



PULBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF A FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF PULBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 23rd JANUARY 2025 AT THE VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Cllrs: Campbell (Vice Chair), Curd, Clarke, Court, Esdaile, Hare, Hunt, Labuschagne, Martin, Marcuson, Riddle & Trembling

OTHER: Harry Quenault (Clerk), Beverly Nobbs (Deputy Clerk) & 2 members of the public.

The meeting opened at 7:29pm.

1. ELECTION OF A CHAIR

The Vice Chair Cllr Campbell opened the meeting. It was explained that one expression of interest was received by the Clerk's office.

A copy of the expression of interest was handed to each Council Member to read before the vote.

The Council **RESOLVED** to elect Sharon Curd as Chair of the Parish Council.

The new Chair expressed her gratitude to all who voted for her. She also thanked the Clerk's office, the Vice Chair and Cllrs Lee and Ellis-Brown who resigned for their hard work during their tenure.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Capelin (Personal Commitment)

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND CHANGES TO REGISTER OF INTERESTS

Cllr Labuschagne declared an interest and handed paperwork to the Clerk

4. COMMITTEE UPDATES

The Council **RESOLVED** to accept all changes to representatives on committees, working groups, sub-committees and outside bodies as per appendix A.

Cllr Esdaile advised that there is a vacancy for a Council member to join the Village Hall Trustees as she no longer sits in that role.

5. CLERK'S RECOMMENDATIONS

The Clerk explained that this item had been discussed in the previous six months.

However, at least seven written requests had been received from council members requesting that this item be discussed again. Key changes are; Mondays will free up our

district councillors to attend more meetings, the frequency of Full Council meetings will

be bi-monthly, Planning will meet every three weeks to comply with 21 day rule for HDC, and other committee meetings will be quarterly.

Members discussed Finance & Policy which will need a meeting added to the calendar in September to ensure it meets every quarter.

The Council **RESOLVED** to accept all recommendations from the Clerk regarding the current meeting arrangements and proposed changes as shown in appendix B & C.

6. **MINUTES OF FULL COUNCIL**

The Council was informed that minute reference number 93 had been grammatically revised.

The Council **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting from 5th of December 2024 as a true and accurate record of the proceedings and these were duly signed by the Vice Chair.

7. **COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

Members **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the Minutes, Reports and Recommendations of Committees (other than separate agenda items) as follows: -

PLANNING & SERVICES COMMITTEE

Members received the Minutes of the Meetings held on 4th of December 2024.

RECREATION & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

Members received the Minutes of the Meeting held on 14th of November 2024.

8. **ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC SPEAKING**

There was one public speaker present regarding the Pantry.

A member of the public wants to take on the Pantry as a CIO and will run independently of the Parish Council.

They will be submitting a business plan. The Chair thanked them and noted the comments made.

9. **WARDEN REPORTS**

The Council **NOTED** the November & December Neighbourhood Warden Reports.

10. **DISTRICT & COUNTY REPORTS**

West Sussex County Council Report:

The County Councillor was not present. Cllr Clarke provided an update, stating that the HDC budget has not yet been finalised. He discussed the recently released devolution paper which explores the concept of Mayoral areas and the potential establishment of three unitary authorities made up of West Sussex, East Sussex and Brighton and Hove. The decision is pending on whether they will be accepted for the first tier of the scheme. Local Councils are set to be dissolved in 2028. Local elections will not take place this year, while Mayoral elections are scheduled for May 2026, followed by further elections in May 2027, with authorities being disbanded in May 2028.

The HDC Neighbourhood Plan was due for inspection in December; however, the inspector has cancelled all hearings due to concerns about water neutrality.

The College of Richard Collyer in Horsham has applied to become an academy.

Council Tax support will be increased to assist vulnerable residents. HDC is reviewing the Parishes within the District, and some may be amalgamated, although no further details are available at this time.

The SDNPA are moving forward with Regulation 18 for its plan, with the consultation period ending in March 2025. There was discussion about ensuring infrastructure is in place before proceeding with new developments.

Horsham District Council Report:

Devolution - Meetings have been held with all staff to share the impact on HDC and what it might mean for them.

Constitution is being updated and may include changes to the structure of planning committees

The local plan has been held by the Inspector for several reasons. There has been no decision on the status of the Local Plan therefore technically we still have an emerging local plan. HDC is considering points raised by the Inspector.

HDC is moving to its new offices in February

The budget - which will be presented to council shortly. This has been challenging due to the increase in National Insurance. There is also some uncertainty about the level of funding from Central Government

Annual Plan - A small team has reduced the number of KPIs to monitor the performance of the council.

The Neighbourhood Plan is currently being held due to the uncertainty around the local plan. However, we will be seeking a meeting with the officers to discuss moving to referendum. As the local plan is on hold it is important we move forward with the Neighbourhood Plan. This could then offer some defence against future speculative planning applications.

Members **NOTED** the District & County Reports.

11. **BUDGET REVIEW 4th DRAFT**

The Clerk explained the 4th draft, after the revision from last month, resulting in a 2.28% overall budget increase compared to last year. The total precept is now £299,128.00.

An unexpected decrease in the Council Tax Base for Band D properties was noted. Discussions with Horsham District Council are ongoing to investigate this anomaly. Based on revised calculations, the precept increases stand at 2.83%, equating to an 11pence weekly increase for Band D properties. Horsham District Council explained the decrease in the Council Tax Base because of two factors: an increase of 26 households receiving a 25% single person discount, equating to a reduction of 5.28 Band D equivalents and the correction of five Band D properties incorrectly assigned to Pulborough Parish, which led to a further reduction of 8.33 Band D equivalents.

The Clerk explained that the budget in whatever capacity must be accepted at tonight's meeting.

The Council **AGREED** the 4th draft of the Budget.

The Clerk was thanked for his work in preparing this budget.

12. **PAYMENTS**

The Council **ACCEPTED** all payments as presented at the meeting.

DRAFT

Kompan	£362.49
Viking Office Uk Limited	£92.80
Smart Asbestos Solutions Limited	£354.00
Pulborough URC	£30.00
Lakers Builders Merchants	£15.00
LASER	£60.87
Pulborough Social Centre	£60.00
SM Fencing Limited	£288.00

The meeting closed at 8:22pm.

..... Chair

.....Date