



Doc No: 252603

Council meeting – 24th September 2025

Minutes of the Council meeting of Isfield Parish Council as above, held at Isfield Village Hall, TN22 5XG at 19:30.

Present: Cllr G Sambrook (GS) (Chair), Cllr P Roundell (PR) , Cllr A Keys (AK) (Vice Chair) and Cllr Mitchell-Cobb (TM-C)

Absent: Cllr S Crammond and Cllr Coleman (WDC).

In attendance: A Emery Clerk and RFO; Cllr Galley (ESCC) and 0 members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence

To **RECEIVE** any apologies.

- Cllr Coleman (WDC) tendered her apologies and report received. Cllr Crammond tendered his apologies and reason for absence accepted.

2. Declarations of interest/Request for dispensations

To **RECEIVE** any declarations of interest. To **RESOLVE** to grant dispensations where appropriate.

- None

3. Public Participation

Members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting. Any member of the public, who so wishes, may speak at this point of the meeting on items within the remit of the Council. No previous notice need be given. The Council are happy to receive comments but responses will be made outside meetings should they be necessary. Time limit to speak with the discretion of the Chair.

- No public in attendance

4. District and County Councillors' reports

• County Report

Cllr Galley reported The County Council met on September 24th and there was a wide ranging debate on the proposal for the current East Sussex to be the footprint for the new body- The One East Sussex proposal. This was passed nem.con (nemo contradicente- no-one opposing the proposal). A few abstained but across the political spectrum there was strong support. The proposal meets all the criteria set out by the government in their White paper. They wanted a population of about half a million, they didn't want to cut across the boundaries of current councils and they didn't want unnecessary disaggregation of services particularly care services,

Brighton and Hove had put together their own plan for 5 new authorities across the whole of Sussex. Each would have a population of just over 300.000 people, current District boundaries would be torn up and all the services would have to be reconfigured.

Brighton have, of course, put their plan to the Government. West Sussex have suggested one new Unitary covering all of West Sussex. The Government will decide what will happen but it will cover all of Sussex. The ball is now in the government's court.

The One East Sussex option was strongly supported by Lewes District Council and generally preferred by Eastbourne, Rother and Hastings. Wealden District Council led by the Wealden Alliance apparently could not agree to accept either One East Sussex or the 3 new ones suggested by Brighton.

Owlsbury – conversation with highways and planners discussion – they are concerned and ESH may object due to the connectivity from Owlsbury and Uckfield i.e. cycling/walking. Nothing to promise.

Local Nature Recovery Plan – if agreed this could impact Owlsbury.

5. Full Council meeting minutes: 23rd July 2025

To **RESOLVE** that the minutes of the meeting as above having been previously circulated, be taken as read and approved.

- Unanimously approved – Cllr AK signed to that effect. Cllr Roundell advised that Fletching Parish Council have not agreed anything for the Owlsbury Fighting Fund. Little Horsted have agreed to grant £2k. Duly noted and minutes to be amended. **Clerk to action.**

6. Matters arising from previous minutes

- Nothing that isn't on the report

7. Clerks Report

- Received and duly noted. Christmas Tree – to be purchased again and positioned in the same place as last year. **Clerk to action with Highways licence.** Happy to proceed with Christmas Tree as per email received.
- EDF on notice that we will be charging them interest. Chased Barclays about the recreational ground.

8. Correspondence

To note/discuss correspondence received.

- Noted – updated on Zurich – Cllr AK has been asked to speak with insurers and Zurich will take from there.

9. Planning Applications to discuss and also any further applications that arise after publication of the agenda.

WD/2025/2142/F – Deadline for comment – 8th October

SUNFLOWERS, STATION ROAD, ISFIELD, TN22 5XG PROPOSED SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTENSION.

Decision: No comment

- To **RATIFY** the following applications

WD/2025/1696/F – DEADLINE 29TH AUGUST 2025

COMPOSTING SITE, ISFIELD ROAD, ISFIELD, TN22 5JJ CHANGE OF USE OF ONE BAY OF A RANGE OF COMPOST MATERIAL STORES TO REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE OF MACHINERY USED ON SITE.

Decision: No Comment

- **To note the following WDC decisions**

WD/2025/1075/F & WD/2025/1075/LIS

CONVERSION OF EXISTING BARN TO A PAIR OF SEMI-DETACHED HOLIDAY LETS, INCLUDING REMOVAL OF TWO 20TH CENTURY EXTENSIONS THE MILL HOUSE, BUCKHAM HILL, ISFIELD, EAST SUSSEX, TN22 5XR.

REFUSED

Appeal Ref: APP/C1435/W/25/3362346

Oaks Farm, Horsted Lane, Isfield, East Sussex TN22 5TX

DISMISSED

WD/2025/1306/F

DEMOLITION OF EXISTING DETACHED GARAGE/WORKSHOP AND ERECTION OF AN ANNEXE/WORKSHOP ON THE GROUND FLOOR, AND A BEDROOM WITHIN THE ROOFSpace. 1 IVY COTTAGES, STATION ROAD, ISFIELD, TN22 5XA

WITHDRAWN

10. Expenditure

- To ratify August expenditure as itemised on the schedule – **Duly ratified**
- To approve September expenditure as itemised on the schedule – **Unanimously approved**
- To ratify urgent tree expenditure at playing field - £1050 + VAT – **Duly ratified**
- To approve various tree work around the playing field of £650.00 + VAT – Cllr AK – wrote to KPS and said they had not put in a figure for the scrubland against the fence – needs clarification. This current quote is just for some dead ash. David and Cllr AK have been looking at the site for a shed down in the same corner on the left as you enter where the dead ash is. Could take out 2/3 trees back to ash in order to make room for the new shed. Original quote agreed in principle subject to the addition of the area near the fence – recommend a site visit. Make it easier for maintenance if cleared. Agreed for a site visit – **Cllr AK to action.**
- To approve/consider a PO Box address for the Clerk at £445.80 per annum – **Unanimously agreed. Clerk to action.**
- To consider/approve a grant application from Isfield Theatre Society (subject to receipt of application form) – Clerk reported that no application received – however it was agreed in principle if/when they set up the bank account/constitution it should be supported.
- To approve a figure to set aside for the Owlsbury Fighting Fund – Cllr PR reported on the details of the fighting fund, who have commissioned an initial letter with lawyers Leigh Day to put to Wealden to identify areas that were weak in the application at a cost of £3600, plus looking at weaknesses of the travel report including naming railway stations that don't exist. The problem will be if again officers recommend acceptance and planning committee will accepted as well. They will have to launch a judicial review of that decision – initial costs two stages £20k-£25k, if goes beyond that then £100k. Trying to bring pressure on all WDC Cllrs not just planning committee. May need to commission copy update of travel report subject to ESH report may have to do environmental report. Sewage system is a weakness. Nothing has been done to it for more than 20 years in Uckfield it has been beyond capacity for at least two years. May have to get an expert report/consultant. The travel report would cost in the region of £2000. Generated quite a few private donations from individuals. Need more. Little Horsted have pitched in £2k, Fletching cannot as have neighbourhood plan to fund. What can IPC offer – can match Little Horsted – fighting fund of £10k required. Cllr AK proposed £2k, seconded Cllr TM-C. **Agreed.**

11. Bank reconciliation

To **RESOLVE** to approve the bank reconciliation and corresponding bank statements for IPC.

- **Unanimously approved.**

12. Year to Date Accounts

To **NOTE** the actual v budget expenditure to date

- **Duly noted.**

13. External Auditor Report 2024-2025

To note the External Auditor Report and Notice of Conclusion of Audit.

- **Duly Noted**

14. Symbol of Remembrance

To **CONSIDER** erection of suggested location (next to Parish sign) by The Women in Isfield Group

- Cllr GS – thought it was a good idea. Not trying to transfer the remembrance day from the church to this site. Ask for more details about the item that is to be erected etc. In principle a good idea. **Clerk to action and report back.**

15. Update: Recreation Land Registration

To receive the above from the Clerk

- As noted in the Clerks report. ST3 all signed and corresponding invoices showing proof of maintenance of the land has been sent to the Solicitor. Now in the hands of Land Registry.

16. Update: EV Charge Points

To **RECEIVE** as above from Cllr Cramond.

- Nothing to report as dependent on item 15 above.

17. Reports from Council representatives

To **NOTE** verbal reports from Councillors – e.g. Recreation Ground, Village Hall.

- Cllr AK – getting requests to use the recreation ground more – keen to say yes when children are involved. David and Cllr AK looked at spending money using CIL and S106. David has a tractor and when he decides not to be involved anymore storage will be required for the tractor and maintenance/goal post storage. Cllr SC objected to the size and height of the shed but it needs height for the tractor size of shed 9mx6m. Robin from CRB said it was the correct size. Costs for planning and design etc £13k. Trying to get cost of the shed – but need to have a ball park figure of different sizes. Cllr TM-C thinks it will be too big for the area on the left as you enter the car park. Other alternatives are some shipping containers. Plant a hedge along the post and rail. Potential for the need for an overflow car park. Plan that Robin has drawn does not give a clear idea of what it looks like. Site visit required and mark out the area to show footprint. First IPC need a definite costing and set up a provisional date along with Robin Birchett. Cllr AK to forward a selection of dates to Council. **Cllr AK to action.**
- Order no Dog signs (2) – plastic waterproof with drill holes. **Clerk to action.**

- Kings Portrait – Clerk has received and asked where it should be hung - Agreed to leave in the Hall and advise committee. **Clerk to action.**

18. Notification of meeting/Suggested items for next agenda

To **NOTE** any suggested items for the next meeting.

- Potholes bad on Buckham Hill.

19. Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960

To **RESOLVE** that in view of the confidential/special nature of the business about to be transacted it is advisable that the press/public be excluded and instructed to withdraw during discussion on the following items: Staffing.

- To note National Pay scale increase backdated to April 2025. Duly noted.

Meeting Closed: 20:55

Date of next meeting: 26th November 2025 – 19:30 Village Hall