



The Queen's Hall
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Noemi Ripert: Parish Clerk
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Minutes of the meeting of the Full Council Held at 7.30pm on Thursday 12th June 2025

Present: Mr A Burton (Chairman), Mrs M Dormer, Mrs A King, Mr S Oversby-Powell, Mr A Podmore, Mr M Sheldon and Mr A Symonds

In attendance: Ms N Ripert (Clerk), Mrs K West (Communications & Admin Officer), Mr M Avery (District Councillor), Mr Jim Knight (District Councillor) and Mr P Bradbury (County Councillor)

Public Question Time: Cllr S Stoke (Chair of Ansty & Staplefield Parish Council) joined the meeting as well as both candidates for the councillor's vacancy, Mrs Angela Kyle and Reverend Daniel Valentine.

FC027 To receive apologies for absence

Cllrs Ceccherini and White offered their apologies, which were accepted.

FC028 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.

Cllr Burton declared his interest in respect of agenda item FC041 as member of the New England Wood Trust.

FC029 To approve the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 1st May 2025

The minutes of the meeting held on 1st May 2025 were taken as read and confirmed as a true record.

FC030 To consider the candidates for the Councillor vacancy

Council welcomed the two candidates. Both candidates introduced themselves in turn to the Council and expressed their motivations and reasons why they wished to join Cuckfield Parish Council. Council asked the candidates a few questions and confirmed they will be informed after the meeting of Council's decision. Both candidates then left the meeting.

FC031 To receive reports from District Councillors and County Councillor

Cllrs Bradbury, Avery and Knight attended the meeting.

Cllr Avery shared an update regarding the Mid Sussex District Plan that the Planning Inspectorate had rejected on the basis of "failed duty to cooperate" regarding the unmet need of surrounding Councils. MSDC were astonished at these findings and confirmed they were seeking a judicial review to resolve the situation.

The housing target numbers were due to increase from 1093 to 1356 with immediate effect, which skewed the five-year land supply.

19:45 Cllr Oversby-Powell joined the meeting.

No further updates were available since Cllr Avery had met with the MSDC S106 Officer, Mr McLaughlin, and Cllr Oversby-Powell on 9th May 2025 regarding the Hanlye Lane development and the transfer of open space to CPC. The S106 money hadn't been signed off due to lengthy negotiations.

The parking charges had been increased and extended till 8pm Monday to Friday and on Sundays and Bank Holidays in nearby towns despite the intense discontent from the local businesses and residents. There were no charges applied to village car parks yet, 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.

No progress had been made with the Glebe Road Allotments.

Cllr Bradbury shared updates regarding the Devolution. The government was due to produce a White Paper on what the future of town and parish councils would look like after the devolution. This task was now left to the new Unitary Authority to produce. The May 2025 WSCC elections had been cancelled to be 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. It was taking WSCC a lot of time to figure out and understand what the unitary landscape would look like. An outline was due to be produced in September 2025 and decided upon by March 2026.

Cllr Bradbury, also chair of the High Weald Joint Advisory Committee, was encouraging the High Weald AONB to fund part of the purchase of the land adjacent to the New England Wood.

In other local decisions, the contract for the new secondary school due to be built in the Brookleigh and Northern Arc new development, was to be decided in July. Plans to build a new contact center at Orchard House, a permanent residence and respite center for children with severe learning disability, had been submitted.

The Cuckfield Strategic Traffic survey was ongoing and another meeting with the steering group was due to take place imminently.

FC032 To receive a verbal report from the Chairman

Since the Mid Sussex District Plan had been rejected, Cllr Burton shared his concerns on the uncertainties this caused and the impact this will have on the other big sites in the district and on Cuckstye. Mr S Tilbury's feedback on the updated application was very helpful and further public engagement would be required to continue the opposition to the development of this site.

FC033 To note the Full Council Action List

The action list was reviewed and noted.

FC034 To note and approve the Internal Auditor's Report

Council resolved to accept and approve the Internal Auditor's Report.

FC035 To ratify the recommendation made at F&GP Committee to approve the Annual Return for the year ended 31st March 2025, Section 1 – Annual Governance Statements 2024/25

Council reviewed and resolved to approve the Annual Return for the year ended 31st March 2025, Section 1 – Annual Governance Statements 2024/25.

FC036 To ratify the recommendations made at F&GP Committee to approve the Annual Return for the year ended 31st March 2025, Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2024/25

Council reviewed and resolved to approve the Annual Return for the year ended 31st March 2025, Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2024/25.

FC037 To approve Bank Reconciliation Statements for Unity Trust and CCLA accounts for April and May 2025

Council reviewed and approved the bank reconciliation statements for Unity Trust and CCLA accounts for April and May 2025.

- FC038 To review and approve the current year to date budget and expenditure for 2025-26 (to 31st May 2025)**
Council reviewed and approved the current year to date budget and expenditure for 2025-26.
- FC039 To consider Steve Tilbury's response to the objection of the Cuckstye Plan (DM/23/2866 & DM/23/2867)**
Council noted Steve Tilbury's response and agreed to the feedback shared which will form CPC's response to the Cuckstye Plan recent updated application.
- FC040 To consider awarding a contribution to the volunteering events for Greener Cuckfield**
Council agreed to award a £400 contribution to Greener Cuckfield.
- FC041 To consider awarding a contribution to New England Wood Trust for the purchase of land adjacent to New England Wood**
Council resolved not to award any contribution at this time as the trustees of New England Wood Trust decided to delay the purchase and await the outcome of further discussion with the vendor.
- FC042 To consider Rev Daniel's request to plant the Holy Trinity Church Tree of Peace (in remembrance of the D Day landings) in the Garden of Remembrance at the cemetery**
Council agreed to Rev Daniel's request to plant the Holy Trinity Church Tree of Peace in the Garden of Remembrance at the cemetery.
- FC043 To consider the Handmade & Hire Company proposal for the next Christmas Street Festival**
Council agreed to the Handmade & Hire Company proposal for the next Christmas Street Festival.
- FC044 To receive an update on the organisation of the Big Summer Picnic 2025 scheduled for 20th July 2025**
The organisation of the Big Summer Picnic 2025 was well in hand, all stalls, entertainment and logistics had been booked and planned for. The event security was well considered and planned for (crossed check with the advice and requirements under Martin's Law). The advertising and marketing of the event had been increased, and a free editorial was to be published in Cuckfield Life.
- FC045 To note the annual rent increase for the lease of the Angela Fox Nature Garden**
Council noted the annual rent increase for the lease of the Angela Fox Nature Garden.
- FC046 To review the following grant applications and resolve whether to award the funds:**
- a. Application on behalf of the Air Ambulance Charity Kent Surrey Sussex to contribute towards the operating costs of HEMS (Helicopter Emergency Medical Service - helicopters, rapid-response vehicles, medical equipment, fuel, highly-trained crews.**
Council resolved to award a grant of £100 to the Air Ambulance Charity Kent Surrey Sussex.
- FC047 To consider the quotes to attend wedding fayres**
Council agreed to the quotes to attend the wedding fayres and to produce new marketing materials to support this event.
- FC048 To consider appointing a tree warden for Cuckfield**
Council considered and assessed the need for a tree warden in the parish and resolved to discuss this further once more details had been gathered.
- FC049 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.**
None

Meeting closed at 9.27pm

Signed _____

Future Meeting: 28th August 2025