

# FLETCHING PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Gabriella Paterson-Griggs

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**MINUTES** of the Meeting of **FLETCHING PARISH COUNCIL** held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2026 in the Village Hall, High Street, Fletching from 6.30 – 8.06pm

**PRESENT:** Councillors R Hannay (Chairman), N Collum, C Logan, and L Schofield.

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

Members of the Public in Attendance: 0

**APOLOGIES:** Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R Borton, G Garland, D Greenish, K Minch and D Woollven.

## **26/21. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

Minute 26/22 - Councillor Logan declared a personal (but not prejudicial) interest and in accordance with the FPC Code of Conduct stayed in the meeting.

## **26/22. REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR**

Councillor Coleman circulated a written report prior to the meeting and highlighted the following areas:

- Local Plan Consultation – out for consultation until 20 March 2026. Encouragement for responses to be made especially given there are two options in the document for the Owlsbury site. The final mid-application meeting, being held on 11 February, would be attended by Cllrs Hannay and Greenish.
- South East Water issues – dedicated WDC Scrutiny & Performance meeting on 30 March which the Chief Exec of SE Water will be attending. Cllr Coleman is a member of the committee and can pose questions on others' behalf if required.
- Local Government Re-organisation / Devolution: Although Strategic Mayor elections were delayed until May 2028 a new body is due to be formed, possibly from May 2026, to start working as a mayoral authority. More information is awaited.
- CLIF – 12 applications have been taken forward to date.
- Food Waste Collections – all properties should have now received a food waste bin. Service due to start from 30 March 2026.
- Piltown Garage Car Wash – further issues reported about discharge despite a tank being installed. Cllr Coleman is investigating and taking up with both WDC and the Environment Agency.

Note: Cllr Coleman left the meeting at 6.45pm after giving her update

## **26/23. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

Councillor Galley had also circulated his update prior to the meeting. He confirmed that further information was still awaited from the government on the new strategic authority being set up this year. He also reported that the transport planners at ESCC were strongly opposed to the Owlsbury development. It was also noted that ESCC was likely to be approving a 4.99% council tax increase.

Cllr Galley also stated that he was due to meet with the Chief Exec of South-East Water with Mimms Davis MP and would be happy to ask any questions. Cllr Hannay requested that it be asked what note SE Water was taking of the proposals in the emerging local plan for Wealden.

A request for a 20mph speed limit in Fletching Village had been received by Cllr Galley. It was explained that the Parish Council had looked into this previously but that the data from Sussex Police showed that the speeding was not occurring. Cllr Galley agreed to contact Sussex Police for any updated information.

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With regards to potholes it was confirmed that those in the Fletching parish were being reported by locals directly to ESCC via the online system.

## 26/24. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the last meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026 were a correct record and were duly signed by the Chairman.

## 26/25. MATTERS ARISING

The Actions List as prepared and circulated by the Clerk was noted. Updates were given as follows:

*Burial Ground* – Deed of Easement had been requested from WDC (not ESCC as stated in the Actions List).

*Wilderlands* – it was noted that Cllr Greenish would be providing a further update at the March meeting.

## 26/26. WORKING GROUPS / EXTERNAL GROUPS

- i. *Neighbourhood Plan*: Cllr Hannay reported that the consultants were in the process of producing the final draft of the plan which would then be sent to WDC for comments. It was noted that the intention was to hold the referendum at the next set elections which were due to be held in May 2027.
- ii. *Fletching Recreation Ground Committee (FRGC)*: Cllr Hannay explained that a local resident had offered to look into updating the playground. The offer had been accepted and the resident asked to come up with a concrete set of proposals.
- iii. *Village Hall Committee of Management*: Cllr Hannay reported that a number of grant funding applications had been submitted for the village hall improvements. In response to a question it was confirmed that a CLIF application could be made for a lesser amount.

## 26/27. HIGHWAYS

- i. *A275 Speeding*: An update of the actions to date was circulated before the meeting. It was noted that further information was awaited from the Road Safety Team at ESCC. Cllr Galley recommended that the next step would be to call for a SLR meeting to discuss the issues and also those in respect of the state of Daleham Lane.
- ii. *ESCC Report a Problem*: It was agreed that the online system was easy to use and everyone should be encouraged to use it. Cllr Schofield gave some examples of snappy slogans that reminded people to report issues which could be put in the parish magazine.
- iii. *ESCC Highways Seminar*: The Clerk updated on a webinar she had attended that afternoon which had covered the roads winter programme as well as drainage and ditches and an update on potholes across the region.

## 26/28. CORRESPONDENCE / CONSULTATIONS RECEIVED

*Wealden District Council – Draft Local Plan Regulation 18 consultation*: Cllr Hannay reported that Hugh Bullock had been asked to draft the consultation response for the Parish Council. This would be done in conjunction with the Planning Working Group and would be presented for consideration at the next meeting of the Parish Council in March which members of the public would be encouraged to attend.

## 26/29. FINANCE AND ASSETS

- i. The invoices and payments for February 2026 were **AUTHORISED** and the Council's current financial position and bank reconciliation were noted.

## 26/30. GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

The schedule of works for 2026 for the grounds maintenance contract was noted.

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## 26/31. BURIAL GROUND

- i. The following item was **NOTED**:
  - a. Burial – Sylvia Palmer. It was also **AGREED** that parishioner status be granted.
- ii. *Burial Ground Regulations 2026*: The Regulations for 2026 were **APPROVED** subject to
  - a. deletion of the wording in brackets in paragraph 38; and
  - b. amendment to paragraph 77 to state that if the deceased person had lived at a permanent address within the parish for longer than 10 years, from which they moved into a residential care/nursing home, then the parishioner rate would apply irrespective of how long they were in the care home.
- iii. *Burial Ground Fees 2026/27*: It was **AGREED** that no changes be made to the Burial Ground Fees for 2026/27.

## 26/32. ENFORCEMENT – PLANNING AND DRAINAGE

- i. *Flitteridge Farm*: There was nothing further to report at this time.

## 26/33. PLANNING APPLICATIONS - RECEIVED

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

- i. **WD/2026/0003/LB The Griffin, High Street, Fletching TN22 3SS**

Repair and replacement of windows along frontage and replacement of gable windows to side elevations.

*The Parish Council has **NO COMMENTS** on the application and is content for the matter to be determined on the basis of advice from the WDC Heritage Officer.*
- ii. **WD/2026/0026/F Denniker Farm House, Ruston Bridge Road, Fletching TN22 3SH**

Proposed single storey rear extension to form annexe and porch addition to front elevation.

*Originally built as an agricultural cottage in the late 1980s but the property has been extended and modernised over the years. The agricultural occupancy condition was lifted in 2008. This application is for a modest single storey rear extension (39m<sup>2</sup>). It will comprise a bedroom/bathroom, dressing room and reception room. In addition, an open porch will be added to the front elevation over the front door.*

*The property is well screened and not easily visible from road. There are no immediately neighbouring houses.*

*The Parish Council **SUPPORTS** the application.*
- iii. **WD/2026/0083/LB St Mary's House, High Street, Fletching TN22 3SS**

Repair and renovation of existing tiled roof to include installation of insulation.

*The Parish Council has **NO COMMENTS** on the application and is content for the matter to be determined on the basis of advice from the WDC Heritage Officer but would like to emphasise the importance of good ventilation.*

## 26/34. PLANNING APPLICATION – APPEALS RECEIVED

It was **RESOLVED** that the Planning Group be asked to submit a response for the following appeal:

- i. **WD/2025/1153/F Old Spot Farm, Goldbridge Road, Piltdown TN22 3XN**

Erection of six semi-detached dwellings and one detached self-build dwelling with associated landscaping and infrastructure.

It was **NOTED** that the following appeal had been received

- ii. **WD/2025/1677/LDE Land adj. Woodside, North Hall Lane, Fletching**

Established use of land for storage, maintenance and process works of plant and machinery, timber cutting and preparation etc. in relation to a business concerned with landscape contracting.

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## 26/35. PLANNING APPLICATIONS - DECISIONS

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

### *Applications Approved*

i. **WD/2025/2551/F Woodland House, Batts Bridge Road, Piltdown TN22 3XR**

Erection of a single storey timber framed flat roof garden room. (APPROVED – 29 January 2026)

### *Applications Refused*

i. **WD/2025/2582/F Bonswick Cottage, Mill Lane, Fletching TN22 3PY**

Proposed 2m wide side extension, detached 3 bay (2 open car ports) car port building clad in black timber cladding. (REFUSED 28 January 2026)

### *Applications Withdrawn* – none since the last meeting

## 26/36. PARISH / BRITAIN IN BLOOM

- i. *Britain in Bloom*: It was noted that the parish had been successfully selected as a finalist for Britain in Bloom 2026. Further details would be available once the Clerk had attended a webinar for finalists in early March.
- ii. *Parish in Bloom 2026*: It was **AGREED** that the parish be entered into the 2026 Parish in Bloom competition as this was the precursor to the Britain in Bloom competition.

## 26/37. ITEMS FOR THE PARISH MAGAZINE

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

- Local Plan consultation – encouragement to residents to attend the next Parish Council meeting
- ESCC Report a Problem – encourage use of the online site

## 26/38. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

- Wealden Local Plan consultation

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

## 26/39. TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

The next meeting of the Parish Council is due to be held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 6.30pm in the Village Hall.