

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held at Kirdford Village Hall on Monday 20th July 2026 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr Mrs A Gillett
Cllr Mr T Brooks
Cllr Mr A Campbell
Cllr Mrs N Goddard
Cllr Mr A Persson
Cllr Mr A Vernon

In attendance: Cllr Mr G Evans, Cllr Mrs J Dunton

- 118. Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Mrs N Goddard, Cllr Mr T Piedade
- 119. Disclosures of Interest:** Cllr A Campbell item 9 as a neighbouring property.
- 120. Public Participation:** There were two members of the public in attendance.
- 121. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

To resolve that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 15 June 2026 be signed as a correct record.

122. Reports from District and County Councillors

Cllr Gareth Evans / Cllr Charles Todhunter

Local Updates

No local planning updates at this stage that adds to the last report.

CDC Wide Updates

Food waste recycling

Since the roll out of the food waste service was launched in March, over 880 tonnes of food waste have been recycled, alongside a 21% reduction in general waste volumes compared to last year. These are very encouraging results, and CDC will continue to share updates on the impact of the service is having on recycling performance over the coming months.

If you would like a member of the team to deliver a talk, visit a school, attend a local event, or provide further information, please contact: waste.prevention@westsussex.gov.uk

Sustainability Grants

Chichester District Council is offering **£105,000 in sustainability grants**, with businesses able to apply for up to **£7,500** (50% match funding required) to support energy efficiency, low-carbon technologies and waste reduction projects. Available to businesses with **2–40 employees**, the scheme aims to reduce costs, improve resilience and support greener growth. A new **Giki sustainability platform** will also provide expert guidance and tools to help businesses develop climate action plans and cut energy use. More information is available at www.chichester.gov.uk/sustainable-support-grant

Chair of Chichester District Council

Congratulations to Cllr. Clare Apel who was awarded an MBE in the recent Kings Birthday honours list for her outstanding work in the voluntary sector, local government and Holocaust education. Clare has served the Chichester District community for 40 years and was first elected as a councillor in 1987. She has been Chair of Chichester District Council since 2023

Central Government Planning Reforms

The Government's planning reforms aim to speed up decisions, increase consistency and support housing and infrastructure delivery. A new national scheme of delegation will see most applications determined by planning officers, with committees focusing on major, strategic or contentious proposals. Smaller applications will be decided by officers, while committee referrals will require a national gateway test and defined criteria. Councillor "red card" call-in powers will end, and planning committees will be limited to 13 members. Additional changes include local control of planning fees, new Spatial Development Strategies for strategic planning, and Environmental Delivery Plans to streamline environmental requirements while maintaining protections. What will happen next is the Government consulted on the draft regulations and guidance between March and April 2026. In June 2026 draft regulations were laid in parliament. It is expected that the National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) will be updated to support the implementation of the changes, and the Planning Advisory Service is expected to provide supplementary advice. Workshops and training for Parish Councils will be arranged after the summer period once final decisions by Government have been taken.

Full Council Meeting

The next full council meeting will be held on Tuesday 14th July at 6pm

District Councillor Surgeries

Cllr. Gareth Evans has the following surgeries running this month and beyond. Residents are reminded that should the publicised dates not work then it is possible to arrange calls or meetings outside of these publicised times. Please feel free to call 07958918056 or email gbevans@chichester.gov.uk

18th July, Kirdford Stores, (12pm-2pm)

22nd August, Old Mill Café, Wisborough Green (12pm-2pm)

5th September, Plaistow Stores, Plaistow (12pm-2pm)

19th September, Northchapel Club, Northchapel (2pm-4pm)

Cllr Mrs J Duncton

It's hot again but I guess we shouldn't complain but my goodness when you go to County Hall for a meeting it's been stifling at times. Still we're having a lovely summer on the whole.

Each season brings its troubles and one around with the heat is that some tarmac likes to soften and can be a problem on the highways.

I am not sure of all the reasons but just recently several of the roads around me have been resurfaced and I have to say they look great. You always have the problem of loose gravel but the machines that go slowly down the roads often in pairs have done a great job in picking up the loose gravel so I should hope that there has been less damage to Cars who forget to go slowly. We still, along with everywhere else in the Country are having trouble with our SEND children in getting them properly assessed. Of course all agencies play their part but one of the obstacles is the specialist type of Psychiatrist that is required to assess. These are a bit in short supply but slowly slowly we are able to help with children that need help. It's just a slow process.

There has been quite a lot of work on the building of County Hall. The time had come when windows need replacing and things like that so it's all being done at the moment. I always have a bit of a moan about the state of the steps as you enter County Hall. In my opinion they need jet spraying and a bit of

paint. To my surprise this has recently been done and now the entrance for visitors to County Hall does look as though we care. First impressions and all that. A brief word on our Fire and Rescue Service. It is going along well as ever and has recently been able to recruit Retained Officers. In case you didn't realise the Statutory body that will take both Fire and Rescue and Police eventually has already been set up although the Mayoral elections don't take place until 2028. This will mean that as of 2027 the Fire and Rescue Service will no longer sit with the County Council but move to the new Statutory body. Since the elections there have been endless training sessions. Quite right of course because those who have just taken up the role of County Councillor need to know how everything works and as you know this includes how you handle Planning and the Code of Conduct. I attended one recently on Governance. I know about Governance and when Chairman of the County I chaired that committee but, you can always learn something at these sessions and of course Governance deals with any changes to the constitution etc. You never know it all.

There isn't a lot of new items to let you know about. Everything is going along pretty much as ever. One thing of course we are all waiting for is the Government decision on Unitary Council. There is a though that it could be as early as the middle of July but nothing is concerned and it will be interesting to know if the Minister has listened to and of the consultees is or pushing ahead with his own idea which was of course the 4 Unitaries putting Chichester, Horsham, Mid Sussex and Crawley into what he called the Urban Unitary. Probably best I don't say too much about that because I like to be polite.!!!

Janet Duncton
County Councillor Petworth division

123. Correspondence

None received.

124. Chairperson's Announcements

We would be welcoming the new Vicar in August.

The toddler group was not sure if it would open in September due to low attendance.

125. Finance

- a) Bank Reconciliation – this was approved
- b) Summary of receipts and payments – this was approved
- c) Payments for approval – these were approved

A grant of £1397.32 was agreed for Kirdford Cricket Club for new fencing

126. Planning

Local Plan/Neighbourhood Plan – no update.

26/01512/FUL Change of use of existing dwelling (C3) to community church meeting hall F2(b). | The Coach House Village Road Kirdford Billingshurst West Sussex RH14 0LU. No objection

DECISIONS

The following planning decisions were noted:

SDNP/26/00691/HOUS Replacement of existing septic tank with new package treatment plant.
Hartsmere , A272 Croucham Lane To Linfold Road, Strood Green, Kirdford, West Sussex, RH14 0HN.
PERMIT

26/01070/FUL | Construction of 6 no. prefabricated garages within existing garage court. | Garages Land Rear Of 150L Townfield Kirdford Billingshurst West Sussex. PERMIT

Enforcement Notice – none received.

127. SDNP

Defer to next meeting.

128. CAGNE

It was agreed that a donation of £500 should be provided to CAGNE towards the Appeal in relation to the new Gatwick Runway.

129. Great Common Pavilion Update

The following amendments to the planning application were agreed:

Variation to change drainage and remove water neutrality has been submitted to CDC

Variation to change conditions has been submitted to CDC

Architect in discussion with Planning officer to rotate building in progress (drawings have been amended)

The following actions were agreed:

Approval for setting up a Crowd Funding site

Approval for contacting Leconfield for a donation

Approval to pursue other organisations for funding

Approval to split tender documents into 3 phases (Groundworks/Structure/Fit Out)

130. Drains, Grips, Ditches & Gullies. No update.

131. Footpaths

Cllr Vernon had reported various fingerposts had been replaced (although one was pointing in the wrong direction).

132. Speed Limits Plaistow Road

Councillor Campbell was awaiting further photographs to submit to Highways.

133. Health & Safety

RoSPA reports for the three playgrounds were noted.

It was agreed to find an alternative to the log benches on Butts Common, which were starting to decay.

134. Public Participation None

135. Date of next meeting: 21 September 7.30pm at Kirdford Village Hall.

136. Matters for Consideration at the Next Meeting None

137. Confidential Matters None

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Chairman

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Date