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## Minutes of the meeting of the Full Council Held at 7.30pm on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2025

**Present:** Mr A Burton (Chairman), Mr P Ceccherini, Mrs M Dormer, Mrs A King, Mr A Podmore, Mr M Sheldon, Mr A Symonds and Mrs J White

**In attendance:** Ms N Ripert (Clerk) & Mr M Avery (District Councillor)

**Public Question Time:**

None

**FC105 To receive apologies for absence**

Cllr Oversby-Powell offered his apologies, which were noted and accepted.  
Cllr D Morgan was noted absent.

**FC106 To receive declarations of interest from Members in respect of any matter on the agenda. The disclosure must include the nature of the interest. If you become aware, during the meeting, of an interest that has not been disclosed under this item you must immediately disclose it.**

None

**FC107 To approve the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2024**

The minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2025 were taken as read and confirmed as a true record.

**FC108 To receive reports from District Councillors and County Councillor**

Apologies were received from Cllr Knight. Cllr M Avery attended and shared updates regarding the implications of the new NPPF on the District Plan that were still to be ascertained. The new NPPF framework was received in December and the target for housing numbers per year was due to go up from 1093 to 1356 with immediate effect, scrapping the five-year land supply plan. No further updates were available regarding the District Plan. The Cuckstye development project was not part of the equation but there were no guarantees at this stage.

The government issued their white paper on Devolution on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2024 that meant unitary authorities will be put in place and district councils will be abolished giving town and parish councils more powers. Elected mayors were to take responsibility for major services such as Fire Service, Social Care, Planning and other main services. Should everything go to plan, the May 2025 County Council elections would be cancelled replaced by the May 2026 Mayoral elections for West and East Sussex. In May 2027 the election for the Unitary Authorities would take place becoming permanent in May 2028 resulting in the abolition of all District Councils.

The parking charges had been increased and extended till 8pm Monday to Friday and on Sundays and Bank Holidays in nearby towns. There were no charges applied to village car parks, but this was under consideration. The District Councillors were resisting all attempts to impose charges in villages.

Legal documents had been submitted to MSDC regarding CPC acquiring Courtmead Road Play Meadow and were still under consideration.

Cllr Avery gave an update regarding the speed management and traffic issues in the village. Considerable work had taken place to record traffic speeds in the village and excessive speeds were still recorded at the east end of Broad Street near the roundabout despite the 30pmh limit. Discussions with Warden Park Secondary School regarding parking issues were still ongoing.

The proposal to extend Cuckfield rec car park had been accepted and would be able to go ahead should funds become available.

The possible transfer of the Glebe Road allotments from MSDC to CPC was still under investigation.

Unfortunately, no funds had been allocated yet from MSDC for the refurbishment of the Tennis Club.

**FC109 To receive a verbal report from the Chairman**

The chair noted the new NPPF framework received in December and shared his concerns of the implications this would have on planning.

**FC110 To note the Full Council Action List**

The action list was reviewed and noted.

**FC111 To approve Bank Reconciliation Statements for Unity Trust and CCLA accounts for November and December 2024**

Council reviewed and approved the bank reconciliation statements for Unity Trust and CCLA accounts for November and December 2024.

**FC112 To review and approve the current year to date budget and expenditure for 2024-25 (to 16<sup>th</sup> January 2025)**

Council reviewed and approved the budget and expenditure for 2024-25.

**FC113 To consider the budget and precept for 2025-26:**

**a. To approve and adopt the proposed budget for the financial year 2025-26**

Council reviewed the proposed budget and approved the proposed forecast expenditure for 2025-26.

**b. To approve the F&GP recommended precept increase of 4% for 2025-26 and issue a demand to the collecting authority, Mid Sussex District Council, for a total of £288,060**

Council resolved to accept the recommendation of the F&GP committee to increase the precept by 4% to £288,060 for 2025-26. The Clerk would write to MSDC to advise them.

**FC114 To receive an update regarding the maintenance issues at the Village Hall and to consider the estimate provided by Cllr Symonds to complete the repairs to the concrete pillars**

Council considered the estimate and agreed for the repairs to be carried out during February half term.

**FC115 To consider Cllr Symonds' proposal that Cuckfield Parish Council act as a hub and coordinator to enhance the care of the elderly and isolated in the parish**

Cllr Symonds introduced the TLAP project (Think Local Act Personal), and Council resolved to adopt the scheme and encourage communication in Cuckfield Life Newsletter at least 2 or 3 times a year for organisations of Cuckfield to pull together and share their contact information.

- FC116 To receive an update regarding the recommendation to upgrade the CMS of the Cuckfield Parish Council's website and to agree to defer the upgrade by one year**  
Council noted the recommendation to upgrade the CMS of the Cuckfield Parish Council's website. Buffalo (CPC website designer) confirmed that there would be no issue in deferring the CMS upgrade by one year and will honor the quote provided until next year.
- FC117 To review the final resolution regarding the organisation of the Summer Show 2025 and to receive an update**  
Council agreed on a final resolution that the Summer Show 2025 would be a parish council event with one councillor and the Parish Clerk working in partnership with the organising committee of the Summer Show. It was agreed that CPC would take back some of the profits made during the event to cover the hire cost loss incurred during that hire period.  
Cllr Sheldon was due to meet with the organisation committee of the summer show on 4th February 2025.
- FC118 To consider the Annual Parish Meeting scheduled for 27<sup>th</sup> March 2025 and discuss and agree the format, key speakers and attendees**  
Council resolved to maintain the same roadshow format as previous years and to have a stand presenting the Parish Council's business plan. Council also suggested to invite the new MP to be one of the speakers for the evening and to invite all the local organisations as before to have a stall presenting what they do.
- FC119 To consider the Clerk signing up to the SLCC full membership with an annual subscription fee of £315 including the annual student subscription fee**  
Council agreed for the Clerk to sign up to the SLCC full membership.
- FC120 To note the report showing Cuckfield cemetery income to January 2025**  
Council noted the report and considered re-opening the pre-purchases for non-parishioners for which the figures were higher in comparison to the pre-purchases for parishioners. Council also considered that the burial fees should be reviewed and potentially increased from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025. Council agreed to review both the re-opening of the pre-purchases for non-parishioners and the fees increase at the next ACE council meeting of 30<sup>th</sup> January 2025. The Burial Registrar was asked to prepare a cost comparison report to support this proposal.
- FC121 Confidential Business: Staff Matters**  
**To consider whether to resolve to exclude the press, broadcast media and public (pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960) during consideration of the following confidential business to be conducted.**  
Staff – Council agreed to the Clerk's increase of hours to 32.5 hours per week.
- FC122 To note items arising after the preparation of this Agenda which the Chairman agrees to take as urgent. Such matters will be for noting only or deferral to a future meeting only.**  
Cllr Burton reminded the council to consider organising the picnic in the park in June or July and to engage with the events company to start organising the event. Cllr Burton also suggested this should be a joint event organised with the Rugby Club and that the Clerk should get in touch with the Club with this proposal.  
The Cuckoo flag in Broad Street car park needed to be replaced.

Meeting closed at 9:07pm

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Future Meeting:**  
3<sup>rd</sup> April 2025