

Minutes of the meeting of the Full Council held at 7.30pm on Thursday 15th January 2026

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 M Sheldon, Mr A Symonds and Mrs J White

In attendance: Ms N Ripert (Clerk), Mrs K West (Communications & Admin Officer) & Mr M Avery (District Councillor)

Public Question Time: None

FC113 To receive apologies for absence

None were received.

FC114 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

FC115 To approve the minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the Council held on 8th January 2026

The minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the Council held on 8th January 2026 were taken as read and confirmed as a true record.

FC116 To receive reports from District Councillors and County Councillor

Apologies were received from Cllrs Bradbury and Knight. Cllr Avery attended the meeting and provided updates.

The 3-2-1 bin collection system was reported to be progressing well, although some initial teething problems remained. Cllr Avery explained that the introduction of the food waste service was a legal requirement under the Environment Act, with all councils required to provide a food waste service by March 2026. By way of example, in the first five weeks of implementation, MSDC collected approximately 500 tonnes of food waste, which was taken to anaerobic digestion plants and converted into biogas or bio-fertiliser.

The District Plan Regulation 19 assessment, which had been stalled for over a year, was due to recommence shortly. A new case officer had been allocated, taking over from the previous inspector. The requirements relating to "unmet need" had been lifted, and the next hearings were scheduled to commence on 24 February 2026.

No update had yet been received regarding the anticipated Fairfax appeal relating to the Cuckstye development. However, preparations to oppose the expected appeal were well underway in collaboration with the Cuckstye Coalition.

Cllr Avery had recently met with Rev. Valentine regarding the planning application to extend the Church Cottages, which had now been submitted.

There had been no confirmation as to whether the May WSCC elections were due to proceed as scheduled, although it was suspected that these may be postponed.

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

Charges had been frozen for the next year and there were currently no change expected for the village car parks.

Work continued on the Strategic Traffic Survey in Cuckfield. A meeting was held earlier this month with the Head of Warden Park School to discuss potential options for addressing traffic congestion near the school. The school had introduced a temporary ban on car drop-offs, which appeared to be working well and may be extended. A TRO (Traffic Regulation Order) had been applied for to reduce the speed limit at Tylers Green to 30mph bringing this section into line with the rest of the road.

No further updates were available regarding Hanlye Lane S106 monies.

FC117 To receive a verbal report from the Chairman

Cllr Burton confirmed that, although no updates had been received to date, the Fairfax appeal relating to the Cuckstyle development was still anticipated, and preparations were being made accordingly.

Cllr Burton also agreed that the Parish Council should press more strongly for the implementation of 20mph zones within the village, particularly in light of the recent accidents that had occurred.

FC118 To note the Full Council Action List

The action list was reviewed and noted.

FC119 To approve the Bank Reconciliation Statements for Unity Trust and CCLA accounts for November and December 2025 and the NS&I accounts for October, November and December 2025

Council reviewed and approved the bank reconciliation statements for Unity Trust and CCLA accounts for November and December 2025 and for the NS&I accounts for October, November and December 2025.

FC120 To review and approve the current year to date budget and expenditure for 2025-26 (to 15th January 2026)

Council reviewed and approved the current year-to-date budget and expenditure for 2025-26.

FC121 To consider the budget and precept for 2026-27

a. To approve and adopt the proposed budget for the financial year 2026-27

Council reviewed the proposed budget and approved the proposed forecast expenditure for 2026-27.

b. To approve the F&GP recommended precept increase for 2026-27 and issue a demand to the collecting authority, Mid Sussex District Council

Council resolved to accept the recommendation of the F&GP committee to increase the precept by 6% to £305,343 for 2026-27. The Clerk would write to MSDC to advise them.

FC122 To review progress against the business plan for 2025-2027 and consider the projects Council wants to action in 2026

Council reviewed the business plan and agreed to bring forward certain actions forward, which were to be added to the actions list for regular review. It was agreed that the Clerk would update the actions list accordingly.

FC123 To consider the format and content of the Annual Parish Meeting scheduled for 26th March 2026 and key speakers to be invited

Council resolved to maintain the same roadshow format as in previous years and to invite all local organisations, as before, to host stalls showcasing their activities.

Council also considered inviting the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner as a guest speaker for the evening, along with a representative from the New England Wood Trust to provide an update following the successful New England Wood extension. It was further

suggested that a dedicated section on environmental matters be included, with a guest speaker invited (for example, on hedgehog conservation).

FC124 To receive an update on the donation proposal to CPC of the pond at Ardingly Road/Hanlye Lane junction

No further updates were available. Cllrs Sheldon and Podmore agreed to arrange a site visit to the pond with Greener Cuckfield and to develop a potential maintenance plan.

FC125 To consider the Parish Council partnering up with the organisers of the Summer Show for the 2027 event

Council considered providing back-office support to the organisers of the Summer Show and resolved that this may not be ideal for the office team. Council agreed that the Parish Council could underwrite the event for insurance purposes and provide the hall free of charge, as previously, and recoup any profits from the event to cover the associated costs.

FC126 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. Council Assets

Council agreed that the Clerk should follow up on matters delayed over the Christmas period, express the Council's disappointment that these had not been addressed as expected following the holidays, and emphasise the urgency of resolving them promptly.

FC127 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 9:12pm

Signed _____

Future Meeting:

2nd April 2026