

FORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on March 16th, 2026.

Venue: Yapton & Ford village hall.

Clerk; clerk@fordwestsussex-pc.gov.uk

1. **Welcome & apologies.** Apologies from Cllr Langmead.
2. **Declarations of interest.** There were no new declarations of interest.
3. **Minutes of the last meeting.** These were agreed and signed off by the Chairman. Cllrs Jones & Worne were not in attendance at this meeting, so they abstained.
4. **Matters arising from the last meeting.**
 - a. **Hedgerow at Rollaston Park.** Cllr Pendleton reported that the section of the hedge owned by Stratton will not be cut, as they do not think it necessary. WSCC have allegedly cut their section, although Cllr Smith said she had not seen any evidence of this having been done.
 - b. **Memorial garden.** Cllr Smith reported that she is in favour of accepting the quote from New Place fencing, to remove the hedge and replace it with fencing. Work cannot start until nesting has ended, which means OCTOBER at the earliest. Clerk to inform New Place fencing. It was resolved that all agreed to accept the lesser quote from New place fencing. Cllr Smith said she had ideas for various plants to cover the fencing. A hedgehog home and insect hotel could be added.
 - c. **Resilience.** Cllr Russell has attended a community resilience course which she found very interesting and informative. There was a brochure produced which it was suggested, be distributed around the community. It was decided against doing this in the winter months, as the content could potentially worry people for no reason. It has been suggested that Climping will not take part in the resilience project, so they should be asked to remove their content which is currently stored in the resilience room at the

village hall. Cllr Russell to talk to Andy Pepler. (Resilience leader for Yapton).

- d. **Facebook page.** Cllr Russell reported that she had spoken to Process Matters, who has advised against the idea. There was discussion on this topic with opinions for and against. The /clerk suggested that Process Matters might be able to attend the next meeting and explain her reasoning. The council resolved to try a pilot scheme of three months, whereafter a review of the idea would be undertaken. It was also suggested that the current parish council website would benefit with updating. Cllr Russell to speak to Process Matters.
5. **Public Sessions. (4 Site.)** A representative of this organisation came to give the council an idea of what they do for the community. They support around 3600 people with sight loss and macular degeneration, with around 5 of those affected currently living in Ford. They have no government funding and rely on donations and fund-raising activities. They require around £500.000. Per annum to support their people. To support 2 sufferers, they need £100 per annum per person. The organisation has been in existence for over 100 years. **Clerk to send Ms Thomas a form to apply for a donation from the council.** The Chairman thanked her for coming.
6. **Allotments.** Middleton parish council have taken on 2 of these from Hobbs. They will attempt to negotiate the lease when it is due for renewal. The lease is for 25 years for the three acres, and the council was told that if a piece of land has been an allotment for a period, it should stay as such in perpetuity. **Clerk to send a form for donations.** A new site is being designed, to include a space for children, cafe, growing vegetables, and fruits. The representative will send us information which we will post on our website. Any food grown but not used will go to local food banks. Ford is the lead in the allotment lease issue.
7. **Finance.** The Clerk reported that the current account stands at £36046.09, and the savings at £4.65.
8. **County Councillor report.** Cllr Pendleton said that there is a marked difference between local government reorganisation and devolution.

Local government reorganisation is when district and county come together. There will be no redundancies, but those jobs lost will not be replaced.

9. **District Councillor report.** Cllr Worne reported that CIL money is being targeted to get cycle paths and pathways constructed. She also reported that primary schools are struggling to fill places, yet WSCC seem blind to this situation and continue to want to build more schools. She reported that a very elderly resident of Yapton is being told to vacate his home. She reported that no court will allow this to happen, and she will contact and reassure him. She reported that the oldest veteran from WW” has died at age 102. She has asked if his son might like to suggest some names for the roads of the Landings. **Clerk to get name and address to send a card to his family.** Cllr Jones asked if all had had their new waste bins delivered. The Clerk asked if her personal problem with this had been reported, and Cllr Worne said Dan Cox has been notified of her situation.
10. **Chairman’s Report.** Cllr Smith reported that at the Vistry meeting, it had been suggested by the marketing people, that the new development (the Landings), be called Fordham. As the parish council has been so supportive of the project, it would seem we would be listened to if we suggested naming roads on this site. A weekly meeting has been suggested to have regular updates.
11. **Planning.** There were no planning issues to be discussed.
12. **Allotments.** The Chairman will visit as soon as possible.
13. **Memorial Garden.** This has been reported on under Matters Arising.
14. **Vistry news and updates.** These have been reported on earlier.
The next meeting is scheduled for May 18th which will include the AGM. The meeting will, therefore, commence at 7. p.m.