



TWINEHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk@twineham-pc.gov.uk

[Tel:- 07909 332605](tel:07909332605)

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held at The Peacock Room, The Royal Oak, Wineham Lane, Wineham, on Monday 7th September 2026 commencing at 7:00 pm

Present: Councillors Mrs A. Hirst (Chairman), Mrs F. Jones, Mrs C. Murphy and Mr C. Worsley.
Mid Sussex District Councillor G. Zeidler
West Sussex County Councillor R. Jackson.
Clerk Mrs D. Langston.

55.26 Apologies for absence were received from Twineham Councillor Mrs J. Veaney

56.26 No interests were declared.

57.26 To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 13th July 2026. Minutes were agreed by Council and were signed by the Chair.

58.26 West Sussex County Councillor R. Jackson updated on the attached report. He highlighted an announcement made earlier today regarding Local Government Reform, which puts the process on hold until October 2026. Cllr Jackson has also been in touch with WSCC Officer E. Saunders regarding the Twineham School playing field.

59.26 To receive an update on Highways Matters:

- Update on Gratten Lane. Clerk has emailed PROW requesting an update. The footpath will be inspected as part of the parish inspection which commences this week. Ranger has suggested raising the resurfacing of this bridleway as a capital works project going forward. It will need assessing and scoring but any support or contribution to costs from the Parish Council would obviously help this process and increase the scoring. Item remains ongoing.
- Tansy Corner flooding. Cllr Worsley has tried to contact landowner on this matter. Item remains ongoing.
- Bus Shelter. Graffiti continues to be an issue. Council will contact contractor on this matter.
- Noticeboard. Council resolved to repair the noticeboard and review the location.
- There is no 40-mph speed limit sign at the southern end of Twineham Lane at its junction with the B2116. Clerk will contact Officer to request an additional sign at the bottom of Twineham Lane.

60.26 Closure of Twineham School.

- WSCC have invited Councillors to a site meeting on 17th September 2026. Items to be discussed will be.
 - Maintenance.
 - Graveyard.
 - Car Park with some usage already being offered to the church.
- Community Hut. Friends of Twineham School have been advised not to dissolve the charity until any transfer of assets has taken place.

61.26 MSDC Councillor G. Zeidler updated on the following items.

- Mayoral area has already been established.
- Funding and responsibility has already been established; however, these decisions should fall under the remit of the elected Mayor.
- Redevelopment of Burgess Hill town centre continues to be pushed forwards by all parties.
- Parking Strategy remains an ongoing item.
- Northlands Farm proposed data centre site has been discussed at pre-application stage. Twineham Parish Council will meet with the applicant on 15th September 2026.

62.26 Update on the MSDC District Plan.

- District Plan was originally submitted and has gone through the Regulation 19 process with the Inspector and is considered sound. Following Regulation 19 the Inspector has requested additional housing numbers be included in a revised plan. Officers have come up with a list of sites for review which have gone through in combination testing and been accepted. This list was provided to members for review.
- Revised numbers and sites have been submitted to the Inspector.
- Monday 7th September 2026 is the last day for the submissions to the MSDC Local Plan consultation.

Mid Sussex District Councillor G. Zeidler and West Sussex County Councillor R. Jackson left the meeting at this point.

63.26 Cllr Hirst gave an update on planning and enforcement matters.

64.26 Cllr Hirst gave an update on the recent WSALC meeting held on 14th July 2026.

65.26 Cllr Hirst gave an update on the recent meeting with Alison Bennett MP held on 6th August 2026.

- Discussions took place on power cuts, potential water reservoir, district housing numbers, inheritance tax on farms, mobile phone coverage, mayoral elections and devolution.

66.26 Finance & Administration Update.

- Council reviewed balance sheet against budget and confirmed a spend of £7,753.02. Balance sheet was checked against the bank statements and signed by the Chair.
- Council agreed acceptance of the NALC pay award. Clerk will remain on scale twenty-eight working six hours per week.
- Payments raised since the last full meeting:
£47.00 ICO Annual fee.
£72.00 Kitman Ltd Invoice 16557 Annual offsite backup fee.

67.26 To confirm date of next meeting as Monday 9th November 2026. Venue to be confirmed.

68.26 *Any other business (Please note that no decisions may lawfully be made under this item, but matters may be discussed which involve no more than an exchange of information).*

Parish Notes 07 09 26

Local Government Reorganisation

Awaiting Government decision in October

Sussex Strategic Authority (SA)

Board Decided to send £3.3 million on replacing a number of fire appliances as the existing ones are old and expensive to maintain. On forming the Mayoral, authority planned for April 2028, the East and West Sussex Fire Brigades will be merged to form a single Sussex Fire Authority.

County issues

Two main issues on the doorstep are the cost of living and the state of our roads.

The last County administration set the increase on the County part of the Council Tax at 4.99%, the maximum under the capping regime.

However, this amount did not cover the inflationary effect of fuel and electricity prices and the increase in staff costs.

The biggest costs to the County are Adult Social and Child Social care. The County does not have enough money and staff to meet the demand and therefore services need to be prioritised.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) provision is also increasing with associated costs.

However, there is a backlog in the Education Health and Care assessments to arrive at a plan (EHCP)- a serious concern for the parents involved.

The current joint administration is determined to reduce the backlog and are planning to speed up the assessments.

The Administration has also found some unspent monies to do more road maintenance.

Residents would have observed much more patch repairs, top dressing, micro asphalt laying and the more expensive road reconstruction. Hopefully before the winter.

The County is running a Highway Ranger scheme with a pilot in Worthing.

The new countryside programme, which the Rangers will tackle, are the everyday issues to help local streets look cleaner. Issues such as obscured signs, overgrown vegetation, blocked drains, overhanging vegetation, minor repairs to street furniture, removing weeds and pavement edges and removing unauthorised signs and posters.

Areas of work will be identified by local Highway teams working with County Councillors, Parish and Town Councils, community groups, alongside issues raised through routine inspections.

District issues

As a District Ward Councillor for Hurstpierpoint, I have received dozens of emails objecting to the additional houses proposed near them and generally under the Main Modification to the Revised District Plan required by the Planning Inspector. I am unhappy about the extent of the proposals. The consultation closes on 7th September

The Joint Venture on the redevelopment of the centre of Burgess Hill is progressing, but the financial details are commercially confidential

Cllr Rodney Jackson

Division County Councillor

Hurstpierpoint and Bolney

Ward District Councillor Hurstpierpoint