



BREDE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Tuesday 28th January 2025 at 7:30pm in Trinity Methodist Church Hall.

Present: Councillors S Hampson (Chair), M Griffiths, M Wey, M Duffield, M Chamberlain, R Oliver and D McDonald

In Attendance: The Clerk, Rother District Cllr Neil Gordon and East Sussex County Councillor Carl Maynard (from 8.30pm)

291 Public Question Time. None

292 Apologies for Absence: Cllrs G Olson and J Allison.

293 a) Declaration of Interests: Cllr Hampson for Item 13, Meeting Venues

b) Dispensation Requests: None.

294 Minutes of the following meeting were considered.

a. Full Council Meeting 26th November 2024 235/2024 - 265/2024.

b. Extra-Ordinary meeting 15th January 2025 280/2024 - 285/2024

c. Extra-Ordinary meeting 22nd January 2025 286/2024 - 290/2024

Cllr Wey proposed that the minutes be signed as a true record of the meeting.

This was seconded by Cllr Duffield.

Council RESOLVED to approve the minutes for signing.

295 Update on Work in Progress and Clerk's report.

The work in progress had been circulated. The clerk also reported that the handyman Mr Butler was retiring from doing the Recreation Ground works.

The Clerk had attended the ESALC Clerks forum. Items discussed included:

The possibility of devolution to a Unitary authority for Sussex.

Balfour Beatty are on an improvement programme. The planned meeting with ESCC highways will now be in late March when the new staff (head of highways) has settled in.

The ability to hold remote meetings is being reviewed, to include it being legal to vote.

Resilience Plan. Encouraged to adopt one.

Concerns over the closure of rural pharmacies, (due to rising costs, they are not viable businesses and many are privately owned).

296 Chair's Report.

The Chair reported that he had attended the ESALC forum for Chairs, which had covered many of the same areas, but had mostly discussed the prospect of a combined authority for East and West Sussex, and Brighton & Hove. There were lots of questions but few answers.

He had also spent time on the consequences of the tree survey and prepared a presentation.

297 Correspondence.

Email from East Sussex confirming that they have asked the government to agree a proposal for a combined mayoral authority for Sussex. West Sussex and Brighton and Hove have also done this.

Request from St Michaels Hospice asking the Parish Council to consider a grant towards training for 'fitness to practice in healthcare' the importance of record keeping, for their staff.

Email from East Sussex Rights of Way Action Plan, parish survey plus one for the general public to be advertised.

Updated Surface Water Management Policy from Southern Water.

298 Reports from the District and County Councillors.

Rother District Cllr Neil Gordon, reported that work at Rother continued as usual, but there was nothing specific to Brede. He commented that they should know more about the devolution by April.

East Sussex County Cllr Carl Maynard, reported that we should know by the end of next week if the application from East Sussex County Council to be in the first tranche of fast tracked devolution has been accepted. The underlying concern for most is planning, will it be used as a vehicle to build more housing? No details are available yet, such as number of councillors etc, but it is possible there will be multi member wards.

299 Finance

- a. Accounts to end of November 2024
- b. Accounts to end December 2024
- c. Payment Schedule for December 2024
- d. Payment Schedule for January 2025

Council resolved to

- a) to approve the accounts to the end of November 2024.
- b) To approve the accounts to the end of December 2024
- c) to approve the payment schedule for December 2024
- d) to approve the payment schedule for January 2025

Payment Schedule for December 2024

			Net	Vat	Gross
D/D	Tesco Mobile	Clerks Phone	12.85	2.57	£15.42
D/D	Onecom	Village Hall Broadband	42.62	8.52	£51.14
BACS	Mr J Butler	Handman October			£115.00
BACS	Safeplay	Play equipment inspection	76.50	15.30	£91.80
BACS	SLCC	Membership for clerk			£190.00
BACS	Uniserve	Emails for November	46.30	9.26	£55.56
BACS	Trinity Methodist Church	Cemetery grant			£400.00
BACS	St Georges Church	Cemetery Grant			£400.00
BACS	T Dixon	Expenses (new phone)			£439.00
BACS	T Dixon	Wages for December			£xxxx
BACS	HMRC	PAYE			£268.49
D/D	NEST	Clerk Pension, to note details only			£344.55
		Employers Contribution £191.42			

Payment Schedule for January 2025

			Net	Vat	Gross
D/D	Tesco Mobile	Clerks Phone	12.85	2.57	£15.42
D/D	Onecom	Village Hall Broadband	42.62	8.52	£51.14
BACS	Mr J Butler	Handman December			£80.00
BACS	T Spencer	Village Green Grass Cutting			£125.00
BACS	Uniserve	Emails for November	46.30	9.26	£55.56
BACS	Uniserve	Emails support	18.50	3.70	£22.20

BACS	Trinity Methodist Church	Hall Hire			£57.00
BACS	T Dixon	Wages for December			£xxx
BACS	HMRC	PAYE			£203.48
D/D	NEST	Clerk Pension, to note details only Employers Contribution £172.70			£310.86

Proceedings and reports of committees and working parties.

- 300 Recreation Ground maintenance and equipment.** The recreation ground maintenance/rubbish clearance will need to be arranged, Clerk to sort this.
- 301 Footpaths.** No report
- 302 Seats, trees, bus shelters, bins and hedges.** The bench in Pottery Lane needs some new slats, Clerk to look into this. The bus shelters had been swept, but will need doing again. The bins could do with cleaning, Clerk to get some quotes. The tree works have been booked, awaiting confirmation of date once the road closure has been agreed. A bat check has been arranged.
- 303 Village Hall:** Works nearly all completed. Hiring charges rising in April.
- 304 Newsletter.** First draft of the March newsletter has been circulated.
- 305 Speed Watch:** Have not been out in January. Are looking for more volunteers.
- 306 Highways Items:** Meeting with Highways and East Sussex County Councillor Maynard in February to look at the crossroads. Lack of grit bin during the snow earlier this month to be reported to highways.
- 307 Climate and Ecology Working Group:** Agenda Item
- 308 Report from the Recreation Ground Committee.** There will be a Recreation Ground Committee meeting in February to look at the pavilion site and progress the current projects.

Agenda Items for decisions

- 309 Budget and Precept for 2025-26.** The budget and recommended precept for 2025-26 had been circulated. There was some discussion about not raising the precept this year, but, in general, Councillors felt that the budget was appropriate and the planned rise appropriate. Some thought was given as to whether more precept should be asked for to cover the tree works, but it was felt better to take these costs from reserves if possible.
Council resolved to approve the budget as circulated, and to ask for a precept of £44117 for 2025-26
- Cllr Hampson redeclared his interest and took no part in this item discussion or vote*
- 310. Council Meeting venues for 2025-26.** Councillors discussed the current venues and routine of alternating the meeting place. This was felt to be best practice to allow all residents to be able to access a meeting easily.
Council resolved to continue alternating the meeting venue, Clerk to book meetings through until May 2026.
- 311 Newsletter Printing.** Three quotes for the printing of the newsletter had been obtained and circulated. All were for the same number, quality of paper and delivery to the Clerk's address.
Council resolved to approve Company A's quote for £549 per issue. This is with Wealden Print.

- 312 Energise East Sussex.** Councillors felt this may be of interest for the Parish Assembly.
Council resolved to invite Energise East Sussex to do a 30 minute presentation at the Parish Assembly.
- 313 Double Yellow Lines.** Councillors discussed various areas which may benefit from double yellow lines such as Reedswood Road and the Crossroads.
Council resolved to put in request for double lines to be considered at the entrance to Reedswood Road, and on all four sides of the crossroads.
- 314 Minor Tree works and Hedge Cutting.** The Clerk had circulated the tree reports, and a breakdown of the works still required. Councillors felt it prudent to get all the work done as advised, to help prolong the life of the trees.
Council requested the Clerk to get quotes for the tree works and the annual hedge cutting of the Recreation Ground.
- 315 Climate change proposal.** The Climate Change Working Group had considered the impact of climate change for Brede. With no buildings or vehicles owned by the Council it was felt there was little the Council could do to reduce or improve its own emissions, but that it could encourage the wider community to look to their own carbon footprint and make improvements where possible.
Council resolved to declare a Climate and Ecological Emergency and adopt the following statement.
Brede Parish Council recognises that there is a Climate and Ecological emergency and pledges to do what is within its powers, to make Brede Parish carbon neutral by 2050, taking into account both production and consumption emissions.
- 316. Items for noting or for including on future agendas.**
Training Policy
Offer of land near Stubb Lane for Parish Use.
Resilience Plan
Christmas Trees
- 317. Date of Scheduled next meetings**
Full Council Meeting 25th February 2025 in Brede Village Hall Committee Room.
Planning meetings will be booked when required.

The meeting closed 9.10pm

Signed _____

Date _____

Brede Parish Council