

<p>FULKING PARISH COUNCIL</p> <p>Tel: 07767 422733 e-mail: clerk@fulking-pc.gov.uk</p>	<p>1 St Catherines Cottage Steyping Road West Grinstead RH13 8LS</p>
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Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Fulking Parish Council held on Thursday 15th October 2026 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall, Fulking.

Present

Chair: Cllr Healy
Fulking Parish Council (FPC): Cllrs Mehta and Boarder
Mid Sussex District Council (MSDC) Cllr Geoff Zeidler

There were four members of the public present. Two items were raised firstly, can the Council see what has happened to the Tony Brooks plaque at Ladybrook and secondly to recognise all the work done by Bob Rowland who passed away recently.

The meeting was informed that Cllr Mark Hind has stepped down from the Council following his move away from the village. Mark worked tirelessly for the Council for many years on different projects, most recently as a Trustee of the FVH CIO. He will be greatly missed.

The meeting opened at 7.45pm.

26/049/OM. Apologies for Absence.

Cllr Tom Kardos gave his apologies for missing the meeting

26/050/OM. Declaration of Members' Interests.

No declared

26/051/OM. Approve the Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of 9th July 2026

Councillors read the minutes of the previous meetings. They were approved unanimously then signed by the Chair.

26/052/OM. Reports from District and County Councillors

Councillor Zeidler (MSDC) reported:

LGR – There will be District Councillor elections in May 2027. Central Government plans remain very unclear. The Mayoral Authority is in place with an election set for May 2027.

District Plan – Final hearing with inspector in early November 2026. In addition to the 4,000 houses around Sayers Common and 1,000 around Goddards Green, the inspector is seeking a further 4,000 houses.

Burgess Hill Regeneration – Slow progress is being made on the redevelopment agreement for the town centre.

Councillor Jackson (WSCC) submitted a written report in his absence.

Public Rights of way (PROW)

New reports and enquiries need to be submitted on our online form available on WSCC webpage: Public Rights of Way - West Sussex County Council. The online form provides a more effective way of reporting issues, enabling users to pinpoint the exact location of a problem on an interactive map, provide detailed information about the issue and upload photographs to support their report.

The webpage also explains how reports are prioritised and the timescales we work to when investigating different types of issues. All reports submitted through the form are logged and managed according to their priority. We recognise that some residents may prefer to speak with someone directly. Those who require assistance can continue to contact the County Council's Contact Centre on 01243 777620, where support is available.

Petitions

At the WSCC meeting on 16th October the threshold for petitions to be debated at Council has been reduced from 9000 to 3000, reversing the change made at the end of the last administration

Budget

Work is being done on the WSCC 2027/28 budget. The largest expenditure is on Adult Social care. Increasing demand and complexity of care adds to cost together with inflation. Similarly on children's social care. The government is paying 90% of Dedicated Schools Grant deficit. Residual 10% (£50m) to be found. Uncertainty over 2025/6 and 2027 DSG. SEND costs rising (Provision and school transport). Likely to use some of general reserve to balance budget. 4.99% rise in County component of Council Tax planned.

Fire Risk

Waste & Recycling – September launch: WSCC launched the “Stop the Spark” campaign to reduce fires caused by batteries, vapes and electrical items being put in household bins. 40 fires linked to batteries and electricals have already occurred during 2026 at recycling facilities and in waste vehicles.

Adult Social Care – launched in September New support has been introduced to help residents understand, plan and pay for future care, including an updated West Sussex Care Guide. With care-home costs in the South East averaging around £1,450 a week (£69,000 a year), the aim is to help families plan earlier and support people to remain independent at home for longer.

26/053/OM. Matters Arising & Outstanding Actions To clarify and report on actions brought forward from the last meeting

No response yet from the Inspector regarding Small Acres.

A road sign has fallen in Edburton Road – Clerk to inform WSCC Highways to replace.

There will be a public meeting organised by FVH CIO on Saturday 14th November 2026 to discuss the village hall.

26/054/OM. Planning Application

[SDNP/26/03613/FUL | Demolition of existing stable block, hay barn and stores and erection of a barn for agricultural and equestrian use. | Brookside Clappers Lane Fulking West Sussex BN5 9NH](#)

Councillors discussed the application and have a neutral stance.

26/055/OM. Planning Application

[SDNP/26/03397/LIS | Conversion and extension of stable to form an annex \(Linked to SDNP/26/03396/HOUS\) | Perching Manor Edburton Road Fulking West Sussex BN5 9LR](#)

Councillor Lucy Mehta declared a potential conflict of interest in relation to the planning application, as she is a neighbour of the property concerned. She recused herself from the vote on the application and did not participate in the decision.

The remaining Councillors discussed the application and are sympathetic to the use of this space however we don't think this would work as proposed the orangery and deck will become a dominant feature on this elevation which will be visible from the public foot path.

Councillors voted to object to the application in its current form.

26/056/OM. NTF Safety Inspections

The Clerk reported that he had sought three quotes for the tree works following the tree survey report. Only one contractor has quoted a price of £1,800 at present. As NTF is in the Conservation Area, the Clerk has applied to SDNPA for permission to undertake the remediation works. He has been advised that if there is no response by 17th November, the works can proceed.

Action : Clerk to instruct contractor to proceed with the works as soon as possible after 17th November.

26/057/OM. To approve the Standing Orders and updated Financial Regulations Procedures

Councillors reviewed the updated Financial Regulations and Standing orders and unanimously approved the changes.

26/058/OM. Financial Matters - To receive the report on Council's income and to note payments made since last meeting

6/7/2026	Microsoft 365	138.24
6/7/2026	Gale Tree Consultancy	690.00
6/7/2026	RoSPA	114.00
15/07/2026	Sigma Payroll	36.00
20/07/2026	Clerk Salary July	329.64
20/07/2026	HMRC / PAYE	239.50
24/07/2026	NPower Electricity for Lights	106.82
18/08/2026	Clerk Salary August	329.64
18/08/2026	HMRC / PAYE	239.90
18/08/2026	Sigma Payroll	36.00

16/09/2026	Clerk Salary September	431.86
16/09/2026	HMRC / PAYE	249.39
18/09/2026	Sigma Payroll	36.00
21/09/2026	Brian Evanson – NTF Fence	525.00

Payments were ratified by Councillors unanimously.

Bank Balances as at 30/10/2026

Barclays Current Account	£ 9,587.76	
Barclays Premium Account	£12,500.00	General Reserve
Barclays Premium Account	£ 4,020.51	Playground Fund

26/059/OM. Fulking Parish Council Budget 2027/2028

Councillors reviewed the budget presented by the Clerk and will hold further discussions and decide at the January meeting at what level the precept should be.

26/060/OM. Correspondence. To discuss correspondence and respond to correspondence received.

Concerns have been raised regarding people from outside the village sleeping in cars, sometimes for a few days. Councillors agreed to be vigilant to see if the situation worsens.

26/061/OM. Date of next meeting Thursday 21st January 2027