

<b>FULKING PARISH COUNCIL</b>	1 St Catherines Cottage Steyping Road West Grinstead RH13 8LS
Tel: 07767 422733 e-mail: <a href="mailto:clerk@fulking-pc.gov.uk">clerk@fulking-pc.gov.uk</a>	

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Fulking Parish Council held on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall, Fulking.**

**Present**

Chairman: Cllr Mark Hind  
Fulking Parish Council (FPC): Cllrs Karen Healy, Lucy Mehta and Tom Kardos  
Mid Sussex District Council (MSDC) Cllr Geoff Zeidler

There was one member of the public present. The meeting opened at 7.30pm.

**26/017/OM. Apologies for Absence.**

Apologies were received from Cllr Joy Dennis (WSSC)

**26/018/OM. Declaration of Members' Interests.**

Cllr Mark Hind declared that he is a trustee of Fulking Village Hall Trust CIO

**26/019/OM. Approve the Minutes of Ordinary Council Meeting of 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

The minutes, subject to any amendments, to be approved and signed as a true record of the meeting.

Councillors read the minutes of the previous meeting. They were approved unanimously then signed by the Chairman.

**26/020/OM. Reports from District and County Councillors.**

Cllr Geoff Zeidler reported:

Cllr Joy Dennis has decided not to stand for re-election at the upcoming WSSC elections.

**Action: Clerk to email Joy our thanks for the work she has done for us.**

The Mayoral Authority has been set up for West Sussex, East Sussex and Brighton & Hove releasing an additional £30m of central government funding. The Authority will be run by the leaders of the three Councils until a mayor is elected.

Local Government Reorganisation – Steve Reed, Minister for Levelling Up has deferred a decision on LGR for Sussex for further consultation.

MSDC continues to plan for the establishment of the new structures following LGR.

There is a joint development team working on a plan for the New River side of the shopping centre in Burgess Hill including a mix for residential, retail and leisure facilities.

District Plan – The Planning Inspector is taking a more constructive view of the plan with several recommendations, particularly around new houses. Traffic issues in rural villages have been recognised, and traffic surveys are underway in Hurstpierpoint, Sayers Common and Twineham.

The roll out of the new food waste collection service 1-2-3 is being scrutinised by MSDC as it is agreed that the service for rural communities was poor. Collections do seem to be improving now.

There has been a delay in the village parking consultation.

**26/021/OM. Matters Arising & Outstanding Actions To clarify and report on actions brought forward from the last meeting**

**Red Phone Box 26/12/OM refers.** BT has taken a further review of the payphone services that they were considering to remove. It has been determined that this kiosk does not have sufficient mobile coverage to be included in their removals programme, therefore, BT have to cancel our adoption request as they need to keep this kiosk to house the remaining payphone service.

**Tree Survey** Following the new 40 year lease agreed with the North Town Field Trust the Parish Council has instructed Gales Tree Consultancy to undertake a tree survey in North Town Field. This is arranged for 19<sup>th</sup> June and the findings will be shared when available.

**26/022/OM. Financial Matters - To receive the report on Council's income and to ratify payments made since last meeting**

Fulking Parish Council Payments 1st January 2026 to 31st March 2026

06/01/2026	NPower	£196.77	Streetlights
15/01/2026	Sigma	£34.10	Payroll
16/01/2026	Clerk Pay (Jan)	£439.84	
16/01/2026	HMRC / NIC	£129.70	
22/01/2026	Mark Stepney	£560	Grasscutting
26/01/2026	Trevor Cox	£100	Playground Inspection
16/02/2026	Sigma	£34.10	Payroll
18/02/2026	Clerk Pay (Feb)	£439.64	
18/02/2026	HMRC / NIC	£129.90	
18/02/2026	Microsoft	£463.68	IT Services
18/02/2026	NTF Rent	£50.00	
23/02/2026	Trevor Cox	£100	Playground Inspection
16/03/2026	Sigma	£34.10	Payroll
23/03/2026	Clerk Pay (Mar)	£439.64	
23/03/2026	HMRC / NIC	£129.90	
23/03/2026	Trevor Cox	£100	Playground Inspection

Bank Balances as at 31/03/2026

Barclays Current Account	£ 995.83	
Barclays Premium Account	£12,000.00	General Reserve
Barclays Premium Account	£ 2,002.41	Playground Fund

**26/023/OM. Year-end Review of Income and Expenditure 2025 - 2026**

Cllr Hind confirmed to councillors that FPC income for the year to March 2026 was £13,262, being the precept of £12,000 plus interest and CIL grant. Outgoings for the same period totalled £12,039 which included planned investment into a new Windows 11 laptop for the Clerk and two replacement grit bins.

**26/024/OM. North Town Field Lease and Playground Inspections**

**Lease** – The new lease has been signed and Cllr Mehta will arrange for its registration at Land Registry.

**Inspections** - The maintenance manager at neighbouring Upper Beeding Parish Council has kindly offered to undertake our weekly inspections of NTF for free. An offer FPC have gratefully accepted.

**ACTION: Clerk to write to the current inspector to thank him for his service and to serve one month's notice of cancellation.**

**26/025/OM. Fulking Village Hall Update**

There has been a delay in the purchase of the Village Hall by the FVH Trust CIO from the Church of England as the two sides finalise the remaining clauses. These include that any overage is based on land values.

**26/026/OM. Correspondence.** To discuss correspondence and respond to correspondence received.

**Market Gardens** Regarding the planning application SDNP/25/04453/FUL at *Market Gardens*, which sought retrospective permission for the siting of two static caravans and an amenity building.

Following the withdrawal of this application, the South Downs National Authority is now progressing the matter through the planning enforcement process. This will involve further assessment and the seeking of legal advice and, as such, may take some time to conclude. At this stage, no further updates can be provided.

**26/027/OM. Date of next meeting AGM & APM Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2026 1930**

**Dates 2026 Ordinary Parish Council Meetings:**

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2026**

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2026**

The meeting closed at 8.50pm