

SLAUGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Meeting held on

Thursday 27th November 2025 at 7.00pm at Sports Pavilion, High Street, Handcross

Sally Mclean - Clerk to the Council Email clerk@slaugham-pc.gov.uk Website: <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



Present: Cllrs Eric Prescott, Gary Marsh, Jane MacNaughton, James Keating, Ken Boyle, Lesley Read, David Dunn, Julia Elliott

- 1. Apologies for Absence:** To receive and accept apologies for absence. Cllr Bob St George
- 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 30th October 2025** -To receive and accept the Minutes. Proposed Lesley Read
Second David Dunn
- 4. Casual Vacancy Councillor Co-option** – This Council publicised members vacancy in the villages of Handcross & Pease Pottage, Warninglid & Slaugham ward for the statutory period s.87(2) of the Local Government Act 1972 (“the 1972 Act”) for the receipt of petitions for election from 10 electors or more and to date no valid notifications have been received. There is no statutory requirement to give public notice of local council vacancies which remain unfilled after an ordinary election (s.21(2) Representation of the People Act 1985), however this Council gives public notice of vacancies which arise in both circumstances for transparency and to attract more candidates. The Council are therefore permitted to co-opt in accordance with (Rule 6 of 1986 Rules and s87 Local government Act 1972).

Mr Kenneth Boyle – Warninglid & Slaugham Ward – Co-Opted

The successful candidate/s - To receive Councillors declarations of office – The Local Government Act 1972 (Section 83(4) provides that a person elected to the office of Parish Councillor must make in the presence of a Member of the Council or of the Proper Officer of the Council and deliver to the Parish Council a declaration of acceptance of office and produce their register of interests (ROI) within the statutory timescales.

Cllr Ken Boyle joined the meeting 7.10pm

- 5. 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.

A member of the public requested an update on the St Martin's Close development Item 7.3. - Cllr Prescott reported that the Council's agent is liaising with the agent acting for the landowner of the western site. Both parties are exploring the potential appointment of a joint promoter to support a coordinated approach to bringing the site forward. This will be brought back the NHP Committee for review ahead of recommendation to the Council.

A member of the public requested an update on Item 9.1- the recent application submitted to WSCC, as Commons Registration Authority, under Section 19 of the Commons Act 2006 to amend ownership registrations for CL319/CL24 and VG68 within Slaugham Parish. It was noted that this forms part of a wider pattern of similar claims being made across towns and parishes. The Clerk confirmed that the Council has engaged its solicitor, who will review the muniments file and assist in preparing a draft response to the application.

A suggestion was made that the Council consider registering a caution against the land with HM Land Registry, which would trigger a warning to the custodian of the land should any application affecting the title be submitted. The Clerk agreed, and Council recommended that she investigate the procedure with the Council's solicitor while the muniments file is being reviewed under Item 9.1.

- 6. Matters from District & County Councillors:** to receive verbal reports from representatives of other authorities.
 - 6.1. Mid Sussex District Council (MSDC):** Press Release/s updates cc'd in advance.
District Plan Update - As of November 2025, MSDC was still awaiting the Inspector's next steps in the Examination of the District Plan Review.
 - 6.2. West Sussex County Council County Local Committee (WSCC/CLC):** Press Release/s updates cc'd in advance None Present
- 7. 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:
 - 7.1. Finance & Policy Committee:** Members received an update on the recent meeting of the Finance & Policy Committee held on **20 November 2025**. The draft meeting notes/minutes were presented and approved. It was noted that the Committee will be reviewing the year-end Income & Expenditure position and progressing the budget-setting work for the forthcoming financial year.
 - 7.2. Recreation:** Members received an update on current Recreation Committee activities. There was nothing of significance to report at this time. It was noted that a Committee meeting will be arranged in the new year to review the current project list, associated timescales, and funding requirements.
 - 7.3. Neighbourhood Planning:** - See item 5:
 - 7.4. Planning Committee:** Members to consider the following applications: To approve meeting minutes of meeting/notes cc'd in advance: NOTED
 - 7.5. Traffic Calming Working Group-** To update members on current activities/recommendations: Nothing to report
- 8. Chairman's Report:** to receive verbal report for the Chair:
- 9. Clerks Report** – to receive verbal or written report from the Clerk:
 - 9.1. To update members on the recent application made to WSCC as Commons Registration Authority under Section 19 of the Commons Act 2006 to amend ownership land registrations for CL319/CL24 and VG68 parcels of land within Slaugham Parish, noted as part of a wider pattern of similar claims across towns and parishes. Following discussion, the Clerk was instructed to draft an objection to the application and to engage the Council's solicitors for advice and representation as required. The update and actions were noted.
 - 9.2. To note the confirmed alterations to public rights of way within Slaugham Parish, including Handcross, Pease Pottage, and Warninglid, as set out in the West Sussex County Council (Cuckfield Rural – No.1) Definitive Map and Statement Modification Order 2023 cc'd in advance. These changes, made under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and Highways Act 1980, include diversions and new route dedications for footpaths and bridleways (FP6S, FP4S, FP14S, FP9S, FP15S) in connection with infrastructure works and legal agreements. The update was noted
 - 9.3. To note the publication of the draft Mid Sussex District Council Development Position Statements: which act as material considerations in planning decisions while the revised District Plan remains unadopted, and to ensure members are aware of their relevance when reviewing applications affecting

Slaugham Parish.

- The statements clarify how the LPA will approach planning applications, developer contributions, and infrastructure delivery in the absence of an adopted Plan.
- They are not formal policy but carry weight as material considerations in planning decisions and appeals.
- Their purpose is to ensure consistency, transparency, and to manage speculative development pressures while safeguarding community benefit.
 - Position Statement 1: Delivering Sustainable Development (Nov 2025) – guidance on how MSDC will manage planning applications during the delay in adopting a new District Plan, including housing supply, preferred sites, and sustainability principles.
 - Position Statement 2: Infrastructure (Oct 2025) – framework for securing developer contributions and ensuring new development is accompanied by appropriate infrastructure (community facilities, open space, health, education, emergency services).

9.4. To consider the draft Heads of Terms for the proposed transfer of the Woodgate Pavilion from Thakeham Pease Pottage LLP to Slaugham Parish Council, and to agree comments or questions for the Council's solicitor - The Clerk outlined the key points and invited comments for inclusion in the briefing note to the Council's solicitor, which had been circulated in advance. Members raised a number of queries and points for clarification, and the Clerk was instructed to collate these and forward them to the solicitor for advice.

10. Finance Matters:

10.1. Payments and receipts The Committee is asked to RESOLVE to approve: To approve Bank Reconciliation for October 2025 - Approval in line with scheme delegation (*Ref: Bank Payment in advance*)

10.2. The Committee is asked to RESOLVE to approve the schedule of payments for November 2025 previously distributed.

10.3. Financial Monitoring

Members received the schedule of payments for November 2025, totalling £13,429.95, with £1,169.66 VAT and a net expenditure of £12,260.29. Payments included grounds maintenance, utilities, salaries, subscriptions, IT support, and street-lighting costs. Receipts for the same period totalled £249.18, facility hire and bank interest.

The Bank Reconciliation for 31 October 2025 was presented, showing a combined bank balance of £138,738.15, with £645.61 in unpresented payments (due to bank statement dates not aligned), resulting in a reconciled cashbook balance of £138,092.54.. The financial reports were reviewed and noted. No discrepancies were reported

11. Correspondence/Information Items/Publications/Consultations: (Correspondence cc'd in advance to members)

11.1. Renewal of Members' Register of Interests (New ROI Form) -To note the requirement from Mid Sussex District Council for Parish Councillors to review and renew their Register of Interests using the newly issued ROI form, ensuring compliance with statutory obligations under the Localism Act 2011 and the Council's Code of Conduct. Mid Sussex District Council has circulated a new Register of Interests (ROI) form for completion. All Parish Councillors are required to declare disclosable pecuniary interests and other registerable interests, and to update any changes since their last submission. The new form standardises declarations across the District and must be returned to the Monitoring Officer by the specified deadline. Renewal ensures transparency, accountability, and compliance with statutory duties. NOTED

11.2. **LGR 2511 Government Consultation** - To note the Government's formal consultation on Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) affecting East Sussex, Brighton & Hove, and West Sussex, and to ensure members are aware of the opportunity to submit views before the deadline of 11 January 2026. The consultation seeks feedback on competing proposals to restructure local government across Sussex, including options for new unitary authorities and the introduction of an elected mayor from May 2026. West Sussex County Council and other local authorities have submitted differing models for consideration. This is part of the Government's wider devolution programme, which aims to replace two-tier systems with unitary structures by 2028. The consultation is open to residents, businesses, and organisations. Members are encouraged to review the consultation materials and consider whether the Parish Council wishes to make a formal submission. The Councils position is unchanged the Clerk to issue response.

[Local government reorganisation in East Sussex and Brighton and Hove, and West Sussex - GOV.UK](#)

12. Highways/Footpaths: to review highways projects/items: Members are asked to consider the following, papers cc'd in advance:

12.1. To receive an update on the installation and repair/replacement of bus shelters within the Parish:

13. Police / NHW Report / Resilience Group Reports

13.1. Crime Reports cc'd members – Updates issued to members in advance.

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

15. Date of next meeting/s – 29thJanuary 2026

Signed: _____ Date: _____