



Nuthurst Parish Council
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Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at Mannings Heath Village Hall on Wednesday 18th February 2026 at 7.30 pm.

Present: Cllrs D Cotton (Chairman), Cllr C Kenny (Vice Chairman), Cllr V Court, Cllr P Rymarz, Cllr W Bayley, Cllr S Catterall.

County Councillor Nigel Jupp

Apologies: Cllr S Newell, Cllr J Harris.

Clerk: Lisa Wilcock.

There were 8 members of public.

Meeting commenced 1930hrs

0095–25/26 Attendance and Apologies for Absence

Councillors present: Apologies for absence were received from Cllr J Harris, Cllr S Newell.

RESOLVED: Apologies for absence were accepted and approved.

0096–25/26 Declarations of Interest

Members were invited to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests or other interests in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 and the Parish Council Code of Conduct. No declarations were made.

0097–25/26 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman made the following announcements for information only. No decisions were made under this item.

- **Parish Website** – Congratulations were extended to the Clerk for ensuring the new parish website was successfully launched and operational within the required timeframe.
- **Resurfacing Works** – The resurfacing of Gaggle Wood and Masons Field was noted, with appreciation expressed for the completion of these works.
- **Sewage Discharge at Monks Gate** – Ongoing concerns were raised regarding the discharge of sewage behind Monks Gate. The Clerk continues to monitor the situation and liaise with the relevant authorities.
- **NPPF Update** – Changes to the National Planning Policy Framework are expected in June. These revisions may have implications for local planning policy and the Neighbourhood Plan. A consultation is in progress and the Clerk will issue a parish council response for members consideration.
- **HDC Local Plan** – It was noted that the Local Plan is to be subject to further inspection.
- **Neighbourhood Plan** – The Neighbourhood Plan will return to a future agenda for formal consideration by Council in light of the above planning policy developments.

0098–25/26 Public Session

Members of the public addressed the Council on agenda items.

MOP Bus Survey – bus survey frustrations raised over the time period of the bus survey release.

Community Bus Discussion – There has been discussion regarding a potential community bus option as residents had raised this with the Community Bus Service and had contacted the Clerk. *This will now be written into the survey.*

Isolation Concerns – Particular concern was raised for isolated residents within the parish, especially those living on the opposite side of the A281, who may not be adequately served or considered within current transport arrangements.

NPPF Response – It was agreed that the Clerk will draft a response to the forthcoming changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), for review and approval by Council prior to submission.

Bus Stop Improvements for the Number 17 bus – upgraded bus stops and clearer signage are being proposed by WSCC Highway, which are seen as positive steps toward enhancing public transport provision within the parish. Consultation is available on the website and via the Link Magasine.

0099–25/26 Minutes of the Previous Meetings

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 21 January 2026 were approved as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

RESOLVED: The minutes were approved as accurate records and signed by the Chairman.

0085–25/26 Finance

a) Bank Reconciliation (January 2026) - The bank reconciliation for January 2026 was presented. **RESOLVED:** The bank reconciliation was approved.

b) Bank Transactions (January 2026) - The list of transactions for the period was reviewed.

RESOLVED: The bank transactions were approved.

c) Budget Monthly Statement (Year-to-Date) - The Year-to-Date budget statement was noted. **NOTED.**

d) Grant Applications

The following grant applications were considered. Nuthurst Community Allotment – £300.00

RESOLVED: to award a \$137 grant to the allotment society.

e) Schedule of Payments – January 2026 - The schedule of payments did not apply this month.

0086–25/26 Reports from Other Authorities

a) County Councillor – Nigel Jupp. *Written report to be sent to Clerk.*

b) District Councillor – Dennis Livingstone - apologies received in advance of the meeting.

0087–25/26 Roads, Footpaths and Open Spaces Committee Items

a) Emergency and Resilience Audit (OS0031–25/26) Discussion group looked at the emergency resilience audit to form one for Nuthurst. Carry to next meeting.

b) Bus Service (OS0045–25/26). Members noted that a proposal has now been received for the parish transport questionnaire. It was **agreed** that the questionnaire should be amended to include reference to the potential Community Bus Service option, in order to fully reflect current discussions and ensure residents are able to express their views on this possibility. The Chair confirmed that discussions have taken place with the service provider and that there is evidence of identified need within the parish. Members agreed that it is important the questionnaire captures this information to enable informed decision-making based on resident feedback. It was **agreed** that the costs should not exceed £4500 for the survey. It was **agreed** that the Clerk will add the Community Bus section, distribute to members via email and publish the survey.

c) Community Bus – An update was received. **See minute above.**

d) Parish Caretaker – Carry to next meeting.

e) Grit Bins – application has been submitted to WSCC Highways.

f) Deer Signs – carry to next meeting due to Councillor absence.

g) Nuthurst Bus Shelter – carry to next meeting due to Councillor absence.

h) Tree Wardens – Members were advised that the current Tree Wardens, Paddy and Penny Bullen and Jill Chaytor, will be stepping down from their roles. The Council expressed its sincere thanks to Paddy and Jill for their long-standing service, dedication and commitment to the parish in this capacity. It was recommended that two new representatives be appointed to take on the Tree Warden responsibilities. Council **agreed** that the Clerk will formally approach the proposed individuals to confirm their willingness to serve and, subject to their acceptance, arrange for their enrolment with the appropriate Tree Warden representative scheme in May. Council recorded its appreciation once again for the significant contribution made by Paddy and Jill over many years.

i) Rubber Strips – Members were advised that the local Speedwatch volunteer is proposing to increase monitoring activity along Pound Lane in response to concerns regarding speeding traffic.

It was **noted** that there is currently insufficient traffic data available for Pound Lane, which is required in order to support any formal application to reduce the speed limit to 20mph. To address this, a **proposal** was put forward to undertake a rubber strip traffic survey along the relevant section of the road to gather accurate speed and volume data. Members agreed in principle to the proposal, recognising the importance of obtaining robust evidence to support any future request for a speed limit review. Further details and any associated costs will be brought back to Council as necessary.

0088–25/26 Planning Applications

The following planning applications were considered:

a) DC/25/1792 7 Heath Close, Mannings Heath, West Sussex RH13 6EE

Surgery to 1 x Oak. Members noted the recommendation of **no objection** from the Parish Tree Wardens.

Resolved: Nuthurst Parish Council raises **no objection** to this application.

b) DC/26/0099 The Coach House, Broadwater Lane, Copsale, West Sussex RH13 6Q

Removal of Condition 7 of previously approved application DC/12/0689 relating to holiday-let occupation.

Members discussed the implications of removing the occupancy restriction condition, particularly in relation to the potential change from short-term holiday accommodation to unrestricted residential use.

Resolved: No comment.

c) DC/26/0173 Mannings Heath Golf and Wine Estates, Hammerpond Road, Mannings Heath RH13 6PG

Prior notification for the erection of a new viticultural (agricultural) barn.

Members considered the scale, siting and agricultural justification of the proposed barn.

Resolved: The Council agreed to support this application.

d) 0089–25/26 Planning Applications Received Since Publication of the Agenda

DC/26/0196 Hards Farmhouse Kerves Lane Horsham West Sussex RH13 6RJ

Erection of a single storey rear extension, conversion of existing conservatory with installation of a tiled roof, alterations to existing porch, installation of new windows and cladding.

Members considered the application as published on the Horsham District Council planning portal.

The Council noted that the proposal relates to extensions and alterations to an existing residential property and discussed the scale, design, materials and potential impact on the rural character of the area.

Resolved: Nuthurst Parish Council raises **no objection** to this application.

e) DC/26/0088 Erection of a two storey 4 bedroom dwelling with associated parking and landscaping.

Coombe Cottage Church Road Mannings Heath West Sussex RH13 6JE. **Resolved:** No comment.

0090–25/26 Joint Neighbourhood Plan Area for Southwater and Adjoining Parishes

Members considered an expression of interest in working with Southwater Parish Council to review the Neighbourhood Plan. **Resolved:** To express interest in joining Southwater Parish Council. One abstention passed.

0091–25/26 HDC Community Asset Transfer

Members noted that documentation had been submitted to Horsham District Council (HDC).

The Clerk reported on a scheduled meeting with HDC, with feedback expected in March.

Members considered the recommendation to commission a survey of the Gaggle Wood asset.

Resolved: Clerk to obtain the title deeds and circulate to members who will then visit site.

0092–25/26 Playground

a) Playground Report - The Playground Report was received and accepted.

RESOLVED: The report was accepted. (see website)

b) Replacement Playground Fencing - The costs for replacement fencing were discussed.

Carry to next meeting.

c) Playground Improvements – Proposed improvements, including new sensory boards, were discussed.

Carry to next meeting.

0093–25/26 Items for the Next Agenda

Response to the forthcoming changes to the National Planning Policy Framework

Neighbourhood Plan – consideration of next steps

Parish Bus Survey – final draft of survey

0094–25/26 Date of the Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Wednesday 18 March 2026**.

Meeting closed at 2119hrs

Signed: **Date:**.....