



BREDE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Tuesday 27th January 2026 at 7:30pm in Trinity Methodist Church Hall.

Present: Councillors S Hampson (Chair), R Oliver, N Hobson, M Duffield, D McDonald and J Allison

In Attendance: The Clerk and East Sussex County Councillor C Maynard

278 Public Question Time. None

279 Apologies for Absence: Cllr Griffiths and Wey

280 a) Declaration of Interests: Cllr Duffield for the Village Hall. Cllr Hampson for the payment Schedules

b) Dispensation Requests: Cllr Duffield for the Village Hall.

281 Minutes of the following meeting were considered.

a. Full Council Meeting minutes 25th November 2025. 205/2025 - 231/2025

Cllr Allison proposed that the minutes be signed as a true record of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr Duffield.

b. Extra-ordinary Meeting minutes 11th December 2025 244/2025 - 247/2025

Cllr Allison 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.

282 Chair's Report. The Chair reported that he had been mostly working on the gift of land. He had also had several residents contact him with concerns about the Drs surgery closing

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

The work in progress had been circulated. The Clerk had also done a lot of work on the gift of land. The response to the devolution consultation had been submitted.

284 Correspondence.

The Rother draft local plan consultation had opened on the 26th January and would remain open until the 23rd March. The clerk would circulate details to all Councillors.

285 Reports from the District and County Councillors.

Rother District Cllr Neil Gordon, did not attend

East Sussex County Cllr Carl Maynard, reported that the Rother budget for 2026-27 did not draw on reserves, which were very low.

For the County budget, Adult Social Care and Children's services costs were very high. ESCC have applied to the government for a £70million exceptional funding loan.

County were still working on devolution. There would be no mayoral elections until 2028 now. County elections for 2026 had been cancelled. Unitary elections would be in 2027.

Please continue to report potholes.

286 Finance

- a. Accounts to end of November 2025
- b. Accounts to end of December 2025
- c. Payment Schedule for ratification for December 2025
- d. Payment Schedule for January 2026

Council resolved to

- a) to approve the accounts to the end of November 2025.
- b) to approve the accounts to the end of December 2025.
- c) to ratify the payments made in December 2025.
- d) to approve the payment schedule for January 2026

Payment Schedule for December 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 November			£80.00
BACS	Brede Village Hall	Hall hire			£27.50
BACS	Orchard Landscapes	Grass Cutting	389.40	77.88	£467.28
BACS	Uniserve	Emails for December	46.30	9.26	£55.56
BACS	T Dixon	Wages for November			£xxx
BACS	HMRC	PAYE			£282.62
D/D	NEST	Clerk Pension, to note details only Employers Contribution £178.23			£463.40

Payment Schedule for January 2026

			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 December			£80.00
BACS	Brede Village Hall	Hall Hire			£14.00
BACS	Trinity Methodist Church	Hall hire			£67.50
BACS	Julian Bone	Recreation Ground Posts			£507.33
BACS	ESALC	Training	70.00	14.00	£84.00
BACS	Uniserve	Emails for December	46.30	9.26	£55.56
BACS	T Dixon	Wages for November			£xxx
BACS	HMRC	PAYE			£282.62
D/D	NEST	Clerk Pension, to note details only Employers Contribution £178.23			£463.40

Proceedings and reports of committees and working parties.

- 287 Recreation Ground maintenance and equipment.** The play equipment was still awaiting repair which had been requested. The ditch at the side of the Recreation Ground has been flooded with the recent heavy rain and a concerned resident next door has asked if anything could be done about it. Cllrs Hampson

and Duffield had taken a look and the ditch was full of debris and hedge cuttings. To see if it could be cleared to ease the problem. Clerk to arrange.

- 288 Footpaths.** No issues reported.
- 289 Seats, trees, bus shelters, bins and hedges.** Mosly Agenda Items
- 290 Village Hall:** Cllr Duffield reported that the Hall was going from strength to strength. There were plenty of regular bookings. A request to house a third bus in the car park was being arranged.
- 291 Newsletter.** First draft of March issue had been circulated.
- 292 Speed Watch:** No report.
- 293 Highways Items:** The Cackle Street bollards had been replaced at last. The clerk had reported several items which some had been attended to. The uneven verge in Udimore Road was due to be inspected by the permit officer again with regard to further levelling.
- 294 Climate and Ecology Working Group:** No report.

Agenda Items for decisions

- 295 Tree Works.** The three quotes had been circulated.
Council resolved to accept the quote from Company B which was Hunnisetts for £1085.
- 296. Recreation Ground Hedge Cutting.** The two quotes had been circulated.
Councillors resolved to accept the quote from Company B which was Broad Oak tree surgery for £800
- 297. Benches.** Council Considered the following
- A) a replacement bench for the damaged one on the Recreation Ground.. The Council preferred a wood finish, initially the Castleham design, but the supplier recommended a better quality one more suitable for public areas.
 - B) to remove the circular bench around the Village Green tree (as per tree survey recommendations) and replace with a single straight bench.
 - C) To transfer the ownership and maintenance of the bench at the Village Hall to the Village Hall Committee.
- Council resolved**
- A) To purchase a 180cm bench from JAKKS Eastbourne style, with a clear staining finish at a cost of £830 inclusive of VAT. As the current bench had a dedication carved into it, this would be repeated on the new bench at an additional cost of £60. The bench would be secured on concrete slabs.**
 - B) To remove the circular bench and store in St Georges churchyard, if permitted. To consider a new bench once the quality of the bench for the Recreation Ground had been ascertained.**
 - C) To transfer the ownership and maintenance for the Village Hall bench to the Village Hall, with the agreement of the Village Hall committee at their next meeting.**
- 298. Playground Signage.** A quote for preschool play equipment signage and one for the gym equipment signage had been received, with recommended wording.
Council resolved to approve the new sign for the preschool equipment at a cost of £197 plus VAT as per the sample, plus a new sign for the

gym equipment, portrait sized on a post, at a cost of £435 plus VAT. Councillors asked that the what3words was added to the signs.

- 299. Christmas Trees.** The trees had been well received by the Community, although the lights had been a little disappointing. The Recreation Ground Committee would like to see two trees for the Recreation Ground this year, with better quality white lights, and the old lights all used on the tree on the Village Green. The school and or cubs/scouts could be asked to make some 'natural material' decorations for the trees. A working party to put the trees up and dress them would be required, and a lighting ceremony considered.
Council resolved to approve a £1200 budget for Christmas trees for 2026, and to arrange a working party etc from July for the installation.
- 300. Budget and Precept for 2026-27.** A revised draft budget had been circulated to accommodate Councillors wishes for the Parish. Some further changes were made to a few of the lines. The Precept had been kept very low for many years, and was now too low for the amount of work the Council would like to see done in the parish.
Council resolved to approve the budget as discussed, and set a precept of £56775 for 2026-2027.
- 301. Policies.**
A) Council reviewed the following policies
Document Retention Policy
Equal Opportunities Policy
Freedom of Information Policy
B) Council considered the following new policy
Information Technology policy
Council resolved to approve all the policies.
- 302. Footpath Warden.** Cllr Hobson had indicated an interest in taking on the Footpath warden/liaison role. There was some training available on Rights of Way through ESALC in February.
Council resolved to approve Cllr Hobson as the Footpath Warden/liaison and the costs of £70 plus VAT for the Rights of Way training.
- 303. Social Media Use.** There had been some requests that Council meeting dates be publicised on the Council social media sites. Although not required in law, it is a popular medium for communication among many people.
Council resolved that the clerk should publicised all formal Council meetings on the Council Facebook page with a link to the Council website for the agenda.
- 304. Items for noting or for including on future agendas.**
Closure of Drs Surgery. Councillors felt that a public meeting may be needed for the benefit of the residents. Cllrs Hampson and Duffield to communicate with the Surgery administrator and the Patient liaison group and the clerk to arrange this if required.
Rother District Local plan to be on the next Agenda, or a separate meeting called for Councillors to discuss it, if required.
- 305. Date of Scheduled next meetings**
Full Council Meeting 24th February 7.30pm in Brede Village Hall Committee Room.
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.

306. Gift of Land. Councillors were updated with the current situation. The trust document was ready for signing. All Councillors had been given the opportunity to study the final draft carefully. The giving works micro trust paperwork had also been prepared in case it was needed.

Councillors approved the signing of the Trust document, and the Giving works application.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm.

Signed _____

Date _____

Brede Parish Council