

FULKING PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council and Annual Parish Meeting of the Council held Wednesday 14th May 2025 at 7.30 pm at Fulking Village Hall.

Present

Chairman: Cllr Mark Hind
Fulking Parish Council (FPC): Cllrs Karen Healy, Tom Kardos and Lucy Mehta
Parish Clerk: Trevor Parsons

There were six members of the public present who were offered an opportunity to speak.

The meeting opened at 7.37pm.

25/026/AMC Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Linda Comber (FPC), Geoff Zeidler (MSDC) and Joy Dennis (WSCC)

25/027/APM Chairman's Welcome followed by Election of Chair & Vice Chair

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Cllr Tom Kardos proposed that Cllr Hind continue as Chairman, this was seconded by Cllr Lucy Mehta. Cllr Mark Hind was unanimously elected as Chairman by Councillors

Cllr Karen Healy proposed that Cllr Kardos be elected as Vice-Chairman, this was seconded by Cllr Mark Hind. Cllr Tom Kardos was unanimously elected as Vice-Chairman by Councillors.

25/028/APM Approval of previous years' minutes Annual Parish Meeting 15th May 2024

Approval of the minutes of 15th May 2024 Annual Meeting of the Council and Annual Parish Meeting were proposed by Cllr Healy, seconded by Cllr Mehta and unanimously accepted as a true record of the meeting. The Vice-Chairman signed the minutes accordingly.

25/029/APM Reports from District & County Councillors

There were no reports provided.

25/030/APM. To consider and agree the Certificate of Exemption AGAR 2024/2025 Form 2

The Certificate of Exemption was reviewed by Councillors. Acceptance proposed by Cllr Kardos, seconded by Cllr Healy and approved unanimously.

25/031/APM. To consider and agree the Internal Audit Report Letter dated 25/04/2025.

The Internal Auditor Report was reviewed by Councillors. Acceptance proposed by Cllr Kardos, seconded by Cllr Healy and approved unanimously.

25/032/APM. To consider and agree the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) for the year ending 31 March 2025 ensuring it accurately presents the financial management of the Council as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

The Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) for the year ending 31 March 2025 was reviewed by Councillors. Acceptance proposed by Cllr Kardos, seconded by Cllr Healy and unanimously approved as a true record of the accounts.

25/033/PM Village Hall & Matters Arising

On 25th April 2025, Rev Tim Harford, on behalf of the local CoFE PCC, provided written notice to MSDC of their intention to sell Fulking Village Hall to Fulking Village Hall CIO. Fulking Parish Council were copied into the email. It is hoped that the CIO raise sufficient funds to purchase the hall before the end of 2025. The village hall was registered as an asset of community value by Fulking PC

As part of the FVH CIO business plan, they will request a grant from the Parish Council to assist with running costs. This matter will be covered further in the ordinary meeting of 3rd July 2025.

The North Town Field Trust has sent a copy of the new lease for the playground to the Parish Council. At present, it is unclear whether the Council insurance covers public liability for the whole of NTF and the matter will be covered in July.

The Parish Council still awaits a decision on Small Acres from SDNPA.

25/034/PM Planning Application - SDNP/25/01663/CND

Proposal: Change of Condition 2 (Approved plans) for SDNP/24/01324/HOUS.

Location: Furze field , Clappers Lane, Fulking, West Sussex, BN5 9NJ

There is a change of condition because the original plans were drawn incorrectly. In addition, a more durable roofing material is proposed. Councillors raised no objection to these changes.

25/035/PM Planning Application – SDNPA/24/05059/LDP

Proposal: Use of the land as a recreational campsite for not more than 60 days in total in the calendar year 2025. There are not more than 50 pitches. The moveable structures shown on the site plan are solely for the purposes of the permitted use. Location: The Springs, Edburton Road, Edburton, W Sussex, BN5 9LN

The application has been changed to 10 pitches, maximum 25 days with no water on site. Fulking Parish Council have no further comment to make above the original Consultee Comments submitted on the original application.

Annual Parish Meeting

25/036/APM Chairman's report

Playground

Further repairs were undertaken to the playground including installing some new swings seats and removal of some wooden play equipment. Unfortunately, these repairs show that increasing amounts of maintenance are required to keep the playground safe. The Council has received quotes for replacement of playground equipment and is to investigate the availability of grant funding for this expenditure.

Speed limits

In response to resident complaints, the Council has been pushing West Sussex County Council (WSSC) for reductions of speed limits on the local roads for some years. A new 30 mph speed limit for Clappers Lane was introduced last year. A joint application with Poynings and Upper Beeding Parish Council's has been successful this year leading to a 40 mph speed limit along Poynings and Edburton Road being introduced.

Planning

All planning applications for our village are decided by the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA). The Parish Council however is a consultee on any planning applications received and has commented on four applications during the past year.

An appeal regarding an Enforcement Notice on Small Acres and an application for one Gypsy rejected by the SDNPA is currently underway by the Planning Inspector. The Parish Council has submitted its views to the Planning Inspector as part of the "written representations" process and a decision is still awaited.

Village Signs and Noticeboard

The three village signs have been refurbished and mounted on new posts during the year. In addition, following damage caused by the winter storms a new parish noticeboard has been installed outside the village hall.

RAM Pump House

The pump house has been cleared of mud and debris with a new lock being installed. A professional assessment of its condition including the roof has been undertaken and broken and missing tiles have been replaced to make it watertight.

Village Hall

A charity called the Fulking Village Hall Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) has been set up with the aim of purchasing the village hall from the Church to protect its ongoing use by the community. Following various forms of consultation, a fund-raising initiative is underway to raise £85k to purchase the hall.

The Parish Council has been formally advised by Mid Sussex District Council of the Churches intention to sell the hall to the CIO under its "asset of community value" registration. A request for Parish Council funding has been received as part of the CIO business plan and are will be discussed at the Parish Council meeting on Thursday 3rd July.

25/037/APM Any other business Q & A.

Covered in agenda item 25/033/PM

Date of next Ordinary Meeting Thursday 3rd July 2025.