

TWINEHAM PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2025/2026

Twineham Parish Council:

Mrs. Annie Hirst (Chair)

Mrs. Fanny Jones

Mrs. Caroline Murphy

Mrs. Jane Veaney

Mr. Charles Worsley

Mrs. Dawn Langston (Clerk)

We have had another very busy year.

Meetings and Visitors

Parish Council meetings were held in May, July, September and November 2025, and January and March 2026. Official visitors in the past year have included Councillor Joy Dennis, our Division Member for Hurstpierpoint and Bolney on West Sussex County Council (WSCC), and Councillor Geoff Zeidler, our representative on Mid Sussex District Council (MSDC). We are extremely grateful to them for all the help and support they give us. In addition, several residents and members of the public have attended individual Parish Council meetings.

Annual Precept

The Parish Council resolved a precept of £11,500 for the financial year 2026/2027.

Mid Sussex District Plan 2021-2039

The Parish Council is very concerned about the proposed development at Sayers Common for some 2,500 houses and the potential impact of traffic on the local, rural lanes and on the road junctions at the A23/A2300, the A23/A272 and Bolney Chapel Lane /A272. The Chairman spoke at the Hearings on 17th March and representatives of the Parish Council have had frequent meetings with the developers – Berkeley Latimer, Welbeck Homes and Wates, together with MSDC. We have also met with Hurstpierpoint and Sayers Common Parish Council and Albourne Parish Council. Various traffic surveys will be taking place during the week commencing 11th May.

Meetings with our Member of Parliament, Alison Bennett

Alison Bennett, MP, asked to meet with members of the Parish Council and we met with her in July 2025 and February 2026. At the meeting in February she was particularly concerned about the closure of Twineham School.

Twineham School

We are all very saddened at the prospect of Twineham School closing in August 2026. We send our best wishes to the remaining children and members of the staff for the future. The school buildings are owned by the Diocese of Chichester and the playing field is owned by WSCC. The disposal of these is likely to take some time. We have written to WSCC requesting that they do not allow the buildings and land to fall into disrepair. We are very anxious to ensure the best outcome for local residents. Neither the Diocese nor WSCC will answer our questions as to the future of these assets. In the meantime, there will be a picnic on Saturday, 13th June, from 12 noon, at the school, to mark the closure of a much-loved school which was founded in 1864.

Planning Matters

The Parish Council commented on all the planning applications which have been submitted, keeping the best interests of the local residents in mind.

Highways Matters

The much-awaited Traffic Regulation Order has now been authorised resulting in 30 mph speed limits along Hickstead Lane and along parts of Bolney Chapel Road and Twineham Lane and 40 mph limits along the northern length of Bolney Chapel Road and the southern length of Twineham Lane. The Parish Council is constantly trying to get potholes repaired and overgrown hedges cut.

Thanks

The Parish Council could not function without our Clerk, Mrs. Dawn Langston. We are so grateful to her for all her hard work.

I should also like to thank everyone who helps with the life of the Parish, including those who give us advice and to those who clear up litter.

Thank you, too, to all the other members of the Parish Council who give up a huge amount of time, which involves looking after the War Memorial, ensuring the bus shelters are cleaned and checking the bins at the bus stops, writing Newsletters, arranging socials, running the Oil Syndicate and assisting with writing submissions to MSDC on planning matters.

May 2026