

## STORRINGTON & SULLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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### **Full Parish Council Meeting** **of Storrington and Sullington Parish Council** **in the Main Hall, Sullington Parish Hall, Thakeham Road, Storrington, RH20 3PP** **6:30 pm Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

**Present:** Cllr Mark Cramer (Chair), Cllr John Loney (Vice-Chair), Cllr Bill Aitkenhead, Cllr Andy Castle, Cllr Peter Meadows, Cllr Virginia Hicks, Cllr Brian Sadler, Cllr Theresa Bennett, Cllr Claudia Fisher and Cllr Tony Mills.

**In Attendance:** Cllr Paul Marshall (WSCC), Cllr Claudia Fisher (HDC), Cllr Joan Grech (HDC).

**Members of the Public:** Four, including two Neighbourhood Wardens.

**Minutes:** Rebecca Luckin (Clerk)

### **MINUTES**

#### **FC/25/175. Apologies for absence**

a) Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Burnell, Cllr Moremon, Cllr Hurley and Cllr Emma Beard (HDC).

#### **FC/25/176. Declarations of interest**

- a) None for this meeting.
- b) After her arrival, Cllr Fisher declared an interest as District Councillor.

#### **FC/25/177. Minutes of the previous meeting**

a) Cllr Mills **proposed** that the minutes of the meeting of 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2025 be accepted as a true record of the meeting. **Seconded** by Cllr Bennett. **Agreed.** The minutes were duly signed.

**Cllr Fisher arrived at 6.35pm**

#### **FC/25/178. Matters arising**

- 169) Clerk to consult with another Clerk undertaking recording of public meeting – actioned. Agenda item.
- 168b) Obtain quote for IT advice going forward. The office have met with the current provider to better understand the existing service level agreement.

#### **FC/25/179. Public Participation**

- a) A member of the public reported recurrent instances of his property being struck by HGVs resulting in significant, and costly, ongoing damage to a building located in the conservation area, causing business interruption. A recent incident had generated 50,000 views on social media. He felt his reports to the Police and others were being ignored and expressed concern that somebody could lose their life. In order to address the matter, the Chairman brought **Item 183 d** up the agenda.

Councillors agreed that the level of danger, and impact to businesses, was unacceptable and that current measures were not working.

Cllr Loney **proposed** that the Parish Council should write to WSCC asking for a solution; he expressed the opinion that only WSCC could make the changes that could stop incidents happening and suggested an ANPR camera, and fines, might change driver behaviour.

Cllr Marshall confirmed that he would support a change in signage, although other businesses (Waitrose) will need to be consulted. Historically, a one-way system has been considered.

Cllr Marshall advised that a 20mph zone would allow for traffic calming measures to be put in place and would deter HGVs. Councillors **agreed** to write to WSCC.

The Chair thanked Cllr Marshall for his support and thanked the member of the public.

#### **FC/25/180. County Council Matters**

a) Cllr Marshall reported regarding Mayoral elections deferred to 2028. The new authority will be taking on strategic transport which will enable them to address traffic matters. Major changes are on the way - the journey is not about politics, but about place, and offers an opportunity to address local issues without focusing on national politics.

b) WSCC is concluding their draft budget and hope not to make any cuts to services.

c) Cllr Loney expressed disappointment that the s106 agreement for Melton Dv s106 agreement did not reflect Parish Council requirements since they had not been part of the conversation. At the time, the previous Parish Council had voted against the proposal and had not expressed a preference regarding s106 funds in the event that the application was passed. Cllr Marshall recommended that, going forward, Councillors express their preferences in the event that a development may be approved.

Cllr Fisher advised that the Parish Council had not been consulted due to the application being processed very speedily – she will raise the matter with HDC.

**Cllr Marshall and a member of the public left the meeting at 7.10pm.**

#### **FC/25/181. District Council Matters**

a) Cllr Grech reported that HDC is looking to improve their planning and enforcement processes.

The Director of Place is pushing for a better response from the Planning Inspector regarding the Local Plan.

b) Cllr Fisher had received reports of SUVs driving over the pavement as they exit Waitrose. Bollards will be installed. She is also working with a local resident who's health is being impacted by bonfires.

Regarding the UK Food Project at the Leisure Centre, the service is currently inaccessible for people who work during the day. Bags can be delivered to those who are unable to attend the Leisure Centre.

Cllr Fisher is working to support residents impacted by building works, and a noisy vent, at a local food outlet – HDC is investigating.

Regarding the s106 funds for development at Old Clayton, a one-off amount of £200,000k will be ringfenced for the benefit of residents of Storrington and Washington Parish. HDC Housing Department recommend that it be used to purchase a property for a homeless family.

The West Chiltington NDP is still in the examination process, with the expectation that it will proceed to referendum. Councillors thanked Cllr Fisher for her report.

#### **FC/25/182. Wardens' Report to Full Council**

a) Warden Chris Poore introduced the new Neighbourhood Warden, Dave Boner, who was warmly welcomed.

b) Chris Poore reported on their current activities, including the Cuppa & Chat Café, which will be expanded to the Library and Hanover Walk, and perhaps the Kingsfield Centre in Sullington.

The Rotary Club have purchased sensory equipment for the Wardens' Autism Group, and Early Help, who attended the Wardens' Fun Day, are offering support. The Primary School have requested more frequent contact with the Wardens, in order to develop good relations with pupils.

Cllr Hicks noted that youth interaction appeared low in the report, noting that there were some pockets of real poverty within the parish. Cllr Hicks and Wardens will explore the options for increasing the offer to younger residents,

particularly 11 – 15 year olds.

Cllr Loney asked if Wardens were aware of increased drug use in the village. Chris Poore confirmed that activity had been noted in one area only and that all information had been provided to the Police.

Councillors thanked Wardens for an excellent job.

**Cllr Grech and Wardens left the meeting at 7.25pm.**

**FC/25/183. Referrals and recommendations from Committees, including expenditure:**

a) F&G – Draft budget update - Cllr Meadows reported that the committee continue to refine the draft budget for 26/27; a great deal of work and discussion had been undertaken, with more to follow.

b) ICE:

i) Cllr Hicks reported that the ICE Committee will make recommendation at the February meeting, for Full Council to approve the final version of the website, prior to launch on 1<sup>st</sup> March. Currently, some fine-tuning, provision of links and improved searchability is required. The Clerk and Cllr Hicks will report to ICE at their January meeting and then take the matter to Full Council.

ii) Recording of meetings - The Clerk noted that another local Parish Council has a process for setting up a Teams/Zoom meeting – members of the public can request a link to the meeting and submit any questions, prior to midday on the day of the meeting, which provides remote access for members of the public who cannot attend. The office will undertake a 'dummy run' to see if the meeting can be recorded and made available on the Parish Council website. At their next meeting, the ICE Committee will undertake a trial recording and posting of the meeting.

c) R&P – Regarding a CIL bid submitted to HDC, Cllr Fisher reported that an outcome may be known at the end of March. In the meantime, the Committee will continue to maintain dialogue with Leisure Centre regarding potential revised arrangements for management of the Football Pavilion.

Cllr Loney and Cllr Aitkenhead will meet with Cricket Club for an update on their proposals and their own CIL bid.

d) T&T - ANPR Camera for School Hill – as above, the T&T Committee will write to WSCC.

**FC/25/184. Climate Action**

a) The Nature Recovery Working Group had held an initial meeting in November 2025 and Cllrs Mills and Moremon had met to review the climate action points.

Regarding the Working Group Terms of Reference, Councillors discussed whether a baseline should be established and added to the Terms of Reference. Approval of Terms of Reference – item for the next agenda.

**FC/25/185. Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) Steering Group update**

a) Cllr Aitkenhead reported that the Parish Council NDP consultant had confirmed that the examiner had requested a statement from HDC regarding water neutrality. When the HDC plan is passed, the Storrington, Sullington & Washington NDP will be able to progress further. HDC has offered to meet with Parish Councils within the district on 17.02.26.

**FC/25/186. Devolution preparation**

a) The Clerk and Cllr Meadows reported that they had attended a Car Park meeting with neighbouring Parish Councils, regarding the possibility of taking on the car parks when assets are devolved from HDC.

Other Parish Councils had submitted Expression of Interest Forms regarding HDC assets that may be transferred (item for the next agenda). It was generally agreed that any assets taken on by Parish Council should be cost-neutral and subject to a condition survey report, prior to any agreement. A representative from HDC will be invited to the next Car Park meeting. Cllr Fisher will also attend the next meeting, as she has some experience regarding car parking and

accessibility issues.

**FC/25/187. Standing Orders – Proposal to amend**

a) Cllr Sadler **proposed** that Paragraph 3.(s) of Standing Orders is amended as follows:

*'Unless standing orders provide otherwise, voting on a question shall be by a show of hands. In the case of Full Council Meetings, voting on any question shall be recorded so as to show whether each councillor present and voting gave their vote for or against that question. At all other meetings, at the request of a councillor, the voting on any question shall be recorded so as to show whether each councillor present and voting gave their vote for or against that question. Such a request shall be made before moving on to the next item of business on the agenda.'*

Councillors discussed the 'pros and cons'. There was **no seconder** for the proposal.

**FC/25/188. Committee Membership** – item deferred to next agenda

**FC/25/189. Safeguarding Policy – Councillors to consider draft V2 policy and agree** – item for April agenda.

**FC/25/190. S106 Agreement variation (DC/15/2788) – Councillors to consider and agree regarding making a request to HDC for reallocation of funding.**

a) Cllr Loney reported that when planning application DC/15/2788 was submitted, Sullington was allocated funds for a multi-gym, however this was not progressed by the previous council due to anticipated costs of maintenance. He **proposed** that the Parish Council request that a sum in the region of £40k be re-allocated to either improvement of current facilities at the Sullington Recreation Ground, or installation of a smaller multi-gym.

**Seconded** by Cllr Cramer. **Unanimously Agreed.**

**FC/25/191. Statutory Consultation on Local Government Organisation (LGR)**

a) The Clerk reported that WSALC had made the decision not to express a view on the creation of unitary authorities due to the impossibility of canvassing its 145 member Parish Councils. Councillors agreed to respond as individuals, rather than responding as a body.

**FC/25/192. Parham Parish Council request for support regarding TRO – Councillors to consider and agree.**

a) Cllr Fisher declared an interest as a Parham Parish Councillor.

b) Councillors expressed differing views regarding a request from Parham Parish Council for their support of a TRO (reduction of speed limit on B2139 from 60mph to 50mph). Cllr Aitkenhead proposed that support be provided.

Seconded by Cllr Loney.

Recorded vote:

For – Cllrs Cramer, Castle, Loney, Aitkenhead, Meadows, Hicks, Bennett and Mills.

Against – Cllr Sadler

Abstention – Cllr Fisher

**Agreed.**

**FC/25/193. Chair's Announcements and items for the next agenda**

a) By-election to take place Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2026. The Chair reminded Councillors that they are in a period of purdah.

b) In order that a Cambridge & Counties bank account can be opened, all Councillors will be asked to provide their dob, house number and postcode.

c) Councillors were reminded of the Storrington in Bloom quiz evening – 24<sup>th</sup> January – an opportunity to put forward a team.

**FC/25/194. Date of next meetings:**

a) Extraordinary meeting at 7.30pm 28<sup>th</sup> January 2026 – to agree the budget and finalise the precept request

(following the F&G Committee meeting at 6.30pm).

**b) Annual Parish Meeting at 6.30pm 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2026** (venue and speaker to be discussed and agreed).

Councillors discussed that the meeting could be held at the Leisure Centre. The Clerk will investigate speaker options. Cllr Hicks suggested that the Annual Report could take the form of video interviews with the Chair and Committee Chairs, which could be more dynamic and personable.

**CONFIDENTIAL SESSION** - the Chairman **proposed**, under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, and in accordance with Standing Orders 3 (d), to exclude the press and public on the grounds that the confidential matters to be discussed under item **195** below would be prejudicial in the public interest.

**Seconded** by Cllr Fisher.

**The Clerk and members of the public left the meeting 8.24pm**

**FC/25/195. Employment matters** - Clerk role re-evaluation and salary review, in preparation for budget-setting.

a) Following full discussion, Cllr Hicks **proposed** a salary scale from the Local Government Services Pay Agreement.

**Seconded** by Cllr Aitkenhead.

Recorded vote:

For – Cllrs Cramer, Loney, Aitkenhead, Meadows, Hicks, Bennett, Fisher and Mills.

Against – Cllr Sadler

Abstention - Cllr Castle

**Agreed.**

**The meeting closed at 9.20pm**

Signed:  
Chair

Date: 28<sup>th</sup> January 2026

**ACTION LIST – Full Council – 07.01.26**

Ref:	ACTION:	Whom	✓
179 a	Send letter ANPR letter to WSCC.	Clerk	
183 b i	Full Council Agenda item – Full Council to approve final version of new website.	Clerk	
184 a	Agenda item – Nature Recovery Group ToRs	Cllr F Clerk	
186 a	Agenda item – Expression of Interest form to HDC regarding transfer of car parks.	Clerk	
188	Agenda item – New Cllr committee membership.	Clerk	
189	April agenda item – Safeguarding Policy.	Cllr Burnell Clerk	
190	Request s106 funds be re-allocated.	Clerk	
193 b	Councillor personal info for bank account.	Clerk	
194 b	Fix the venue.	Clerk	

	Explore speaker options – Laura V-H, Isabelle Tree, Sarah Abercromby?	Clerk	
	Explore Annual Report video options.	Cllr Hicks	

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