



THE PARISH COUNCIL OF HELLINGLY

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Minutes of the **Parish Council Meeting** held on Wednesday 10th September 2025
At 7.30pm at Hellingly Community Hub

PCH 054.10.25 to PCH 062.10.25

Present: Councillors: D White (in the Chair), G Hesselgrave (Vice-Chair),
W Hesselgrave, C Jackets, D Lewin, F Lulham, J Castle, P Young, R Brann,
S Pilkington, D Miles and P Milne.

Apologies for absence: Cllrs S Davis and County Cllr N Bennett

Official Clerk/Officer: Jenny Hoodless (Clerk)

Members of the Public: None

Declarations of Interest: None

PCH 054.10.25 Council approved the **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting** held on Wednesday 10th September 2025 were signed by the Chair.

PCH 055.10.25 **Matters arising (not covered elsewhere on the Agenda):**
PCH 026.06.25 District Cllr's £10k grants update – Cllr D White had received some interest directly and the Clerk advised she had also, the Clerk advised those clubs to apply directly to WDC. Thank you to Cllr P Young for suggesting Hellingly Cycle Speedway might be interested in purchasing lights with the monies from this grant, as the Clerk contacted them and they were very happy.
PCH 038.09.25 The hedges along Park Road are the responsibility of Orbit, however, as they were very slow in responding, our Grounds Team carried out the work as it was impeding on pedestrians and cyclists. The condition of the path and road has also been inspected by the Highways Steward.” and he has said *“there is a slight lean towards the kerb from both the carriageway and footway. However, this does not currently present an immediate safety concern. The area will continue to be monitored during routine inspections.”*
The width of the path is 3m and can now be considered by the CIL Project team as part of the Park Road widening scheme.
PCH 043.09.25 A22 Land Update – Cllr D White had written to the residents regarding transferring the land and hopes for the transfer to go through soon.
PCH 044.09.25 Hub Overflow Car Park – possible start date Monday 20th October, Grounds Assistant, Natalie would advise the relevant parties once the date was confirmed by the contractor.

These are a true and accurate record of the meeting

Signed: **Date:**

Councillor David White – Chair

Council requested that the current overflow car park has white lines placed for car park spaces to make best use of the space. The Clerk will ask the Grounds Team to carry out the work.

Cllr G Hesselgrave enquired if we could repaint the yellow lined square on the corner by the electric car charger, to create additional car parking spaces.

PCH 056.10.25

County Councillor Questions:

Cllr D White requested that County Cllr N Bennett assist with the widening of Park Road, as HPC has not received positive responses from either Highways or Wealden DC. Following the recent hedge cutting, the full width of the foot/cycle path has been revealed and measured at 3m. The HPC CIL Project Team will review the possibility of reallocating approximately 1m to extend the width of Park Road. Cllr D White advised the Clerk to contact GTA Civils to arrange a survey confirming the exact measurements required for widening and agreed to draft the appropriate correspondence. Council further requested that any future planning applications in this area should include a requirement for the developer to contribute towards the widening of Park Road.

Cllr D Lewin requested an update from Highways on the S278 for Dunnock Lane, noting that he is no longer receiving correspondence from them.

The Clerk requested an update on the installation of a bollard immediately outside Broadview House, as previously agreed.

PCH 057.10.25

District Councillor's Report - Cllr D. White reported on:

Local Government Reorganisation (East Sussex Unitary Proposal)

- **Wealden District Council** chose **not to make a recommendation** on local government reorganisation — unlike the other district councils and the county council, which supported a **“One Sussex” unitary authority**.
- This decision was made **only by the Cabinet (six members)**, not the full council, raising **concerns about democratic process**.
- Other councils made their decisions through **full council votes**.

Proposals considered:

1. **Single East Sussex Unitary** (with Brighton & Hove separate) – backed by most councils.
2. **Five separate unitaries** (based on existing district boundaries) – suggested by independents in Hastings but not approved.
3. **Brighton & Hove's four-unitary model** – dividing East Sussex into four areas (Lewis-Brighton-Hove; Mid-Sussex; Eastbourne-Hailsham; and East Lewes).
 - The **government** is likely to favour the **single East Sussex unitary** model.
 - The **process was rushed**: the Brighton proposal appeared just **three days before** submissions were due, leaving little time for **public consultation**.
 - A **preferred option** will be finalised by **November**, followed by **public consultation**, with the government expected to decide **early next year**.
 - **Implementation** of new unitaries is expected in **2027**.

Parallel development:

- A new **Sussex Mayor** will be elected in **2026**, before the unitaries are in place.
- The Mayor will lead a **board with two representatives from each district**, setting up governance for 2027.
- Declared candidates so far include **Katie Bourne (Conservative)**, **Rachel Millwood (Green)**, **Lib Dem, Reform, and Independent** candidates. Labour has not yet named one.
- The election will use **proportional representation**.

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Concerns raised:

- Process seen as **rushed and confusing**.
- **Insufficient resident input**.
- **Implementation timeline** may be unrealistic, given the complexity of reorganising councils.
- “Fast-track” timetable offers **no real advantage**, as the national unitarisation process will occur by **2028** anyway.

Sewage and Development Issues (Wealden District)

- Ongoing **development is stalled** due to **inadequate sewage capacity**.
- Proposed **temporary solution**: installing **large holding tanks** in developments to store sewage during peak flow — similar to surface water “sustainable drainage” systems (SuDS).
- The councillor expressed **skepticism**, calling it a “**cop-out**”, especially for **large housing sites (300–1000 homes)**.
- Example: **Old Orchard, Horam** – Southern Water admits the **Vines Cross pumping station is inadequate** and won’t be upgraded until **2030** (£4.5 million needed).
- Southern Water claims to have done £1.2 million of work and further surveys, but the **effectiveness is unclear** and **residents remain dissatisfied**.
- Ongoing **raw sewage discharges** from **Hailsham North and West** into local waterways have been confirmed via the **Rivers Trust** monitoring system.
- Discussion followed on **sewer routes**, potential **road and sewer expansions** (e.g. via Park Road and A267), but concerns remain about **costs, feasibility, and flood-plain issues**.

Overall Summary

- The councillor described the current reorganisation and infrastructure situation as a “**complete muddle**.”
- **Wealden’s non-recommendation** stands out as undemocratic and ineffective, though ultimately unlikely to alter the government’s direction.

Sewage infrastructure continues to be a major barrier to housing development, with **short-term fixes** seen as **unsustainable**

PCH 058.10.25

Financial Matters:

Cllr D White advised that he had written to WDC regarding a breakdown of the S106 monies due to HPC that WDC have spent some of.
 Council agreed that the note regarding office rent income/expenditure be listed separately from other payments as it is only an internal transfer on the finance system.
 Council noted the 2nd quarter 2025/26 budget figures and report, with a request that the Clerk reviews the figures as they were not clear.
 Council approved the payment to the contractor the drainage work at LHB Rec and the split of funds, from CIL and General Reserves, would be decided by the CIL Project Team at the next meeting.
 Council approve the recommendation from the Clerk to repay the outstanding loan balance of £93,392 to the dowry from General Reserves.
 Cllr D Lewin proposed, Cllr C Jackets seconded and all in favour.

PCH 059.10.25

Council **noted** the unadopted minutes from the Planning & Environment Committee meeting which took place on Wednesday 10th September 2025.

PCH 060.10.25

Council **noted** the unadopted minutes from the Grounds Committee meeting which **These are a true and accurate record of the meeting**

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took place on 1st October 2025.

PCH 061.10.25 Council **noted** the unadopted minutes from the Cemetery & Allotments Committee meeting which took place on 17th September 2025. Minute Ref C.009.09.25 was amended, 'Burial Fees reduced from £5,000 to £2,500'.

PCH 062.10.25 Chairman's Report – Cllr D White reminded Council that there are still two vacancies and to encourage residents to contact the Clerk if they would like more information.

Meeting closed at 8.45pm

Jenny Hoodless
Parish Clerk

9th October 2025

Next Meetings:

Planning & Environment Committee	29 th October 2025	7pm
Staffing Committee	5 th November 2025	TBApm
Planning & Environment Committee	12 th November 2025	6.30pm
Council	12 th November 2025	7.30pm
Finance Committee	19 th November 2025	7pm
Planning & Environment Committee	29 th November 2025	7pm

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Signed: **Date:**

Councillor David White – Chair