



Sedlescombe Parish Council

Minutes of the **Full Council Meeting of the Parish Council**

held on Tuesday 16th December 2025 at 1830 in Committee Room 2 of Sedlescombe Village Hall

Present:

Cllrs Vine-Hall (JVH) Chair, Chapman (RC), Saul-Hunt (JSH), Coupar, Anderson (GA), Saunders (KS).
 Mrs Jackie Scarff (Clerk/RFO)
 Parish and District Cllr Coupar (BC)
 District and County Cllr Maynard (CM)– part time, left at 7.01pm.

Public participation session re matters on the Agenda at the Chairman's discretion.

There were two members of the public (MOP's)
 MOP's have come to discuss item 52, it was agreed that they would speak when the item was going to be discussed.

End of public participation.

Item	Item (C25.)	
<p>47i</p> <p>ii</p>	<p>To receive apologies & reasons for absence (LGA 1972 s85 (1)) Apologies were received from Cllrs Caney & Glew for personal reasons.</p> <p>To consider accepting apologies & reasons for absence (LGA 1972 s85 (1)) Resolved: Apologies were accepted.</p>	
<p>48</p> <p>i</p> <p>ii</p>	<p>Interests in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 and the Council's Code of Conduct</p> <p>To receive councillors' declarations of interest regarding matters on the agenda and consider any written requests for dispensation as a result.</p> <p>Pecuniary Interests There were no interests received.</p> <p>Other Interests There were no other interests declared.</p> <p>To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate. There were no requirements to grant any dispensations.</p> <p>Reminder any changes to register of interests should be notified to the clerk immediately.</p>	
<p>49</p>	<p>To receive questions from members on reports from the District and County Councillors. BC reported that she has asked for a meeting with the head of planning regarding the lack of enforcement across the district. CM reported that a number of proposed site allocations for the local plan have been pulled. CM explained that the County Council (CC) have challenges with the budget and will be asking for the intervention that allows the authority to borrow a significant sum of money. The age population within East Sussex means that funding is difficult for children and adult social care. The Local Government reorganisation is continuing but the county are now awaiting feedback on the current consultations and there should be some more news in January. It is not clear whether there will be CC elections in 2026. CM commented that he needed to leave in 30mins but would like to hear the discussion on item 52. The Chair suspended standing orders to close the meeting, brought item 52 forward and asked MOP's if they would like to speak.</p> <p>MOP's expressed frustration that due to there being no crash data available where there were fatal injuries there is no proposed action to reduce the traffic and speed in Stream Lane. MOP also</p>	

	<p>explained that given the information that they had been sent in response to their letters to the CC they don't understand how traffic calming can be implemented.</p> <p>JVH explained that the parish council had been working on the traffic calming project for seven years and we do now have a specific contact at the CC which is helping move things forward. He explained that Stream Lane was part of the project initially and there were site visits to Stream Lane. The highway's authority did not support the Stream Lane measures.</p> <p>CM reported that a meeting has been agreed for January in Stream Lane with the CC road safety team including the assistant Director.</p> <p>BC commented that historically there were discussions about the National Highways agency closing off some junctions that were into small rural lanes.</p> <p>MOP commented that it was no longer safe to walk to a neighbour's house and so residents were forced to drive.</p> <p>There was a discussion about the community match scheme which has now been withdrawn.</p> <p>JVH thanked CM for arranging the meeting and committed that the parish council would continue to put pressure on the CC to support the Stream Lane residents.</p> <p>MOP suggested that the meeting should take place during rush hour.</p> <p>MOP commented that the residents were concerned that the traffic calming on the B2244 may encourage more drivers to use Stream Lane. Parties would meet in January.</p> <p>The two MOP's left the meeting.</p>	
50	<p>To consider the minutes of the full council meeting 21st October 2025 for confirmation and signing as a true record.</p> <p>Resolved: The minutes of the full council meeting of 21st October 2025 were agreed as a true record and signed by the chair.</p> <p>CM left the meeting at 7.01pm</p>	
51	<p>If the committee wishes to exclude the public for a particular agenda item, the following resolution must be passed:</p> <p>'That under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 S1(2), the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.'</p> <p>No requirement to pass this resolution.</p>	
52	<p>To discuss communication from residents of Stream Lane and agree any actions required.</p> <p>This item was discussed above.</p>	
53	<p>To discuss resident comments about the village geese and agree any actions required.</p> <p>JVH explained he had received a phone call from a resident who was not happy with the geese roaming the village. She was unhappy if any get hit by traffic and also hearing that the young geese were falling down the gully's.</p> <p>JVH had explained to her that many residents in the village like having the geese roaming and he invited her to attend the meeting for the discussion.</p> <p>GA commented that she didn't like to see/hear about the geese being hit by traffic.</p> <p>BC commented that mesh has since been introduced to stop this and the goslings are now kept in until they are big enough for this not to happen.</p> <p>BC commented she remembers the geese roaming when she was a child.</p> <p>RC commented that the geese were introduced by a resident originally.</p> <p>Resolved: The cllrs unanimously agreed that the geese were part of the village and should continue to roam.</p>	
54	<p>To hear an update on the traffic calming project and agree any actions required.</p> <p>The clerk explained that at the latest online meeting it had been confirmed that all the buildouts leave 3.2m of road unobstructed in line with requirements. All the agreed drawings had been passed on to the team in the parking department. The clerk had received confirmation earlier in the day that the drawings were all ok and that the TRO would now go ahead but she had not been given</p>	

	<p>a date for it to start. The TRO consultation would take be open for three weeks. ESCC will publish the consultation, it is advertised in the London Gazette, in a local newspaper and there will be notices along the roadside on street furniture. Once the consultation is finished, assuming the results don't need to go to a County planning committee the council will be able to put the job out to tender. There are strict procurement rules that the council needs to abide with for advertising the tender including publishing the opportunity on the Govt tender website. All being well we could have tenders in the beginning of April.</p> <p>There was a discussion about S106 money from local sites, and we were told that it ESCC should be happy to keep the money and allocate it to the traffic calming project.</p> <p>Hopefully the construction will be able to start in the summer.</p>	
55	<p>To hear an update on the devolution of Sedlescombe toilet block and carpark agree any actions required.</p> <p>The latest news was that the business cases would be reviewed by the panel in late January.</p>	
56	<p>To consider the charges for the forthcoming Annual Directory and agree any actions required.</p> <p>The clerk presented the charges from last year and recommended that they stay the same.</p> <p>Resolved: the fees should stay the same for the forthcoming year.</p>	
57	<p>To receive quotes for Stock fencing in Red Barn Field and agree any actions required.</p> <p>No quotes had been received. This item was deferred to January.</p>	
58	<p>To consider a request from RDC to respond to their consultation on the Councils budget for 2026 and agree any actions required.</p> <p>Council Budget 2026 - Rother District Council</p> <p>Resolved that the council would not comment.</p>	
59	<p>To present the current outstanding resolutions and agree any actions required.</p> <p>The clerk reported that the Public Playing Field and Recreation Ground registration with land registry is still with the land registry.</p> <p>The BT pole – There is a date for the mediation meeting 12th January between 8am-10am. If it was not resolved it will then go to court.</p>	
60	<p>To consider the quote from UK Power Networks to put electricity on The Green for the Pump.</p> <p>The clerk reported that the quote was valid until 17th February 2026. There was a discussion about the funding but it was agreed that it was a long-term investment.</p> <p>Resolved The cllrs agreed that the quote should be accepted and the clerk should work through the years current funds and EMR to establish a fund to pay for it.</p>	
61	<p>Finance and Audit</p> <p>i To receive the monthly statement of accounts to 30th November 2025 for noting.</p> <p>This was circulated ahead of the meeting, and it was noted that the bank balances on 30th November 2025 totalled £193,281.43</p> <p>ii To receive the Unity Trust bank reconciliation to 30th November 2025 for noting.</p> <p>The reports were circulated before the meeting and it was noted that each reconciles to zero with the balances as per the statement of accounts.</p> <p>iii To receive the CCLA reconciliation to 30th November 2025 for noting</p> <p>The reports were circulated before the meeting and it was noted that each reconciles to zero with the balances as per the statement of accounts.</p> <p>vi To receive the Lloyds Bank reconciliation to 30th November 2025 for noting</p> <p>The reports were circulated before the meeting and it was noted that each reconciles to zero with the balances as per the statement of accounts.</p>	

<p>v</p>	<p>To receive a list of payments falling due to be approved. Resolved: The payments were approved as presented. East Sussex Doors £1,720.00 Pavilion Doors Royal British Legion £28.50 Wreath Clerk £197.56 salary reconciliation and expenses.</p> <p>vi To receive the draft budget as agreed by the Finance and General Purposes Executive Committee for discussion and agree any actions required. The clerk commented that she had not received the tax base from Rother. The Budget was agreed in principle for final agreement in January.</p> <p>vii To agree the precept for the forthcoming year. The proposal from the finance committee was for £73,000. Cllrs were happy subject to confirmation of the tax base. Resolved that the Precept be set at £73,000 subject to the confirmation of the tax base from RDC. Final approval to be given at the January meeting.</p> <p>viii To receive a recommendation from the Finance Committee to accept the Internal Audit report. The report had been previously circulated. The cllrs were happy with the report and there were no actions required. Resolved the report was accepted and there were no actions required.</p>	
<p>62</p>	<p>To agree the Councils Priorities for the forthcoming year. Resolved the following would be priorities for the council in the forthcoming financial year. Power on The Green Ensure the Traffic Calming project reaches the stage of a tender being agreed. Ensure that the maintenance plan identified is completed. Neighbourhood Plan review progresses as per the timeline.</p>	
<p>63</p>	<p>To agree a date for written pieces for the January bulletin. Resolved cllrs to submit written items for the bulletin to the clerk by Friday 9th January 2026.</p>	
<p>64</p>	<p>To agree the urban grass cutting arrangements for the forthcoming year. Resolved that the council would continue to self-deliver the urban cuts.</p>	
<p>65</p>	<p>Reports, Correspondence, Questions and Future agenda items not requiring decisions.</p> <p>i) Red Barn Field –</p> <p>ii) Sedlescombe Jobs Network – Nothing to report.</p> <p>iii) Any other reports – there was a conversation about the flower tubs on The Green, the need for one more tub and that the tubs need to be replanted in February/March. The clerk will investigate the cost of the wooden tubs and compare them to a self watering wood effect tub. JSH suggested that there should be a nice perennial plant in the middle of the tub with additional planting around it. JSH agreed to clear the tubs out after Christmas ready for the new planting. It was estimated that there would need to be 75l of compost per tub.</p> <p>66 Date of next meeting. To note the date of the next meeting is the Finance Committee meeting on Tuesday 20th January 2026 at 6.30pm CR2.</p>	