

FORD PARISH COUNCIL.

Minutes of the meeting held on January 19th, 2026.

Venue: Yapton & Ford village hall.

Clerk: clerk@fordwestsussex-pc.gov.uk

1. **Welcome & Apologies.** Apologies from Cllr Worne.
2. **Declarations of Interest.** There were no new declarations.
3. **Minutes of the previous meeting.** These were agreed & signed off by the chairman.
4. **Matters arising from the last meeting.**
 - a. Hedgerow at Rolleston Park. Cllr Pendleton was not present at this time to report.
 - b. Dropped kerb. Cllrs Worne & Pendleton were not present at this time to report.
5. **Finance.** The clerk reported that the current account stands at £3760.81 and the savings account at £4.65. There was discussion regarding the request for precept. The clerk had circulated her budget report with the estimate for our request. The council will decide on the amount to request and let her know ASAP.
6. **Public Sessions.** No members of the public attended.
7. **District councillor's report.** Cllr Worne could not attend.
8. **County Councillor's report.** Cllr Pendleton joined the meeting. She reported that Bilsham rd will be closed for around 11 weeks and may be closed for the duration of the work should completion take longer. Southern water will also be working on this area at the end of February/beginning of March. At the end of Rolleston Park, by the memorial garden, it is being suggested that a seat be installed for public use. Regarding the two issues (hedgerow and dropped kerb) mentioned in Matters arising; Cllr Pendleton will report on these issues at the next meeting.
9. **Chairman's report.** The Chairman had nothing to report.
10. **Correspondence.** The clerk reported that there have been several requests for donations from various charities. After discussion, the council resolved to form a budget for this purpose. We have given £300 to St Wilfrid's hospice so far this year. **Clerk to review previous donations over the past years.**
11. **Planning.** There was nothing much to discuss but Cllr Langmead said with reference to the planned school project at Ford, there are a lot of matters outstanding, mainly highways and drainage. Arun took a stance to refuse the application as there was no certainty that the school would be delivered. Sam issued a counteroffer before the committee on Wednesday which was then deferred for negotiation to continue for one month only and if that is successful

within that month there will be a further 3 months to get matters resolved. Cllr Worne has spoken against the application. This will now go before the committee on February 14th.

12. Planning application F/1/26, Grundon have applied to reclad one of their hangers, which they hope will make it more energy efficient. Cllr Langmead noted that having seen the drawings, they are intending to raise the eaves where the pitch is less significant. This could potentially give them more capacity for storage which is currently used for storing bins. Cllr Pendleton said that raising the roof could potentially risk obstructing the views of neighbouring housing.
13. **Allotments.** Cllr Smith has not been able to visit due to sickness and adverse weather. She will try to get there before the next meeting.
14. **Memorial garden.** Cllr Smith has had a quote from Mr Lubbe which came to £4720. The clerk is seeking further quotes. Cllr Langmead suggested that we complete this work soon to protect nesting birds. If this is not possible then we should defer until Autumn which is the end of the breeding season. Cllr Pendleton said we should be prepared for protesters regarding the removal of the hedgerow. Clerk to ask if Ford prison might be prepared to help with this work.
15. **Social Media.** Cllr Russell asked if she might design a Facebook page for the council. She suggested we might get more interest in the work the parish council does for the community. The council resolved to ask her to formulate a Facebook page for the council. It could be used to advertise local businesses but must stop short of becoming at all political. She will compile rules of engagement to avoid this. She will do this and send to the Clerk.
16. The next meeting is scheduled for March 16th, 2026.

Hi Carol. Sam was commenting on the school planning application'

Regards Dawn



16/3/26