

# Wisborough Green Annual Parish Meeting

## Minutes of the Meeting

Date: Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2026

Present: Parish Councillors:  
Mr P Drummond, Mr D Hill, Mr A Jackson, Mr M Foster  
Mrs S Winship (Chair), Mr T Worrall  
Mrs L Davies, Parish Council Clerk  
25 Members of Public

Apologies: Mr M Watson (Parish Councillor)

Mrs Winship, as Parish Council Chair, opened the meeting at 7.30 pm.

### **Chair's Report – a review of the past year**

The Chair noted that it had been another busy year for the Parish Council (PC). She began by stating that Wisborough Green was ahead of the curve and apologised for opening the meeting with a reference to the public conveniences. It was recently mentioned in the press that there had been a 14% reduction in public toilet provision in the UK in the last decade which had prompted a call to require all town and parish councils to provide. Although this came at a cost to the village, she suggested that the village should be proud that it already had this provision. They were regularly used by those passing through the village, as well as by tradespeople and residents, and brought people to the village who supported local businesses. If the PC had not taken advantage of the offer to obtain from Chichester District Council (CDC), if this were to come into legislation, it could be a challenge to provide. She did however acknowledge that the facilities needed to be updated and this was a future project.

The Chair explained that she regularly attended Council alliance meetings and over the last 12 months, on every agenda had been the need for a Major Emergency Plan. Yet again, Wisborough Green was ahead of many councils in West Sussex, having had a Major Emergency Plan for many years (since 2007). The Village Hall was equipped as an emergency hub, and she was delighted that some new volunteers had recently signed up to help. She gave explanation to the different roles and encouraged involvement.

She had also had the opportunity to visit the allotments with the Clerk. She was delighted that the village had a thriving allotment community, who shared and helped each other, again reinforcing a unique village quality.

The PC was still striving to make the village a safer environment for all residents by addressing road safety. Residents expressed concerns about junction visibility, parking, and speed limits, and the PC was willing to consider requests. The PC provided the pavement figure in Durbans Road, also supported the speed reduction in Durbans Road which was finally implemented last year and recently painted double yellow lines. Community Speed Watch (CSW) was also active, and the Speed Indicator Device (SID) was moved around the village; both collected data to support change. However, she highlighted that it was not a PC decision, an application with evidence had to be submitted to West Sussex County Council (WSSCC) Highways, which would make the decision.

The village's main source of funding was the Precept, collected from residents via their Council Tax. Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding was now received from developments in the village. The Chair emphasised that all this money was public funds which belonged to the village – the PC was simply the custodians. The PC's accounts were fully published on the website. A

recent summary annual report was delivered to every household in the village in the Ad Vincula Parish magazine, and copies of the full report were provided this evening and would also be available on the website. She explained that a large proportion of the funding was spent on maintenance and highlighted how beautiful the green and centre of the village was currently looking.

The Chair extended a warm welcome to Barnfield Shaw residents and hoped that they would have a long and happy time in the village.

Over the past year at Council meetings, apart from the day-to-day management of the village, planning applications and to address concerns raised by residents, there had been two projects that had involved considerable discussion, namely the new replacement Pavilion and Neighbourhood Plan. In terms of the Pavilion, the PC was working in partnership with Wisborough Green Sports (WGS) to progress the project. There were various issues to address as the law determined what could and could not be done on a Registered Village Green. The PC was working hard to ensure that the new building was financially sustainable, suitable in our rural environment and an asset to the village. The discussions also included a new lease. It was a complex process which was being undertaken carefully to ensure it was right and going forwards, everyone would be able to enjoy the new building.

The Chair asked Cllr Andrew Jackson to provide an update on the Neighbourhood Plan (NP).

Mr Jackson thanked everyone who attended the February consultation event. This was the first part of the process to gather input from the village and to provide evidence for the reviewed NP. He explained that the village had started the process a few years ago, but the process was paused due to a delay in the Chichester Local Plan process and uncertainty over the housing allocation for Wisborough Green. The February consultation was the first consultation for the confirmed housing number and had provided a reasonable representation from the village. Reports were now being prepared which would provide the supporting evidence. The policies within the NP would need to be updated to reflect changes in national policy as well as the Chichester Local Plan which was adopted in August 2025. It was hoped that the first formal 6-week consultation on the revised draft NP would be held later this year, which would provide residents with a further opportunity to comment. After that, further professional reports would need to be prepared and the NP submitted to CDC, which would take over the consultation process. A planning inspector would be appointed to examine the NP and all being well it would progress to referendum and then adoption. It was a long process.

Cllr Winship thanked Cllr Jackson for this update.

She went on to extend thanks to District Councillors Gareth Evans and Charles Todhunter for their support and unwavering dedication to their roles. She also thanked County Councillor Janet Duncton for her knowledge and experience. She also wanted to extend personal thanks to the Clerk for her measured and invaluable support over the past year and presented her with some flowers.

She gave explanation to the format for the rest of the evening: refreshments and reassemble to watch the aerial footage of Wisborough Green as shown at the NP consultation. She expressed thanks to Mr Philip Chambers for his stunning and skilled camerawork which illustrated just how beautiful the village was. Before doing so, she asked if there were any further questions.

## **Public Questions**

Barnfield Shaw Resident: Five properties were now occupied, and he expressed thanks for the welcome and how delighted they were to be in the village. He had attended the NP consultation event which he praised highly. He raised concern about the 'private' path that had now been

closed with gates and locks. Although the developer had confirmed that Barnfield Shaw residents had right of access, the current arrangement was difficult and unwelcome. He wished to raise with the landowner directly to explore avenues to open the path. He believed that it was the intention to extend a path to the village green and that an alternative option on the other side might be possible, although not so desirable on this narrow section of road. *The Chair explained that it was never intended that the path would be closed and was also a concern to the PC. It was a challenging issue which the PC was investigating, but it was not possible to provide him with the landowner details.*

He was also concerned about the speed of traffic in Kirdford Road in both directions and asked if a speed reduction was possible. *As the CSW Coordinator, the Chair acknowledged the speeding and suggested that further development might provide an opportunity to extend the 30 mph speed limit and amend the 40 mph to link with the new 40 mph limit at Skiff Lane. The SID was currently located at one site in Kirdford Road and was collecting data. She would welcome CSW volunteers as there was an approved site and again this provided an opportunity to gather data. She highlighted that if CSW was not active, it was deemed by the police that there was not a speeding problem.* The resident offered his help.

He also wished to raise, on behalf of another resident, whether there was a refuse bin policy to encourage people to take bins back within property boundaries as there were some bins that were left outside. *The Chair said that she was unaware of any policy and highlighted that some working people would not be able to take in until the evening.* The resident advised that the bins were left out permanently.

Fittleworth Road Resident: Highlighted that the issue of speed on Kirdford Road was raised as part of the planning process for Barnfield Shaw and that the availability of the footpath had been included.

Newpound Lane Resident: The PC was now in receipt of a significant amount of CIL and asked what projects were planned. *The Chair explained that the resurfacing of the playground was planned this summer, along with improved fencing. It was heavily used and this use would only increase. It was important to reassure parents that children were safe. The Pavilion would likely be a supported project, but she again highlighted that this was public money and whilst there were various expenditure stipulations, suggestions were welcomed.*

Newpound Resident: He was an avid reading of the PC's minutes, and he saw mention of a second Freedom of Information request. *The Clerk explained that the PC was fully transparent and published meeting reports with the agenda, minutes and all financial information on the website. The request related to information on a site in the NP consultation by a concerned resident, most of which was already published. Unfortunately, meeting this request took the Clerk's time.*

Kirdford Road Resident: Asked about Stable Field and what would be happening to the field. *The Chair advised that rubble would be removed from the surface, levelled for future sports/parking use and topsoil and seed applied.* Another resident confirmed that this was being undertaken.

Songhurst Meadow Resident: Expressed his thanks to the PC for all their hard work and said that without the PC, residents would not have such a beautiful village. Applause.

As there were no further questions, the Chair closed the formal part of the meeting at 8.10 pm by thanking all Parish Councillors for their help, and to all for attending. Refreshments were served.

Chair: .....

Date: .....