



# THE PARISH COUNCIL OF HELLINGLY

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Minutes of the **Parish Council Meeting** held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2026  
At 7.30pm at Hellingly Community Hub

## PCH 077.01.26 to PCH 086.01.26

**Present:** Councillors: D White (in the Chair), G Hesselgrave (Vice-Chair), W Hesselgrave, C Jackets, D Lewin, F Lulham, J Castle, S Pilkington, D Miles, S Davis, P Young, A Gander, L Bowman and P Milne.

**Apologies for absence:** Cllr R Brann

**Official Clerk/Officer:** Jenny Hoodless (Clerk)

**Members of the Public:** None

**Declarations of Interest:** None

**PCH 077.01.26 Council** approved the **Minutes of the Parish Council** Meeting held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November & 10<sup>th</sup> December 2025 were signed by the Chair.

**PCH 078.01.26 County Councillors Report**  
County Cllr N Bennett reported that they are awaiting to hear this week if their funding has been approved and if the County Elections are to go ahead in 2026. The Mayoral elections would take place in 2028.  
Cllr D Lewin requested that Park Road potholes not keep being repaired but to have a complete resurface as the condition is rapidly deteriorating. County Cllr N Bennett agreed to take this forward with the relevant Highways team and report back.  
Cllr L Bowman requested that the photos of a public footpath relating to planning application WD/2025/2575/LDE be sent to the Rights of Way Team to confirm the area of the footpath.

**PCH 079.01.26 Matters arising (not covered elsewhere on the Agenda):**  
PCH 043.09.25 A22 - Land Update Cllr D White and the Deputy Clerk, Sarah Miller, met this week with Steve Wennington and Mr and Mrs Hodges to discuss the proposed land transfer. It was agreed that Cllr D White could contact Mr and Mrs Hodges' solicitor to discuss progressing the transfer without the use of a lease. Cllr White explained that the Government is moving away from leasehold arrangements and that entering into a lease would not be in the Council's best interests. Cllr White suggested that the matter proceed by way of an agreement to take a transfer subject to the Council obtaining change of use and access

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**Councillor David White - Chair**

permissions. Should these applications be unsuccessful, the land would revert to Mr and Mrs Hodges. The Parish Council would accept responsibility for the land whilst applications for the change of use and access were pursued. If successful, it was recommended that the land be transferred to The Fields in Trust, a registered charity, which would remove any liability for Capital Gains Tax. This approach would allow the Council to proceed with its plans and ensure that the land is retained for recreational use in the long term.

PCH 075.11.25 Country Park path maintenance - Council agreed to carry out a trial repair to part of the path by the Grounds Team and if that works, the Grounds Team would agree with Cllr C Jackets the locations of other repairs to the path and hire the necessary equipment to carry them out when their schedule and weather permits. Cllr D White advised Councillors that the maintenance needs to be carried out to prevent any injuries to members of the public.

**PCH 080.01.26 District Councillor's Report - Wealden New Local Plan consultation.**

In preparation for its new Local Plan Wealden consulted on a draft in 2024, however, the Government made changes to the National Planning Policy Framework in December 2024 that both changed policies with which Wealden's plan has to be in compliance and altered the standard method of calculating the housing numbers requirement for the individual districts. It therefore became necessary for Wealden to revise certain sections of its plan, namely the spatial strategy, the housing and business allocations and the coastal defences. It is on these changes that Wealden will now be consulting.

A draft of the relevant changed sections of the earlier draft has been prepared and will be put to a Full Council Meeting on 29 January. Once approved the public will be invited to comment during a six-week period starting on 6th February. The comments will be considered by the Council and the full plan together with any amendments will be published later in the year before being presented to the government who will then consider the appointment of an inspector to undertake an examination in public. Following the examination that is likely to take place early in 2027 the Inspector will issue a report detailing any amendments that they consider necessary before the plan can be adopted either late 2027 or more likely 2028.

The previous draft plan covered the period to 2040 when the Council was required to provide an additional 19800 new dwellings at a rate of 1200 dwellings per annum (dpa). Those targets were considered unachievable as a result of constraints within the district. The first draft therefore made provision for a further 15729 new dwellings at the rate of 953 (dpa) and 84850 sq. m of new employment space.

The new draft plan extends the period to 2042. Under the new standard method of calculation the housing requirement for Wealden has risen to a total of 24769 new dwellings to be delivered at the rate of 1457 dpa. In light of the constraints the new draft makes provision for a further 16609 new dwellings to be delivered at the rate of 977dpa, a shortfall of 8160 new dwellings against the target. It is likely that at examination Wealden will be required to make up the shortfall in numbers. Therefore the new

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draft includes not only new allocations but a series of option sites to meet the potential shortfall that are still being looked at.

The housing provision for Hellingly is as shown.

Already Committed	Windfalls	Allocations	Total
923	52	199	1174

The new allocations are 174 new dwellings across three sites.

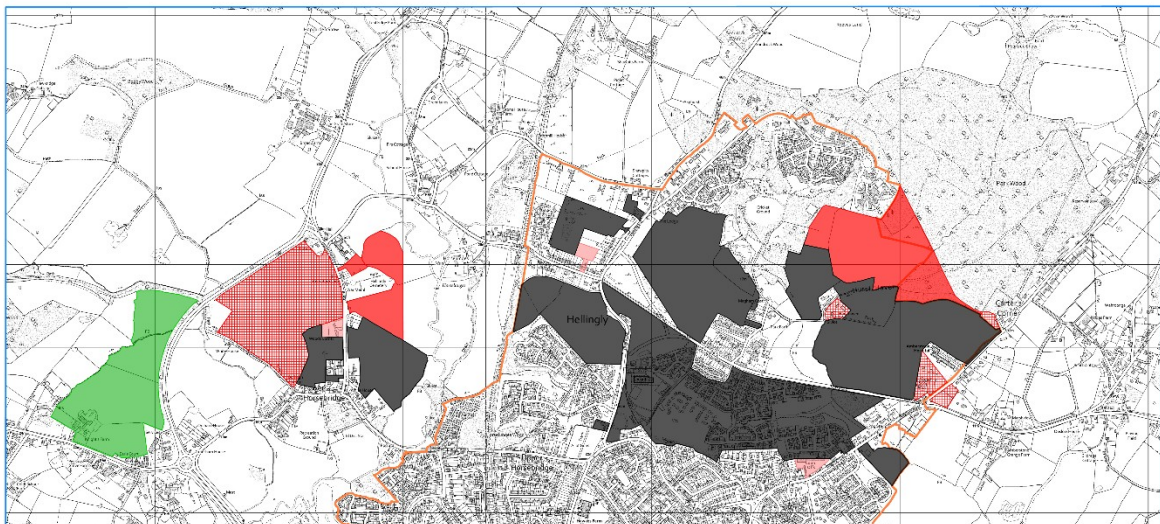
Park Farm East 100

North Street 60

North Street North 14

In addition, an option site for a further 400 new dwellings on land on the east side of North Street is included and although not within Hellingly Parish an option site in Arlington for a further 2000 new dwellings on land North West Hailsham

The sites are shown on the attached plans.



### Key

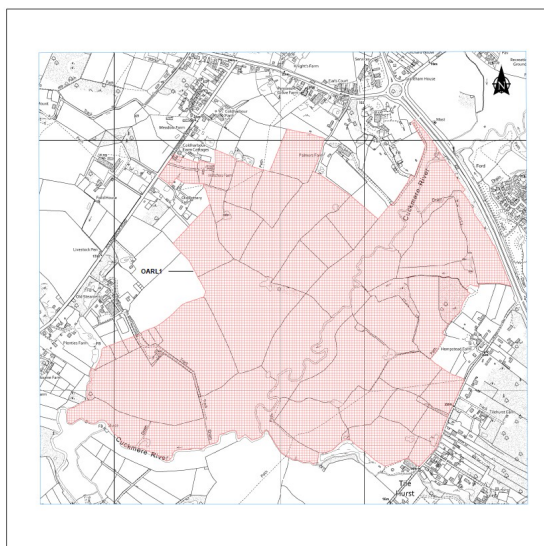
New Development Allocations  
 Previous Development Allocations  
 Development Options  
 New Strategic Employment Allocation  
 Development Boundary

RED  
 BLACK  
 PINK  
 GREEN  
 RED LINE

These are a 1

Signed: .....

Councillor D:



#### West of Hailsham

Key  
 Development Options



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Wealden **Site Allocations and Options Plan**

100 Metres  
 Scale 1:8000 @ A3

The sites are examined in detail in the SHELAA and Sustainability Appraisal that form part of the new draft plan the link to which is <https://council.wealden.gov.uk/documents/b50010867/To%20Follow%20Items%20Appendices%20to%205%20-%20Wealden%20Draft%20Foc>  
 Or in the Cabinet papers for the meeting on 14 January published on the Wealden Web site

**PCH 081.01.26** Council noted/approved the Financial Matters for 01 – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025 listed

below:

- Noted Bank reconciliation summaries
- Noted List of payments & receipts
- Noted the following December net payments above £1,000:

£1,420.0	0	Allotments Supplies	Josh Izzard Tree Surgery
£3,394.5	8	Salaries	Aviva Pensions
£3,529.7	8	Pension	AVIVA
£5,861.3	1	Salaries	HMRC
£18,208.	21	Salaries	Staff

- Noted 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter budget report.
- Approved the annual bonus payment of £100 each to the Allotments Supervisors

Cllrs P Young proposed, G Hesselgrave seconded, all in favour.

**PCH 082.01.26** Council approved the following new and amended policies:

- Committees Terms of Reference
- Document Retention & Records Management
- Play Area Inspections
- Scheme of Delegation

Cllr D Lewin suggested a sub-committee to read through all the policies at the relevant review dates and present to council any changes. Cllr D White advised all councillors that they should have read through all policies anyway and the Clerk to continue presenting to Council no more than 4 at a time for review.

Cllrs C Jackets proposed, S Davis seconded and all in favour.

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**PCH 083.01.26** Council approved the 2026/27 Budget & the Precept forms submitted to Wealden DC.

**PCH 084.01.26** 2026/27 Councillors Allowance – the Clerk advised if any elected councillors wish to claim their allowance should sign the relevant form and send to the Clerk for payment.

**PCH 085.01.26** Clerk’s Report:  
1. APM would now be on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May

**2. Projects Update**

**LHB Sports Project:**

Clubhouse/Pavilion ownership to be transferred to the Parish Council. “ plans revised to now include an upstairs for a gym for the Sports Clubs to use, over the flat roof section, once finalised, it will go back to planning for approval.

The planning permission for the remainder of the project is expected end of March.

**Hub Office Extension** – the project team were asked if Council should carry out a quick fix/short term or future proof with an extension, they decided today at a meeting to future proof it. The Clerks will now invite an Architect to an onsite visit to be able to draft options for plans.

**CIL Projects**

Project team meeting to take place on 21<sup>st</sup> Jan and one with Mark Weston (Highways) to discuss installing a footpath through the village, would take place on 6<sup>th</sup> Feb.

Park Road widening, GTA Civils to carry out a survey to establish the exact additional width required.

**A22 Land Transfer** – slow progress, awaiting legal documents to be drafted.

Hub Solar Panels – awaiting grant decision and will then go ahead with order.

**Grounds**

**Storage container** – to be located in Hub grounds will be completed by end of March at the very latest, the quotes for storage container will be on the Feb Council Agenda.

**Burfield Grange** – path in front play area to be done in the Spring, along with installing the benches.

**Community Mens Shed** – Cllr S Pilkington has been continuing the research as Clerking & Grounds teams unable to due to time constraints, written update to be presented to council at the Feb meeting.

**Country Park** – the required equipment and maintenance schedule to be completed and in place by the end of March, ready for 1<sup>st</sup> April to take it in house.

**Parish Bins** – to take bin emptying in house from 1<sup>st</sup> April.

**NDP Review** – progress report at the next meeting.

**Hub concrete overflow car park** - grounds works to be carried out to improve the drainage and condition of the area.

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**PCH 086.01.26 Chairman's Report:**

The government now recognises the wider consequences of how **estate** management companies and their charges operate. These arrangements can have a significant impact on residents, and the issue is now under active review in Parliament.

When we took on responsibility for our two sites, we received a commuted sum from the district council. We are also due to receive substantial sums from Bellway for public open space once the land is formally transferred.

Fundamentally, I believe that public open space should be maintained and regulated by parish or other public authorities, rather than by private management companies. HPC will be making strong representations that management companies should no longer be the default model for future developments. Instead, all new developments should, as a matter of course, offer public open space to parish councils together with an appropriate dowry sum.

The consultation is now open, and I strongly encourage everyone to respond via the government website. Those with experience of management companies particularly anyone who has been through the process of exiting such arrangements, may find the later sections especially relevant. Even partial responses are valuable you do not need to answer every question for your views to be considered.

**Next Meetings:**

Planning & Environment Committee	Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> January	7pm
Planning & Environment Committee	Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> February	6.30pm
Full Council	Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> February	7.30pm
MC 8.55pm		

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