



Parish Clerk – Stephanie Dubas Email: chalvingtonwithripeclerk@gmail.com Phone: 07353990253

MINUTES

The Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting Chalvington with Ripe Parish Council (CWRPC)

Hayton Baker Hall, Ripe

Monday 12th May 2025 commencing 7pm.

Present: Cllr J. Ruddock-West (Chair), Cllr S. Flint (Vice Chair), Cllr W. Farrer, Cllr Hamblin, Cllr A. Harvey, Cllr Lonsdale-Cleeve

In attendance: Cllr Alison Wilson (WDC), Stephanie Dubas (Parish Clerk)

Members of the public: 11

1. Election of Chair:	Resolution: Supported The Chair for the 2025/26 Council year is: Councillor Simon Flint
2. Election of Vice-Chair:	Resolution: Supported The Vice Chair for the 2025/26 Council year is: Councillor Joe Ruddock-West
3. Attendance and Apologies for Absence	Cllr Charlie Hallworth: Holiday
4. To receive any declarations from Members concerning items on the agenda	Resolution: Supported None declared
5. To appoint the new Clerk and RFO as the Proper Officer	Resolution: Supported To accept the recommendations to appoint Stephanie Dubas as the Parish Clerk from 01/05/25 @ 7 hours per week
6. Motion to adjourn the meeting for the Annual Parish Meeting.	Resolution: Supported Cllrs proposed, seconded and voted for the adjournment to allow the Annual Parish Meeting to be conducted. Resolution: Supported Cllrs proposed, seconded and voted for the return to the Annual Parish Meeting immediately after the Parish Meeting.
7. Approval of the Minutes	Resolution: Supported Ordinary Council Meeting held on the 8 th of April 2025 accepted as a true and accurate record.
8. Public Session	No public items raised.

9. Report of the Member of Parliament:	Resolution: Supported To note the report from the MP Appendix B
10. Report of the County Councillor Nick Bennett	Resolution: To note the report from the ESCC Councillor Appendix C
11. Report of the District Councillor Alison Wilson	Resolution: To note the verbal report. Ward Cllrs will receive a small budget of £10,000 from £250-£5k CIL routes will be opened up to Community group of up to £2 million to fill funding gaps. Will email Parish Clerk with processes for dissemination to groups. Achieved 20% reduction in climate footprint. Wilder Ouse collaboration in progress. Invested £16 million in a community sports hub. Pool has been refurbished. Local economy has attracted new businesses with 15% increased employment. 40% of spend is with local businesses. Cllr will send the Parish Clerk grant details as they emerge for circulation and website update.
12. Planning Applications WD/2025/0784/F: LANGTYE COTTAGE, LANGTYE LANE, RIPE, BN8 6BA.	Resolution: Supported Conversion of former archaeology field centre into a 2 bed dwelling, involving: widening of existing access to improve visibility at existing access and to create a new permeable driveway for the dwelling, block up vehicular access close to the barn, replace shed with similar shed in same location, compensatory tree planting and hedge planting and wildflower meadow, bird boxes, barn owl nesting box, insect house and hedgehog house, air source heat pump and electric charging point on the new driveway.
WD/2024/2319/FR: LITTLE MEADOW STUD, CHURCH LANE, CHALVINGTON, BN27 3TE	Resolution: Supported (To note a road access was shown on the plan that does not exist but its not part of the plan). Part retrospective application for proposed additional area of concrete hardstanding on site of existing farm track to provide all weather access to existing barns.
13. Planning Refusals WD/2025/0001/F: Church Lane, Ripe BN8 6AU	Resolution: To note the refusal by Wealden Council The Adaptation And Reuse Of A Redundant Barn, And The Formation Of Two New Dwellings, With Associated Parking And Landscaping Works
14. Planning Withdrawn WD/25/0605/FA: Lovers Farmhouse, Church Farm Lane, Chalvington, BN27 3TD:	Resolution: To note the withdrawal by the applicant Variation Of Condition 9 Of WD/2021/2207/F (Replacement Of Existing Garage With New 3 Bay Garage And Annexe.) To Allow The Building To Be Used For Flexible Purposes
15. Other planning matters WD/2025/0747/FR ASHFIELD, MILL LANE, RIPE, BN8 6AX	Resolution: Supported Retrospective application for car port.
16. To discuss and agree on Committee Membership	Resolution: To accept ALL COUNCILLORS on both committees: Complaints Committee Cllrs & Planning Committee.
17. To discuss and agree on representatives for outside bodies	Resolution: To Accept the following Cllrs as outside body representatives:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency Co-ordinator to be advised. Emergency Plan to be added to July meeting agenda. Cllr Hallworth was looking at Defibulator training (Held in Ripe and Yew Tree) but at £60 a head funding needs to be identified. Cllr Ruddock-West will investigate at Deanland and free training in Laughton. The Parish Clerk will update the Emergency Planning document as a report to the next meeting. • Wealden District Association of Local Councils: Vacant • Tree Warden: Cllr N Hamblin • ESALC AGM: Cllr Simon Flint • Hayton Baker Hall Trustees: Cllr Charlie Hallworth • Footpaths: Cllr Joe Ruddock-West <p>The meeting was suspended to gain insight from RACCA with regard to Footpaths then reinstated. RACCA members will consider the issue and report back to next meeting.</p>
18. To discuss and agree policies	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Standing orders: Resolution: Supported for the Parish Clerk to amend item 15 resulting from the Finance Regulation update. To add to next meeting Agenda for adoption. 2. Financial Regulations Resolution: Supported 3. Code of Conduct Resolution: Supported
19. Highways, footpaths and rights of way	<p>Resolution: To note the content of the verbal report</p> <p>Verbal report provided by Cllr Ruddock-West. Cllr A. Harvey, Cllr Lonsdale-Cleeve also attended the meeting with the ESCC Co-ordinator and Balfour Beatty. Issues must be reported through the link provided. Minutes to be uploaded on to website.</p> <p>For the Parish Clerk to create a page on website with instructions https://live.eastsussexhighways.com/report-problem.</p>
20. Financial matters	<p>Resolution: Supported</p> <p>To note the bank reconciliation statement and Budget Monitoring Report for Month 1 April 2025 and agree the new format. Appendix A</p> <p>Resolution: Supported</p> <p>To authorisation payment on the Community account as noted in the payment schedule April 2025 Appendix A.</p> <p>Resolution: Passed by 6 Votes.</p> <p>Authorisation given for the bank mandate forms completion for the new Parish Clerk.</p> <p>Resolution: Supported</p> <p>To defer consideration of the bi-annual funding for The Villages Music Festival until a funding amount is known.</p>
21. Correspondence	<p>Written correspondence was received by email from a resident about a dog incedent in the village. Followed by a subsequent email from the resident whose dogs caused the incident. The Parish Council raised the subject and reiterated that tis was not a matter within their remit and we understand the police have an open investigation. The owner of the dogs has given a detailed method statement of how the dogs will be controlled within their garden and not walked on village paths and roads. No further action is required of the Parish Council.</p>
22. Urgent Items: Meet our MP	<p>To update the community: 09/08/25 10am Meet your MP in the village store in Ripe then 11 am move to the community Field. Opportunity to ask</p>

	any questions. PC to create a page to publicise this in village, store, notice boards and website and co-ordinate replies to send to MP's office.
23. Date of next meeting	Resolution: Supported To change the meeting date of the next Ordinary Parish Meeting which will now be held on Monday 23rd June 2025 commencing at 7pm at the Hayton Baker Hall. Website to be updated.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20:30 pm

Signed: Chair:	
Date:	

APPENDIX A – Payments

FINANCE SUMMARY SHEET APRIL 25 (Approval Council Meeting 12/05/25)

BALANCES ON ACCOUNT FROM BANK STATEMENTS		
Bank Date	Account Name	£
29/04/2025	Current Account (Community)	£ 9,680.01
29/04/2025	Deposit Account (Business Premium)	£ 15,000.21
TOTAL BALANCES		£ 24,680.22

COMMUNITY ACCOUNT INCOME FOR THE MONTH		
Bank Date	Income since last meeting	Amount
01/04/25	Balance B/F	£ 2,925.68
11/04/25	From Business Premium Acc	£ 3,163.00
15/04/25	VAT Refund	£ 579.13
28/04/25	Precept (Half)	£ 8,683.50
Total		£ 15,351.31

PAID EXPENDITURE FOR THE MONTH				
Bank Date	PAID April 25	Invoiced Services	Folio	Amount
14/04/25	Hugo Fox	Web Host Hugo Fox April (DD)	9	£ 11.99
14/04/25	Chichester Payroll Services	Payroll Company working out Clerk's Mar salary	1	£ 15.00
14/04/25	Sam Adeniji	Parish Clerk Net Pay For Mar	2	£ 507.17
14/04/25	HMRC	Tax & NIC On Parish Clerk Salary Mar	3	£ 126.80
16/04/25	IONOS	Web Domain (April Monthly DD)	4	£ 1.80
14/04/25	Sam Adeniji - Parish Clerk HP Printing Cost	HP Instant Ink Printing	6	£ 5.49
14/04/25	ESALC & NALC	NALC & SALC Membership Fees for 2025	7	£ 327.05
14/04/25	Ripe and Chalvington Hayton Baker Hall	Village Hall Hire 2024	8	£ 360.00
15/04/25	CIL	CIL project payments - Community Field	12	£ 1,316.00
15/04/25	Transfer From Community Acc	To Business Premium Account	0	£ 3,000.00
SUB TOTAL				£ 5,671.30

COMMUNITY BANK ACCOUNT BANK BALANCE		
	Balance b/f + Income	£ 15,351.31
	Less Paid Expenditure	£ 5,671.30
	Balance At Bank	£ 9,680.01

BUSINESS PREMIUM ACCOUNT BANK BALANCE				
Bank Date		Description	Folio	Amount
27/03/25	Balance B/F	March Acc closing fig		£ 15,163.21
11/04/25	From Business Premium Account	To Community Acc	0	-£ 3,163.00
29/04/25	Transfer From Community Acc	To Business Premium Account	0	£ 3,000.00
TOTAL				£ 15,000.21

COMMITTED EXPENDITURE FOR THE MONTH				
Notified Date	Approval Sought To Pay after this Meeting	Invoiced Services	Folio	Amount
02/05/25	Information Commissioner's Office	ICO Data Protection Fee	5	£ 52.00
06/05/25	ESALC	Planning training 5th Feb	10	£ 48.00
06/04/25	Zurich Insurance	Insurance for 2025 -26	11	£ 399.80
05/05/25	Parish Clerk Equipment	Mobile, Sim, Case, Files, Mouse	13	£ 78.46
SUB TOTAL TO BE APPROVED				£ 578.26
TOTAL Spend To Date (Paid + Committed)				£ 6,249.56

The CIL Balance of £1316 from £35102.97 was paid 14/04/25

Appendix B MP Report April 25
James MacCleary MP report April 2025

At long last the sun has ventured out as our county emerges from winter! Whilst the weather gives us reason to feel optimistic, it remains a deeply concerning time. The Chancellor's disastrous tax changes are taking effect as I write, and the world is starting to feel the impact of President Trump torpedoing the global economy.

Early Education and Childcare

As Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Early Education and Childcare, I was delighted to convene MPs from across the political spectrum last week for an important session on the future of childcare. We heard from the National Day Nurseries Association, leading experts and providers, discussing how to better support nurseries and early years settings across the country. It's more important than ever that we investigate how to support these services, as the increase in national insurance contributions puts more pressure than ever on small community childcare services.

One of the best parts about being the local MP, has been visiting all our fantastic local schools, in the last month going to Firle Primary, Harbour Primary in Newhaven and Western Road Primary in Lewes. Our teachers do a fantastic job in challenging circumstances at times. At Western Road, I joined parents campaigning against cuts to staffing. I'm pleased to say that these cuts have been avoided - for now. At every visit topics like SEN provision are discussed and I will continue to challenge the government to do better and support our schools to ensure children receive the education they deserve.

2. The Spring Statement

The Spring Statement showed that, while the Government inherited a dire economic situation from the Conservatives, it is now making things worse. The Chancellor says she has "no choice" – but slashing support for the poorest instead of ensuring multinational companies pay their taxes or securing a deal with the EU to boost economic growth *is* a choice. I spoke to ITV about my concerns after the statement.

With the NIC's rise coming into effect this month, every business, school, charity, care home, doctors' surgery... that I have met, is telling me that this is a disastrous policy. It was of no shock to learn that the estimated hit to people's wages locally will be of £2810 by the end of the decade as the jobs tax gets passed down to employees. I spoke about this recently in the chamber.

3. Rail Travel and Gatwick Concerns

Last week I took formal action on two key transport issues affecting our area. Following my Early Day Motion on the increased cost of rail fares, I wrote to the Secretary of State for Transport to raise my concerns and to press for measures to ensure rail travel remains affordable – particularly for young people, older passengers, and those on lower incomes.

I've also written to the Department regarding Gatwick Airport's proposed expansion, seeking clarity on how this will impact rail services in the South East as our routes into London are already heavily congested. I've requested assurances that steps will be taken to prevent disruption for passengers and protect our local rail infrastructure.

My team has also been working with Govia Thameslink seeking to restore a London Bridge train to the timetable as well as other changes such as improving late night journeys in the week.

Foreign Affairs and Europe

I recently contributed to a debate in the House on the UK's relationship with the European Union. I used the opportunity to set out the benefits of closer cooperation and the need for a more constructive, forward-looking approach especially now that we cannot rely on our American counterparts on trade.

I also spoke during an urgent statement in the Commons on the deteriorating situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, am keeping a keen eye on the democratic crisis in Georgia and Israel's war in Palestine.

Politics South East

I was invited on to BBC Politics South East last week, which was broadcast on Sunday. We discussed a range of topics from potholes to home education. I know that numerous parents around the constituency are extremely concerned by the government's plans for home education and potholes is an area that we all know too well.

Meeting with National Highways

I recently met with the National Highways Agency to discuss a range of topics, including litter on the A26 and A27. The issue of littering on these roads continues to blight our countryside and puts us to shame. Lewes District Council are unable to clear rubbish as it requires a road closure for them to do so safely, which would not be feasible given the importance of the route. They have agreed to proactively communicate with LDC any dates where they will be doing work or expecting any closures so that rubbish can be cleared at the same time, avoiding extra closures.

We also discussed their plan to replace and repair bollards and signage on the A26 between Beddingham and Newhaven. I will be pressing them for a clear timetable on this.

Broadband and Fibre Optic rollout

High speed internet access is essential for many local businesses and residents in rural areas in the 21st Century, which is why I am appalled at the slow roll out across our patch of Sussex. I have written to Department for Innovation Science and Technology as well as Building Digital UK to seek reassurances that our villages will not be left behind when it comes to high speed internet.



Members' Update - East Sussex County Council - May 2025

Cllr Nick Bennett

Adult Social Care

Website showcases health and social care jobs

Health and social care jobs have been promoted to inspire people to consider a career in one of the county's biggest sectors. Working with NHS and adult social care colleagues, East Sussex County Council's employability and skills team is raising the profile of specific job roles within the sector.

The 'local industries' section on the Careers East Sussex website showcases roles that people may not be aware of, alongside jobs where there are known vacancies such as support worker, healthcare assistant, A&E nurse, general nurse, care assistant, social worker, podiatrist and physiotherapist.

The site offers information about the key skills and tasks needed to work in these roles, the training or qualifications that might be needed, what these jobs could lead onto and a film of people working in each of these roles about their work and their motivation for doing it. As well as sharing the short films on social media, posters with QR codes linking to the website have been sent to every school, college and job centre in the county to encourage people to visit the site and find out more.

Launch of action plan marks Autism Acceptance Month

East Sussex County Council is marking Autism Acceptance Month with the launch of an action plan designed to improve the lives of autistic people living in the county.

The all-age action plan has been developed based on the lived experiences of people with autism, their carers and their families, with input from the NHS and wellbeing, education and employment providers.

The plan focusses on improving three areas;

- health and wellbeing
- access to education and supporting positive transitions to adulthood
- supporting autistic people into employment and helping them sustain employment

Adult numeracy programme

More than 3,000 people have taken part in free classes run through the government funded Multiply programme which aimed to help those who did not already have GCSE Maths at grade C (or equivalent) to upskill their maths knowledge.

A range of innovative courses, embedding maths in subjects ranging from animal care and household budgeting, to forestry and digital skills enabled people to build their confidence with numbers.

The Multiply programme was delivered by the county council and a range of partners, including further education colleges and training providers, charitable and voluntary groups, and employers. The commitment and hard work of the 16 delivery partners was acknowledged at an event in Eastbourne last month.

The initiative has also helped local employment sectors to boost their workforce's skills which can help businesses boost productivity, increase profits, and improve employee retention.

Communities, Economy and Transport

New scheme aims to reduce roadwork disruption

Contractors and utility companies will be charged more to work on East Sussex's busiest roads in a bid to reduce disruption across the county. East Sussex County Council is among the first local authorities to implement a Lane Rental Scheme, which introduce an increased charge for companies carrying out work on the busiest of the county's road network during peak times.

The aim of the scheme is to encourage work to be carried out outside of peak hours and for those working on the roads to explore more efficient ways of working, such as using new technology or working in collaboration with others.

The scheme will operate in addition to the East Sussex Permit Scheme but will only apply to selected roads. A maximum charge of £2,500 a day will be applied to those working during peak hours. Normal permit charges will continue to apply outside of the set hours. Surplus funds raised by the scheme will be available for highway improvements, innovation and measures to improve disruption and congestion caused by projects across the county.

Finance

Capital Programme

- 10 year planned programme supported by 20-year Capital Strategy
- Reviewed and reprofiled in light of revenue position
- Whilst investment has been reduced from that originally planned, the programme to 2034/35 is still investing **£714m**
- Approved programme of **£284.4m** 2024/25 to 2027/28, requiring £34.4m of borrowing

Uncertainties

Comprehensive Spending Review (June)

- Funding Reform Consultation outcome
- Business Rates Reset Consultation
- Local Government Settlement (Nov) ○ Multi-year settlement
 - Funding redistribution to meet need and deprivation
- Inflation and interest rates
- National Living Wage and Pay Settlements