

FORD PARISH COUNCIL.

Minutes of the meeting Monday 15th September 2025

Venue: Yapton & Ford village hall.

Clerk; clerk@fordwestsussex-pc.gov.uk

1. **Welcome & apologies.** Apologies from Cllr Worne & Cllr Marner. There was no apology for absence from Cllr Jones who did not attend.
2. **Declarations of Interest.** There were no new declarations.
3. **Minutes of the last meeting.** These were not available to sign off due to the absence of the clerk who was indisposed. They will be signed off at the next meeting.
4. **Matters arising from the last meeting.**
 - a. **Devolution.** This was discussed during the District Council's report.
 - b. **Refresher for GDPR update** is to be arranged with Process Matters. This is to be conducted remotely.
5. **Finance.** The Clerk sent an update. Current account balance stands at £42878.44; this includes the second half of our precept. Savings account stands at £4.65.
6. **Correspondence.** A resident has written to Citizens Advice requesting advice with a problem neighbour, who is refusing to clear brambles and weeds which encroach on her garden. Cllr Pendleton suggested she contacts environmental health at Arun or get her local councillor to speak to him. If this fails, then perhaps the local scout group could help?
7. **County Councillor Report.** Cllr Pendleton reported that regarding devolution, every local authority would go into a unitary arrangement. This means that all local authorities would disappear. The mayor would report to central government directly. Arun has posted its colours and asked to combine with Worthing, Adur, and Chichester. They would deal with everything that currently County and District councils deal with. WSCC have submitted a different request that they continue to operate as one authority. At the end of

the day, Central government will make the final decision. There will be no consultation on this. Councillors will be reduced from 500 to 150 which could mean that residents will not have the usual two channels to approach with problems. The election for mayor has seen Katy Bourne proposed as the conservative candidate for the position. No proposals yet from labour or the green party. Elections will take place next May 2026.

Regarding the potholes in Burndale and Yapton roads, these will be fully resurfaced in the near future.

Overgrown pathways and hedgerows; Simon Neville has agreed to inspect these and contact both Vistry and Stratton reminding them of their responsibilities in this area.

Accident blackspot. The junction on Rollaston Park and Burndale Road. Speed is the main issue, but unless there is a fatality, the police will not regard this as a problem. Cllr Langmead suggested putting an island in the centre. Cllr Pendleton promised to investigate this before the road gets resurfaced.

Chairman's report. Cllr Smith has nothing to report.

8. **Planning.** Drainage is holding up the development for Vistry. There is a meeting with them Monday 22nd September.

9. **Allotments.** Cllr Smith has not been able to visit recently.

10. **Memorial Garden.** The quote from our regular gardener to replace the hedge with a fence has been seen, and we are now going to find quotes from another gardener for comparison. Cllr Pedleton said she is loathe to remove hedging as it destroys habitats of wildlife.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 17th Monday at 7.30.p.m.