



BREDE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Tuesday 23rd September 2025 at 7:30pm in Brede Village Hall Committee Room.

Present: Councillors S Hampson (Chair), R Oliver, M Wey, J Allison and M Griffiths

In Attendance: The Clerk and one member of the public

- 144 Public Question Time.** A resident attended and raised concerns about footpath 23b in Cackle Street. The hedge on the boundary of her property had become very high, and the roots were affecting the path. She had already reported it to the Rights of Way team after contacting the Clerk earlier in the week.
- 145 Apologies for Absence:** Cllrs D McDonald and Duffield
Cllr Duffield had put in a written request for a leave of absence for 3 months due to health issues. This was approved by all Councillors.
- 146 a) Declaration of Interests:** None
b) Dispensation Requests: None
- 147** Minutes of the following meeting were considered.
a. Full Council Meeting 22nd July 2025 114/2025 - 137/2025
Cllr Wey proposed that the minutes be signed as a true record of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr Griffiths.
Council RESOLVED to approve the minutes for signing.
- 148 Chair's Report.** The Chair reported that good work had been completed on the Recreation Ground with the completion of the Tree works, and installation of the play equipment. The path was now in progress.
He noted that new Councillors were needed and urged current Councillors to encourage new people to join.
He had attended and ESALC meeting, some councils were reporting having problems with scooters and bikes. Contact the police if needed. Emergency plans had been discussed, and their importance, every council should have one and update it yearly. Shop theft is on the increase, new scheme to tag persistent offenders will be introduced in Sussex. Still various problems with Highways, Clerks to contact Trevor Leggo with issues.
- 149 Update on Work in Progress and Clerk's report.**
The work in progress had been circulated. The Clerk had also attended the ESALC meeting, many clerks were complaining about issues with Highways.
- 150 Correspondence.**
Grass cutting firm have gone into liquidation. Seeking quotes for a final cut for this year and prices for next year onwards.
Rye Neighbourhood plan Review Consultation open until 28th October.
Parish Conference 15th October 12.45 to 2.45 Brede Village Hall
Police having another Street meeting 5th December, 11am
Letter from Resident regarding planning concerns has been circulated.

151 Reports from the District and County Councillors.

Rother District Cllr Neil Gordon, reported that Local Government Reorganisation was taking up a lot of time at the District Council. Wealden are holding back, due to concerns about the deficit. Meeting to discuss the one unitary option tomorrow, (Wednesday) then the deadline for submission was Friday 26th September. Concerns about the operation of Town and Parish Councils in the future, housing should be more effective.

East Sussex County Cllr Carl Maynard, reported further on Local Government Re-organisation. Concerns about Planning, with decisions being made by a more remote group, would there be protection of the High Weald AONB. The Mayoral model is an urban solution in a rural setting. Combining the debts of Hastings and Eastbourne may have a detrimental effect on Rother and Wealden. Adult Social Care and Children's services are at risk. He encouraged everyone to start reporting blocked drains and potholes as the weather deteriorates.

152 Finance

- a. Accounts to end of July 2025
- a. Accounts to end of August 2025
- b. Payment Schedule for August 2025
- b. Payment Schedule for September 2025
- a. External Audit for 2024-25

Council resolved to

- a) to approve the accounts to the end of July 2025.
- b) to approve the accounts to the end of August 2025
- c) to approve the payment schedule for August 2025
- d) to approve the payment schedule for September 2025
- e) Note the receipt of the external audit for 2024-25, with no concern reported.

Payment Schedule for August 2025

			Net	Vat	Gross
D/D	Tesco Mobile	Clerks Phone	13.62	2.72	£16.34
D/D	Onecom	Village Hall Broadband	45.34	9.07	£54.41
CH	Lloyds Bank	Bank charges			£4.25
BACS	Mr G Booth	Handyman July			£80.00
BACS	Broad Oak Tree Surgery	Additional Hedge Cutting at crossroads	270.00		£270.00
BACS	PKF	External Audit	315.00	63.00	£378.00
BACS	Kompan	Play equipment	14881.82	2976.36	£17858.18
BACS	Gimbals	Tree works	2500.00	500.00	£3000.00
BACS	TMPI	Play equipment inspection	225.00	45.00	£270.00
BACS	Trinity Methodist Church	Hall hire	65.50		£65.50
BACS	Brede Village Hall	Hall hire	42.00		£42.00
BACS	Parish Online	Membership	70.00	14.00	£84.00
BACS	Uniserve	Emails for August	46.30	9.26	£55.56
BACS	Uniserve	Computer update	50.00	10.00	£60.00
BACS	T Dixon	Expenses (refreshments, £10.49, plants, £13.98, Stationery £12.48, Arch lever files £17.38)	54.33		£54.33
BACS	T Dixon	Wages for August			£xxxx
BACS	HMRC	PAYE			£376.91
D/D	NEST	Clerk Pension, to note details only Employers Contribution £204.58			£531.90

Payment Schedule for September 2025

			Net	Vat	Gross
D/D	Tesco Mobile	Clerks Phone	13.62	2.72	£16.34
D/D	Onecom	Village Hall Broadband	45.34	9.07	£54.41
CH	Lloyds Bank	Bank charges			£4.25
BACS	Mr G Booth	Handyman August			£100.00
BACS	Action in Rural Sussex	Membership	62.50		£62.50
BACS	Uniserve	Emails for August	46.30	9.26	£55.56
BACS	T Dixon	Wages for September			£xxx
BACS	HMRC	PAYE			£262.80
D/D	NEST	Clerk Pension, to note details only Employers Contribution £172.70			£449.01

Proceedings and reports of committees and working parties.

- 153 Recreation Ground maintenance and equipment.** The yearly report on the play equipment safety showed no major concerns. New signage for the fitness equipment and preschool play area will need considering.
- 154 Footpaths.** Footpath 23b had already been mentioned. No further concerns had been raised since the last meeting.
- 155 Seats, trees, bus shelters, bins and hedges.**
Quotes for the bench repairs were still being sought, and also for one by the Village Hall. The dog bin in Udimore Road needs replacing. To look at the cost for a noticeboard for the Udimore Road bus stop.
- 156 Village Hall:** No report.
- 157 Newsletter.** First draft circulated to Councillors. Goes to print on 8th October.
- 158 Speed Watch:** Had been out twice since the last meeting, with over 100 vehicles going too fast.
- 159 Highways Items:** The clerk had put the first of the corex signs up with Councillor Allison. Cllr Wey would take some to put up for the lower part of the Parish. The flashing lights for the school had been reported as one set were not working correctly. The road markings had been repainted in Northiam Road.
- 160 Climate and Ecology Working Group:** Had not met.

Agenda Items for decisions

- 161 Community Orchard.** The Councillors discussed options. Concerns were raised about maintenance and attracting wasps. It was felt that some ornamental planting would be better on the Recreation Ground and perhaps an Orchard elsewhere in the future.
Council resolved not to apply for the grant, but to defer a decision about ornamental planting until the clerk could relook at some ideas.
- 162. Seat on the Village Green.** The current seat is touching the tree, the arborologist had advised it was widened or removed. A quote for widening had been requested, but there were concerns that trying to widen it would weaken it so had sent a quote for a replacement. To consider replacing with normal oak benches.
Council requested to defer this item until prices for oak benches and fixings could be obtained.

- 163. Asset Risk Check.** The Councils assets had all been checked for safety. Some minor repairs were noted as needed, and in progress.
Council noted the Asset Risk Check had been completed, and minor repairs were being actioned.
- 164. Clerks Pay Increase.** The National Association for Local Councils had agreed the increase for 2025-26, to be backdated to April 2025. This would be applied to the clerks pay from October.
Council noted the pay increase.
- 165. Archiving of Old Minutes.** The Clerk had tidied and prepared all the minutes from 1965 to December 2020 ready to send to the County Archives at the Keep on 6th October.
Council resolved to send all minutes up to December 2020 to the County Archives.
- 166. Poppies for 2025.** The Councillors liked the current display of poppies and felt it could be extended further, rather than a wreath being laid
Council resolved to purchase a further 6 lorry poppies at £9.95 each plus delivery.
- 167. Christmas Trees for 2025.** The Clerk had tried to get some quotes, but the farms were not yet open. Preliminary enquiries suggested that a 10-12ft tree plus a ground anchor, ropes and some battery lights could cost in the region of £200.
Council resolved to progress with getting two trees, one for the Recreation Ground and one for the Village Green, with a budget of £200 per tree. Cllr Oliver to ask if the Bellringers would assist in putting them up.
- 168. Items for noting or for including on future agendas.**
The Clerk and Cllr Hampson will attend the Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation meeting on the 30th September.
The Clerk and Cllr Griffiths will attend the Rother Parish Conference on the 15th October at Brede Village Hall
- 169. Date of Scheduled next meetings**
Full Council Meeting 28th October 2025 7.30pm in Trinity Methodist Church Hall
Planning meetings will be booked when required.
- Cllr Hampson moved that under Section 1, Paragraph 2 of The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.
- 170. Gift of Land.** Councillors were updated with the current situation.
Council approved further progress.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Signed _____

Date _____

Brede Parish Council