Parish Clerk – Sam Adeniji **Email**: chalvingtonwithripeclerk@gmail.com **Phone**: 07767 405562

The Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting of the Chalvington with Ripe Parish Council (CWRPC) that took place at the Hayton Baker Hall, Ripe on Monday 03rd March 2025 commencing 7 pm.

Present: Cllr J. Ruddock-West (Chair), Cllr S. Flint (Vice Chair), Cllr Hamblin, Cllr C. Hallworth, Cllr A. Harvey, Cllr W. Farrer and Cllr Lonsdale-Cleeve.
In attendance: Cllr Nick Bennett (ESCC), Cllr Alison Wilson (WDC) and Sam Adeniji (Parish Clerk)
Members of the public: 6

237. Attendance and Apologies for Absence - None

238. Declarations of Interest – None.

239. Approval of the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on 3rd February 2025

The minutes from the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on 3rd February 2025 were approved.

RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on 3rd February 2025 to be approved and the Chair could sign them.

240. Public Session – None

The coordinator of the Litter Watch Group expressed significant concern over the amount of litter present on the A27 and A22 roads outside the parish boundary. He described the situation as "absolutely horrific" and contrasted it unfavourably with conditions observed during his recent travels in Europe. He requested that the Council liaise with Wealden District Council, East Sussex County Council, and the Highways Agency to explore what measures could be taken to address the problem. It was noted that the Highways Agency has responsibility for the A27. Councillor Alison Wilson agreed to make inquiries.

241. Report of the Member of Parliament – None

242. Report of the County Councillor

East Sussex County Council (ESCC) Cllr Nick Bennett reported on the following matters:

He indicated that he would provide a written summary within the next couple of days regarding the following:

The current status of devolution discussions.

The outcomes of the budget setting process from the previous week.

Work in progress related to cycling and walking initiatives across the county, from which Chalvington with Ripe may benefit.

RESOLVED - That the report of the District Councillor be noted.

243. Report of the District Councillor

Wealden District Council (WDC) Cllr Alison Wilson reported on the following matters:

- The Council Tax rise of 2.99% (equivalent to £6.42 per year for a Band D property). She noted that Wealden District Council only takes 8.5% of the total council tax bill, which funds services such as planning, waste recycling, street cleaning and environmental

protection. The remaining portion supports services provided by East Sussex County Council, Sussex Police, East Sussex Fire and Rescue, and local town and parish councils, all of whom have raised their shares of the council tax.

- Councillor Wilson highlighted that all authorities have had to factor in increased National Insurance contributions for employees, impacting their budgets.
- An update on the Local Government Reorganisation The Local Plan Subcommittee is scheduled to meet on soon to review a summary of consultations and to discuss a new timetable for moving forward. The goal is to have the plan adopted before the end of 2026.

RESOLVED - That the report of the District Councillor be noted.

244. Planning.

a) Applications.

NONE

b) Planning applications refused, approved, referred, withdrawn or appeals.

- **WITHDRAWN -** WD/2024/2870/F: - Land Off Channers Lane, Ripe, BN8 6AS - Erection Of A Detached Dwelling With Off Road Parking

RESOLVED - Noted

245. Other planning matters

None

246. Highways, Footpaths, and Rights of Way – none

The Council discussed preparations for the upcoming stakeholder liaison meeting with Balfour Beatty on 12th May at 2 pm to discuss highway maintenance within the parish. To inform the agenda for this meeting, it was agreed that councillors would inspect roads in their respective areas and report back to The Chairman, who would collate the information. The following roads were assigned:

- Church Farm Lane: Cllr Farrer
- Mill Lane and Firle Road: Cllr Harvey
- Chalvington Lane: Cllr Flint
- Church Lane (to the church): Cllr Hamblin
- Langtye Lane, and Darp Lane: Cllr Hallworth
- Mark Cross Lane, and Mill Lane(Laughton): Cllr Lonsdale-Cleeve
- Poundfield Lane, Lower Wick Street, Ripe Lane, and Deanland Road: Cllr Ruddock-West

Councillors were asked to note major defects (e.g., potholes, significant verge damage) using the What3word app, take photos, and report back with a summary by the end of the month.

It was noted that that the gates of the southern end of the public footpath running south to north from Channer's Lane is in disrepair. Both the gate posts are broken, having rotten at their bases. That part of the public footpath and the gate is on land owned by Lady Conway. **Action Parish Clerk to write to Lady Conway**.

Councillor Hallworth confirmed that the gate issue involving dogs had been resolved and the gate shut,

RESOLVED - That councillors inspect assigned roads and report findings to the Chairman by the end of the month, and that the Parish Clerk write to Lady Conway regarding the disrepair of the footpath gate

247. Update on The Community Field –

An update on the Community Field project was provided as follows:

- The field shelter is progressing well, with the roof expected to be completed this week.
- A grant of £4,860 had been received from the Wealden District Council Infrastructure Fund.
- The Parish Council was asked to consider assisting with the cost of the roof, as there is a slender cash flow.
- The generosity of the village hall committee has permitted the purchase of five picnic benches. The benches are expected to be delivered toward the end of March.

- Two funding applications are outstanding (Asda and Sussex Community Foundation).
- Rustic benches will also be made available in the coming months.

RESOLVED - Noted

248. VE Day 80

An update was provided on the plans for VE Day 80, scheduled for 8th May 2025. An update was provided on the plans for VE Day 80, scheduled for 8th May 2025. The flag has been ordered, and the bell ringing will be confirmed shortly. The event will take place around the village shop and will include lanterns, a sausage and mash, and a declaration by an upstanding member of the community.

RESOLVED – Noted

249. Frequency of Parish Council Meetings

Councillors discussed the frequency of meetings, noting that some meetings (like the present one) had no planning applications to consider. It was proposed that the Parish Council consider having fewer meetings and being more flexible. Councillors agreed to consider fewer meetings and to be more flexible.

It was agreed that the Parish Council should aim to have one less meeting in the spring in future years, although it was acknowledged that the agenda could change depending on planning matters and that if there are items to consider, a further meeting would be scheduled.

RESOLVED –That, when planning the calendar of meetings for 2026, consideration be given to reducing the number of spring meetings by one.

250. Community Speed Watch

The Council discussed resurrecting the Community Speed Watch. Steve O'Connell, the community speed watch officer at the police has been contacted and is happy to help. A gun is already in existence but it is not known where it is. It was noted that former Councillor White was running the group.

The Council supported the revival of Speed Watch. The Parish Clerk will contact Steve O'Connell to find out what the requirements and logistics are. Members emphasised the importance of involving members of the wider community in the Speed Watch program.

RESOLVED – That the Parish Clerk contact Steve O'Connell to discuss the requirements for reviving the Community Speed Watch program.

251. Resignation of the Parish Clerk/RFO

The Council noted the resignation of Sam, the Parish Clerk, effective at the end of March, and thanked him for his service and support. The Council agreed to use East Sussex Association of Local Councils (ESALC) recruitment services to find a replacement. To initiate the recruitment, the ESALC will assist in preparing an advert for the role. .

RESOLVED – To thank Sam for his sterling service, and to instruct ESALC to advertise for the position of Parish Clerk/RFO

252. Financial matters –

a. Bank reconciliation statement and Budget Monitoring Report for Month 11 - The Council took note of the Bank reconciliation statement and Budget Monitoring Report for Month 11.

   RESOLVED – To note and accept the Bank reconciliation statement and Budget Monitoring Report for Month 11.

b. Authorisation of payment of account

The Clerk presented the schedule of payments, circulated previously. Councillors highlighted the good work done on the repair of the community field fence and noted the 50% contribution received from the nursery. After review and consideration, it was **RESOLVED** that the payments be approved. The payment schedule is attached in Appendix A.

253. Correspondence -
The Council discussed correspondence from James McCleary MP, who expressed his interest in visiting both villages in August for a "meet and greet" session. It was agreed to hold the event at the Community Field. The councillors agreed that any weekend in August would be suitable. The Parish Clerk will liaise with the MP's office to confirm dates.

RESOLVED: - Noted

254. Urgent Items – None

255. Dates of next meeting - The next Ordinary Parish Meeting will be held on 7th April 2025 commencing at 7 pm at the Hayton Baker Hall**.**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.40 pm

Signed…..... Chairman

Date……

APPENDIX A – Payments

Payments March 2025

Income since last meeting	Amount	
Contribution from Ripe Nursery	£	403.00
Prehalf (Half)	£	-
TOTAL INCOME	**£**	**403.00**

BALANCES ON ACCOUNT			
Current Account (Community)	£	4,592.37	28/02/2024
Deposit Account (Business Premium)	£	15,109.77	28/02/2024
TOTAL BALANCES	**£**	**19,702.14**	

PAID SINCE LAST MEETING TO BE APPROVED	Invoiced Services	Folio number	Chq Nos	Amount
Hugo Fox	Web Host Hugo Fox February (DD)	77		£ 11.99
				£ 11.99

To Pay after this Meeting	Invoiced Services		Chq Nos	Amount
Chichester Payroll Services	Payroll Company working out Clerk's Jan salary	78		£ 15.00
Sam Adeniji	Parish Clerk Net Pay For Jan	79		£ 507.17
HMRC	Tax & NIC On Parish Clerk Salary Nov	80		£ 126.80
IONOS	Web Domain for February (DD)	81		£ 1.80
EP Fencing	Repair to Community Field	82		£ 968.84
Sam Adeniji - Parish Clerk HP Printing Cost	HP Instant Ink	83		£ 5.49
				£ 1,625.10

CIL FUNDS **CIL FUNDS**

RECEIPTS	VALUE		
Opening Balance	£	26,346.19	
WDC - CIL Oct 2020 to March 2021	£	6,790.11	
WDC - CIL Oct 2021 to March 2022	£	1,966.67	
TOTAL RECEIPTS	**£**	**35,102.97**	
EXPENDITURE (net - before VAT)	**VALUE**		
ESCC - Licences - posts	£	445.50	Bike
~~Costain - Install bike posts~~	~~£~~	~~1,813.00~~	~~Bike~~
Zara - Island designs	£	795.00	Island
SH Solicitors - CIL advice July	£	75.00	Island
SH Solicitors - advice	£	1,350.00	Island
Costain - abortive visit	£	294.11	Bike
Architect fees - design and tender process	£	1,744.63	Island
ESCC - S171 fees	£	295.00	Island
Island 1 refurbishment	£	14,060.00	Island
Legal advice - CIL (August 2020)	£	125.00	Island
CIL island cleats (Christmas tree)	£	327.92	Island
Electical connection	£	600.00	Island
Extension lead (Christmas tree)	£	21.45	Island
Abortive community space costs	£	1,344.00	Community space
50% payment for bench	£	4,445.00	Bench
RISE JOINERY LTD second payment	£	3,111.50	Bench
RISE JOINERY LTD final payment	£	1,333.50	Bench
RACCA	£	-	
RACCA (2024)	£	954.00	
RACCA (2024)	£	293.00	
RACCA (2024)	£	420.00	
RACCA (2024)	£	363.00	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE as at 01/07/2024	**£**	**33,410.61**	
COMMITMENTS (net - before VAT)	**VALUE**		
Community space commitment (approved)	£	376.00	
TOTAL COMMITMENTS	**£**	**376.00**	
TOTAL RECEIPTS	£	35,102.97	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	-£	33,410.61	
TOTAL COMMITMENTS	-£	376.00	
BALANCE	**£**	**1,316.36**	

Balance excluding commitments £ 1,692.36

RACCA

Ecological Appraisal for Community Space	£954.00
Planning Submission Fee Communityy Space	£293.00
Chris Butler Archaeological Services Ltd	£420.00
Gil Turner Tucker (RACCA)	£363.90

2406 £2,030.90 £375.10