

Piddinghoe Parish Council

Draft minutes of the Piddinghoe Parish Council meeting held in the Village Hall Tuesday 14 July 2026

1. Present:

Cllr Bevan, Cllr Brimble, Cllr Scaife, Cllr Traylen, Jessa Chapman (Parish Clerk), and two members of the public.

2. Chairman's Welcome:

Cllr Bevan welcomed everyone to the meeting.

3. Public Participation:

It was requested that at a future meeting the council could give consideration to parking arrangements in the village, particularly to ensure access for service and emergency vehicles. Cllr Bevan said the council had consulted on and agreed a 'Considerate Parking Policy' in December 2022. Although this is on the website it was felt that recent arrivals as well as longer standing parishioners might benefit from a reminder, for example by way of publication in The Villager.

The council's attention was drawn to the recent cutting back of vegetation to the south and north of the junction of the C7 with Harping Hill; this had been carried out unilaterally by the landowner of the field on Harping Hill for which planning consent is being sought for a dog-walking facility. Cllr Bevan said that the parish council had been in correspondence with the landowner concerned to explain the permissions required from the Highways Authority.

4. Reports from the county and district councillors:

None received.

5. Apologies for absence:

Cllr Ben May.

6. Disclosure of interests and any changes to the register of interests:

Cllr Bevan declared that he is a Member of the South Downs National Park Authority.

7. To agree the draft minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 19 May 2026:

AGREED.

8. Clerk's report from matters arising from those minutes:

There were none.

9. Accounts:

- (i) The payments list to 30 June 2026 was AGREED.
- (ii) The Accounts to 30 June 2026 were AGREED.
- (iii) The bank reconciliation statements to June 2026 were AGREED.
- (iv) The Internal Auditor's report and accompanying report were NOTED. The Clerk explained that the internal auditor appointed at the AGM had announced his retirement so an alternative auditor would need to be identified for the current financial year.
- (v) The Clerk explained that the council's move to online banking required changes to the Financial Regulations. The Financial Regulations 2026 were AGREED.
- (vi) The Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) was NOTED.
- (vii) The VAT Return figures were NOTED.

10. Planning:

- (i) The response concerning amendments to application SDNP/25/00228/FUL, 66 The Lookout Peacehaven was NOTED.
- (ii) The response to application SDNP/26/02347/TCA, 3 Cedarwell Close, Piddinghoe was AGREED as follows: In the view of the parish council the tree in question is significant in the streetscape setting and the character of the village. We appreciate that its now extensive canopy may be considered overbearing - eg, affecting the passage of high vehicles and shadowing properties close by. However we are concerned that its complete removal would be too drastic and wonder if judicious tree surgery to reduce its spread and height could not be a better solution.
- (iii) No planning applications were received after the agenda was sent out.

11. Highways Update:

The Chair referred to reports submitted by the Safer C7 Project and the Egrets Way Project as follows.

(i) Safer C7

In order to assure feasibility, consultants PJA have completed the production of a set of refined concept drawings for the whole of the C7, supported by swept path analyses of all the proposed junction alterations. These updated drawings have been submitted to the SDNPA and to ESCC Highways for approval in principle, or the identification of any issues that could impede subsequent progress.

Once ESCC and SDNPA have responded the planning application process will commence for the initial phases of the project for which funding has been secured, ie. village gateways, new and improved crossing points, new and improved footways, improvement of bus stop areas. The planning application process will involve more detailed scrutiny and testing of the plans, e.g. by the ESCC road safety officers, the police, statutory consultations.

Parishes will be consulted on the details, such as where improved or new bus stops are needed and wanted.

(ii) Egrets Way Phase 7

A four-week Options Consultation was undertaken in Feb/March 2026, including two public engagement events; visualisations and concept drawings for C7 traffic calming proposals and two shared-use path route options - Option A (Riverside / east side of the C7), and Option B (Non-Riverside / west side of the C7). The consultation was hosted on SDNPA website and feedback was collated through an online survey. Leaflets were also delivered to households in the Piddinghoe parish to facilitate manual responses. The drawings were also posted up here for a village coffee morning and the March parish council meeting.

The consultation report is on the SDNPA website. It was possible by postcodes to distinguish the views of Piddinghoe parishioners, which were as follows:

96% support traffic calming on the C7.

72% support making safe provision for 'vulnerable users' between the village and Chapel Barn.

67% support Option A (on the east side of the C7), 39% support Option B (on the west side).

So Option A is preferred but for the moment both options will continue to be investigated to clarify issues including:

- Legal status and ownership of land.
- Privacy and security for adjacent residences.
- Road safety and potential loss of existing verge.
- Safety and visibility where the path meets private drives and side roads.
- The potential impact on trees and the environment.
- The potential impact on drainage.
- The existing and future maintenance of paths.
- The potential conflict between users on a shared path.
- The management of cycle numbers and speeds through Piddinghoe Village.
- Traffic speed reduction on the C7.

Stakeholder meetings have been sought to review the key findings of the report, discuss and address the key concerns identified with the nine households (known as the NPLA) most directly impacted by the proposed schemes. Road Safety Audits and further surveys including geo-technical studies on private land are required to establish safety risks and inform design considerations for each option proposal to address the identified concerns and assist on-going stakeholder discussions.

Co-ordination continues with the Safer C7 project team to progress Safer C7 Stage 1 implementation proposals for Piddinghoe.

12. Parish Maintenance:

- (i) Cllr Traylen updated the council on the latest Hoe play area risk assessment. There are at present no high risk issues.
- (ii) The Clerk reported that a monthly inspection charge is now being billed by LDC.
- (iii) In view of Cllr May's absence consideration of the options for funding replacement play equipment were postponed until the next meeting.

- (iv) The council noted the request from the Parochial Church Council that the brambles on Church Bank encroaching on the churchyard wall should be cut back; Cllr Traylen would speak to contractors Barcombe Landscapes. It was agreed that the management of vegetation within the churchyard itself is the responsibility of the Church.
- (v) The Clerk reported that an application had been made to the British Heart Foundation for the installation of a defibrillator at the village hall.

13. Reports:

- (i) For the Village Hall Management Committee Cllr Brimble reported on many well attended events in the hall including the popular Friday pub nights.
- (ii) Cllr Scaife reported that the Parishes of the Lower Ouse (POLO) meeting scheduled for 12 July had been postponed until 21 September.
- (iii) Cllr Bevan reported that LDALC had met on 10 July under the chairship of Cllr Cathy Gallagher, Peacehaven and Telscombe. Cllr Keith Robertson, ESALC chair, was there to present his paper proposing that after Local Government Reorganisation the district associations should be the core of new community governance arrangements under the new unitaries. He and Trevor Leggo will take the proposition to County Leaders and CEOs. The Sussex Association of Local Councils AGM will be at the Amex on 4 November.
- (iv) Editor of The Villager, Cllr Brimble, said submissions are welcome up to 12 August for the upcoming edition.
- (v) On behalf of the Parish Church Christine Bentham reported that the recent Flower Festival had been a great success and had raised hundreds of pounds towards the installation of under-pew heating.

14. Questions from Parish Councillors:

There were none.

15. To note meeting dates for the coming year:

10 November 2026 - Full Council Meeting
2 March 2027 - Full Council Meeting

The meeting closed at 20:16.