



PYECOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Email: parishcouncil@pyecombeparishcouncil.gov.uk

Website: <https://pyecombeparishcouncil.gov.uk>

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held at Wayfield Park Farmshop, Pyecombe on Tuesday 29th September 2026 at 6:00pm.

Present – Cllr D. Wilson Chair, Cllr J. Cullen, and Cllr M Saich.

Mid Sussex District Councillor G. Zeidler.

West Sussex County Councillor R. Jackson.

Clerk D. Langston.

Minutes

21.26 Apologies for absence were received from Pyecombe Parish Councillors T. Cullen and Cllr L. Sullivan.

22.26 No interests were declared.

23.26 Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 23rd July 2026 were approved by Council and signed by the Chair.

24.26 To receive an update on Parish items to include:

- Children's Play Area. Clerk advised the MSDC Officer who was dealing with the issues highlighted at The Wyshe play area has now moved on from his role. MSDC Officers have confirmed the project is now considered to have been completed. Following issues raised by residents surrounding the surface adjacent to the basketball hoop Council will look into the installation of a new surface on this area.
- Community Project to include bulb planting. Council agreed a spend of £250.00 (two hundred and fifty pounds).
- Flint wall repairs. Council agreed to repair the flint wall. Clerk will obtain a quote from a flint repair specialist.

25.26 West Sussex County Councillor R. Jackson updated on attached report.

- Councillors questioned road repairs in the area highlighting issues with the area adjacent to Stonepound crossroads.

26.26 Mid Sussex District Councillor G. Zeidler updated on the following items.

- Changes to the planning committee system have come into effect meaning a smaller number of Officers are involved in decision making. Planning applications which fall into Schedule 2 are decided by the Planning Officer and the Head of the Planning Committee.



PYECOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Email: parishcouncil@pyecombeparishcouncil.gov.uk

Website: <https://pyecombeparishcouncil.gov.uk>

- District Plan numbers requested by the Inspector included an additional four thousand dwellings. MSDC have now submitted a series of additional sites which raises the number above the additional requirements. Inspector will review additional sites week commencing 3rd November 2026. The review will concentrate on sites in Hurstpierpoint and Pease Pottage.
- There is no update on parking charges within local villages.
- Unitary authority review the Local Government Review announcement two weeks ago paused the process of LGR. This leaves only two areas still outstanding for review which are West Sussex and Cambridgeshire.
- Given the recent announcement district elections due to be held next year will be based on current ward boundaries.
- Burgess Hill re-development project continues to progress.

West Sussex County Councillor R. Jackson and Mid Sussex District Councillor G. Zeidler left the meeting at this point.

27.26 Financial & Administration Matters

27.1.26 Council reviewed balance sheet against budget and confirmed a spend of £9714.83 (nine thousand, seven hundred and fourteen pounds and eighty-three pence) in line with the predicted budget. Balance sheet was checked against the bank statements and signed by the Chair.

27.2.26 Council agreed acceptance of the recent NALC pay award. Clerk will remain on scale 30 at six hours per week.

Payments raised since last meeting:

£ 16.00 Vision ICT Invoice 22471 Email provision.

£372.52 EDF Invoice 29119984 Street lighting costs.

£253.37 D. Langston Administration expenses to include signage costs.

£600.90 WSCC Invoice 8002094938 Salary & Pension.

£653.80 WSCC Invoice 8002096505 Salary & Pension.

£378.69 EDF Invoice 29418269 Street lighting costs.

28.26 Date of next meeting confirmed as 10th November 2026.



PYECOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Email: parishcouncil@pyecombeparishcouncil.gov.uk

Website: <https://pyecombeparishcouncil.gov.uk>

Parish Notes 23 09 26

Local Government Reorganisation

Scheme paused. Decision Xmas 2026?

District and Borough Elections in May 2027

Sussex Strategic Authority (SA)

Board Decided to send £3.3 million on replacing a number of fire appliances as the existing ones are old and expensive to maintain. On forming the Mayoral, authority planned for April 2028, the East and West Sussex Fire Brigades will be merged to form a single Sussex Fire Authority.

Staff to be appointed to SA.

County issues

Two main issues on the doorstep are the cost of living and the state of our roads.

The last County administration set the increase on the County part of the Council Tax at 4.99%, the maximum under the capping regime.

However, this amount did not cover the inflationary effect of fuel and electricity prices and the increase in staff costs.

The biggest costs to the County are Adult Social and Child Social care. The County does not have enough money and staff to meet the demand and therefore services need to be prioritised.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) provision is also increasing with associated costs.

However, there is a backlog in the Education Health and Care assessments to arrive at a plan (EHCP)- a serious concern for the parents involved.

The current joint administration is determined to reduce the backlog and are planning to speed up the assessments.

The Administration has also found some unspent monies to do more road maintenance. Residents would have observed much more patch repairs, top dressing, micro asphalt laying and the more expensive road reconstruction. Hopefully before the winter.

The County is running a Highway Ranger scheme with a pilot in Worthing.

The new countryside programme, which the Rangers will tackle, are the everyday issues to help local streets look cleaner. Issues such as obscured signs, overgrown vegetation, blocked drains, overhanging vegetation, minor repairs to street furniture, removing weeds and pavement edges and removing unauthorised signs and posters.

Areas of work will be identified by local Highway teams working with County Councillors, Parish and Town Councils, community groups, alongside issues raised through routine inspections.

Local issues

20 mph extension. Following consultation there were a few objections including from the bus companies. WSCC are proposing a slight modification to their suggested plan with small parts of Cuckfield Road and Hassocks Road remaining 30mph



PYECOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Email: parishcouncil@pyecombeparishcouncil.gov.uk

Website: <https://pyecombeparishcouncil.gov.uk>

Gatehouse Lane TRO for speed limit is being progressed to see if the situation meets the criteria. Speed loops are proposed to measure speeds prior to a decision

Bus stop at the bottom of Wickham Hill. Vegetation to be checked regularly to see if attention is needed. Contractor reminded.

District issues

As a District Ward Councillor for Hurstpierpoint, I have received dozens of emails objecting to the additional houses proposed near them and generally under the Main Modification to the Revised District Plan required by the Planning Inspector. I am unhappy about the extent of the proposals.

The consultation closes on 7th September.

The planning Inspector is having a hearing on the results of the consultation from November 2026 .

Large number of objections from Hurstpierpoint, Sayers Common and Albourne residents.

The Joint Venture on the redevelopment of the centre of Burgess Hill is progressing, but the financial details are commercially confidential

Planning

Changes to arrangements

Many more applications to be delegated to officers.

District Councillors will no longer be able to call in applications for consideration by Planning Committee.

Changes to NPPF

Cllr Rodney Jackson
Division County Councillor
Hurstpierpoint and Bolney
Ward District Councillor
Hurstpierpoint