**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting**
**held at Kirdford Village Hall on Monday 21st September 2026 at 7.30pm**

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| **Present**: | Cllr Mrs A Gillett<br>Cllr Mr T Brooks<br>Cllr Mr A Campbell<br>Cllr Mrs N Goddard<br>Cllr Mr A Persson<br>Cllr Mr T Piedade<br>Cllr Mr A Vernon |
| **In attendance:** | Cllr Mr G Evans, Cllr Mrs J Duncton |

**138. Apologies for Absence:** None

**139. Disclosures of Interest:** None

**140. Public Participation:** There were four members of the public in attendance. Concerns were raised regarding events taking place on Butts Common over the previous few months. KPC to write to event organisers on residents' behalf outlining issues.

**141. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

To resolve that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 20 July 2026 be signed as a correct record.

**142. Reports from District and County Councillors**

**Cllr Gareth Evans / Cllr Charles Todhunter**

**Local Updates**

**Planning Applications –** We continue to closely monitor several major planning applications in Loxwood and Plaistow. At the time of writing we do not have information as to when any of these applications will come before the Planning Committee, but we will keep you updated here and on Social Media so that residents have the opportunity to attend the Committee Meetings.

**Local Government Reorganisation –** As you may have heard, just before the summer recess the Government delayed the decision on the future structure of local government in West Sussex until October. Whatever your views on the number of Unitary Authorities, this is frustrating news as it leaves very little time to prepare for any elections in May 2027. However, significant work continues behind the scenes to ensure we are well prepared for any outcome.

**CDC Wide Updates**

**Local Plan 2045 -** Chichester District Council is one of 39 councils across England that must begin preparing a new local plan as a result of government planning reforms that came into force in March this year – despite having adopted its current local plan less than a year ago. The changes require affected councils to prepare plans under a revised national system and a new timetable, in order to meet increased housing targets.

Residents, businesses, community groups and organisations are being invited to help shape the future of the Chichester area as work begins on a new local plan that will guide development across the Chichester plan area until 2045.
Chichester District Council is encouraging people to get involved at the very start of the process by sharing their views between 7 August and 25 September at www.chichester.gov.uk/localplanconsultation.

**Housing Matters Roadshow -** Residents across the Chichester District are being invited to get free housing advice as part of Chichester District Council's Housing Matters Roadshow, which is visiting communities throughout the summer and autumn.

The roadshow will make it easy for residents and landlords to speak directly with housing officers, ask questions, and find out about the wide range of housing support available.

Members of the council's Housing team will be attending a series of local events, markets and community days, offering informal face-to-face advice on everything from social housing and private renting to energy efficiency and access to grants to deliver adaptations for disabled residents. The roadshow will be at **North Hall in Loxwood from 2pm-6pm on Tuesday 13th October**

**Surgeries**
Cllr. Gareth Evans is available to meet residents face to face via one of his regular surgeries.

Saturday 5th September, 12-2pm – Plaistow Stores, Plaistow
Saturday 19th September, 2-4pm – Northchapel Club, Northchapel

If these dates and times do not suit it is also possible to arrange home visits, telephone calls or zoom meetings.

**Cllr Mrs J Duncton**

I hope you all had a good break over the Summer and what a summer it was. So hot and personally I sometimes found it too much and took to the indoors during the hottest part of the day. Still can't complain. We usually make a fuss because it's too cold or wet so we just have to make the best of it.

As you can imagine there is not a huge amount of activity at County during August and virtually no meetings. However that said all the Services provided work as normal so come September we will again start the meetings which are our normal work commitment.

First some good news.

3 of our Care Staff have been shortlisted for the prestigious Social Worker of the year awards. Nominated in 5 categories Quality practice and Service delivery team of the year. Childrens Social worker of the year, Newly qualified Social worker of the year. Mental Health Social worker, Practice & Service Leadership and Management, Adult services. I am sure we all wish them the best of luck because of course we recognise what a good job they do so it's good for them to know that far and wide they are doing a good job. Annually the Fire & Rescue Service carry out electric blanket inspection. At a recent inspection they found 102 electric blankets that were considered unsafe. There is another session if anyone is interested but you will need to go online to find dates, times and where they are.

There is not a lot more to report at the moment but I can assure you that all County Services have been working as normal and of course the Schools are about to return. Examination results have been impressive.

Janet Duncton
County Councillor Petworth division

**143. Correspondence**

Correspondence had been received from a member of the public concerning the ceiling in the Village Hall. Cllr Goddard to investigate.

It had been reported that cyclists were making pump tracks on the footpaths adjacent to the football pitch. Cllr Vernon to report to the access ranger.

**144. Chairperson's Announcements**

The new Vicar had been licensed and his first service would be held on Sunday 27th September at St John the Baptist Church.

The historic tithe map would be digitally photographed.

**145. Finance**

a) Bank Reconciliation – this was approved
b) Summary of receipts and payments – this was approved
c) Payments for approval – these were approved
d) The 202-26 External Auditor Report and Certificate were noted.
e) It was agreed that April Skies Accounting should be engaged as the competent independent Internal Auditor for 2026-27. The Clerk to sign the engagement letter

**146. Planning**

**Local Plan/Neighbourhood Plan** – no update.

**26/01393/FUL**|Demolition of existing light industrial building and erection of 1 no. self-build dwelling with associated parking.|Land North Of Little Slifehurst Farm Scratching Lane Kirdford Billingshurst West Sussex RH14 0JN. Comments submitted under Scheme of Delegation. No objection.

**26/01442/FUL**|Proposed sports pavilion. Application under Section 73 to vary Condition 11 (Water Tank to rainwater harvest tank), Condition 13 (Use for sports facility and social gatherings) and 14 (hours of use) and the removal of Condition 15 (Water Neutrality) which is no longer applicable to planning permission **KD/24/00073/FUL**.|Sports Field Plaistow Road Kirdford West Sussex. No objection

**26/01598/TPA**|Crown reduce (all round) by 3m on 1 no. Oak Tree (T1) subject to 89/00587/TPO.|Stonewall Cottages Village Road Kirdford West Sussex. No objection

**SDNP/26/02861/CND**|Two storey side extension, relocation of front entrance door and porch and works to front elevation - (Variation of Condition 2 (Decided Plans) of Planning Permission SDNP/23/04913/HOUS to change entrance porch for canopy). The Pheasantry Hawkhurst Court Kirdford West Sussex RH14 0HS Comments submitted under Scheme of Delegation. No objection.

**26/01700/FUL**|Alterations to fenestration of existing ground floor which includes installation of new windows and doors.|Jade Hair Salon 79 Townfield Kirdford Billingshurst West Sussex RH14 0NA. Comments submitted under Scheme of Delegation. No objection.

**26/01738/FUL**|Demolition of the existing building and erection of a self-build dwelling with associated parking and garden|Slifehurst Wood Farm Scratching Lane Kirdford Billingshurst West Sussex RH14 0JN. No objection.

**DECISIONS**

The following planning decisions were noted:

**SDNP/25/02224/FUL** New agricultural building for storage use. Battlehurst Farm , A272 Wakestone Lane To Croucham Lane, Kirdford, West Sussex, RH14 0LJ PERMIT

**26/01598/TPA**|Crown reduce by 3m (all round) on 1 no. Oak tree (T1) subject to KD/89/00587/TPO.|Stonewall Cottages Village Road Kirdford West Sussex. PERMIT

**SDNP/26/02861/CND** Removal or Variation of a Condition. Two storey side extension, relocation of front entrance door and porch and works to front elevation - (Variation of Condition 2 (Decided Plans) of Planning Permission SDNP/23/04913/HOUS to change entrance porch for canopy). The Pheasantry , Hawkhurst Court, Kirdford, West Sussex, RH14 0HS

**Enforcement Notice** – Land at Thornehouse Farm, Scratchings Lane. Removal of track

**147. SDNP**

No update.

**148. Great Common Pavilion Update.** A crowdfunder page had been setup, go live tba.

**149. Drains, Grips, Ditches & Gullies.** No update.

**150. Footpaths**

Cllr Vernon reported that the sign pointing in the wrong direction had been rectified.

**151. Speed Limits Plaistow Road**

Cllr Campbell had received further photographic evidence to submit to Highways.

**152. Health & Safety**

The Chair had asked that councillors undertake training to facilitate playground inspections.

**153. Public Participation** None

**154. Date of next meeting: 19 October 7.30pm at Kirdford Village Hall.**

**155. Matters for Consideration at the Next Meeting** – Bonfire Night

**156. Confidential Matters** The Local Government Services Pay Agreement was approved.

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Chairman Date