



Willingdon and Jevington Parish Council Meeting

The minutes of the Meeting of the **Parish Council** held on **Monday 17th March 2025**
at Willingdon Community Hub Library, Coppice Avenue, Willingdon.

Present: Cllrs John Pritchett BEM (Chair), Martin Cooper (MC), Helen Coote (HC), Howard Coote (HC), Sally Morris (SM), Ian Nisbet (IN), Fran Pritchett (FP), Ruth Sheppard (RS), Daniel Shing (DS), Stephen Shing (SS), Ryan Weedon (RW).

In attendance: Andy Beams (AB) (Locum Clerk).

Item	Subject	Action By
PC25/84	<u>Apologies and Councillors Not Present</u> There were apologies from Cllrs Ben Clennell, Christine Payne MBE and Andy Watkins. There were apologies from Cllrs Sally Morris, Daniel Shing and Stephen Shing for anticipated. These were NOTED and ACCEPTED.	
PC25/85	<u>To accept and adopt the minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 13th January 2025</u> RESOLVED: To accept and adopt the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Monday 13th January 2025. These were signed by Cllr John Pritchett BEM (Chair) as a true and correct record.	
PC25/86	<u>Declaration of Interests</u> No interests were declared at this point in the meeting.	
PC25/87	<u>Public question time – to deal with any questions received from members of the public relating to items on this agenda</u> There were no members of public present.	
PC25/88	<u>Report of the Council Chair and questions from Members</u> The report was NOTED and there were no questions from the Members. It was noted that reference to the meeting of the Business Plan Sub-Committee should have included Cllr Cooper in attendance rather than Cllr Nisbet.	

PC25/89	<u>Report of the Parish Clerk and questions from Members</u> The Clerk's report was NOTED which was previously circulated.	
PC25/90	<u>Reports from County and District Councillors and questions from Members</u> The reports had been circulated via email to Members since the agenda and papers were published and was NOTED. Any questions to be deferred until the arrival of the County and District Councillors.	
PC25/91	<u>Questions to Committee Chairs and minutes for adoption by Full Council</u> <u>RESOLVED: Members AGREED the ADOPTION of the following minutes:</u> i) Events – Cllr F Pritchett, Minutes of 27th January 2025. Cllr J Pritchett BEM reminded Members of the litter pick event and encouraged volunteers to attend. ii) Finance & General Purposes – Cllr J Pritchett BEM (Vice-Chair), Minutes of 10th February 2025. iii) Planning – Cllr F Pritchett, Minutes of 13th January 2025, 27th January 2025 and 17th February 2025. iv) Recreation – Cllr Nisbet, Minutes of 17th February 2025.	
PC25/92	<u>Reports of Parish Council Representatives</u> i) WDALC – Cllr Cooper confirmed the minutes of the recent meeting had been circulated and the next meeting is scheduled for 6 April. If Members have any questions they would like raised, please let him know. ii) Willingdon/Polegate Windmill Trust - Cllr Weedon had provided a report which had previously been circulated to Members. He had attended the Open Day on 16th March and there is a committee meeting on 19th March. The trustees are prioritising the needed work and seeking funding at present. The AGM is scheduled for mid-April. iii) Willingdon Memorial Hall – Cllr Payne MBE had provided a report which had been circulated to Members along with the minutes of the AGM and Annual Accounts. Cllr Cooper reported his concerns at issues relating to the maintenance and cleanliness of the hall, and that hall users are apparently discouraged from involvement. Cllr J Pritchett BEM reported his concerns that the Annual Accounts did not appear to include a significant legacy which he believed had been left to the hall. The Locum Clerk reminded Members that as a registered charity, details of the accounts can be viewed on the Charity Commission website, and it was agreed the Clerk should investigate. iv) Wannock Hall – No report was available. v) Jevington Village Hall & Sports Club – No report was available. Cllr Weedon noted that preparation of the ground was underway for the forthcoming cricket season.	<u>NW</u>

	vi) Library Charity Group Report – Cllr Nisbet had provided a report which had previously been circulated to the Members. Members discussed the possibility of purchasing the library outright, considering the devolution proposals and potential changes to the County Council structure. The Clerk was asked to investigate. vii) Tree Warden - Cllr Cooper did not have anything to report at this time. viii) Cuckmere Community Bus – Cllr Weedon had provided a report for the Members which had previously been circulated. <i>* Cllr Daniel Shing arrived at 7.50pm*</i>	NW
PC25/93	Recommendations from Finance and General Purposes Committee 10th February 2025 i) Review of Council Policies <u>Co-Option Policy</u> RESOLVED: Members AGREED to ADOPT the Co-Option Policy. <u>Compassionate Leave Policy</u> RESOLVED: Members AGREED to ADOPT the Compassionate Leave Policy. ii) <u>Reconciliation for November and December 2024</u> RESOLVED: Members AGREED to APPROVE the reconciliation for November and December 2024. iii) <u>November 2024 Payment List totalling £27,970.03 for agreement</u> RESOLVED: Members AGREED to APPROVE the November 2024 payment list totalling £27,970.03. <u>December 2024 Payment List totalling £29,879.79 for agreement</u> RESOLVED: Members AGREED to APPROVE the December 2024 payment list totalling £29,879.79. <i>* Cllr Stephen Shing arrived at 7.56pm*</i>	
PC25/94	Finance Update i) Income and Expenditure to date The report was NOTED, with no questions from Members. ii) CIL Allocations The report was NOTED, with no questions from Members. iii) Earmarked Reserves The report was NOTED, with no questions from Members.	
PC25/95	Annual Parish Meeting Members noted that James MacCleary MP and Jo Shiner, Chief Constable of Sussex Police had been invited as speakers.	

	Cllr Cooper raised concerns that the meeting is only a few weeks away. It had been agreed to encourage residents to ask questions of the speakers in advance and he had not seen any publicity. Cllr J Pritchett BEM noted that the next newsletter is due soon, but it was agreed that the Clerk should ensure that the website and social media platforms are used to publicise the event.	<u>NW</u>
PC25/96	<u>Sussex and Brighton devolution consultation</u> <i>* Cllr Sally Morris arrived at 8.02pm*</i> Cllrs Daniel Shing and Stephen Shing declared an interest as Councillors with Wealden District Council and East Sussex County Council. Cllr Weedon declared an interest as an employee of Brighton & Hove City Council. Cllr Daniel Shing informed Members of the timetable of meetings for Wealden District Council and East Sussex County Council where the devolution proposals will be discussed. He confirmed there was no definitive information to provide at present, with different models still being discussed. Cllr Stephen Shing informed Members of his discussions with District and County, and his desire to see funds held by the authorities spent within their areas rather than pooled as part of a larger authority. Cllr J Pritchett BEM reported that he had attended the ESALC Chair forum, but the ESALC CEO had been unable to provide any useful information on the impact of devolution on parish councils. It was AGREED that Members would provide individual responses to the consultation to the Clerk prior to the deadline of 13 April 2025, and these would be collated into a majority response on behalf of the Parish Council. Members were reminded they can also submit their own individual responses.	<u>NW</u>
PC25/97	<u>Business Plan sub-Committee</u> i) <u>Draft Business Plan</u> RESOLVED: Members AGREED to ADOPT the Business Plan. ii) <u>Minutes of the Business Plan Sub-Committee held on 3rd February 2025</u> RESOLVED: Members AGREED to ADOPT the minutes of the Business Plan Sub-Committee meeting held on 3rd February 2025.	
PC25/98	<u>Risk management – to consider the effects (if any) arising from items on the agenda</u> Cllr Weedon noted the potential impact on staffing requirement for the council caused by devolution, and that the council should plan financially for this outcome. Cllr Cooper noted that this was being discussed at Personnel Committee meetings, and it was agreed to place on the agenda for the next meeting.	

PC25/99	<u>Urgent items – for noting or referral to next agenda for Full Council or appropriate committee/sub-Committee</u> Cllrs F Pritchett and J Pritchett BEM informed Members they had registered to speak at the planning meeting in relation to the Mornings Mill application. Cllr Gleeson informed Members that he would be standing down at the end of the council year as he was moving away from the area. Cllr J Pritchett BEM thanked Cllr Gleeson for his valuable input to the council and wished him well.	
PC25/100	The next meeting would be on Tuesday 6 th May 2025.	<u>NW</u>

Meeting ended at 8.30 pm.

Signed..... (Committee Chair)

Date.....