

SLAUGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

**Thursday 31st July 2025 at 7pm** **at Sports Pavilion, High Street, Handcross**

*Sally Mclean - Clerk to the Council Email* *clerk@slaughampc.co.uk* *Website:* [*http://www.slaugham-pc.gov.uk*](http://www.slaugham-pc.gov.uk)

Press and Public are welcome to attend - *The Parish Council is an open and transparent local authority and encourages public attendance at meetings*

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**Present:Cllr’s** Julia Elliott, Eric Prescott, Lesley Read, Jane MacNaughton, David Dunn

**Others Present**: One member of the public

1. **Apologies for Absence**: To receive and accept apologies for absence. Cllr’s Gary Marsh, James Keating, Bob St George, Debbie Beckinsale
2. **Declaration of interest from members in respect of any items on the agenda**: To record any declarations of interest. NONE
3. **Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting/s held on 26th June 2025** -To receive and accept the Minutes. Proposed Cllr Prescott, Second Cllr Read
4. **Adjournment for questions from the public**: Council to consider adjournment of the meeting in accordance with Council’s Standing Orders, to receive questions from members of the public in attendance in respect of items on the agenda. See item 11.2
5. **Matters from District & County Councillors**: to receive verbal reports from representatives of other authorities.
	1. **Mid Sussex District Council (MSDC):** Press Release/s updates *cc’d in advance.*

 **Devolution & Local Government Reorganisation in Sussex -**

* In February 2025, the UK government approved devolution plans for Sussex & Brighton, making the region part of its priority programme to establish a Mayoral Combined County Authority (MCCA). A first Mayor election is scheduled for 7 May 2026
* A joint interim local government reorganisation plan was submitted in March 2025, proposing replacement of existing two-tier county and district councils—including Mid Sussex—with new unitary authorities. A full decision is expected later in 2025, with implementation extending through to 2028
* West Sussex County Council (W Sussex CC) and district councils including Mid Sussex are collaborating on developing preferred unitary structures.
* A public survey was launched on 17 July 2025, running until 13 August, seeking views from residents, businesses and local groups, Parish Councils across West Sussex on how Councils should be restructured. Responses will inform the full proposal to government due by 26 September 2025. A final government decision is expected in Spring 2026

**District Plan -**

 The District Plan was submitted for examination in **July 2024**, with the formal **Regulation 19 consultation** held from **12 Jan to 23 Feb 2024**. Following Stage 1 Hearings in **October 2024**, the Planning Inspector issued a letter raising concerns over insufficient cooperation with neighbouring authorities (notably Crawley and Horsham) in addressing their housing shortfalls.

 As of **2 June 2025**, correspondence between the Council, Planning Inspectorate and Government confirms **Mid Sussex is challenging the Inspectorate’s findings**—including a possible Judicial Review. The Council’s lead view is that the draft Plan should proceed, the Inspectorate is reviewing the examiners report.

* 1. **West Sussex County Council County Local Committee (WSCC/CLC)** – Press Release/s updates *cc’d in advance* None Present
1. **Committee Reports**: Council to consider the recommendations, receive and note committee and advisory group/updates: To approve meeting and or briefing notes received in advance of the meeting convened:
	1. **Finance & Policy Committee:** To update members on current activities: To approve meeting/note minutes distributed
		1. Members are asked to consider and note any comments from the Annual Return External Auditors Report and to note the Conclusion of Audit *cc’d in advance* Proposed Cllr Dunn Second Cllr Prescott **RESOLVED** **APPROVED**
		2. Members are asked to consider the available S106 funds for Slaugham Parish Council, reconciled to 31 March 2025 NOTED
		3. Members are asked to consider the grant request from the Slaugham CIC of £600 towards grass cutting Slaugham Village Green - A copy of the request was circulated to Members in advance. It was proposed by Cllr Dunn, second by Cllr Prescott, that the Council approve a grant of £500 to Slaugham CIC in support of their ongoing maintenance of the Village Green based on the supporting information provided.

**RESOLVED APPROVED**: That a grant of £500 be awarded to Slaugham CIC towards grass cutting at Slaugham Village Green.

* 1. **Recreation:** To update members on current activities: To approve meeting/note minutes from meetings held:
		1. To note Hemsley’s Meadow access and compound plan, access over leased land to the Council - cc’d in advance

The Council received an update on two recent events held at the Recreation Ground:

**Rude Mechanical Theatre Company -** The open-air theatre performance by the Rude Mechanical Theatre Company was held successfully and was well received by the local community. Attendance was good, and the event provided an enjoyable cultural experience in a relaxed outdoor setting. The company and attendees expressed appreciation for the venue and the support provided.

**Waymaker Walks –** Cllr Read provided guided trail walk, starting from the Recreation Ground and making use of local public footpaths and natural features. These walks aimed to encourage healthy outdoor activity and promote greater awareness of the local environment. Participation was steady, with positive feedback from residents who valued the opportunity to explore the area in a structured and social format.

* 1. **Neighbourhood Planning: -** To update members on current activities/status: To approve meeting/note minutes from meetings held: St Martins Close EAST - The Parish Council has been re-approached by the prospective purchaser/developer, who now appears keen to reopen discussions, including reference to a potential joint planning application. Members are reminded that the original Council motion clearly stated that the Parish Council would not enter into any joint application, and that all risk was to remain solely with the purchaser.

It is also noted that previous valuation advice regarding existing covenants and development limitations appears to have been overlooked in recent communications. Furthermore, due to the time elapsed, changes in land value, evolving planning policy at Horsham and Mid Sussex, and wider directives from central government, the original proposal will now require full reconsideration.

A recommendation has been made to revisit the background and review the original motions in a separate meeting ahead of any further engagement. A briefing will be prepared for Members in advance. **No commitments have been made at this stage.**

* 1. **Planning Committee**: Members to consider the following applications: To approve meeting minutes of meeting/notes *cc’d in advance*:
		1. Members were asked to approve the Parish Council’s supporting planning statement the permanent planning application for the Woodgate Pavilion in preparation for its transfer RESOLVED APPROVED Proposed Cllr Prescott, Second Cllr Elliott
	2. **Traffic Calming Working Group-** To update members on current activities/recommendations: Cllr Elliott to contact Cllr Marsh on collection of data from the new SID, Horsham Road
	3. **B2110 High Beeches Lane** - Members noted the successful implementation of Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) MDS2409, introducing a reduction to a 40mph speed limit on the B2110 High Beeches Lane. This marks a positive step in improving road safety in the area and follows sustained local support and engagement with the relevant highways authorities.
1. **Chairman’s Report**: to receive verbal report for the Chair: Members are asked to note the recent resignation of Cllr Debbie Beckinsale.

Cllr Beckinsale has advised that, despite earlier expectations of a reduction in her work commitments, the opposite has occurred. As a result, she no longer feels able to dedicate the necessary time and attention to her role as Parish Councillor.

Her resignation is accepted **with regret**, and the Council thanks her for her contribution during her time in office. The vacancy will now be managed in accordance with the statutory process.

1. **Clerks Report –** to receive verbal or written report from the Clerk:
	1. Thursday 17 July 2025 - Engagement launch on Local Government reorganisation (LGR) when WSCC launched with their partners in the district and borough councils, a wide-ranging public engagement survey for residents, staff, communities and businesses to have their say on the reorganisation <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/news/have-your-say-on-the-future-of-local-government-in-west-sussex-councils-launch-public-survey/> The Clerk encouraged members to share the survey with their local residents associations, social media pages and notice boards.
	2. Mims Davies MP Shadow Secretary of State for Wales & Shadow Minister for Women Member of Parliament for East Grinstead and Uckfield[www.mimsdavies.org.uk](http://www.mimsdavies.org.uk) “**Meet Mims Event” Thursday 25th September, 19:00 – 20:00 at MacNaughton Hall, Finches Field Pease Pottage.**
2. **Finance Matters:**
	1. Payments and receiptsThe Committee is asked to RESOLVE to approve: To approve Bank Reconciliation for June 2025 - Approval in line with scheme delegation (*Ref: Bank Payment in advance*) RESOVED APPROVED Proposed Cllr Dunn Second Cllr MacNaughton

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* 1. The Committee is asked to RESOLVE to approve the schedule of payments for July 2025 previously distributed. RESOVED APPROVED Proposed Cllr Dunn Second Cllr Prescott

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1. **Correspondence/Information Items/Publications/Consultations**: (*Correspondence cc’d in advance to members)*
2. **Highways/Footpaths**: to review highways projects/items: Members are asked to consider the following, papers cc’d in advance:
	1. Bus Shelter – To update members of new/replacement bus shelters Pease Pottage Cllr Marsh to report to Council on the shelters in Pease Pottage - **Cllr Read** will investigate an alternative art initiative for the site, with the aim of deterring further graffiti and enhancing the visual appearance of the shelter. Options will be explored and brought back to Council for consideration.
	2. Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) Submission **-** Members are asked to review and consider proposed Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to introduce village gateway features and associated traffic calming measures Warninglid Lane..
* Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) inc map;
* Evidence of resident support;
* Location plan for the proposed gateways;

The Council reviewed the proposed Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) for Warninglid Lane, which seeks to introduce village gateway features and associated traffic calming measures. Supporting documentation, including the TRO map, resident feedback evidencing community support, and an initial location plan for the proposed gateway installations, was considered.

**It was RESOLVED** that the Parish Council supports the submission of the TRO as outlined and agrees to provide updated mapping clearly identifying the proposed gateway locations to accompany the application.

**APPROVED RESOLVED**. – The Clerk will write a statement and copy to County Councillor Bruce Forbes for recommendation

# Police / NHW Report / Resilience Group Reports

# Crime Reports cc’d members – Updates issued to members in advance.

# Any other matters that the Chairman wishes to raise for future discussion:

1. **Date of next meeting/s – 18th September 2025 –** This meeting has been brought forward due to ITEM 8.2

Signed: Date: