

FORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday November 17th, 2025.

Yapton & Ford village hall.

Clerk: clerk@fordwestsussex-pc.gov.uk

1. **Welcome & Apologies.** There were none.
2. **Declarations of Interest.** There were no new declarations.
3. **Minutes of the last meeting.** These were agreed and signed off by the chairman together with the previous meeting's minutes.
4. **Matters arising from the last meeting.**
 - a. **Footpaths.** Cllr Smith has received calls from concerned residents regarding footpath no. 175 which remains closed. If developers have good reasons (health and safety) to keep them closed, WSCC has no authority to oppose this. This is the only footpath connecting Yapton and Climping. Cllr Smith said that Vistry have agreed to put in a temporary 10-year footpath which Arun District Council is not happy with. Vistry is still trying to sort drainage.
 - b. **Cllr Armstrong** reported that the hedgerow at Rolleston Park, which is owned by Vistry and Stratton, is overgrown. Cllrs Worne and Pendleton will address this at the meeting being held on Thursday. The clerk had already sent an email asking for this to be trimmed and is awaiting a response. Cllr Worne asked if there could be a dropped kerb at the east side of Rolleston Park and the junction of Burndale road by the memorial garden. Cllr Pendleton will address this as a health and safety issue.
 - c. **Devolution.** We must wait for central government to let us know if we are to be classed as one or two unitories.
 - d. **Cllr Armstrong** retired from the parish council and was presented with a gift from the council. The chairman thanked him for all his work over his tenure.

5. **Finance.** The clerk reported that the current account stands at £40,059.16 and savings at £4.65. The clerk reported that the previous chairman advised that the bank account should hold the amount of the precept in reserve. This was questioned by some of the council who felt that 50% should be adequate.
6. **The new councillor** was invited to join the council and was welcomed by the chairman. She signed an acceptance of office form. Now filed by the clerk.
7. **District councillor report.** Cllr Worne reported that some of the smaller parishes are reluctant to join larger parishes as they feel they would lose their identity. Ford would not want to join another parish and would prefer to remain as they are.
8. **The Memorial Day.** This was a remarkable success and very well attended. There was some confusion as to timing, with some people waiting a while to lay their wreaths. Cllr Armstrong suggested that those wanting to lay wreaths should make this known at the beginning of the service and therefore not have to wait. Cllr Smith suggested she could paint a dotted white line and ask people to wait behind this for their turn. Cllr Langmead said that Vistry had agreed to form a garden of memorial in the new housing development. He suggested it be called a garden of reflection. Cllr Smith suggested a memorial plaque on the site.
9. **Chairman's report.** Cllr Smith reported that she had put 14 wreaths on the wall of the memorial garden. She will look for someone to help repair the slate plaques. Process matters may know someone to help with this.
10. **Planning.** There were no relevant planning applications.
11. **Allotments,** Cllr Smith said she will try to visit before Christmas. She has many plants to be put in before Spring.
12. The next meeting is scheduled for January 19th, 2026.