



The Queen's Hall
High Street
Cuckfield
West Sussex
RH17 5EL

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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 23rd October 2025

Present: Mr A Burton (Chair), Mr P Ceccherini, Mrs M Dormer, Mrs A King, Mrs A Kyle, Mr S Oversby-Powell, Mr A Podmore, Mr A Symonds and Mrs J White

In attendance: Ms N Ripert (Clerk), Mr M Avery (District Councillor) & Mr P Bradbury (County Councillor)

Public Question Time: Two representatives from the Haywards Heath Harriers attended the meeting to present the potential benefits of their proposal to install an active running track around the perimeter of Whitemans Green. The project aimed to provide runners with a safe environment for year-round use, including during the evening. The representatives explained that the initiative had already been presented to Mid Sussex District Council (MSDC) and received approval, with funding to be raised through sponsorship and community fundraising efforts. They were keen to raise awareness of their plans with the Parish Council and to seek the Parish Council's support for the community running trail.

FC071 To receive apologies for absence

Cllr Sheldon offered his apologies which were accepted.

FC072 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

FC073 To approve the minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the Council held on 9th October 2025

The minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 9th October 2025 were taken as read and confirmed as a true record.

FC074 To receive reports from District Councillors and County Councillor

Cllr Avery and Cllr Bradbury attended the meeting and shared their updates.

The 3-2-1 bin collections system was in place and now rolled out across Mid-Sussex.

The planning application for the land east of Ansty Way, between Ansty and Cuckfield, was rejected at the district planning committee on Thursday 16th October by eight votes to four.

The Cuckstye planning application was rejected based on the NPPF 189/5 clause that any application causing "substantial harm" to the AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) should not be included under "titled balance". Cllr Avery congratulated all those involved in opposing this planning application.

The plan for Devolution had been signed off by WSCC confirming that Sussex was to be separated into three upper tier authorities (East, West & Greater Brighton) for which a combined mayoral authority needed to be agreed on. The May 2026 County elections were postponed for the Mayoral elections to take place instead. WSCC was potentially looking at a single or dual authority for West Sussex. This was yet to be determined.

The matter raised regarding the transfer of MSDC assets remained unclear. Cllr Avery advised that it was likely that no action would be taken until the unity authority was set up.

No further updates were available regarding the parking charges in the village car park.

Work was still ongoing in relation to the speed management and traffic issues in the village and a meeting of the steering group was held on 14th October.

FC075 To receive a verbal report from the Chairman

Cllr Burton was pleased to report that the MSDC Planning Committee had rejected the Cuckstye planning application.

FC076 To note the Full Council Action List

The action list was reviewed and noted.

FC077 To note the Interim Internal Audit Report for the Financial Year ended 31st March 2026

Council noted and approved the Interim Internal Audit Report for the Financial Year ended 31st March 2026.

FC078 To approve Bank Reconciliation Statements for Unity Trust and CCLA accounts for August and September 2025 and for the NS&I account from July to September

Council reviewed and approved the bank reconciliation statements Unity Trust and CCLA accounts for August and September 2025 and for NS&I account from July to September.

FC079 To review and approve the current year to date budget and expenditure for 2025-26 (to 15th October 2025)

Council reviewed and approved the current year to date budget and expenditure for 2025-26 and agreed to use the specified land legal fees from reserves to cover the current land legal fees.

FC080 To consider reviewing period to replenish reserves used for Solar Panels at the Queen's Hall

Council agreed it was too soon to make a decision as it was yet unknown how much excess energy will be exported back to the grid and how much income this may generate.

FC081 To review progress against the business plan for 2025-2027 and the budget impact for 2026-27

Council agreed to review the business plan at the next full council meeting of 4th December 2025.

FC082 To receive an update on the progress of the Youth Club

No updates were available. Council agreed to add this item to the next full council agenda.

FC083 To note the progress update on the installation of the Solar Panels and secondary glazing at the Queen's Hall

Council noted the installation of the solar panels was complete and the system was fully installed. CPC was set up on the Sigenergy app to monitor the whole system. The scaffolding was due to be removed Monday 27th October. No updates were available regarding the installation of the secondary glazing and the Clerk agreed to chase the company for the missing information that was due to be submitted to the conservation officer.

FC084 To consider the gifting to CPC of the pond at Ardingly Road/Hanlye Lane junction

Council considered the proposed gifting of the pond to Cuckfield Parish Council (CPC) and agreed to explore this matter further to determine the next steps.

FC085 To consider the proposal for an athletics' track facility at Whitemans Green

Council considered the proposal and agreed to monitor its progress and receive feedback from Ansty & Staplefield Parish Council.

FC086 To review the following grant applications and resolve whether to award the funds:

- a. Application on behalf of 4Sight Vision Support towards their specialist support to help people in Cuckfield Parish to continue leading independent lives, whilst living with sight loss.**

Council resolved to award a grant of £100 to 4Sight Vision Support.

FC087 To note the updated Freedom of Information Publication Scheme published on the CPC website

Noted

FC088 To note the decisions of the District Planning Committee regarding the Cuckstye planning applications

Noted

FC089 To receive an update on the wedding fayres

Council noted the next wedding fayre was on 16th November 2025 and since attending the first wedding fayre last September (14th) two viewings had been organised.

FC090 Confidential Business: 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:

a. Staff matters

The Clerk agreed to prepare a detailed report to be presented at the next Full Council meeting.

b. Council Assets

Council agreed that CPC solicitor should inform the claimant of the substantial evidence gathered by CPC and proceed with the injunction.

FC091 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 9.23pm

Signed _____

Future Meeting:

4th December 2025