



BREDE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Tuesday 28th July 2026 at 7:30pm in Trinity Methodist Church Hall

Present: Councillors S Hampson (Chair), M Duffield, M Griffiths and M Wey

In Attendance: The Clerk.

69. **Public Question Time.** None
70. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllrs McDonald and Allison
71. **a) Declaration of Interests:** Cllr Duffield for the Village Hall. Cllr Hampson for the Payments to Authorise
b) Dispensation Requests: Cllr Duffield for the Village Hall.
72. **Co-option of Councillor:** There was one applicant for co-option. Councillors had considered the application and asked the public to leave before a brief discussion. The subsequent vote was by show of hands in public
Council RESOLVED unanimously to co-opt Mrs J Glover to Brede Parish Council, Mrs Glover signed the declaration of office and took her place.
73. Minutes of the following meetings were considered.
a. Full Council Meeting minutes 23rd June 2026 41/2026 - 62/2026
Cllr Duffield proposed that the minutes be signed as a true record of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr Wey.
Council RESOLVED to approve the minutes for signing.
74. **Chair's Report.** The Chair reported that:
The Awards afternoon went very well, over 100 in attendance.
He had attended an ESALC Chairs forum. There had been a lot of discussion on the Unitary Authority and what stage it was at, transfer of assets etc. A full 5 year business plan was recommended, particularly for major projects, as this could then go out to consultation. Regular consultation with the Police will be restarting in the autumn. There was lots of criticism of East Sussex Highways. Finally he thanked Cllr McDonald for repainting the bus stop after the recent graffiti.
75. **Update on Work in Progress and Clerk's report.**
The work in progress had been circulated. The Clerk had been working mostly on the Garden Awards afternoon
76. **Correspondence.**
Most had been circulated.
Email from PCSO Daryl Holter wanting to know if there had been any reduction in issues with illegal off road/ on road motorcycles. Councillors thought there had been fewer off-rod motorcycles recently.
Email from Smaller Authorities Audit Appointments Ltd. (SAAA) to register for the online AGAR next year. This will be voluntary for 2026/27 but compulsory after that, so the Clerk will register.

Email from ESALC asking us to complete members survey to help shape their business plan for the future. Needs input from Councillors as well as clerk. To be completed by 15th August. (clerk will email this out and ask for help from a couple of Councillors).

Email from ESCC Mark Ashdown (Rother Northwest). Looking into the possibilities of local communities working together to improve small public areas where routine grass cutting has not been maintained (Rural grass, not urban). Councillors were interested in this, Clerk will let Cllr Ashdown know.

77. Reports from the District and County Councillors.

East Sussex County Cllr Daniel Lach, had sent a written report which had been circulated before the meeting. He was fully aware of the dissatisfaction of East Sussex Highways work. Pressure is being put on Balfour Beatty to improve performance. The contract is being reviewed in depth. He encouraged everyone to report as much as possible online, and to let him know if things improve, or not.

Rother District Cllr Neil Gordon, reported that there were some issues with the transfer of assets by Rother, over £350k had been spent on consultants to deal with the transfers, but no budget had been set for legal fees. The Environment Agency were looking at concerns with the recent approval of a septic tank in Kingwood Hill, uphill from a listed building. There are still issues with Sowdens Wood.

78. Finance. (Cllr Hampson restated his interest in part b, and did not take part in the decision)

- a. Accounts to end of June 2026
- b. Payment Schedule for July 2026

Council resolved to

- a) to approve the accounts to the end of June 2026**
- b) to approve the payment schedule for July 2026**

Payment Schedule for June 2026

			Net	Vat	Gross
DC	Lebara Mobile	Clerks Phone	1.42	0.28	£1.70
DC	LDM	Bus Shelter paint	6.66	33.30	£39.96
DC	Aldi	Refreshments			£37.12
DC	Seedballs	Seedballs for gifts			£48.00
DC	Rother Books	Gift cards			£30.00
DC	Battle House of Cards	Cards			£5.70
D/D	Onecom	Village Hall Broadband	48.66	9.73	£58.39
CH	Lloyds Bank	Bank charges Treasurers Account			£4.25
CH	Lloyds Bank	Bank Charges Community Account			£4.25
BACS	Unipar	Speed Machine calibration	270.00	54.00	£324.00
BACS	Brede Village Hall	Hall Hire			£84.00
BACS	Glasdon	New bin	189.06	40.30	£241.86
BACS	Mr G Booth	Handyman June			£80.00
BACS	Orchard Landscapes	Grass Cutting	389.40	77.88	£467.28
BACS	Wealden Print	Newsletter Printing			£530.00
BACS	Safeplay**	Signs	575.00	115.00	£690.00
BACS	Trinity Methodist Church	Hall Hire			£48.00
BACS	Uniserve	Emails for July	46.30	9.26	£55.56
BACS	T Dixon	Wages for July			£xxxx

BACS	HMRC	PAYE			£282.62
D/D	NEST	Clerk Pension,			£463.40

Proceedings and reports of committees and working parties.

79. **Recreation Ground maintenance and equipment.** There is one cap missing on the play equipment.
80. **Footpaths.** The Clerk had received an email with some concerns with footpaths in and around Pottery Lane area. These would need to be looked at further.
81. **Seats, trees, bus shelters, bins and hedges.** The bus stop in Udimore has been repainted. The new bin in the Recreation Ground has been installed and the other one moved. Awaiting correct installation of the fitness equipment sign.
82. **Village Hall.** Running smoothly. Issues with drains were being sorted.
83. **Newsletter.** New deliverers found for Reedswood estate.
84. **Speed Watch:** The speed watch machine had been recalibrated. The speed watch group have been advised that Brede Parish Council do not own the machine, it was donated from another parish, who are setting up a new speed watch group. The machine may need to be shared. If so the costs of the yearly re-calibration will need to be shared. The volunteers managed one session in the last month. 35 cars were identified as speeding out of a total of 269. This is a definite reduction in numbers.
85. **Highways Items:** The SLR minutes from 13th July had been circulated. The Clerk has reported many additional items as requested.
86. **Update on progress of the new Rother Local Plan**
A presentation at the recent RALC meeting (slides to be circulated by Cllr Griffiths) had reported that the next stage, a regulation 19 consultation, would be this autumn, to ensure the plan is sound and robust. This will be a 6 week consultation period. The plan must be submitted by December to come into force next year. The Local Plan will continue to exist and transfer to the Unitary Authority. The government has set a requirement of 900 houses per annum for the next 5 years, currently Rother delivers 215 per annum. The plan demonstrates why Rother cannot deliver more.

Agenda Items for decisions

87. **Draft Rother Local Enforcement Plan.** The Head of Rother planning had sent the draft plan and a report to a Scrutiny meeting, but it was deferred to allow the Town and Parish Councils an opportunity to comment. A task and finish group was set up to look at comments submitted by Parishes, which is to be co-ordinated by RALC. The Northern Parish Group have also sent out paperwork and encouraged Town and Parishes to comment. Councillors felt this was too much information to process, and form responses to, during this meeting **Council resolved to appoint Cllrs Griffiths, Duffield and Hampson to look at the draft plan and reports in depth and formulate a final response, which would be ratified at the next meeting.**
88. **RALC draft proposal regarding Local Government Organisation.** The Government has announced the final boundaries, which have a section of East Sussex removed to join with Brighton and Hove. Shadow Authority elections are now due in May 2027, with Mayoral elections due in 2028 or 2029.

The RALC paper arose following concerns about the role of Parish and Town Councils in the new Unitary Authority. A working party was set up to see how to protect and enhance their position. The Working Group looked at what other Unitary Authorities had set up, and what worked and what didn't. Rather than let the Unitary Authority dictate the set up, RALC has prepared a paper showing how a representative structure for Parish and Town Councils would work, using a structure with Local Associations that have elected members, a system that can be used and developed further. A considerable amount of effort and expertise has gone into this document.

Councillors resolved to support the RALC draft response to Local Government Organisation.

89. New Computer for the Clerk

Several quotes had been circulated, along with the costs of the current computer data being professionally transferred to a new computer.

Councillors resolved to approve the purchase of an Asus computer at £639 plus VAT and a new mouse for the clerk. Also the costs of transferring the data and setting up the new computer, £156 plus VAT

90. Parish Volunteers Group for Bulb Planting on Village Green and other jobs.

Some residents had shown interest in joining a Volunteers Group to do some bulb planting, care of flower tubs, minor repairs and maintenance etc.

Councillors resolved that a formal Volunteers Group be set up. Clerk to ensure Insurance levels cover this and prepare risk assessment and terms of reference.

91. Recreation Ground Hedge/Fencing.

A resident with property next to the Recreation Ground had reported that children were accessing the ponds the other side of the fence, by making a track through the boundary, and had asked that the Parish Council repair the fence/boundary as a health and safety concern. The Parish Council do not own the fences around the Recreation Ground, each property has the responsibility of maintaining its own boundary. Councillors felt that further information was needed to make decision about the next steps required.

Councillors deferred this item and agreed that Cllrs Hampson and Duffield meet with the resident to look at the exact problem.

92. Yearly inspection of the Play Area.

A quote for £225 from TMPI had been received.

Councillors resolved to accept the quote of £225 plus VAT from TMPI for an independent examination of the Play Equipment.

93. Five Year Plan

The current 5 year plan was more a routine activities plan than a proper business plan. Councillors discussed the need for a proper five year business plan.

Councillors resolved that the current 5 year plan be updated and renamed as a 'routine council works' plan, to support the Councils work and ensure that nothing is missed. A new business plan would be developed starting in the autumn.

94. Investments.

The Bond was due end on 18th August or be reinvested. There was no foreseeable need to draw from reserves for this year.

Councillors resolved that the bond be renewed for one year with no changes.

95. Poppy Displays for 2026

Councillors discussed poppy placement and agreed that additional poppies on some of the speed repeaters and other traffic signs would be nice.

Councillors resolved that the Clerk should apply for a licence to attach poppies to the street furniture, (£68) and for a further 12 lorry poppies at £14 each to be purchased, all from S137 monies.

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

Christmas Trees

Policy Updates

97. Date of Scheduled next meetings

Planning Meeting 11th August 7.30pm in Trinity Methodist Church Hall.

Full Council Meeting 22nd September 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.

98. Gift of Land. Councillors were updated. Still awaiting final checks on the rights of access for vehicles to the land before completing the transfer.

Councillors noted the updates.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Signed _____

Date _____

Brede Parish Council