this regard, it is important to be satisfied that "the proposed use and its associated activities, including garaging, would not detract from the rural setting of the building through the formation of a domestic curtilage. The curtilage should not be intrusive in the landscape".

Subject to the above, the Council SUPPORTS the applications on the basis that conditions are imposed that:

- 1. The residential use should be restricted to accommodation ancillary to the residential use of Knabbs Farmhouse*
- 2. As such, the barn should not be occupied, sold or otherwise disposed of otherwise than in conjunction with Knabbs Farmhouse*
- 3. As provided in paragraph (4) of Saved Policy DC8*
 - a. A condition to exclude permitted development rights to extend or alter the building and erect other ancillary buildings etc*
 - b. A legal agreement not to extend or alter Knabbs Farmhouse in order to increase the accommodation therein.*

ii. **WD/2024/2486/LB Sheffield Park Garden, Sheffield Park TN22 3XB**

Replacement of rotten non original suspended timber floor and ramp, replacement and reconfiguration of visitor toilets, regularisation of existing works.

The Parish Council has NO COMMENTS to make on this application.

iii. **WD/2024/2539/FR Woodside, North Hall Lane, Fletching TN22 3XB**

Retrospective application for a change of use of parcel of land from agricultural to residential. Retrospective application to retain secure store for bicycles and garden machinery.

This is to be deferred until the next meeting of the Parish Council.

24/205. PLANNING APPLICATIONS - DECISIONS

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

Applications Approved

i. **WD/2024/2163/F Piltdown Lodge, Lodge Lane, Piltdown TN22 3XU**

Erection of single storey extension, installation of rooflight. (APPROVED 26 November 2024)

Applications Refused

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

Erection of two bedroom single storey dwelling and associated works. (REFUSED 7 November 2024)

Applications Withdrawn

i. **WD/2024/2218/F Heathside, Barkham Lane, Piltdown TN22 3XE**

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Change of use of land from agricultural to domestic. (WITHDRAWN 15 November 2024)

24/206. ITEMS FOR THE PARISH MAGAZINE

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

- Piltdown Gates

24/207. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The following items to be future agenda items:

- Local Government Boundary Commission for England review for Wealden

24/208. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was **RESOLVED** that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

24/209. STAFFING

The Clerk's annual increment was **CONFIRMED** following a satisfactory performance appraisal – to be back dated to 1st April 2024.

24/210. TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

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

Subject: Help Shape Wealden's Climate Green Paper
Date: Wednesday 8 January 2025 at 10:41:35 Greenwich Mean Time
From: Wealden Sustainability
Attachments: image001.png, image002.png, image003.jpg, image004.png

Dear Town & Parish Councils

We need your valuable input to help shape Wealden's Climate Green Paper and ensure it reflects the ideas and solutions that matter most to our communities.

Our consultation survey is live and can be found on the Let's Talk Wealden platform, under the Climate Change Hub, [Wealden's Climate Green Paper](#). The survey is open for another 5 weeks and will close on **Wednesday, 12th February**.

Your feedback will directly influence the direction of our climate initiatives, so please share this survey widely with your networks.

Additionally, we would be delighted to attend any network meetings or events where we can discuss the draft Climate Green Paper in more detail. Please feel free to extend an invitation to us if there is an opportunity to attend.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to email us at sustainability@wealden.gov.uk.

Thank you for your support and collaboration in this important initiative.

Best Wishes
Climate Change Team
Chantal, Alex and Kate

Follow our facebook page [@ClimateChangeWealden](#)
Climate Change Hub- <https://letstalk.wealden.gov.uk/hub-page/climate-change>
Climate Change Website pages- <https://www.wealden.gov.uk/climate-change/>



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Government Consultation: 'Strengthening The Standards and Conduct Framework For Local Authorities in England'

The government is seeking views on proposals to introduce measures to strengthen the standards and conduct regime for local authorities in England. The proposals being consulted upon include:

- The introduction of a mandatory minimum code of conduct for local authorities in England
- A requirement that all principal authorities convene formal standards committees to make decisions on code of conduct breaches, and publish the outcomes of all formal investigations
- The introduction of the power for all local authorities (including combined authorities) to suspend councillors or mayors found in serious breach of their code of conduct and, as appropriate, interim suspension for the most serious and complex cases that may involve police investigations
- A new category of disqualification for gross misconduct and those subject to a sanction of suspension more than once in a 5-year period.
- A role for a national body to deal with appeals

To view the consultation follow this link:

https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/strengthening-the-standards-and-conduct-framework-for-local-authorities-in-england/strengthening-the-standards-and-conduct-framework-for-local-authorities-in-england?utm_source=emailmarketing&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=news_bulletin_18_december_2024&utm_content=2025-01-09

Subject: Re: Transport for the South East's draft Transport Strategy Consultation
Date: Tuesday 10 December 2024 at 17:17:26 Greenwich Mean Time
From: BRTA Using old ERTA Transport
To: TfSE
BCC: clerk@fletching-pc.org
Attachments: image001.png

Thank you. FYI

On Tue, 10 Dec 2024 at 16:37, TfSE <TF.SE@eastsussex.gov.uk> wrote:

Good afternoon,

We're pleased to announce that today Transport for the South East have launched the public consultation on our draft Transport Strategy.

As you will remember, you kindly gave us your views as part of our Your Voices survey earlier this year.

This has been instrumental in the development of our draft strategy, and we're pleased to share this document with you.

[Give us your views here](#)

You can watch a short overview video to [introduce our strategy here](#).

Our consultation will be open until March 7th 2025.

You can find out more and [view the draft Transport Strategy on our website](#).

We appreciate your ongoing engagement, and look forward to receiving your survey submissions to help us shape our final document.

The Newsroom

Latest news from East Sussex County Council



Sussex councils agree to submit expression of interest to devolution priority programme



THE Cabinets of the three Sussex upper tier Councils have today agreed to submit an expression of interest to be considered for the Government's Devolution Priority Programme indicating support for a Sussex Mayoral Strategic Authority which could unlock new money and powers for the region.

The Government's white paper on English Devolution states that Mayoral Strategic Authorities will bring funding and local decision-making powers down from central Government to deliver on economic growth, jobs and skills, housing and transport.

A Mayoral Strategic Authority could give the people of Sussex a stronger voice in how national decisions affect them and greater power to shape major projects across the area.

If the Government accepts the initial proposal for Sussex to join the devolution priority programme, the Government will run a consultation to obtain residents' views.

Leader of East Sussex County Council, Cllr Keith Glazier, said: "This is historic for Sussex; bringing together the three authorities and our partners to discuss the future of local government in the area and the benefits to our residents, businesses, and communities it could bring. We have all looked closely at the Government's white paper, together discussed its benefits and what it offers and believe that we have come to the right decision to put forward an expression of interest for a Strategic Mayoral Authority for Sussex."

Cllr Bella Sankey, Leader of Brighton & Hove City Council said: "This is an exciting and significant step to unlock new powers and funding for communities across Sussex. I'm keen to move swiftly with the Government and all tiers of local government across the region to take advantage of the opportunities being presented to us. Other parts of our country that have already devolved are already improving residents' lives by integrating bus services and addressing health inequalities and I want our residents to feel these benefits too."

West Sussex County Council Leader, Cllr Paul Marshall, said: "We were pleased to receive the clarity needed from the Government which clearly identified the benefits an elected Mayor and strategic authority would

bring to Sussex. By bringing powers down from central government on transport, infrastructure and health, we can join services and plans together that will enable more efficient and strategic decision making which will help boost our economy and the wellbeing of our residents and communities.”

The Government’s White Paper set out in detail the key areas that a strategic authority would be in control of to drive growth and provide support on shaping public services. These include:

- Transport and local infrastructure
- Skills and employment support
- Housing and strategic planning
- Economic development and regeneration
- Environment and climate change
- Health, wellbeing and public service reform
- Public safety

The expected timeline following the submission of the proposal is:

- A devolution consultation would be held before the end of March 2025.
- The results of the devolution consultation will be assessed in the Spring 2025 following which a Ministerial decision will be taken as to whether to proceed with a Mayoral Strategic Authority (prior to unitary re-organisation). The Spending Review will then confirm future mayoral investment funds for new mayoral areas.
- relevant legislation will be laid before Parliament in relation to the creation of Strategic Authorities.
- In March 2026 notice of mayoral elections will be given for a Mayoral election in May 2026. A decision whether to move to a Mayoral Strategic Authority under the reorganised arrangements would follow.

The plans for devolution do not change the councils’ commitment to service delivery for communities across Sussex.

There will follow a separate process of Local Government re-organisation

- A formal invitation to submit reorganisation proposals will be issued to all authorities in January.
- At the end of 2025 and in early 2026 Ministers will consider unitary proposals and delivery phasing with statutory consultations being undertaken on the first tranche of proposals.

Timelines for the remainder of the reorganisation process will be subject to the proposals received.

This entry was posted in Governance Services on January 9, 2025

[<https://news.eastsussex.gov.uk/2025/01/09/devolution-expression-of-interest/>] by karenb.

Fletching Parish Council Finances 31 December 2024

Payments made by Direct Debit/Debit Card/BACS in December 2024

Payee	For	Amount	Method
HSBC	Bank Charge	£ 5.00	DD
EE Ltd	Mobile Phone bill	£ 17.76	DD
Hugofox Ltd	FPC Website	£ 11.99	DD
Information Commisioners Office	Data Protection Fee	£ 35.00	DD
Wealden District Council	Dog Bins	£ 343.20	DD
Amazon	FRGC supplies	£ 7.52	DC
	TOTAL	£ 420.47	

Payments Received in December 2024

From	For	Amount
HSBC	Interest - Savings	£ 343.18
HSBC	Interest - War Memorial	£ 2.07
HSBC	Interest - Maryon-Wilson	£ 2.44
	Total	£ 347.69

Payments for Approval – January 2025

Payee	For	Amount	Method
TC Group Knill James	Payroll Provider	£ 48.44	BACS
HMRC	PAYE Oct - Dec 2024	£ 507.92	BACS
John Farrington & Co Ltd	Handrail replacement	£ 354.82	BACS
Fletching PCC	Grass cutting	£ 827.00	BACS
G Paterson-Griggs	Clerk Expenses	£ 26.92	BACS
ESCC Pension Fund	Clerk Pension	£ 319.49	BACS
G Paterson-Griggs	Clerk Salary	£1,074.36	BACS
	TOTAL	£3,158.95	

Fletching Parish Council Bank Reconciliation		31-Dec-24		
Balance per bank statements as at		31-Dec-24	Cashbook	
FPC Current Account	£	16,505.38	Opening balance	£ 56,377.57
FPC Savings Account	£	72,900.17	Add receipts in year	£ 77,634.58
FPC War Memorial Account	£	438.96	Less payments in year	-£ 43,648.64
FPC Maryon-Wilson Account	£	519.00		
Net Balance	£	90,363.51	Balance	£ 90,363.51

APPROVED at a Parish Council Meeting on 13 January 2025:

Signed:

Chair of Fletching Parish Council

Date: 13 January 2025

Report of the Wealden Parish Independent Remuneration Panel on Town and Parish Councillor Allowances for 2025/26

Introduction

1. This is the 24th Annual Report of the Parish Independent Allowances and Remuneration Panel to make recommendations regarding the amount of payments that may be made to Councillors. The Panel is established by Wealden District Council under Regulation 27 of the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003, for the Town and Parish Councils in its area (full list of Town and Parish Councils to which the report applies is attached at Appendix A).

Summary

2. The Panel recommends:

- a) That allowances should be paid in accordance with three bands, Levels 1 to 3 as defined in Appendix A;
- b) That there be an increase in allowances in line with that recommended for District Councillors, with Basic and Chairman's Allowances rounded to the nearest pound. These allowances for 2025/26 to be as set out below.

2025/26	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3
<i>Basic Allowance</i>	<i>£194</i>	<i>£482</i>	<i>£1,537</i>
<i>Chairman's Allowance</i>	<i>£336</i>	<i>£756</i>	<i>£2,122</i>

- c) That the policy to fix Travelling Allowances in line with HM Revenue & Customs 'Approved Mileage Allowance Payment' (AMAP) rates be re-affirmed;
- d) Subsistence Allowance to be the same as those indicated for District Councillors. These allowances for 2025/26 are set out in the table below.

Breakfast	£8.00	When away from home on approved Council business before 8 a.m.
Lunch	£11.00	When away from home on approved Council business between 12 noon and 2 p.m.
Evening Meal	£20.00	When away from home on approved Council business after 7 p.m.
Overnight absence	£98.30	When outside London
London and specified Conferences	£110	

All claims must be accompanied by a valid receipt and payment is subject to Councillors signing to say they have actually and necessarily incurred the amount being claimed.

- e) That the recommendations set out above are all proposed for implementation at the commencement of the financial year 2025/26. However, Town and Parish Councils can choose the extent to which they wish to implement these allowances; and
- f) The Panel notes with regret that it is still not possible under the current legislation to recommend a Carers' Allowance for Parish/ Town Councillors, but would wish for all Parish and Town Councils to consider adopting a basic

allowance to enable Parish/Town Councillors to use this to cover care costs where need be to attend meetings.

Membership of Panel and Meetings

3. The Panel consists of three members – Mr Edward Stone (Chairman), Mr Stephen Hallam and Mr Clive Mills.
4. The Panel met in person on 12 November 2024.

Panel Remit

5. The Panel produces a report in relation to the members of the town and parish councils for which the Wealden District Council is the responsible authority and in respect of which it is established, making recommendations, in accordance with the provisions of regulation 29 of the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003, as to:
 - a) the amount of parish basic allowance payable to members of such town and parish councils;
 - b) the amount of travelling and subsistence allowance payable to members of such town and parish councils;
 - c) whether parish basic allowance should be payable only to the Mayor or Chairman of any such town and parish council or to all of its members;
 - d) whether, if parish basic allowance should be payable to both the Mayor or Chairman and the other members of any such town and parish council, the allowance payable to the Mayor or Chairman should be set at a level higher than that payable to the other members, and, if so, the higher amount so payable; and
 - e) the responsibilities or duties in respect of which members should receive parish travelling and subsistence allowance.

Parish Basic and Chairman's Allowances

6. As in previous years, the Panel has examined available data in order to assist in determination of a recommendation on parish/town council basic allowance and whether it should be payable to both the Mayor or Chairman and the other elected members of a town or parish council.
7. The Panel has considered last year's report to Town and Parish Councils recommending allowances for 2024/25.
8. The Clerk to the Panel had invited all Town and Parish Councillors, via the clerks, to provide any comments on the allowance scheme. Four responses had been received and welcomed.
9. The Panel emphasised that it is keen to see all Parish and Town Councils adopt a scheme of some sort, even if it is normal practice not to claim. This is to ensure that no potential candidate should be put off standing due to the costs of working as a local councillor, and to ensure that Parish and Town Councillors could choose to claim an allowance should they need to do so.
10. Following discussion, the Panel **recommends** that the increase in allowances is in line with that recommended for Wealden District Councillors at 3%, rounded to the nearest pound (£).
11. Regulation 29(2) requires that recommendations be expressed not only in cash terms but also as a percentage of the amount recommended by the Independent Remuneration Panel as the Basic Allowance for Wealden District Councillors. The Panel is recommending that the allowance is increased for District Councillors to £5193 per annum for the financial year 2025/26. Based on that figure, the percentages have been incorporated into the attached Appendix A.

Chairman's Allowance

12. As indicated in previous reports, individual Town and Parish Councils are free to decide whether an allowance should be payable only to the Mayor or Chairman and/or to all of its members. The Chairman's Allowance, as recommended by this report, is intended to be paid as a substitute for the Basic Allowance rather than in addition to it, but this is at the discretion of each Town and Parish Council.
13. Town and Parish Councils are reminded that the Chairman's Allowance (again detailed in the attached Appendix A) is an allowance personal to the Parish/Town Councillor elected Mayor or Chairman. It is entirely separate to the allowance under the Local Government Act 1972, Sections 15(5) and 35(5), which is payable as the Parish/Town Council thinks fit to reasonably meet the expenses of the office of Mayor or Chairman.
14. The Panel **recommends** an increase to all Chairman's Allowances of 3%, on the same basis as increases to Parish/Town Council Basic Allowances, as detailed in Appendix A attached.

Travelling Allowance

15. The Panel wanted to clarify that under Regulation 26, Town and Parish Councils may pay travelling and subsistence allowances, including an allowance in respect of travel by bicycle or by any other non-motorised form of transport, undertaken or incurred in connection with the performance of any duty within one or more of the categories set out in that Regulation. This also includes provision for encouraging car sharing.
16. Councillors can receive up to a tax-free approved amount when using their own vehicles in carrying out their duties. These payments are known as Approved Mileage Allowance Payments (AMAP), and as from 6 April 2011 the following rules apply:
 - Car or Van – 45p per mile for the first 10,000 miles and 25p per mile thereafter;
 - Motor Cycle – 24p per mile (all miles);
 - Cycle – 20p per mile (all miles); and
 - A 5 pence per mile per passenger supplement for up to four passengers.
 - Public transport subject to the Council's approval.

Subsistence Allowance

17. The Panel **recommends** that the current level of subsistence rates to be the same as those indicated for District Councillors. These allowances for 2025/26 are set out in the table below:

Breakfast	£8.00	When away from home on approved Council business before 8 a.m.
Lunch	£11.00	When away from home on approved Council business between 12 noon and 2 p.m.
Evening Meal	£20.00	When away from home on approved Council business after 7 p.m.
Overnight absence	£98.30	When outside London
London and specified Conferences	£110	

18. It was confirmed that payment should still be subject to Parish/ Town Councillors certifying that they had actually and necessarily incurred the amount being claimed. The Panel commented that subsistence allowance was a 'top up' on the amount it would cost a councillor to eat at home.

Co-opted Members

19. As set out above, under the relevant legislation co-opted members of Town and Parish Councils are not eligible to be paid Parish/Town Council Basic Allowances nor Chairman's Allowances, but may claim Travelling and Subsistence Allowances. It is not in the Panel's remit to make any recommendations that this change.
20. Co-opted Members can claim a Co-optees' Allowance as provided for in their own Parish or Town Council's Allowance scheme.

Communication of Allowances

21. On receipt of this Report, Town and Parish Councils must advertise receipt of the report in line with Regulation 30 (2003 Regulations).
22. In setting the levels of allowances, Town and Parish Councils must show they have regard to the IRP's recommendations, but it is entirely up to each Town and Parish Council what scheme of allowances is adopted. The Panel has expressed its preference that an allowance scheme is adopted by all Councils, even if not claimed by individual Councillors. When adopting a scheme, Parish and Town Councils must under the Regulations publish its scheme by public notice.

Edward Stone
Chairman

Dated: 12 November 2024

	LEVEL1	LEVEL2	LEVEL3	
Basic Allowance	£194	£482	£1,537	
Chairman's Allowance	£ 336	£756	£ 2,122	
PARISH	No. of Cllrs	Maximum Basic Allowance	Maximum Chairman's Allowance	% of Recommended District Basic Allowance
<u>Level 1</u>				
Alciston	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>
Little Horsted	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>
Selmeston	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>
Cuckmere Valley	7	£194	£482	3.74%
Berwick	7	£194	£482	3.74%
Wartling	7	£194	£482	3.74%
Long Man	7	£194	£482	3.74%
Hooe	7	£194	£482	3.74%
Arlington	7	£194	£482	3.74%
Laughton	7	£194	£482	3.74%
Isfield	7	£194	£482	3.74%
Chiddingly	9	£194	£482	3.74%
Hellingly	15	£194	£482	3.74%
Hadlow Down	7	£194	£482	3.74%
Fletching	9	£194	£482	3.74%
Warbleton	11	£194	£482	3.74%
Frant	11	£194	£482	3.74%
Alfriston	7	£194	£482	3.74%
East Hoathly/Halland	9	£194	£482	3.74%
Chalvington/Ripe	7	£194	£482	3.74%
Horam	11	£194	£482	3.74%
East Dean/Friston	9	£194	£482	3.74%
Framfield	11	£194	£482	3.74%
Hartfield	13	£194	£482	3.74%
Ninfield	9	£194	£482	3.74%
Danehill	9	£194	£482	3.74%
Buxted	15	£194	£482	3.74%
Withyham	13	£194	£482	3.74%
Herstmonceux	11	£194	£482	3.74%
Mayfield/ Five Ashes	15	£194	£482	3.74%
Maresfield	14	£194	£482	3.74%
Rotherfield	13	£194	£482	3.74%
Westham	13	£194	£482	3.74%
Pevensay	13	£194	£482	3.74%
Wadhurst	15	£194	£482	3.74%

<u>Level 2</u>				
Forest Row	15	£482	£756	9.28%
Willingdon/Jevington	19	£482	£756	9.28%
Polegate	15	£482	£756	9.28%
Heathfield/Waldron	21	£482	£756	9.28%
<u>Level 3</u>				
Hailsham	24	£1,537	£2,122	29.60%
Uckfield	15	£1,537	£2,122	29.60%
Crowborough	16	£1,537	£2,122	29.60%

Fletching Parish Council Proposed Budget 2025/2026 (v1)

PAYMENTS	2024 - 2025		2025/26	Notes
	Budget	Year End Estimate	Proposed Budget	
Administration				
Bank Charges	£ 60.00	£ 60.40	£ 60.00	
ICT Hardware	£ 500.00	£ 5.82	£ 500.00	For laptop if new clerk had to be appointed
ICT Software	£ 55.00	£ 50.00	£ 55.00	MS Office 365 Fee
Insurance	£ 550.00	£ 560.00	£ 640.00	
Mobile Phone Charges	£ 175.00	£ 178.00	£ 190.00	
Room Hire	£ 350.00	£ 300.00	£ 275.00	Now meet in Pavilion or Church
Stationery etc	£ 85.00	£ 85.00	£ 85.00	
Total	£ 1,775.00	£ 1,239.22	£ 1,805.00	
Employees/Members				
Books	£ 100.00	£ -	£ 100.00	
Clerk Expenses	£ 200.00	£ 180.00	£ 200.00	
Clerk Salary	£ 18,000.00	£ 18,546.00	£ 19,500.00	includes increase in employer NI rates
Clerk Training	£ 50.00	£ -	£ 50.00	
Home Office Allowance	£ 312.00	£ 312.00	£ 312.00	
Member Training	£ 120.00	£ 100.00	£ 120.00	
Chairmans Expenses	£ 100.00	£ -	£ 100.00	
Members Allowances	£ 100.00	£ -	£ 100.00	
Members Expenses	£ 100.00	£ -	£ 100.00	
Total	£ 19,082.00	£ 19,138.00	£ 20,582.00	
Grants				
Grants	£ 1,500.00	£ 1,500.00	£ 1,500.00	
Total	£ 1,500.00	£ 1,500.00	£ 1,500.00	
Maintenance				
Burial Ground Maintenance	£ 1,500.00	£ 1,806.00	£ 1,500.00	
Dog Bin Provision	£ 1,200.00	£ 1,144.00	£ 1,250.00	
Fingerposts	£ 600.00	£ -	£ -	
Grounds Maintenance Contract	£ 6,100.00	£ 6,065.00	£ 8,100.00	New contract due for 2025/26
Total	£ 9,400.00	£ 9,015.00	£ 10,850.00	
Professional Fees / Services				
Accounts System - Scribe	£ 370.00	£ 346.00	£ 370.00	
Cemetery System - Scribe	£ 300.00	£ 276.00	£ 300.00	
Audit Fees (internal and External)	£ 550.00	£ 526.00	£ 550.00	
Data Protection Fee (ICO)	£ 40.00	£ 35.00	£ 40.00	
Neighbourhood Plan Consultants	£ 9,998.00	£ 9,998.00	£ -	2024/25 Grant received
Parish Election 2023 (2027)	£ -	£ -	£ 500.00	1/4 cost of full election for 2027
Parish in Bloom	£ 53.00	£ 55.00	£ 60.00	
Payroll Provider	£ 450.00	£ 463.00	£ 490.00	
Subscriptions	£ 625.00	£ 620.00	£ 630.00	
Webhosting	£ 300.00	£ 100.00	£ 120.00	Moving hosting to current website provider
Website	£ 120.00	£ 120.00	£ 120.00	
Total	£ 12,806.00	£ 12,539.00	£ 3,180.00	
Section 137				
Fletching Parochial Church Council	£ 1,000.00	£ 827.00	£ 1,000.00	
Fletching Recreation Ground	£ 500.00	£ 500.00	£ 3,000.00	
RBL Poppy Appeal	£ 100.00	£ 100.00	£ 50.00	
Section 137 (unallocated)	£ 1,000.00	£ 1,000.00	£ 1,000.00	
Total	£ 2,600.00	£ 2,427.00	£ 5,050.00	
TOTAL PAYMENTS	£ 47,163.00	£ 45,858.22	£ 42,967.00	
RECEIPTS				
Bank Interest	£ 450.00	£ 1,240.00	£ 500.00	
Burial Ground	£ 2,000.00	£ 1,225.00	£ 2,000.00	
Match Funding	£ 600.00	£ -	£ -	
Grant Funding - Neighbourhood Plan	£ 9,998.00	£ 9,998.00	£ -	
Precept	£ 34,615.00	£ 34,615.00	£ -	
Total Income	£ 47,663.00	£ 47,078.00	£ 2,500.00	
Balance	£ 500.00	£ 1,219.78	£(40,467.00)	£40,467 to be raised through Precept to break even
Earmarked Receipts				
CIL Receipts	£ 12,803.00	£ 23,610.00		
Total	£ 12,803.00	£ 36,413.00		Col B = CIL to 31/3/24 Col C = CIL to 31/3/25 accumulated
Earmarked Reserves (Projects)				
Historical Archive	£ 500.00	£ 500.00	£ 500.00	
Parking Restrictions - Fletching	£ 500.00	£ -	£ -	
Neighbourhood Plan	£ 10,000.00	£ -	£ -	All Grant funded
Telephone Box Refurbishment	£ 1,250.00	£ -	£ 1,250.00	
QGC Tree Plaques	£ 350.00	£ 350.00	£ -	
Parish Council Election 2027	£ 500.00	£ 500.00	£ 500.00	
Pavilion Refurbishment	£ -	£ -	£ -	
Total	£ 13,100.00	£ 1,350.00	£ 2,250.00	
Unallocated Reserves	£ 30,975.00	£ 43,444.78	£ 41,194.78	assumes a zero balance on the budget for 25/26
	original estimate	est. 31/03/25	est. 31/03/26	

original estimate est. 31/03/25 est. 31/03/26

Unallocated Res £43,575 @ 01/04/24



Gabriella Paterson-Griggs
Clerk and RFO
Fletching Parish Council

16th December 2024

Q1965

Dear Gabriella,

Additional Works at Graveyard

1. To cut back over hanging vegetation along wall line adjacent to houses. waste to be removed from site and disposed of at a registered green waste recycling facility.

Cost £211.00 plus VAT

2. To sever ivy from the trunk and remove as much as possible of the bramble growing between the center yew hedge row. Waste to be removed from site and disposed of at a registered green waste recycling facility.

Cost £52.00 plus VAT

3. To cut back over hanging vegetation along wall line adjacent to the farmyard. waste to be removed from site and disposed of at a registered green waste recycling facility.

Cost £211.00 plus VAT

4. To reduce 8x Irish yew trees in half and expose hidden gravestones. waste to be removed from site and disposed of at a registered green waste recycling facility.

Cost £1,332.00 plus VAT

We hope you find this quote favourable and await your response

Yours sincerely

FLETCHING PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Gabriella Paterson-Griggs

Tel: 07534 959772

E-mail: clerk@fletching-pc.org

Website www.fletching-pc.org



FPC Meeting 13 January 2025 – Proposed Comments for Planning Applications

WD/2024/2539/FR Woodside, North Hall Lane, Fletching

Retrospective application for a change of use of a parcel of land from agricultural to residential. Retrospective application to retain secure store for bicycles and garden machinery.

Woodside is a relatively new house (WD/2017/2429/F) with a double garage (WD/2020/1383/F) and is part of the ribbon development along North Hall Lane within the informal settlement of Splaynes Green. The application site is presently outside the curtilage of the house. This application is for retrospective consent for (a) a change of use of the land from agricultural to residential and (b) the retention of a proposed storage shed (currently “half-built”).

It is the case that (i) the site falls outside both (a) the Fletching with Splaynes Green Conservation Area and (b) the High Weald AONB and (ii) the land is not within any development boundary but (iii) it is land designated as Ancient Woodland.

The Parish Council is not able to support the application either for the change of use or for the construction of a shed on agricultural land designated as Ancient Woodland. The site forms part of the natural buffer between the residential houses of Splaynes Green on the one hand and the remote agricultural setting to the north, leading to the AONB. As such, its designation and use as agricultural land and part of Ancient Woodland should not be changed. The Parish Council, therefore, OBJECTS to this application.

WD/2024/2695/FA Mallong Farm, Down Street, Fletching TN22 3XU

Variation of condition 2 of WD/2024/0103/F to make minor amendments to the siting of the proposed development.

The Parish Council has no comments to make on this application