

**STORRINGTON & SULLINGTON
PARISH COUNCIL**

The Parish Hall, Thakeham Road, Storrington,
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Clerk: Rebecca Luckin (CILCA)

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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 4th February 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, Cllr Burnell, Cllr Moremon, Cllr Tony Mills.

In Attendance: None for this meeting.

Members of the Public: Five.

Minutes: Rebecca Luckin (Clerk).

MINUTES

FC/25/203. Apologies for absence

a) Councillors received and accepted apologies from Cllr Hurley, Cllr Burnell, Cllr Emma Beard (HDC), Cllr Paul Marshall (WSCC), Cllr Joan Grech (HDC meeting) and from Cllr Brian Sadler (late arrival).

Cllr Bennett expressed concern that Cllr Manton was not present at the meeting, especially mindful of the significant cost of recent by-elections.

FC/25/204. Declarations of interest

a) Cllr Fisher declared an interest as HDC Councillor.

FC/25/205. Minutes of the previous meetings

a) Cllr Mills **proposed** that the minutes of the meeting of 7th January 2026 be approved as a correct record of the meeting. **Seconded** by Cllr Fisher. **Agreed.** The minutes were duly signed.

b) Cllr Mills **proposed** that the minutes of the meeting of 28th January 2026 be approved as a correct record of the meeting. **Seconded** by Cllr Loney. **Agreed.** The minutes were duly signed.

FC/25/206. Matters arising

193b) Councillor details are required for opening a further bank account, as agreed. The Clerk will chase Councillors for outstanding information.

FC/25/207. Public Participation

a) A member of the public asked regarding the recent agreed budget for 26/27, including a 19% increase in precept. With that item not being on the agenda, the member of the public was asked to email in her concerns.

Two members of the public left the meeting.

FC/25/208. County Council Matters

Cllr Marshall (WSCC) was not present at the meeting however, Cllr Loney raised some questions to be forwarded to him:

- a) What has happened to the Community Highways Scheme submission?
- b) We have requested support for yellow lines on Spierbridge Rd.
- c) When will re-surfacing of the High St. be undertaken?
- d) With regard to Local Government Reorganisation – what's going on from a WSCC point of view?

FC/25/209. District Council Matters

- a) Cllr Fisher reported that HDC would be holding a Full Council Meeting on 23.02.26, which would be a good opportunity to ask questions. The HDC 26/27 draft budget will be debated.
- b) RMTEA are interviewing candidates. The plan is to encourage local business owners to make their toilets available, in the meantime, the Snowball app highlights accessible toilets in the locality.
- c) Line painting in the North St Car Park is scheduled for late March, early April.
- d) At a recent HDC Planning Meeting, all three HDC Councillors spoken against a planning proposal, although were unsuccessful on this occasion.
- e) A recent change in the HDC constitution has made it particularly challenging to get a point across if Councillors are not on the Planning Committee. Cllr Fisher is investigating and will report back.

FC/25/210. Wardens' Report to Full Council

- a) Wardens have requested Councillor support for undertaking Walking Busses, in partnership with the Friends of Storrington School (FOSS) – volunteers needed for 28th April. The Clerk will remind Councillors.

FC/25/211. Referrals and recommendations from Committees, including expenditure:

- a) Following lengthy consideration of comparable quotes, Recreation & Property Committee members made recommendation to Full Council that a quote to replace Parish Hall stage curtains be approved – £5,467.66+vat. Cllr Mills **proposed** that the quote be accepted. **Seconded** by Cllr Loney. **Agreed.**

FC/25/212. Climate Action

- a) Nature Recovery Working Group – deferred to March agenda.

FC/25/213. Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) Steering Group update

- a) Cllr Aitkenhead reported that there was no news yet regarding the progress of other NDPs in the Horsham District. He will be attending a meeting on 17th regarding HDC's Local Plan, while they wait for the Planning Inspector to approve their draft plan.

FC/25/214. Land at Bell Acre – Following an HDC request for a response, Councillors to consider and agree regarding the way forward for land at Bell Acre. Councillors agreed that a Planning Committee Working Group should be formed and delegated to respond to HDC. Item for the Planning Committee Agenda for 9th February 2026.

FC/25/215. Proposal regarding correspondence to WSCC

- a) Cllr Loney advised that current potholes represent a serious risk to life and that he would like Full Council to formalise their request to WSCC regarding urgent repairs on a strategic route. Currently, repairs are lasting only two or three months. He would like to ask what is the WSCC strategy, and when can the community of Storrington expect the whole of the High St to be resurfaced. Cllr Loney **proposed** that the Parish Council formally write to WSCC to:
 - a) Seek urgent short-term remedial action where road conditions present safety, accessibility, or place-based concerns.
 - b) Request clarity on WSCC's strategic responsibilities for the long-term maintenance of key village routes.
 - c) Challenge the apparent short-term approach to repairs and seek a sustainable, long-term solution appropriate to a village centre and retail environment. **Seconded** by Cllr Mills. **Unanimously agreed.**

FC/25/216. Devolution preparation

- a) Cllr Loney **proposed** that the Parish Council submit an Expression of Interest Form regarding the potential transfer of assets. **Seconded** by Cllr Mills. **Agreed.** Clerk to investigate.

FC/25/217. Amended Terms of Reference

a) Cllr Castle **proposed** that responsibility for Youth should go to Full Council. **Seconded** by Cllr Loney. **Unanimously agreed.**

FC/25/218. Committee Membership

- a) Councillors to consider and agree Committee Membership for newly-elected Councillor – Cllr Jackson not present – item to be deferred to next agenda.
- b) Cllr Moremon advised that she would be stepping down from Planning Committee, in order to take up her place on the Finance Committee, as Chair of the ICE Committee (item for the next agenda).

FC/25/219. Safeguarding Policy – Councillors to consider draft V2 policy and agree – deferred to April agenda

FC/25/220. Training and Development Policy – Councillors to consider and agree

a) Cllr Castle **proposed** that the Training and Development Policy be adopted. **Seconded** by Cllr Fisher. **Agreed.**

FC/25/221. Social media postings – Councillors to consider and agree regarding a response to Facebook posts about the Parish Council

a) Councillors discussed recent negative social media activity and noted that Councillors could report incidents to Operation Ford – a Police initiative to protect people in public office. Councillors noted that the offence of online harassment is when someone repeatedly behaves in a way that makes an individual feel scared, distressed or threatened. If this unwanted behaviour happens two times or more, it may be a crime, and it can be reported to the Police. The Parish Council does not have the resources to provide extensive information regarding their activities, mindful that other Parish Councils are taking on Community Engagement Officers to manage communications.

Cllr Sadler arrived at 7.20pm

Councillors noted that office staffing levels were significantly below those of comparable Parish Councils and that the precept for 26/27 was below comparable local Parish Councils.

Councillors to draft a Social Media Policy - Cllr Hicks to lead.

FC/25/222. Councillors training regarding GDPR and Code of Conduct

a) Following recent GDPR breaches by two Councillors on social media, the Parish Council Data Protection Officer (DPO) has made recommendation that all Councillors should undertake GDPR training as soon as possible, or run the risk of Code of Conduct Complaints against themselves, or reports to the Information Commissioner's Officer (ICO). The DPO advises that should Councillors decline training, any future data protection breaches that arise from their actions, may be treated as a personal responsibility, rather than a failure of the Parish Council's training or governance arrangements. The Chairman **proposed** that all Councillors should undertake mandatory GDPR and Code of Conduct training within two months of this resolution. **Seconded** by Cllr Moremon.

Recorded vote:

For – **Unanimously agreed.**

FC/25/223. Annual Parish Meeting – Councillors to consider and agree regarding venue and list of potential speakers. Item for the next agenda, in the meantime, Councillors to consider potential speakers.

FC/25/224. Chair's announcements

- a) Councillors noted that the Friends of Meadowside had reformed.
- b) Item for the next agenda - Cllr Loney to report on actions following urgent highway matters raised by members of the public.
- c) Clerk to arrange GDPR training for Councillors asap – potentially prior to the next meeting.
- d) Item for Full Council agendas going forward 'Communication'.

FC/25/225. Date of next meetings:

a) **Full Council Meeting at 6.30pm 4th March 2026**

b) **Annual Parish Meeting at 6.30pm 22nd April 2026** (venue and speaker to be confirmed).

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 **226** below would be prejudicial in the public interest. **Seconded** by Cllr Loney. **Agreed.**

Members of the public left at 7.43pm

FC/25/226. Employment matters

a) Following the decision not to make the Admin Assistant's 6m temporary contract permanent, Cllr Mills **proposed** that the Deputy Clerk's hours be permanently increased from 30 to 37 hours per week from 1st April, or following the departure of the Admin Assistant – whichever is soonest. **Seconded** by Cllr Castle.

Recorded vote:

For – **Unanimously agreed.**

b) Following discussion that the job title of 'Clerk' could be changed to better reflect the responsibilities of the role, the Clerk confirmed that she had no wish to change her job title due to the historic significance of the role of 'proper officer', going back to Local Government Acts of 1874 and 1972, however, it may aid the understanding of members of the public, if the role and responsibilities were made clearer on the new website. **Actioned.**

The meeting closed at 8.02pm

Signed:
Chair



Date: 4th March 2026

FULL COUNCIL – ACTION LIST – 04.02.26

Ref:	ACTIONS:	Whom	√
206	Cambridge and Counties savings acc – chase Cllrs for details.	Clerk	
208	Forward questions to Cllr Marshall	Clerk	
210	Wardens have requested Councillor support for undertaking Walking Busses, in partnership with the Friends of Storrington School (FOSS) – volunteers needed for 28 th April. The Clerk will remind Councillors.	Clerk	
211	Quote to replace Parish Hall stage curtains be approved – £5,467.66+vat. Instruct supplier.	Clerk	
212	Next agenda Nature Recovery Working Group ToRs	Clerk	
215	Correspondence to WSCC – clarify wording and send to WSCC.	Clerk	
216	Devolution preparation - Expression of Interest Form. Clerk to apply.	Clerk	
217	Item for next agenda – Youth	Clerk	
218	Next agenda - Committee Membership for newest Cllr	Clerk	
218b	Next Agenda – Cllr Moremon to join F&G.	Clerk	
220	Training and Development Policy – circulate and post to websites.	Clerk	
221	Draft Social Media Policy	Cllr Hicks	
221	Item for next agenda – agree Social Media Policy	Clerk	
222	Arrange GDPR training – emailed HDC 05.02.26 Arrange CoC training – emailed DPO 05.02.26	Clerk	
223	Item for the next agenda Annual Parish Meeting Councillors to consider potential speakers	Clerk All	

