

ISFIELD PARISH COUNCIL
Clerk & RFO: Anita Emery CiLCA
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Doc No: 262703

Council meeting – 23rd September 2026

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 S Cramond (SC) and Cllr Mitchell-Cobb (TM-C)

Absent: Cllr A Keys (AK) (Vice Chair), Cllr Coleman (WDC & ESCC)

In attendance: A Emery Clerk and RFO and 1 member of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence**
   To **RECEIVE** any apologies.

   - Cllr AK 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.

   - None

4. **District and County Councillors' reports**

   - Cllr Coleman was not in attendance and submitted a report to Council (see appendix 1).

5. **Full Council meeting minutes: 22nd July 2026**
   To **RESOLVE** that the minutes of the meeting as above having been previously circulated, be taken as read and approved.

   - Agreed and Cllr M-Cobb signed to that effect (Cllr GS absent from that meeting).

6. **Matters arising from previous minutes**

- Nothing to note

7. **Clerks Report**

- Mainly pavilion – not much else to report

8. **Correspondence**
To note/discuss correspondence received.

- Duly noted

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

WD/2025/0922/MEA – extension for comments – 1st October.
LAND WEST OF UCKFIELD - OWLSBURY FARM, HORSTED GREEN, LITTLE HORSTED, TN22 5TJ DEMOLITION OF POULTRY FARM AND ASSOCIATED DWELLING; ERECTION OF UP TO 1550 NEW DWELLINGS (INCLUDING 35% AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND 50 RESIDENTIAL CARE/LATE LIVING UNITS (C2)); MIXED-USE CENTRE WITH RETAIL, COMMERCIAL AND COMMUNITY USES; 2FE PRIMARY SCHOOL INCLUDING EARLY YEARS PROVISION; MULTI-PURPOSE SPORTS HUB; COMMUNITY ALLOTMENTS; NEW AND ENHANCED PEDESTRIAN/CYCLE LINKS; OPEN SPACE INCLUDING NEW SANG; SUSTAINABLE URBAN DRAINAGE FEATURES; CHILDREN'S PLAY AREAS; LANDSCAPING; AND CREATION OF TWO POINTS OF ACCESS ONTO A22.

- Cllr GS - Owlsbury was included in the local plan by WDC officers. The number of objections on application and local plan consultation is an enormous number.
- **Decision: Unanimously agreed to OBJECT. Agreed that Cllr GS would write the objection response and circulate.**

WD/2026/1858/F
HOLLY LODGE, BEECHES FARM ROAD, BUCKHAM HILL, ISFIELD, TN22 5QD
DEMOLITION OF EXISTING OUTBUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION OF REPLACEMENT BUILDING TOGETHER WITH AMENDMENTS TO HARD AND SOFT LANDSCAPING AND ACCESS (PART RETROSPECTIVE)

Decision: No objection.

- **To RATIFY the following applications**
- **None**
- **To note the following WDC decisions**

  WD/2026/1218/F Head of Planning and Environmental Services SELF-BUILD REPLACEMENT DWELLING OLD RECTORY FARM, BUCKHAM HILL, ISFIELD, TN22 5XR **APPROVED.**
- **Duly noted**

10. Expenditure

- To ratify August expenditure as itemised on the schedule – unanimously ratified - £2624.86
- To approve September expenditure as itemised on the schedule - Unanimously approved to release payments of £3159.50
- To **DISCUSS/CONSIDER** request for ink costings of £334 for printing welcome packs. Unanimously agreed
- To **APPROVE** annual insurance premium of £1760.01 - unanimously agreed
- To **APPROVE** fingerpost replacement on Horsted Lane (opposite Station Rd junc) - £965 + VAT – unanimously approved. **Clerk to action.**

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

- Noted

13. External Audit Report

To **NOTE** the external audit report and notice of conclusion of audit. Clerk advised that this had not been received at the time of the meeting. **Clerk to carry forward to next meeting as yet to be received.**

14. Pavilion

a) To **RECEIVE** request for WIFI and action where necessary – Cllr Crammond – register with royal mail before we can apply – **Clerk to action**
b) To **RECEIVE** report from Cllr Keys re meeting with sports clubs – Cllr M-Cobb gave a report based on Cllr AK's note. Duly noted.
c) To **APPROVE** EICR quote - £325 + VAT – Unanimously approved.
d) To **RATIFY** purchase of a hot water dispenser of £122.40 + VAT . Unanimously ratified.
e) To **RECEIVE** update on the balustrade installation and Home changing room repairs. Included as part of Cllr Keys report.
f) To **CONSIDER/APPROVE** cleaning quotation – Clerk advised that this had not been received at the time of the meeting and will need ratifying in November.

15. Playing Field

a) To **RECEIVE** feedback on the outdoor gym proposal – Cllr Crammond – has a resident who is keen on outdoor gym equipment – they have agreed to do a tour of the local area to view other gym equipment and Cllr Cramond will report back.
b) To **DISCUSS** request to investigate installing path running along back of the playing field - Cllr Cramond
c) To **NOTE** the minutes of the meeting with the Sports Clubs held on 14th September. Duly noted.

16. Update: Recreation Land Registration

To receive the above from the Clerk

- Clerk advised that the land is now registered in IPC's name. Agreed to remove from the agenda.

17. Update: EV Charge Points

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

- Agreed to remove from agenda as space is limited and those with electric cars will have their own charging points at home now.

18. Website

To **DISCUSS** Clerk concerns and consider recommendation. Clerk advised that not everything gets uploaded when asked to and its another job for her to double check it has been done. Advised the website could do with a revamp and to bring into the budget for next year. Speak to James Lungey of Parish Websites for quote.

19. Reports from Council representatives

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

- No other reports

20. Items for reporting and/or for the next agenda

- Cllr Cramond – since highways no longer able to maintain c and unclassified roads do an experiment for a highways contractor on a patch in Isfield for maintenance. A good use of some CIL money approximately £1500/£2000 – Agreed it was a very good idea to investigate. Cllr Cramond to investigate on the details and costings and report back.
- Grant to car park behind the pub – agreed to leave this.
- Cllr GS – requested to form a governance sub-committee – unanimously agreed.

21. 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: NALC PayScale. Duly noted.

Meeting closed: 20:52

Date of next meeting: 18th November 2026 - Full Council – 19:30

Appendix 1

September 2026 - Cllr. Christina Coleman
Wealden District Councillor for Danehill and Fletching
East Sussex County Councillor for Maresfield and Buxted

The Local Plan

As I am sure you are aware, on the 18th September Wealden District Councillors voted on the progression of the draft Local Plan, which sets out development in the district to 2042. The vote was whether the draft Local Plan should progress to regulation 19.

While I recognise the very significant value in having a Local Plan, to best protect a district from over-development, unfortunately, I was unable to support this draft version for a number of reasons. In brief summary, they are:

- the lack of a timely and accurate Water Cycle Study, to inform how much and where development should go, from the outset of the plan-making process. A Water Cycle Study should not be an afterthought. Wealden published theirs a matter of days before the vote.
- I am concerned that the representations of local residents have not been adequately listened to.
- I am concerned about the allocation of two sites in particular, namely Owlsbury and Ashdown Business Park Expansion. I focussed on the latter in my speech to Full Council.

I therefore voted against the draft Local Plan. Nevertheless, there was a majority in favour and it will now proceed to Reg 19. You can watch the debate in Wealden's webcast library.

Wealden District Council is inviting representations on the Council's final version of the Local Plan. The period to submit representations will run from **Monday 21 September** to **Monday 2 November 2026 at 5pm.**

How to read the plan

You can read the Local Plan, evidence base, supporting documents and full details of this stage in the process on our website at https://www.wealden.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy/new-local-plan/.

Hard copies of the Local Plan and key documents, including the Sustainability Appraisal, are also available at the Council Offices, libraries and several town and parish council offices. Please see the website for the full list of locations.

How to make representations

Wealden's preferred way to receive responses is through our online portal at https://consult.wealden.gov.uk/kse/.
You can also complete the response form which can be obtained from our website, you can then send it by email to planningpolicy@wealden.gov.uk

If you need assistance in using the online portal or getting a response form, please contact the Planning Policy Team using the contact information below.
Please note that we will not acknowledge forms received by post.

This stage of the process is more formal than the previous consultations, meaning when making a representation, it must explain whether you consider the Plan meets its legal and procedural requirements and whether it is 'sound'.

A Plan is 'sound' if it is:

Positively prepared
The plan should provide a strategy that seeks to meet the area's identified development needs, as a minimum, where it is practical to do so and is consistent with achieving sustainable development.

Justified
The plan should be an appropriate strategy, considering reasonable alternatives and based on proportionate evidence.

Effective
The plan should be deliverable over the plan period to 2042 and based on effective joint working on cross-boundary strategic matters.

Consistent with national policy
The plan should enable sustainable development in accordance with national planning policy.

Contact Wealden:
Please telephone the Planning Policy Team on 01892 602008 or email planningpolicy@wealden.gov.uk if you want any further information, help or assistance.

Standards Committee

I Chair Standards Committee at ESCC and sit on Standards Committee at Wealden District Council. There is much common ground and I have become increasingly aware of the threat to our democracy because Councillors at all levels (Parish, Town, Borough, District and County) are experiencing increasing levels of threat and intimidation. A recent Local Government Association survey found that seven in ten councillors reported having experienced abuse or intimidation in the previous twelve months. 78% reported feeling some level of personal risk when fulfilling their role as a councillor. 52% felt that abuse or intimidation had increased sharply in the last twelve months. This was impacting their likelihood to stand for election again.

ESCC Highways

After receiving many email requests, I am thrilled to let you know that finally works to improve the A22 carriageway between Crowborough Road, Nutley and Hindleap Lane, Wych Cross have finally been completed and the road is much improved.

I have been dealing with multiple issues such as: road defects; unsafe parking; road signage; verge clearance; ditch clearance; speeding and land disputes. Some are easier to resolve than others, but I have had a reasonable success rate.

In addition, I have received a number of complaints about anti-social/dangerous driving and speeding in the Uckfield/Ashdown Forest area: A22/A26/B2026/Crowborough Road etc. I remind residents that they should report this to the police who are running Operation Crack Down. Evidence such as dash-cam footage or number plates can be emailed to Roadsafety@sussexpolice.co.uk.

Wilder Wealden

At the end of July, Wilder Wealden was officially launched. This transformational initiative builds on the success of the Wilder Ouse project, a partnership between the Sussex Wildlife Trust and a number of other Local Authorities to support nature recovery in the river Ouse catchment. Wilder Wealden will work with landowners, farmers and diverse volunteer organisations across the whole of Wealden. It aims to restore habitats, support species and create a resilient nature recovery network across the district. It is a five-year project, made possible through a £1.2 million fund from Wealden District Council that will be matched in kind by Sussex Wildlife Trust. A Programme Manager and Senior Land Advisors have now been appointed and the work of nature recovery begins. If you are aware of sites or organisations that may benefit from habitat restoration, please do get in touch.

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

On the 7th September, Angela Rayner, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government announced a pause on LGR - the process of creating new, much larger unitary authorities out of existing District and County Councils. I have always been opposed to the extinction of District Councils, as the proposed unitary authorities were too large and remote to adequately represent residents. LGR seemed to me to be rushed and ill-conceived. It is disappointing that the government wasted so much time and resource on the ill-fated reorganisation before coming to the same conclusion. The pause is in order to carry out a review and in the meantime there is uncertainty. One thing that is certain is that

there will now be elections, again, next year, for the existing Wealden District Council. The separate process of “devolution" or Mayoral Strategic Authorities appears to still be going ahead. The Mayoral elections are due to take place in 2028.

Fletching Music and Arts Festival

Running from the 23rd - 26th September, the Fletching Music and Arts festival is packed with exhibitions, events and themed concerts every evening. Fletching is blessed to have two exceptionally talented and generous individuals within its community: Isabelle Peters and Charlotte Scott. Both are world-class performers who share a passion for inspiring others, especially young people, to embrace classical music and get involved in music-making. Alongside the programme, the festival reaches out to three village schools - Fletching, Danehill and Newick - to spread the joy of music. This is such a vital mission that I had to support it with £2,500 from my Councillor Ward Budget. For the gift of music to a child is the gift of a brighter future. If you want to find out more or buy tickets just search Fletching Music and Arts Festival.

The Coach and Horses, Danehill

The Coach and Horses has been the heart and soul of Danehill and the wider community for nearly 200 years. There is significant concern that without a community-led bid, this cherished establishment could be sold to a national chain, a brewery, or even a developer looking to change its use entirely. This would mean losing the pub as we know it.

To gauge interest for the community purchase, an online survey was conducted and a couple of meetings were held in Danehill and Chelwood Gate. The response has been overwhelmingly positive, with packed village halls, reflecting strong community support. This enthusiasm extends beyond just Danehill, attracting residents from Nutley, Maresfield, Horsted Keynes, Forest Row and beyond.

In light of this support, a Community Benefit Society has been formed. This allows local residents to invest in the pub by purchasing shares, with a minimum value of £250. Each shareholder will have a vote to ensure that the pub is meeting the needs of local residents. Every pound of profit that the pub makes goes back to benefit the pub and the wider community. If you are interested in supporting this venture or finding out more, you can email info@keepcandhlocal.org or go to **https://keepcandhlocal.org/**

People’s Emergency Briefing

You may be aware of a number of screenings of the People’s Emergency Briefing. This one is a bit special as it is hosted by Lt Gen Sir Richard Nugee, who is one of the nation’s leading voices on climate and national security and was one of the speakers at the original event in London last year. The screening takes place on Thursday 24th September, at 7pm, Cumnor House School. The film examines the government’s national security assessment on global biodiversity loss, ecosystem collapse and national security. The purpose pf the discussions afterwards is to find collective ways of taking meaningful action within the community, to build resilience for the future. Please do come along! For more information contact: **Office@cumnor.co.uk**

Project Ripple Effect - Maresfield Conservation Group

Last night (Tuesday 22nd September) I spoke at the Maresfield Conservation Group evening. The talk was about Project Ripple Effect, the Citizen Science river testing initiative that monitors the health of local streams (https://project-ripple-effect.co.uk/). I co-founded the project in partnership with Friends of the River Medway and the University of Sussex. Project Ripple is growing in size and influence. As well as collecting vital evidence, enabling us to hold water companies

to account, we also have a strong lobbying voice. New local groups are setting up similar initiatives or “rippling” out into other river catchments such as the Danehill group that monitors a section of the River Ouse. The evidence that they have gathered has resulted in an environmental enforcement notice being served.

Are you an Unpaid Carer?

East Sussex estimates that there are nearly 70,000 unpaid carers across the county. This vital and often unrecognised or undervalued work is essential to the functioning of our community. If you are an unpaid carer or know someone who is, ESCC is holding a networking event so you can find out more about services that could support you. The event takes place on Tuesday 6th October at Uckfield Civic Centre. You can drop in any time between 11am and 2pm. To get a ticket you can go to tickettailor.com/events/careandsupportevent/2335771.

As ever, if you have any other questions, problems, or concerns, please do reach out to me, and I will do my best to help.

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