

	BREDE PARISH COUNCIL
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**Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Tuesday 24th March 2026 at 7:30pm
in Trinity Methodist Church Hall**

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

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

345. Public Question Time. None

346 Apologies for Absence: Cllr Wey and Griffiths

347 a) Declaration of Interests: Cllr Duffield for the Village Hall.

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

348 Minutes of the following meeting were considered.

a. Full Council Meeting minutes 24th February 2026 307/2025 - 330/2025

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

Council RESOLVED to approve the minutes for signing.

349 Chair's Report. The Parish Assembly on Saturday 21st March had a much lower attendance than previous years. To return to a weekday evening from 2027. The Clerk to book now, 20th April from 5pm to 9pm, to ensure it is in place.

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

The work in progress had been circulated. The Clerk had been mostly working on the bench for the Recreation Ground, the new play equipment signs, and the Brede Wildlands paperwork. The Councils response to the Rother Local Plan had been submitted. The audit was booked for 13th April.

351 Correspondence.

Most had been circulated. There has been a warning about the defibrillator requiring more regular checks, this would be shared with Cllr Duffield so he could ensure the Village Hall users also check it regularly.

An update for the flexibus would be circulated, along with instructions on how to search for open planning applications on the new planning website.

352 Reports from the District and County Councillors.

Rother District Cllr Neil Gordon, reported that the traveller site in Kingwood Hill would be on the 16th April planning agenda at Rother. (Cllr Griffiths would request to speak on behalf of the Parish Council). Cllr Gordon would be on Jury service for the next few weeks, and possibly not contactable.

East Sussex County Cllr Carl Maynard, reported that ESCC had seen several changes in senior personnel recently. Cllr Field was now the leader of the Liberal Democrat group, and Cllr Glazier was standing down as leader of the Council. Cllr Maynard was taking over. There was likely to be a high turnover

of Councillors at the coming elections. The pre-election period starts on 30th March.

The decision from Government on the model to be used for the new Unitary Authority was due this week.

East Sussex County Council Finances continue to be challenging, with Adult Social Care and Children's budgets stretched. Still many potholes to be sorted, the highways stewards were prioritising Category 1 and 2 holes.

353 Finance

- a. Accounts to end of February 2026
- b. Payment Schedule for March 2026
- c. Virements for March 2026

Council resolved to

- a) to approve the accounts to the end of February 2026
- b) to approve the payment schedule for March 2026
- c) to approve the virements for March 2026

Payment Schedule for March 2026

			Net	Vat	Gross
DC	Stereoplast	Defibrillator pads	65.00	13.00	£78.00
DC	Lebara Mobile	Clerks Phone	1.42	0.28	£1.70
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 February			£80.00
BACS	Brede Village Hall	Hall Hire			£27.50
BACS	Wealden Print	Newsletter printing			£556.00
BACS	AiRS	Membership			£155.00
BACS	SLCC	Clerks Membership			£189.75
BACS	Hunnissetts	Tree works			£1085.00
BACS	Uniserve	Councillor support	19.50	3.90	£23.40
BACS	Uniserve	Emails for March	46.30	9.26	£55.56
BACS	T Dixon	Wages for March			£1077.70
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.

- 354 Recreation Ground maintenance and equipment.** Some graffiti had appeared on the Captain Mannering. Cllr Allison will continue trying to remove with the wipes. There had been a report that it was slippery when very wet. To look at possibly using anti slip natural woodstain.
- 355 Footpaths.** No issues reported.
- 356 Seats, trees, bus shelters, bins and hedges.** Cllr Duffield had looked at moving the bin to the post, but it needs specific post attachments, Clerk to see if these can be ordered. Tree works have been completed. Wooden bus shelters starting to look a little shabby. To get this on the 5 year plan for a repaint in the next 1-2 years. Seat base measurements to be sent to Jakks.
- 357 Village Hall:** Continues to do well. Made a loss in its last financial year, but this was due to major refurbishments, Reserves healthy, plenty of bookings.

- 358 Newsletter.** Newsletter advertising to be renewed in April.
- 359 Speed Watch:** No report.
- 360 Highways Items:** Next SLR is booked for 18th May 2026. Agenda items will be needed at the April meeting.
- 361 Recreation Ground Committee Update:** Cllr Allison reported that the latest meeting had concentrated on items for the 5 year plan for the area. Improvements included some tree planting (for shade), picnic tables, a trim trail, a possible MUGA, the pavilion, and resurfacing the basketball court. Further suggestions were welcomed. Minor improvements needed included some action on the entrance area to the preschool play area, which had become very muddy over the winter months. The play inspection company we use had recommended rubber matting over bark. The Recreation Ground Committee would discuss this at their next meeting

Agenda Items for decisions

- 362 Dog waste Collection.** The quote from Rother had come in as £3.80 per bin per week, inclusive of VAT. This is only a 15p increase.
Council resolved to approve the quote from Rother for the dog bin emptying.
- 363. Ditch on Recreation Ground.** There had been further issues raised by a resident about water from the ditch flooding onto their land. Checks made by Cllrs Duffield and Hampson suggest that the issue is actually from the road. Concerns had been reported to Highways who had replied saying that a report needed to be made when flooding was taking place, as the steward needs to see active flooding before filing a report. It was confirmed that the drains in the area are due to be cleared in April. Verbal advice from the arborologist suggested that clearing the ditch may damage the tree roots. A written report could be requested if needed, a quote would be provided first.
Councillors resolved that the Clerk and Cllr Duffield meet with the resident to discuss concerns and pass on contact details for when it next rains. Clerk to check details of ownership of the Recreation Ground and its boundaries and covenants and maintenance. To defer further decision until more reports available at the next meeting.
- 364 School Fete on the Recreation Ground.** The school had asked if they could hold their fete again on the Recreation Ground. Last year the area had been left clean and tidy.
Council resolved to approve the use of the Recreation Ground for the school fete. Insurance details and a risk assessment to be sent to the Clerk before the event.
- 365 Policies.**
The following policies had been circulated
Privacy Statement for the website
Accessibility statement for the website.
Council resolved to approve the policies for adoption.
- 366 Resilience Plan and Community Hub.** The latest edition of the ESALC newsletter had expanded upon the importance of a tested Resilience plan and a

Community Hub for emergencies. Council had a simple Resilience plan formulated in 2025 but it lacked contact details and had not been tested.

Council resolved to approve the updating of the Resilience plan. The Clerk to co-ordinate, with Councillors assisting with contact details. An article to go into the next newsletter to invite offers of help from residents.

367. Items for noting or for including on future agendas.

An application for co-option had been received, this would be on the next agenda.

368. Date of Scheduled next meetings

Full Council Meeting 28th April 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.

369. Gift of Land. Councillors were updated. The Charity Commission application had been submitted and acknowledged. The first invoices had been received from the solicitor.

Councillors approved the payment of the invoices totalling £3595 plus VAT from the CiL funds. Clerk to continue with opening the bank account and arranging insurance.

The meeting closed at 9.08pm.

Signed _____ Date _____

Brede Parish Council