

PARHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held at The Rackham Old School on Tuesday 20th January 2026 at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Parish Councillors – Heather Cartwright (Chair), Will Rydon, Philipa Trumper and Nigel Dean

Also present –Vicky Spiers (the Clerk) and WSCC Cllr Paul Marshall for items 1-4

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies received and accepted from Paul Slimming, Claudia Fisher and Catherine Dugdale.

Apologies noted from HDC councillors Len Ellis-Brown, Paul Clarke and Jon Campbell who all had conflicting meetings.

2. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda

None.

3. To approve and sign the minutes of the ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 11th November 2025

The minutes were confirmed as a true record and signed by Heather.

4. Update from District and County councillors

Paul Marshall provided an update on the Local Government Reorganisation (LGR), he advised that they are expecting to hear back from the Government in March on which of the 3 proposals will be implemented, a single unitary council, a two council unitary or a 5 unitary model (which was put forward independently by Brighton & Hove council).

Paul advised that there is a lot of work going on behind the scenes, a transition committee is currently being set up with representation from all County and District councils.

Paul advised that WSCC council tax will be rising by 4.99%, they will have a balanced budget for 2026 with no cuts to any services. He said WSCC is in a good position but not without challenges.

5. Adjournment to take questions/queries from members of the public

None

6.Current matters – update (a) Traffic Order for reduction of speed along the B2139- the clerk advised this was in progress, support from the community was currently being gathered, the application would be going into WSCC early February.

(b) Blocked drain/ditch in Rackham Street – the clerk advised that she would contact the parishioner again to arrange a site meeting to view the issue.

7. Clerk's update and information items

The clerk advised the following:

- HDC are holding a 'parishes' meeting on 17th February, venue tba, Heather will check if she is available to attend
- HDC are holding a Community Support Networking Event on 4th February in Ashington

8. To receive and approve the November and December 2025 bank reconciliations: to approve the financial statement from 12th November 2025 to 20th January 2026 (including authorisation for any payments

The Financial statement (as detailed below) was reviewed and approved by councillors and signed.

PARHAM PARISH COUNCIL – FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR PERIOD 12.11.25 to 20.01.26		
Current account balance as at 12th November 2025		£5,271.98
Receipts since 12th November 2025		
		£ -
Less payments between 12th November to 20th January 2026		
28/11/2025	Lloyds - Nov bank charges	4.25
28/11/2025	Ms V Spiers - clerk's Nov salary and office expenses	461.64
28/10/2025	HMRC - clerk's& PC's Nov 25 PAYE	27.07
15/12/2025	McAfee (reimbursed to V Spiers)	79.99
16/12/2025	Lloyds - Dec bank charges	4.25
05/01/2026	Ms V Spiers - clerk's Dec 25 salary and office expenses	421.07
05/01/2026	HMRC - Clerk's Dec PAYE	18.20
15/01/2026	Microsoft Office (reimbursed to V Spiers)	84.99
16/01/2026	Lloyds - bank charges	4.25
		£ 1,105.71
Current account balance as at 20th January 2026		£ 4,166.27
Payments to be approved at this meeting		
20/01/2026	Rackham Old School - hire for 2025 meetings	£ 144.00
20/01/2026	APCC - printing of PC minutes in Wildbrook magazine	£ 50.00
Balance after payments		3,972.27

The November and December 2025 bank reconciliations and bank statements were reviewed, approved and signed. Payments were approved by council.

9. To review and agree the council's 2026/27 Budget

The clerk had sent the Budget to members prior to the meeting, after review councillors resolved to agree the budget of £8209 (full details on website).

10. To agree the council's 2026/27 precept demand

The council resolved to agree. The precept has gone from £7375 to £8209 but due to an increase in the parish's tax base, the amount due from parishioners will remain as per last year £56.38 per annum (for a Band D property), the clerk will forward the precept form to HDC.

Signed: _____

Date: 10th March 2026

11. To review current Planning applications

The Clerk had emailed Councillors details of the current Planning Applications, these are as follows:

NEW APPLICATIONS		
SDNP/25/05155/24BC	Sparright Farm - Permission to operate a campsite at Sparright Farm, Rackham from 22 May to 26 September 2026 for a total of 60 non-consecutive days.	Application is confirming permitted development - no action required
APPLICATIONS AWAITING A DECISION		
SDNP/25/03436/FUL	The Parlour - Conversion of existing stables, tack room and office into guest accommodation for short term holiday lets.	PPC felt they could not support due to increased car movement, noise, dark skies pollution and concerns for roosting bats. In Progress with SDNPA
SDNP/25/00799/FUL	Woodsyard , Land East of Rose Cottage, Rackham Road - Change of use from equestrian to residential with forestry tie, including the conversion and rebuild of an old stable block and outbuilding into a single story 2 bedroom home	PPC felt they could not support mainly due to a lack of technical details on the waste and water systems. In Progress with SDNPA
SDNP/25/01726/FUL	Northpark Wood - New access for the dispatch of timber via Rackham Street public highway. Including 60m of improvement to existing forest track with the provision to stack timber.	The SDNPA Ecology Officer has advised - the site is located within Parham Park Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and is within/immediately adjacent to a large parcel of Ancient replanted Woodland. Therefore, an ecological impact assessment is required to be carried out to detail the designated sites, habitats and species to be affected directly and indirectly as a results of the proposals and provide a detailed avoidance and mitigation strategy. As the submitted site plan indicates tree felling will be required, a 10% net gain in biodiversity will be required, unless any Biodiversity Net Gain exemptions can be fully justified. IN PROGRESS WITH SDNPA
APPLICATIONS DECIDED SINCE LAST MEETING		
SDNP/25/03482/FUL	RSPB - New visitor toilets	The council have no objection to the planning in principle, however we feel that as all of the other buildings in the vicinity have pitched roofs, this should also be the case with the toilet block rather than the proposed flat roof. APPROVED BY SDNPA

12. To receive any updates on external meetings attended by councillors

None.

13. To note the date of the next meeting 10th March 2026 at 7.30pm

Noted by council.

The Chair closed the meeting at 8.10pm.

Vicky Spiers - Clerk to Parham Parish Council
23rd January 2026