

Minutes of the meeting of East Dean Parish Council
28 April 2025 at 7.30pm
Held at East Dean Village Hall

Present: Neil Georges - Chair, Beanie Allison, Chris Tyas, Jim McDonald, Josh Collins & Pete West

Apologies Sam Hook
Henry Potter

In attendance: Jeremy Hunt – West Sussex County Council
Vicky Mudford standing in for Alexia Ward - Parish Clerk
10 Parishioners

1. Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting held on 20 January 2025 were reviewed and approved.

1. Matters arising from Minutes

VE 80 to be discussed under Any Other Business.

2. Update from District and County Councillors

Jeremy Hunt's report had been circulated to the Parish Council ahead of the meeting. See end of Minutes for his Full Report. He highlighted the following topics stating that further details are contained in his Full Report.

Helping to keep young people safe particularly in town centre
Community Food Hubs for all – might be useful in East Dean
Vaccines – Covid & RSVs Vaccine (against respiratory virus)
Welcome to Experience West Sussex

East Dean Hill – Jeremy reported that following our last meeting, he did register our concerns over the state of this road. The response he received was as follows: East Dean Hill – the road has been inspected today by my colleague and two pothole jobs met our criteria for repair and are due to be completed within 28 days (both close to the village on the bend by Manor Farm House). He raised a job to repair an approx. 100m section of the southbound carriageway at this same location back in December, this job will be reviewed under the new contract starting in April and prioritised relative to its severity. Longer term the whole road has been earmarked for surface treatment, this is at an early stage and dates are not yet available.

Hole - Pond Green – he had chased Portsmouth Water, and again a few days ago. Portsmouth Water is coming to look at it ... local engineer will hopefully will look at it.

Southern Water – Jeremy said that he is delighted to see that work is now completed in East Dean - but fortunately it has been a relatively dry winter. Work has progressed through Charlton and now heading for Singleton. Team has worked very hard.

20 mph speed limit / 40 mph between East Dean & Charlton - Adrian said that Sam submitted a TRO application but has not received a response. He will send a copy to Jeremy to chase up.

Henry Potter sent his report by email which was circulated to the Parish Council before the meeting.

The main focus this past month has been modifying the Local Plan to accommodate the comments and advice of the Planning Inspector after his initial study of the submitted Plan and having taken into account the representations made to the two hearing sessions held in the latter part of last year. These Main Modifications have been produced in a new document, the Chichester Local Plan 2021-2039, the Modification Consultation Version. I have a paper copy of this document if anyone wishes to read it, it is also available by visiting the CDC website. It is equally as comprehensive as the original submitted document with much redaction and substitution and there are some poignant changes.

The Council has also published an Annual Progress report on its Climate Emergency Plan. This Plan has a target of a reduction of 10% of greenhouse gases year on year. Between 01/10/2023 and 30/09/2024 emissions of 2,903 tonnes of carbon dioxide were recorded, only a 5% reduction on the previous year. The current action plan has resulted in 75 actions having been implemented, solar panelling installed on several public conveniences and Leisure Centres. Under the Warmer Homes Scheme 68 homes have had 131 measures completed, 3 more electricity vehicles have been added to the CCS fleet in addition to the 2 electric refuse collection vehicles. Much lighting in all CDC buildings has been replaced with LED units, and the list goes on. Costs?? The modifications to Westgate Leisure Centre alone cost £1.3 million!! Funded mainly by Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme and £210,000 from the Councils Reserves. Incidentally, the Councils application for funding from the National Lottery "Climate Action Fund - Our Shared Future" was rejected. This would have helped support a network of climate action groups in the District. Work on this will continue but at a much reduced pace.

Finally, at the full Council Meeting, held on the 8th April, it was announced that the Chief Executive, Diane Shepherd, will be reducing her work with the Council to concentrate on the extensive programme towards the Devolution process. This is transpiring to be a very complex process requiring many meetings between the Executives of the Authorities involved, CDC and the other District or Borough Councils, East and West Sussex CC's and Brighton and Hove Council. To compensate for Diane's absence, John Ward has assumed a new role of Chief Operating Officer to oversee the day to day affairs of the Council. Eventually when the Unitary Authority reaches the 'Shadow' stage with an elected Mayor, Diane hopes to take full retirement after 40 years working at CDC during which time she rose to become the CEO for the past 13 years. This will possibly be in 2027. An extensive Public Bulletin has been issued by her Office.

3. Financial Report

The balance of the Lloyds Current account on 25th April 2025 was - £2,128.80. £2,499 has been paid to Roger Gunn for a ride-on mower, Lloyds Bank service charge £4.25 and we received the precept from CDC £648.50. A VAT claim will be made for the VAT on the mower. The balance in the Helen West Legacy Account £20,350.41 including interest of £16.71.

4. Correspondence

There had been one Planning Application for 28 East Dean. There were no objections. Neil said he will file that on the SDNP website tomorrow.

5. Update on flooding , Sewerage and Highways

Neil reported that some pot holes have been done but there are still some left which he will chase up. The Jet patch system was used. Jeremy Hunt confirmed it is a good process.

6. Update from Parish Councillors

Green Spaces – the larger willow will need pollarding. Josh said he would get a quote and arrange to get a survey done of the other willow. The pond needs dredging - Neil said he would follow up. Josh reported that High Lane is completely blocked - all the ash is being taken out in the next two weeks and then all the footpaths

should be open. There is a tree down on a footpath top of Ridge Lane which needs reporting to Rob Furlough, Goodwood. Neil will follow that up.

7. Any Other Business

VE DAY 80 8th May – A Shared Moment of Celebration

Neil confirmed the various arrangements. The Risk assessment has been done with Adrian Murphy. Neil asked everyone involved to initial the Risk Assessment so compliance done. The Recipe for the ginger bread has been arranged, lanterns sorted and are compliant. Menu done with the pub. We will need to do some communication in the village. It has been put in the Valley Diary. John Holt will have his tractor and trailer to take people up/down Court Hill. Neil will sort glasses with the pub and supply prosecco and soft drinks. Jeanie will be singing with a keyboard – with three songs. Glenn building a beacon with the help of Josh on the Thursday morning.

Glenn Ward asked “Does the PC have a view on what is going on with the Village Hall at the moment”

Neil said Yes – the Village Hall has been struggling with bookings since Covid, the recent flier is part of the wider process and future options to be considered. The Parish Council will be involved in the process with the Trust and the Management Committee. Responses from the flier will be shared with the Parish Council and Trust and then will be able to comment further.

Pathway East Dean-Charlton

Tim Weeks asked about a proposed pathway between East Dean and Charlton and if it would be on a similar basis to the one in Boxgrove. Neil confirmed that he has spoken to Goodwood who confirmed that they are considering proposals and he will update the meeting as and when Goodwood have clearer plans.

Grant Appeal from St Wilfrid’s Hospice

The Parish Council has received a request from St Wilfrid’s Hospice asking for £100. It was felt that a lot of fund raising is done and is being done by locals e.g. a Team is joining the St Wilfrid’s Golf Day. The Parish Council does not have much money. Jon said that it is not appropriate to give away tax payers money to a charity. It was agreed not to make a donation.

Kate Whitton, Chalk Streams Resilience Officer Aldingbourne & Lavant and Louise Barnettson Water Champion at West Sussex.

Kate Whitton gave a short presentation. Kate is employed by Western Sussex Rivers Trust and funded by Chichester District Council. She would like to help make our river/pond more diverse, more wild life and work with us. She wants to encourage buffer strips around verges, ponds etc. She regularly talks to Southern Water and is aware of the work being done in the Valley. She is working with Goodwood on some pilot wetland projects. She mentioned that there is a score card on the health of the Lavant, available on their website. Any river can be looked at. The Environment Agency use the data to see what chemicals get in the water, invertebrates. The South Downs National Park commissioned the Upper Lavant River Condition Assessment report which outlines the recommendations for improving the River Lavant. There is a Riparian Guide on their website. She would be happy to give a talk if there is enough interest from parishioners. Source of the Upper Lavant starts in East Dean and finishes in Sheepwash Lane.

Louise’s role is to work with Parish Councils and Community Groups looking at creating ponds, wetlands. She will be putting together Information Packs for Parish Council and will work with Parish Councils to find out

what information would be useful. They can source money for projects and have plenty of projects coming up. They have very limited funds. She was asked if people doing community service are involved. .

Date of Next Meeting

21st July 2025 at 7.30pm

27th October 2025 at 7.30 pm, changed from 20th October

At East Dean Village Hall

Report from Jeremy Hunt Jeremy Hunt – West Sussex County Council Member for Chichester North c/o Cabinet Office, County Hall, West Street, Chichester, PO19 1RQ. E-mail: jeremy.hunt@westsussex.gov.uk
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Budget 2025/26 - We have agreed a balanced budget for the year ahead which provides support for the most vulnerable, without cuts to frontline services. In the coming year, we will spend more than £2.2bn on vital services, including:

- £1,284m for schools, education, and children's social care
- £553m to care for adults and keep people healthy
- £98m to protect the environment, recycling and waste disposal
- £87m to maintain roads and provide transport
- £65m for Fire and Rescue services and support for communities
- £5m to support the local economy

The pressures facing us outweigh the funding we receive from government, and we were able to achieve a balanced budget by reducing spending by £12.3m, and an increase in council tax of 4.99% (2% for adults' social care and 2.99% for general fund services). The increase in council tax for a Band D property is £85.59 per year or approximately £1.65 per week.

Having said that, there are huge pressures coming through from Social care - both in Adults services and Children's services. However much work both adults and Children's services do, in trying to meet the ever growing pressures, we are struggling to keep the costs under control in the face of ever growing demand. As well as that increasing demand, we are also faced with the ever increasing costs of sourcing and providing many of the services we need to support those residents. And with the looming increases in NI and the NLW, these financial pressures are only going to increase. This is not just an issue in West Sussex, but it is a national one which will have severe repercussions on council's right across the country - even well managed ones like West Sussex - unless the Government tackles the problem now.

Helping children and young people to stay safe -We know that staying safe is a concern for many young people, this can be especially so when they are out and about in town centres. The Children First Board have worked with young people and a range of partners, including the county council's community safety team and Sussex Police to review the information and advice we provide to help young people to feel and stay safe. We would ask all parents and carers to share the information on the link below which we hope you and the young people in your life find helpful.

Community Food Hubs for all - Working in partnership with Sussex-based food rescue charity UKHarvest, our Community Food Hubs redistribute surplus food from suppliers while educating residents on food waste prevention. The scheme has already successfully prevented over 94 tonnes of food from going to waste since it started in April 2023, with hubs taking place once a month in each district and borough across West Sussex. For a small voluntary donation of £5, residents can access a wide selection of surplus food. No referrals are needed and all residents are welcome to visit the child-friendly hubs.

Book your vaccines - Top up your protection against Covid-19 by getting vaccinated this spring if you (or your child) are eligible. Those at increased risk from severe illness can get the vaccine if they:

- are aged six months or over and have a weakened immune system
- live in an older adult care home
- are aged 75 or over (on 17 June 2025).

You don't need to wait for an invitation to book your vaccine. Visit the NHS App, [the NHS website](#) or call 119 for free. You may also be able to visit a [walk-in](#) site which doesn't require a booking. The **RSV vaccine** helps protect against respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), a common virus that can make babies and older adults seriously ill. It's recommended during pregnancy and for adults aged 75 to 79. The RSV vaccine is given all year round. The vaccine is recommended during every pregnancy (from 28 weeks onwards), older adults only need one dose, which should protect them for several years. [Find out more](#) or speak to your GP or maternity service.

Welcome to Experience Sussex - We're excited to introduce Experience Sussex – your guide to discovering the best of Sussex! Formerly Experience West Sussex, the website has been transformed to offer even more ways to explore, experience, and enjoy the area. If you're looking for fun days out our [Things to Do](#) section is packed with ideas, from family attractions and historic sites to thrilling activities for all ages. Check out [What's On](#) for the latest events, festivals, and theatre in Sussex, or if you are planning a visit for friends and family our [Trip Builder](#) makes it easy to create a tailor-made itinerary, just click the heart icon on your favourite places to start. If you need inspiration, explore our [Ideas and Inspiration](#) section, where you'll find blogs, news, and discover new places right on your doorstep. And you can use our [Food & Drink](#) search to find great dining spots, hidden gems, and dog friendly pubs in your local area. Start exploring via the link below or follow @experiencesussex. Share your own adventures with us using #ExperienceSussex.

Commute Zero Hero Awards 2025 Winner - WSCC's Active Travel team are winners of [Mobilityways Commute Zero Hero 2025](#) Active Travel Champion Award!

The Commute Zero Hero Awards honour organisations and individuals driving innovative commuting solutions that reduce carbon emissions and foster a culture of sustainability. West Sussex County Council has been recognised for its Active Travel Strategy prioritising school journeys. WSCC is committed to making sustainable travel journeys a safer, more convenient and more accessible option for our residents and visitors alike. A cornerstone of this commitment is our approach to Active Travel and in recognition of this work we were awarded Level 1 Capability status by Active Travel England last autumn. The award allows us to continue building on the progress made in recent years by bidding for funding to deliver on our ambition. A key focus for WSCC is building the habit of travelling actively from a young age. Our Active Travel to School programme involves providing site-specific improvements, such as new or upgraded crossing points, widened footways, segregated cycle tracks and behavioural change interventions to enable children and their parents to travel actively for the school run. We have also introduced School Streets at a small number of locations as part of a pilot programme which aims to reduce traffic and make the space outside the school gate safer. By restricting traffic on roads outside schools during drop-off and pick-up times, these areas become pedestrian and cycle

priority zones. Although not all locations are suitable for a School Street we are committed to delivering more of them in future. Active Travel is much more than just an investment in new pavements, crossings and cycle paths. It's about providing our residents with the ability to choose to walk, wheel or cycle instead of using their cars for journeys to school, work and many more destinations.

Finally, please don't forget to keep an eye on our website, especially our news and campaigns page where you can keep up to date with all our latest news. <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/about-the-council/news-and-campaigns/>