BREDE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Tuesday 22nd September 2026 at 7:30pm in Trinity Methodist Church Hall

Present: Councillors M Duffield, (who took the Chair) Allison, Glover, McDonald, Oliver, Hobson and M Wey

In Attendance: The Clerk.

105. Public Question Time.
A member from the **Patient Participation Group** spoke of concerns over the comments in the last Parish newsletter. The PPG is a non political group, and has no input into what the Drs surgery decide to do, it is their business. They cannot influence any decision to close the Broad Oak Surgery.
Overgrown Pavements. Member of the public raised concerns about hedges growing over the pavements and obstructing passersby and sight lines for getting out of driveways. They had been in touch with the Highways Steward. The footpaths around the Parish also needed attention as many are now very overgrown.
Parking at the Garage. A member of the public raised concerns about the amount of parking at the Garage, and the congestion it causes.
Concerns about the Crossroads. Concerns were raised about the dangerous crossroads. A resident has been in touch with the MP. The Crossroads are due to be reviewed in the Autumn.

106. Apologies for Absence: Cllrs Griffiths and Hampson

107. a) Declaration of Interests: Cllr Duffield for the Village Hall and Payments to Authorise
b) Dispensation Requests: Cllr Duffield for the Village Hall.

108. Minutes of the following meetings were considered.
a. Full Council Meeting minutes 28th July 2026 69/2026 - 98/2026
Cllr Hobson 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.

109. Chair's Report. The Chair reported that Local Government Reorganisation had been paused. The planters on the Village Green had been replanted. The new Volunteer Group looks promising.

110. Update on Work in Progress and Clerk's report.
The work in progress had been circulated. There had been completion of several of the projects listed. The new bench should be installed soon, the play equipment signs had been moved.

111. Correspondence.
Most had been circulated.
Several communications about the pausing of Local Government Re-organisation and the subsequent pausing of Devolution of Assets by Rother. There would now be District Elections next May.

The Rother Parish Conference and RALC AGM will be on 21st October in Brede Village Hall starting at 12.30pm
Rother Housing Development Event is on 27th November in Tilling Green
Email from a Resident asking for support to arrange a showing of the Peoples Emergency Briefing.

112. Reports from the District and County Councillors.

East Sussex County Cllr Daniel Lach, had sent a written report which had been circulated to all Councillors. He has requested a report on how Brede Valley and Marsham compare to Hastings for certain funding streams, as we are not entitled to them being labelled Rural rather than Urban, but have similar issues. He is asking for an exemption to this policy. He askes that the Parish Council consider supporting a resolution in its next meeting to support the Rural Parishes being eligibility for the funds as much as Hastings.

Rother District Cllr Neil Gordon, sent his apologies.

113. Finance. (Cllr Duffield restated his interest in part d, and did not take part in the decision)

a. Accounts to end of July 2026
b. Accounts to end of August 2026
c. To Ratify the Payments made in August 2026
d. Payment Schedule for September 2026
e. To note the external Audit for 2025/26

Council resolved to

a) to approve the accounts to the end of June 2026
b) to approve the accounts to the end of August 2026
c) to ratify the Payments made in August 2026
d) to approve the payment schedule for September 2026
e) note the External Audit report received for 2025-26

Payment Schedule for August 2026

			Net	Vat	Gross
DC	Lebara Mobile	Clerks Phone	1.42	0.28	£1.70
D/D	Onecom	Village Hall Broadband	56.61	11.32	£67.93
CH	Lloyds Bank	Bank charges Treasurers Account			£4.25
CH	Lloyds Bank	Bank Charges Community Account			£4.25
BACS	PKF	External audit	420.00	84.00	£504.00
BACS	Mr G Booth	Handyman July			£100.00
BACS	TMPI	Play equipment inspection	225.00	45.00	£270.00
BACS	Uniserve	Emails for August	46.30	9.26	£55.56
BACS	Geoxsphere	Parish Online membership	70.00	14.00	£84.00
BACS	T Dixon	Wages for August			£1077.70
BACS	HMRC	PAYE			£282.62
D/D	NEST	Clerk Pension, to note details only. Employers Contribution £178.23			£463.40

Payment Schedule September 2026

			Net	Vat	Gross
DC	Royal British Legion	Poppies			£168.00
DC	Lebara Mobile	Clerks Phone	1.42	0.28	£1.70
D/D	Onecom	Village Hall Broadband	56.61	11.32	£67.93

CH	Lloyds Bank	Bank charges Treasurers Account			£4.25
CH	Lloyds Bank	Bank Charges Community Account			£4.25
BACS	Mr G Booth	Handyman August			£80.00
BACS	Uniserve	Emails for September	46.30	9.26	£55.56
BACS	Uniserve	New Computer	783.99	156.80	£940.79
BACS	Cllr Duffield	Plants for planters			£94.97
BACS	T Dixon	Wages for September			£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.

114. **Recreation Ground maintenance and equipment**. The Swing had been repaired. There was a problem with repeated graffiti, which would need sanding off.

115. **Footpaths**. There had been an email raising concerns about overgrown footpaths. Council discussed the options, but felt that they could not start to ask Volunteer to cut private hedges. All will need reporting to the Rights of Way Team.

116. **Seats, trees, bus shelters, bins and hedges**. The Northiam Road Bus Shelter is leaking

117. **Village Hall.** Running well, has a full diary. Village Hall committee have now taken over the Broadband contract. A new seat has been installed. Cracks are appearing in the Treatment room, to be looked at. Solar panels are being considered.

118. **Newsletter**. November edition being worked on, going to print on the 16th October.

119. **Speed Watch:**. Got out once in August. In August in Sussex there were 3275 offenders. There is currently a campaign going on to try and reduce speeding.

120. **Highways Items**: There are roadworks at the Crossroads on 6th October, to refresh to paint line. Next SLR booked for 15th February.

Agenda Items for decisions

121. **Draft Rother Local Enforcement Plan.** A response had been prepared by Cllrs Hampson, Griffiths and Duffield and circulated to all councillors before being submitted
Council resolved to ratify the response sent in.

122. **Volunteer Group.** The Clerk had prepared a draft Terms of Reference for the group and its activities. The Insurers had confirmed that Volunteers would-be covered under the existing policy, as long as the correct risk assessments were carried out and power tools were not used before rechecking with the insurance. A list of possible jobs had been drawn up.
Councillors resolved to approve the terms of reference, and the job list. Cllrs Glover and McDonald offered to co-ordinate this group with the support of the Clerk.

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123. Bulbs and Container Planting for the Village Green and Crossroads.
The Clerks had researched some bulb prices and Hi Vis Vests. Two of the Village Green planters had already had new plants. It was felt that Hi Vis jackets were definitely required. Cllr McDonald may have a few which could be used, otherwise they would need to be purchased.
Councillors resolved to approve the purchase of bulbs and plants as required up to a maximum of £300, plus a further £100 on Hi Vis vests or additional bulbs, whatever was required.

124. Yearly Play Equipment Inspection.
The Inspection had shown one major concern, which had been dealt with immediately, (loose bolts on a swing). There were no other major concerns. A minor concern had been the bottom of the preschool slide where the ground was so hard, but this was felt to be due to the excessively hot weather. Councillors would monitor and see if it improved. Following the inspection it was found that vandals had stripped the rubber edging from the slide. A quote from Safeplay was for £825 to replace the rubber. Cllr Wey recommended the use of Belzone instead, to seal the edges and prevent injuries to fingers.
Councillors resolved that the Clerk would purchase some Belzone to see if that worked first.

125. Asset Risk Assessment.
Cllrs Duffield and Glover had been round and assessed all the Councils assets. No major concerns had been highlighted. Small repairs required to benches etc had been added to the Volunteer list.
Councillors noted the assessment.

126. Recreation Ground Hedge/Fencing.
Cllrs Duffield and Hampson had met with the resident who had raised concerns. On inspection it was clear that the fence needing repairs had not been installed by the Parish Council and was instead the responsibility of the residents.
Councillors noted the report and agreed no actions should be taken.,

127. Christmas Trees
The Clerk had researched various options for the trees.
It was suggested that three 12ft trees be purchased, one for the Village Green and two for the Recreation Ground. Proper bases would be needed for all three trees, which could be stored and used again. New battery lights using a linking system would be much brighter but would cost £312 per tree.
Councillors resolved to have three 12ft trees and three appropriate bases, plus as many new light systems as could be purchased within the approved £1200 budget. Cllr Allison offered to look through the Clerks recommended suppliers and check prices. The previous years lights would be used on the remaining trees. Lights on would be Tuesday 1st December at 4pm and Cllr Oliver would liaise with the school, regarding some carols. Cllr McDonald offered to help with installation.

128. Policies to be Reviewed.
The Policies had been circulated. No updates were suggested.
a) Co-option Policy
b) Data Protection Policy.
Councillors resolved to readopt the Policies with no changes required.

129. Business Plan
Councillors Hobson, Glover and Duffield expressed an interest in being involved with this. The draft Terms of Reference we discussed
Councillors resolved that a working group of Cllrs Hobson, Duffield and Glover be set up. Cllrs Hampson and Griffiths would be invited to join if they wished to. The terms of reference were approved.

130. Items for noting or for including on future agendas.
The New Planning Legislation details had been circulated. There was a briefing this coming Friday by Teams. The Clerk would recirculate the link, Cllrs Wey and Duffield would try and attend.

131. Date of Scheduled next meetings
Full Council Meeting 27th October 7.30pm in Trinity Methodist Church Hall.
Planning meetings will be booked when required.

Cllr Duffield 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.

132. Gift of Land. The transfer had completed. Insurance was in place. The management would now hand over to the Brede Wildlands. The final bills were due from the solicitor.
Councillors noted the completion of the project.

133. Clerks Pay Increase. The NJC pay award had been announced
Councillors noted the increase.

134. Registering Land. There was nothing the Parish Council could do for this. The gates to be re-reported to enforcement.
Councillors noted the update

The meeting closed at 9.25pm.

Signed _____ **Date** _____

Brede Parish Council

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