

RUSTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES: of the Monthly Meeting held on 27 October 2025

PRESENT: Councillors A Cooper (Chairman), Mrs V Allen, Mrs C Broomfield, M Broomfield, J Ceiriog-Hughes, Mrs A Cooper, Mrs P Gregory, R Grevett, G Lee, Mrs S Partridge, Ms M Revell, D Rogers, and Mrs C Stevens

In attendance: Mrs C Ward (Clerk of the Council) and Ms R Costan (Deputy Clerk of the Council)

253/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bennett (Work Commitment), Ms Lloyd (Personal) and Warren (Personal). These apologies were accepted by the Council.

254/25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Cooper declared a personal interest in Minutes 275/25 and 276/25. He remained in the Meeting during consideration of these items and took part in the discussion thereon.

255/25 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 22 September 2025 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

256/25 SUSSEX POLICE

An apology for absence had been received from PCSO Raju.

(a) Matters Arising

The Clerk referred to Minute 219/25(a) and said that the individual who had been in situ outside of Tesco Express on a daily basis had not been present for a few weeks. She said that she had been advised that he had been arrested for past misdemeanours and if he was to return, it would not be for at least a month or so.

The Council NOTED this information.

Councillor Lee then reported that the published August crime figures numbered 90, which were mainly made up by a third being anti-social behaviour, with the remainder being shoplifting and violent sexual associated offences. He said that there had been no burglaries.

He then advised that the figures up to 21 October 2025 numbered 36, made up of 19 anti-social behaviour crimes, 15 shoplifting/thefts and 2 burglaries from garages and violent sexual associated offences.

He concluded by advising that he had spoken to PCSO Raju about the recent break-in that had taken place at Country Life Pet Shop.

Councillor Mrs Stevens then reported that she had learned that a Silver Mercedes had been stolen from Tasman Close on 20 October 2025, via Neighbourhood Watch.

The Council NOTED this information.

(b) Arun All Parishes Meeting - 17 October 2025

The Deputy Clerk advised that she had attended the above Meeting, hosted by Inspector Ross Wickings.

She said that Inspector Wickings had provided an overview of the Police Operation Locally as follows:-

- NPT Review - The alignment of coaches to teams has been confirmed, this would, in time, mean a more consistent presence around who is available to each Sergeant and when
- Hate Crime Awareness Week 11-18 October 2025 - various initiatives and information rolled out across the District
- Sergeant Danny West has now retired but replacement not yet confirmed
- NPT resources would be directed to addressing some of the ASB that could occur as a result of Halloween - additional resources would be made available on the night itself as it fell on a Friday. The evening would be covered by Warranted Officers
- Two "Chat with Your PCSO: Concerns & Crime Prevention" sessions were scheduled for Rustington as follows:-
 - 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm, Thursday 6 November 2025, Woodlands Avenue
 - 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm, Monday 1 December 2025, The Street.

She explained that Dax O'Connor, Community Safety Officer, Arun District Council, had also attended the Meeting and provided the following updates:-

- Two new Community Protection Officers (CPO) were now in post and were currently undertaking training. CPO's will be able to support the NPT as well as dealing with incidents of low level ASB. They will be working across the District
- Funding is available via the Safer Arun Partnership and suggestions for projects from the community are welcomed
- The Community Safety Survey and the Public Space Protection Order Consultation are both now closed and the results are being collated.

She then confirmed that no significant issues had been raised by herself, on behalf of RPC, at the Meeting and that the majority of surrounding Parishes were experiencing very similar issues in terms of ASB in relation to electric scooters/e-bikes.

The Council NOTED this information.

(c) Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner Town and Parish Feedback Sessions Autumn 2025

The Clerk reported that Councillor Bennett and Councillor Warren had attended the online Feedback Session held on 10 October 2025.

She said that in the absence of Councillor Bennett, who had been planning to provide a verbal report of the Meeting, there was nothing of any significance to report. Councillor Warren had advised her that the Police were well represented but there were only a few Towns/Parishes present, and those that were in attendance did not have many issues to raise.

She said that she would ask Councillor Bennett to report back to the Council in this regard at the next Monthly Meeting.

The Council NOTED this information.

257/25 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Ms Edwards and Gunner.

Councillor Mrs Cooper, in her capacity as a District Councillor, reported on District Council matters as follows:-

- *Changes to Refuse Collection from April 2026 - Weekly Food Waste Collection and Fortnightly General Waste Collection - New 180-litre wheeled bin to be issued free to all households, together with an outdoor waste bin for food waste and a free 5-litre indoor food caddy with a starter roll of liners - Fortnightly recycling service will continue, although collection days may change - Most improvements will be covered by a £1.66m grant from the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) and households will receive 104 collections a year, up from the current 78*
- *Biffa recently been awarded new refuse Contract*
- *Consultation currently taking place on whether to retain face-to-face services at Bognor Regis Town Hall*
- *Local Government Reorganisation - District Council submission made for two model Unitary Authority - Will not know Government decision until some-time in February 2026*
- *Arun's Community Protection Officers operating District wide - Concentrating on Bognor and Littlehampton Town Centres - Whilst Business Crime Reduction Officers collating information on all Town and Village Centre crimes for the Police since March/April 2025 - Hopefully some time will be freed up for assistance to Villages in the District.*

The Council NOTED this information.

258/25 COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Councillor Mrs Cooper, in her capacity as a County Councillor, reported on County Council matters as follows:-

- *Local Government Reorganisation - County Council submission made for a one Unitary Authority Model for West Sussex - Mayoral Elections to take place in May 2026 - Government Consultation due to take place in November but clarity on what it will be consulted on is still awaited*
- *Council Meeting - 17 October 2025 - Two Motions passed as follows:-*

Motion One

Supporting the Police and Crime commissioner in the many changes made to the way shoplifting has been enhanced and increased in severity, acknowledging the unacceptable risk on many occasions to shop workers.

This Council calls on the Cabinet Member to:-

Guarantee that reports of shop theft with clear evidence (such as CCTV) are investigated, even where no offender has been detained, so that both ordinary incidents and prolific offending are dealt with consistently;

Issue clear operational guidance that retail staff are not expected to detain suspects, and that their safety comes first; and

Provide Councillors with an update setting out how these commitments will continue to be delivered in West Sussex, including measurable outcomes, since the report titled 'Improving the response provided to business' was shared on 14 March 2025 with the Sussex Police and Crime Panel.

Motion Two

This Council acknowledges the vital role that hospitality and the Night time economy contribute to the economy and identity in West Sussex.

This Council therefore resolves to ask the Leader to:-

Write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer urging the Government to:-

- *Introduce a significantly reduced level of business rates for hospitality and night-time economy businesses*
- *Reduce employers' National Insurance contributions and the level of VAT in this sector to protect and grow employment*
- *Ensure that tips and service charges are paid directly to employees without being subject to income tax*
- *Write to all West Sussex Members of Parliament requesting their support for these measures*
- *Continue to champion policies at both local and national level that strengthen, sustain and grow the hospitality and night.*

The Council NOTED the above information and the Chairman thanked Councillor Mrs Cooper for her Report.

259/25 CLERK'S REPORT

(a) Community Awards' Reception

The Clerk reported the receipt of an email from Arun Community Transport expressing its thanks and appreciation for a most enjoyable evening, and for the £100.00 cheque presented in respect of the Parishioners Award, which would be used in a positive way.

The Council NOTED this information.

260/25 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman reported on his official representation and attendance at Meetings, Events and Functions since the last Monthly Meeting as follows:-

- The High Sheriff of West Sussex - Annual Judges' Service - 10 October 2025 - Accompanied by Councillors Mrs Cooper and Lee

The Chairman then thanked Councillor Lee for representing the Council at the following:-

- WSALC Chairs Forum - 18 September 2025 (online)
- Arun Community Transport - Annual Meeting - 10 October 2025

He also thanked Councillor Warren for representing the Council at the North Littlehampton Steering Group Meeting on 17 October 2025, purely for the item on the proposed Retail Park at the Watersmead Site (Former Body Shop Headquarters) in Littlehampton.

The Council NOTED this information.

261/25 PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Council NOTED the Reports of the Planning Committee Meetings held on 8 September 2025 and 6 October 2025.

262/25 FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

The Council received the Report of the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 27 October 2025. (Verbal Report from the Chairman of the Committee).

The Council RESOLVED that the Recommendations contained in the Report of the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 27 October 2025 be APPROVED.

263/25 ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE

The Council received the Report of the Allotments Committee Meeting held on 20 October 2025.

The Council RESOLVED that the Report of the Allotments Committee Meeting held on 20 October 2025 be APPROVED.

264/25 LEISURE AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE

The Council received the Report of the Leisure and Amenities Committee Meeting held on 20 October 2025.

The Council RESOLVED that the Report of the Leisure and Amenities Committee Meeting held on 20 October 2025 be APPROVED.

265/25 DIARY DATES 2026

The Council RESOLVED that the Diary Dates for 2026, as presented, be AGREED.

A copy of these dates is attached and forms a part of these Minutes.

266/25 COMMUNITY CAROL CONCERT - 13 DECEMBER 2025

The Clerk said that arrangements were now being progressed for the Community Carol Concert which would be taking place on Saturday 13 December 2025.

She said that the Littlehampton Concert Band, Sussex West County Guide Choir and 'Leaders Allowed!!!' would be presenting a programme of Festive Music and singing, and would, this year, be joined by The Melodians for some additional special performances.

Cold soft drinks, mince pies and mini assorted biscuit packs would be being served to the seated audience during the interval and there would, as in previous years, be a Free Lucky Programme Draw.

The Clerk also reported that the Chairman had decided that The UK Sepsis Trust should be the recipient of the Retiring Collection.

She then asked Members if they could consider donating a prize for the Lucky Programme Draw. She said that it would be appreciated if any donations could be delivered to the Council Offices by 5 December 2025.

She advised that, as in previous years, press and other publicity, including Facebook and the Website, would be being undertaken on the run up to the Free Entry Event which was on a 'first come first serve basis'.

She also confirmed that the Concert would be commencing at the earlier time of 3:00 pm.

The Council was pleased to NOTE this information.

267/25

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY - PARADE AND SERVICE

The Clerk said that she had previously circulated the details and timings for the Parade and Service at the War Memorial on Sunday 9 November 2025.

The Clerk reported that an Event Management Plan was again being followed, with road closures being in place at appropriate locations for a specified period. She said that Medical and Support Services were being employed to provide stewarding and security at the above-mentioned locations, together with First Aid support.

She then referred to the Service, being held prior to the Parade and Service at the War Memorial at St Peter and St Paul Parish Church, and said that this would commence at 9:45 am, and Members were most welcome to attend. She said that the Church had asked if everyone attending could be seated by 9:35 am.

The Council was pleased to NOTE this information.

268/25

COMMUNITY AWARDS' PRESENTATION - 22 SEPTEMBER 2025

The Clerk referred to Minute 74/25 (Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting 18 August 2025 refers) and said that the Community Awards' Presentations, held prior to the September Full Council Meeting, had received a number of favourable comments from the Award recipients and their accompanying guests.

The Council NOTED this information.

269/25

THE WOODLANDS CENTRE - MAJOR REDESIGN AND REFURBISHMENT PROJECT

The Clerk referred to Minute 231/25 and said that the Project Managers, Scott Taylor, had recently provided a suggested list of key dates and milestones for consideration as follows:-

October - Assemble Design Team

Quotations for all main Consultants to be obtained

Meeting with Clerk, Deputy Clerk and Finance Manager/RFO to go through quotes and agree design development over the proceeding months

November - December - Developed Design

Series of workshops with the client team to run through all aspects of the proposed works to enable decisions to be made prior to technical information being produced. Categories would include, but not be limited to, the following:-

- External finishes and key build-ups
- Internal finishes
- Kitchens and Bathrooms
- Lighting and Electrical
- Heating, cooling, drainage

Appointed representatives from the Working Party would be present at these workshops.

January - March - Technical Design

Taking account of all decisions made at the design development workshops, design team to then produce the fully co-ordinated technical information ready for Tender submission.

She then reported that the Deputy Clerk, Finance Manager and herself had met with the Project Managers on 24 October 2025, which was very much a planning Meeting for the way forward with Phase One of the Project from this point.

She confirmed that the items considered at the Meeting were:-

- Approved Cost Plan - Review
- Design Team Fees - Review
- Planning Applications - Review
- Design Development Workshops and Key Milestones Planning.

She said that the Project Managers were at the final stages of obtaining quotations from Contractors who would be a part of the Design Team, including Service Engineers, Structural Engineers, Quantity Surveyor and Architect. She said that based on the quotations received, the total fees looked likely to be in excess of that provided for in the Cost Estimate, by approximately £9,000.00, but this should be able to be met from the contingency element of the Cost Estimate, if required.

She then said that ideally, the Council should appoint possibly three representatives to attend all future Design Development Workshops, etc. She said there were likely to be up to 5 or 6 of these Meetings over the next couple of months.

Following a detailed discussion, the Council RESOLVED that the Chairman of the Council, the Chairman of the Leisure and Amenities Committee and Councillor Warren should be appointed to attend the Design Development Workshops on behalf of the Council, and be AUTHORISED to make any decisions necessary in respect of the Project Design going forward.

The Clerk said that all significant decisions made would be reported back to all Members via email at every possible opportunity.

270/25 RUSTINGTON IN-BLOOM

Councillor Lee referred to Minute 232/25 and said that the Committee was going from strength to strength, with the first community litter pick taking place on the Woodlands Recreation Ground on 18 October 2025, which had been most successful.

He then advised that the Committee had also commenced its bulb planting initiative on 24 October 2025, under the 'Rustington' Gateway Sign, on the grass verge in front of West Preston Manor, Station Road. He said that further bulb planting would be being undertaken in the vicinity of some of the other Gateway Signs over the next few weeks. He advised that Members of the Committee had been issued with quantities of bulbs to plant on grass verges near their homes and also for planting in pots for sale from the Committee's Table at the Christmas Fayre in the Car Park of The Lamb Public House (7 December 2025) as well as at the Methodist Church Christmas Craft Fayre (15 November 2025), along with bird boxes, etc.

He then reported that the Committee had been successful with its Lottery Community Fund Application, and had received a grant of £1,800.00, which would be being spent on planters, plants, wildlife habitat/materials and equipment.

Councillor Rogers reported that appointed Members of the Committee were in the process of making approaches to the Traders at the shopping parades in Sea Lane and North Lane, to gauge their views on the Committee's desire to enhance these areas by introducing floral planters.

The Council was pleased to NOTE this information.

The Clerk referred to Minute 268/24 and reminded the Council of its previous decision in October 2024, to take no further action regarding any review of the Neighbourhood Plan, but to review the position in respect of the Arun Local Plan and the revisions to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) to be reviewed again in 12 months' time.

She said that the latest update on the Arun District Council's Website in respect of the Local Plan was as follows:-

Summer/Autumn 2025 Update

Work is continuing to prepare some key evidence documents that will provide the 'building blocks' upon which the new Local Plan will be prepared. This includes a strategic flood risk assessment' a landscape and gap assessment; a settlement hierarchy study; a biodiversity study' and a further 'call for sites'.

It is expected that the work programme for the Arun Local Plan will be reviewed and updated in early 2026 once the government has published details and legislation relating to the new system for the preparation of Local Plans. At that time, there is also likely to be more certainty in relation to local government reorganisation and devolution which will have implications for planning at the local and strategic scale.

Taking account of the above information, the Council AGREED to take no further action in respect of any detailed review of the Neighbourhood Plan at the present time, but to review the situation again in a further 12 months.

The Clerk said that she had previously circulated an email received from Sophie Tomblin, Breakthrough Communications, together with associated information. She explained that the Deputy Clerk and Finance Manager/RFO had both attended a Webinar, hosted by Breakthrough Communications, on 19 September 2025, regarding the additional Data Protection compliance obligations that would form part of the AGAR Assertion 10 requirements for 2025/26. She said that both members of personnel had found the session beneficial and that further substantial training and information was available to Town and Parish Councils who subscribed to the Council Hive Service.

The Deputy Clerk then advised that the Clerk, Finance Manager/RFO and herself had subsequently attended an online introductory session regarding the range of services, support and training offered by the Council Hive Service. She explained that the extensive access to training for both Members and Personnel provided excellent value for money and would be invaluable as the Council adjusted to the increased requirements being placed upon all Town and Parish Councils in respect of the External Audit and AGAR Assertion 10.

She added that the Council Hive also included multiple resources in relation to Communications, including support for the design, implementation and analysis of Community Consultations as well as the use of AI as a tool to facilitate the Council's operation.

Following a detailed discussion, the Council RESOLVED that it should subscribe to the Council Hive Professional Service at an annual cost of £997.00 excluding VAT. It was further AGREED that this subscription should initially be for a period of one year, with a review taking place towards the end of that period.

273/25 PROPOSED MUSICAL CONCERT - JUNE 2026 - TO CELEBRATE THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FESTIVAL OF BRITAIN

The Clerk reported that she had received a proposal from the Littlehampton Concert Band to hold a Musical Concert in June 2026, possibly as a way of celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the Festival of Britain.

She said that as the Band had been doing a Summer Concert in partnership with the Council for the past few years, it had almost become something of a tradition and the Band would very much like to do a similar Concert in 2026.

Following a brief discussion, the Council RESOLVED that it would be delighted to host a Musical Concert, in partnership with the Littlehampton Concert Band, provisionally on the afternoon of Saturday 13 June 2026 in the Village Memorial Hall, to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the Festival of Britain, with further details of timings, programme and tickets etc., to be agreed in due course.

274/25 ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL - REVIEW OF MEMBERS' ALLOWANCE SCHEME

The Clerk reported that she had previously circulated an email received from Jane Fulton, Committee Services Manager, Law & Governance.

She said that the purpose of the aforementioned email was to notify the Council that, in accordance with the District Council's Members' Allowances Scheme approved in March 2024, the implications of the National Pay Increase should be applicable to the Basic Allowance and all other allowances including Special Responsibility Allowances (SRAs).

In accordance with this decision, the Council's Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) had confirmed that the 3.2% increase should be applied to Members' Allowances in line with the approved Scheme. As a result, the District Basic Allowance had increased from £6,884.00 to £7,104.00.

The Clerk advised that, as the Town/Parish Council had opted to pay its Members a Parish Basic Allowance, typically calculated as 10% of the District Basic Allowance, this increase could now be implemented, backdated to 1 April 2025.

Following a brief discussion, the Council RESOLVED that the Parish/Town Councillors' Allowance should be increased by 3.2% to £710.40 with effect from 1 April 2025.

(Prior to consideration of the following item, Councillor Cooper had declared a personal interest as a Member of the Arun District Council's Licensing Committee)

275/25 ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL - APPLICATION FOR PREMISES LICENCE - WINDMILL CINEMA LIMITED, THE WOODLANDS CENTRE, WOODLANDS AVENUE, RUSTINGTON - LICENCE APPLICATION NUMBER: 122387

The Clerk said that she had previously circulated email correspondence received from the Environmental Health Department, together with associated documentation in connection with an application for a Premises Licence for Windmill Cinema Limited, at The Woodlands Recreation Ground, Woodlands Avenue, Rustington.

The Clerk reminded the Council that the application related to the Exhibition of Films at the Mobile Cinema (Minute 56/25(f) of the Leisure and Amenities Committee Meeting held on 20 October 2025 refers) as follows:-

Monday to Sunday 10:00 to 23:00

Following a further discussion, the Council RESOLVED to make no comment to the District Council in respect of this Application.

(Prior to consideration of the following item, Councillor Cooper had declared a personal interest as a Member of the Arun District Council's Licensing Committee)

**276/25 ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL - APPLICATION FOR PREMISES LICENCE -
AYDO LOUNGE & GRILL, 154 THE STREET, RUSTINGTON - LICENCE
APPLICATION NUMBER: 122388**

The Clerk said that she had previously circulated email correspondence received from the Environmental Health Department, together with associated documentation in connection with an application for a Premises Licence for Aydo Lounge & Grill, 154 The Street, Rustington.

The Clerk reminded the Council that the application related to the proposed Supply of Alcohol on and off the premises as follows:-

Monday to Sunday 09:00 to 23:30

The Council RESOLVED to raise no objection to this Application, subject to the Applicant being asked by the District Council to display signage on the premises and/or remind patrons to have consideration for the occupiers of the neighbouring residential properties when leaving the premises in the evenings, in particular.

The Council NOTED this information.

**277/25 WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL - CONSULTATION ON SUSSEX NATURE
STRATEGIES**

The Clerk reported that she had previously circulated a News Release received from West Sussex County Council in this regard.

She said that the Consultation on Sussex Nature Strategies commenced on 15 October 2025 and the closing date for comments was 25 November 2025.

Following a brief discussion, the Council RESOLVED to take no further action in this regard, but AGREED that Members should respond to the Consultation on an individual basis if they so wished.

**278/25 WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL - WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL
STATES ITS PREFERENCE FOR A ONE UNITARY AUTHORITY**

The Clerk reported that she had previously circulated a News Release received from West Sussex County Council as follows:-

West Sussex County Council is stating its preference for a single unitary authority for the whole of the county as its preferred option for local government reorganisation.

The council maintains that a single authority is best for providing high-quality and financial sustainable services to residents.

A business case for local government reorganisation in West Sussex was developed and agreed by all 8 councils in the county. Each council is taking its own decision on its preferred option.

The joint business case and each authority's preference will be submitted to government by Friday this week (26 September) for a final decision in spring 2026.

Leader of West Sussex County Council, Cllr Paul Marshall is now writing to the government to ask ministers to consider the council's preferred option.

He said: "Thank you to my fellow council leaders and chief executives who have worked collaborated successfully to develop the options in the business case.

As the case shows, creating a singly unitary authority will save £50m per year, which is £30m a year greater than the savings that would be generated by moving to two unitary authorities, and pays back the cost of change much more quickly. This unlocks millions we can invest in crucial public services while minimising disruption to services, especially those that protect vulnerable people.

Creating two unitary councils in West Sussex will mean having to split essential services that keep our most vulnerable people safe and that are currently delivered countywide, notably children's and adults' social care. We are very conscious in reaching this conclusion that the unavoidable disruption if a two unitary model is adopted will create further challenges in these sectors, both of which are already under significant pressure, and impact on the significant improvements we've made as a council over the last few years.

While we prefer a singly unitary option, whatever the government chooses, we will maintain our successful collaboration and shared focus of achieving the best outcome for residents."

Councils in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove City Council have also produced their own business cases. While East Sussex councils have been open about the shape of their plans for some time, Brighton & Hove City Council did not reveal the areas covered by its proposals until just a few working days before the submission deadline, meaning that it has not been possible to fully assess the proposals impact on West Sussex at this point.

Cllr Marshall is therefore also calling on ministers not to consider the Brighton & Hove business case. He said: "I was personally very disappointed to see Brighton & Hove City Council's alternative proposal for local government reorganisation in Sussex, which was issued after our case was published in papers for our council and cabinet meetings.

Brighton & Hove City Council has not engaged with us and so we have not been able to test their assumptions or modelling. Our initial assessment though is that the case lacks sufficient detail, due diligence and analysis, and it is difficult to see how the proposals meet the government's criteria, notably financial stability, engaging with councils affected, and managing the risks of services being disrupted."

Engaging with communities

The business case for West Sussex draws on feedback from the views of 9,000 residents who took part in engagement work over the summer.

What came across very strongly in the responses was a desire for local councils to be focused on the differing needs of the places they are responsible for, and for an effective local voice in shaping decisions. This will be a key requirement to build into the new council or councils when they are created.

The government will run its own consultation on the options in the coming months, giving the public a chance to express their view based on the full business case, including the estimated financial impact of each option, which was not available for the earlier engagement exercise.

Elections

In his letter to ministers, Cllr Marshall additionally makes the case for deferring county council elections due to take place in May 2026.

He argues that when taking into account the potential disruption the process of LGR, the cost of holding elections (around £1.5m), the likely limited time for which those elected will hold office, and possible voter fatigue and confusion with elections for a Sussex Mayor represent a strong rationale for the government to postpone county council elections until the new model is agreed and elections for the new structure are held.

The Council NOTED this information.

279/25 WEST SUSSEX ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS LIMITED (WSALC) - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE - 4 NOVEMBER 2025

The Clerk said that she had previously circulated an email received from Emily Simpson, together with associated documentation in this regard.

She said that, unfortunately, Councillors Mrs Cooper, Cooper and Lee were all unable to attend. Following a brief discussion, the Council RESOLVED that the Clerk should submit a completed Form of Proxy in respect of the three ordinary resolutions on the Agenda.

The Council NOTED this information.

280/25 TURNING TIDES - ANNUAL MEETING 2025

The Clerk reminded Members that she had previously circulated a Special Invitation to attend the Turning Tides Annual Meeting 2025, to be held on Monday 3 November 2025 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at The Barn, Field Place, Worthing.

Following a brief discussion, the Council RESOLVED to take no further action in this regard.

281/25 CHRISTMAS SOCIAL EVENING

Councillor Rogers suggested that a Christmas Social Evening would be a great opportunity for all Members to get together to celebrate the Festive Season and the Council's work and achievements over the past year. He then asked Members if they would be interested in such an Event.

Following a further discussion, the Council RESOLVED that Councillor Rogers and the Clerk should obtain details of availability from one or two of the restaurants in Rustington, with a view to organising a Social Evening in early December.

282/25 DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS CIRCULATED

The Council NOTED the following Documents and Publications previously circulated for Members' information:-

- (a) Arun District Council - News Release - Pride in Place investment announced for Wick with Toddington
- (b) CAGNE - Did you miss the online events?
- (c) Carers Support West Sussex - Latest News - 29 September 2025 and 27 October 2025
- (d) Chestnut Tree House - Our charity Christmas cards are now available!
- (e) East Preston Parish Council News - 1 October 2025, 9 October 2025 and 23 October 2025
- (f) National Association of Local Councils - Chief Executive's Bulletin - 16 October 2025
- (g) Rampion 2 Project Newsletter
- (h) Rustington Residents Association - October 2025 Newsletter
- (i) St Barnabas House - Our charity Christmas cards are now available!
- (j) West Sussex County Council - Highways, Transport and Planning - News and Updates - 30 September 2025 and 24 October 2025
- (k) West Sussex County Council - News Release - 22 September 2025, 24 September 2025, 26 September 2025 x2, 29 September 2025, 1 October 2025, 2 October 2025, 9 October 2025, 13 October 2025, 14 October 2025, 17 October 2025, 20 October 2025, 21 October 2025, 22 October 2025 and 24 October 2025 x2
- (l) West Sussex County Council - Residents' eNewsletter - September and October 2025 Editions
- (m) West Sussex County Council - West Sussex Emergency Management - Yellow Wind and Rain Alerts
- (n) West Sussex County Council - West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service - News Release - 24 September 2025 and 26 September 2025

There being no further business the Meeting concluded at 8:30 pm.

Chairman:

Date:

There were no questions received either preceding, or at, the Meeting for consideration during the Public Question Time, held prior to the commencement of the formal proceedings.

RUSTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

APPROVED DIARY DATES 2026

Monday	5 January	Planning Committee
Monday	26 January	Finance and General Purposes Committee
Monday	26 January	COUNCIL
Monday	26 January	Planning Committee

Monday	23 February	Finance and General Purposes Committee
Monday	23 February	COUNCIL
Monday	23 February	Planning Committee

Monday	2 March	Allotments Committee
Monday	2 March	Leisure and Amenities Committee
Monday	16 March	Planning Committee
Monday	23 March	Finance and General Purposes Committee
Monday	23 March	COUNCIL

Thursday	9 April	ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PARISH MEETING
Monday	13 April	Planning Committee
Monday	27 April	Finance and General Purposes Committee
Monday	27 April	COUNCIL
Monday	27 April	Planning Committee

Monday	18 May	Finance and General Purposes Committee
Monday	18 May	ANNUAL COUNCIL
Monday	18 May	Planning Committee

Monday	1 June	Allotments Committee
Monday	1 June	Planning Committee
Monday	1 June	Leisure and Amenities Committee
Monday	22 June	Finance and General Purposes Committee
Monday	22 June	COUNCIL
Monday	29 June	Planning Committee

RUSTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

APPROVED DIARY DATES 2026

Monday	27 July	Finance and General Purposes Committee
Monday	27 July	COUNCIL
Monday	27 July	Planning Committee
Monday	3 August	Leisure and Amenities Committee
Monday	17 August	Emergency Planning Committee
Monday	17 August	Finance and General Purposes Committee
Monday	17 August	Planning Committee
Monday	7 September	Planning Committee
Sunday	20 September	CIVIC THANKSGIVING SERVICE & PRESENTATION RECEPTION
Monday	28 September	Finance and General Purposes Committee
Monday	28 September	COUNCIL
Monday	5 October	Planning Committee
Monday	19 October	Allotments Committee
Monday	19 October	Leisure and Amenities Committee
Monday	26 October	Finance and General Purposes Committee
Monday	26 October	COUNCIL
Monday	26 October	Planning Committee
Monday	9 November	Planning Committee
Monday	23 November	Finance and General Purposes Committee
Monday	23 November	COUNCIL
Monday	30 November	Planning Committee
Saturday	12 December	CAROL CONCERT
Monday	14 December	Finance and General Purposes Committee
Monday	14 December	Planning Committee