



## WEST HOATHLY PARISH COUNCIL

representing Highbrook, Selsfield, Sharpthorne, Tyes Cross and West Hoathly

Document Reference 2508

### **Minutes of the Meeting of West Hoathly Parish Council held on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at 7:30pm in West Hoathly Village Hall**

#### **Members**

Ken Allfree

Will Buckley

Martin Robinson (Vice  
Chairman)

Bob Darvill

Peter Browne\*

Paul Brown

Claire Hilton

Douglas Denham St Pinnock (Chairman)\*

Manfred Lindfield\*

\* denotes absence

#### **Also present:**

Leanne Andrews (clerk)

Anita Emery (RFO)

District Cllr Lorraine Carvalho

#### **There was one member of the public present**

#### **325) To receive apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Douglas Denham St Pinnock and County Cllr Garry Wall. Cllr Manfred Lindfield and Cllr Peter Browne were absent.

#### **326) To receive declarations of interest from Parish Councillors in respect of any matter on the agenda**

There were none

It was agreed to move agenda item 7 and to suspend standing orders to allow the member of the public to speak.

#### **327) To receive an update on the meeting held with a developer on the 8<sup>th</sup> April, regarding the proposal for Horncastle Care Centre**

The member of the public made representation about the matters that they have raised with Fairthorne Consultancy, regarding the proposal.

The clerk explained that on Tuesday 8th April, Cllr Douglas Denham St Pinnock, Cllr Martin Robison and the Clerk attended a remote meeting with Fairthorne Consultancy to receive details on the proposal to develop Horncastle Care Centre, ahead of the public consultation event on Thursday 10th April.

Council members were advised that the applicant has previously attended a couple of meetings with the MSDC Design Review Panel, where some minor suggestions were made.

Following these meetings, the proposal as presented, is to demolish the fire damaged remains of Horncastle House, but retain Maple Lodge and build a new care home with 80 bedrooms over two floors. The communal lounge areas will face towards the south, to benefit from the far-reaching views and courtyard areas.

A formal travel plan will be in place, which will include the provision of a minibus to transport staff locally, as well as a car sharing scheme and other travel measures. There is expected to be approximately 60-70 staff overall with 25-30 on site at one time, and the changeover of staff will be outside of peak times.

The planning application is expected to be submitted towards the end of April / early May.

Cllr Martin Robinson explained that at this time the council are just noting the meeting update, the Parish Council will be formally consulted on the application when the application has been submitted.

**328) To approve minutes of the Meeting of West Hoathly Parish Council held on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 (Document Reference 2507)**

The minutes were approved as a true record and signed by the chairman

**329) To receive the clerk's report**

The clerk's report was received.

**330) To receive Councillor reports**

**a) West Sussex County Councillor Report – No report available**

**b) Mid Sussex District Councillor Report- Cllr Lorraine Carvalho**

- MSDC are focusing on devolution and don't plan to start any new projects
- The Mid Sussex District Plan has been delayed by the Planning Inspectorate.
- Next full council meeting – 14<sup>th</sup> May

**Mid Sussex District Councillor Report- Cllr Paul Brown**

- Cllr Brown explained that without a District Plan there will be a tilted balance- planning applications will now tilt in favour of granting permission for housing developments unless policies protecting certain areas of importance provide a strong reason for refusal or the adverse impacts significantly outweigh the benefits

**331) Planning applications**

**a) To note decisions from the Local Authority**

The following applications have been granted permission  
2508 Parish Council Minutes 2025 04 2828

DM/25/0783 – Moatlands  
DM/25/0646 - Grovelands Farm  
DM/22/1384 - Land Adj. To Cookham  
DM/25/0447 - Groom Cottage  
DM/25/0332 - Thornhill

**b) To consider planning applications received from the Local Authority**

**DM/25/0970 - 2 Hoathly Hill, West Hoathly**

Release of above property from Section 52 restriction dated 29th October 1986.

**The Parish Council has no objections**

**DM/25/1048 - The Conservatory, Duckyls, Selsfield Road, West Hoathly**

The retention of existing building (due to be demolished under planning permission DM/22/2429) to create a car port and garden store to be used in connection with newly constructed dwelling.

**The Parish Council has no objections**

**332) To review the Financial Statements**

- a) To approve the **Parish Council** bank reconciliations against corresponding bank statements
- b) To note the **Parish Council** combined bank rec and year to date accounts

The Parish Council Financial Statements were noted.

- c) To approve the **Trustees of West Hoathly Village Hall** bank reconciliations against corresponding bank statements
- d) To note the **Trustees of West Hoathly Village Hall** combined bank rec and year to date accounts

The Trustees of West Hoathly Village Hall Financial Statements were noted

**333) To ratify and approve the payments for April 2025**

- a) To approve the **Parish Council** expenditure as itemised on the schedule

Three additional payments were presented for April

1. £304.19– Derek Shurvell
2. £86.35 – Paul Brown (expenses)
3. £295.00- Gary Coxhall

The payments of £6,675.73 for April were unanimously ratified and approved.

- b) To approve the **Trustees of West Hoathly Village Hall** expenditure as itemised on the schedule

The payments of £1,889.73 for April were unanimously ratified and approved

**A2508/10) To approve the Annual Governance Statement for the financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025**

The Annual Governance Statement for the financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 was **approved** and signed by the Clerk & the Vice- Chairman.

**A2508/11) To approve the Statement of Accounts for the financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 and note Principal Variances**

The Statement of Accounts for the financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 was **approved** and signed by the RFO and the Vice- Chairman.

**334) To consider and agree if appropriate a quotation for further tree work**

Following discussion, it was agreed that the item will be deferred until UKPN have advised whether there will be a charge to turn the power off and have advised which properties will be affected.

**335) To discuss the closure of Selsfield Road on the 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> April**

Cllr Martin Robinson provided details on the road closure – see appendix 1

Following discussion, it was agreed that the clerk will speak to Cllr Garry Wall to find out whether he has received an update from senior Highways Officers. The response will be circulated to Cllrs once received.

**336) To receive Committee Reports**

- a) To note Minutes of Meetings taken place
  - i) Asset & Highways Committee meeting 24<sup>th</sup> March 2025 (document reference 2506)

The minutes were noted

**337) To receive reports from external meetings attended by councillors**

There were none

**338) To receive correspondence**

- Email from Sussex police Rural Crime Team – agreed to accept Street Surgery invitation
- Email regarding Street Fair- agreed not to have a stall
- Email from John Smith Fund requesting the Parish Council hold funds- agreed not to hold funds.
- Email from resident regarding land adjacent to 15 Bayhams Field – Clerk to advise resident to speak to WSCC PROW and MSDC Tree Officers.

**339) To note items of interest or items for inclusion at next meeting of the Parish Council**

It was agreed that the SID will next be moved to North Lane.

Date of next meeting 19<sup>th</sup> May 2025

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.42

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Chairman-----

## **Appendix 1**

### **Report read out by Cllr Martin Robinson**

SE Water roadworks 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> April 2025

SE water had a permit to close Selsfield Road on 7<sup>th</sup> April for two days with the permit expiring at 5pm on 8<sup>th</sup> April. The work was to raise the cover of the sunken hydrant cover.

At around 4pm on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> April a contractor erected road closed signs outside Keewaydin, Selsfield Road and also at the Selsfield Road/ Ardingly Road junction. He stated that the works would commence around 5pm.

No works occurred until around 9am on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April. A diversion had been put in place for west bound traffic via North Lane, Hook Lane and Cob Lane and for East bound traffic the opposite way around the same roads which are single track with passing places.

Chaos soon followed with the diversion route being clogged up with traffic.

The team cut out around the hydrant cover and left leaving the road closed around 10 to 11 am.

Someone moved some of the cones and some traffic passed though the works. There was no sign at the end of Vowels Lane indicating that for traffic turning towards West Hoathly, the road was closed.

In mid afternoon someone arrived from WSCC highways following complaints about the traffic issues. He had taken 45 minutes to travel from Ardingly to West Hoathly as he had followed the diversion route.

He stated that the permit had expired and the work should not have been carried out, the diversion route was not approved and should never be approved as suitable. He spent some time on the phone to WSCC highways. A short time after this two sets of contractors arrived for SE Water to complete the work saying that they had been summoned urgently from elsewhere.

The signs were then put to one side for removal late that evening.

All timings approximate.