



Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held at Rusper Village Hall on Tuesday 21st April 2026 at 7.00 pm.

Present: Cllrs G. Sallows (Chairman), M. Cooke, M. Fenton, F. Maitland-Smith, M Fillmore, D Matthews, S White, R Beckmann.

Apologies: Cllr D Halsey, G. Hussey, G Fleming.

Clerk: Lisa Wilcock.

There was 1 member of the public present for the meeting.

Meeting commenced 1900hrs

PL001-26/27 Apologies for Absence

No apologies for absence were received.

PL002-26/27 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 17th March 2026 were **approved** as a correct record.

PL003-26/27 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Fenella Maitland-Smith declared an interest in Agenda item 9 in her capacity as the Chair of Save West of Ifield.

PL004-26/27 Open Forum

The Open Forum was held. Members of the public were permitted to speak for up to 15 minutes in total, with a maximum of three minutes per speaker. Any questions not answered at the meeting will receive a written response or be included on a future agenda. No comments were raised.

PL005-26/27 Climate Crisis

The Committee acknowledged the ongoing climate crisis and confirmed that environmental impacts would be taken into account in all decisions made during the meeting.

PL006-26/27 Planning Applications (Planning Tracker)

a) DC/26/0515 – Installation of 23no. solar panels to rear elevation roof of existing barn, Bonwycks Place, Ifield Wood, Ifield, West Sussex, RH11 0LE.

The application was considered. The Parish Council **supports** this application as it contributes positively to renewable energy generation and aligns with climate change mitigation objectives. The proposal is considered to have limited adverse impact on the character of the area, subject to careful installation on the existing barn roof, and is not expected to result in significant harm to residential amenity or the surrounding landscape. The Parish Council welcomes the use of existing rural buildings for low-carbon energy generation and considers this a sustainable and appropriate form of development in principle.

Resolved: Support.

b) DC/26/0482 – Demolition of existing outbuildings and erection of double garage with room above, 2 Rose Cottages, Friday Street, Rusper, West Sussex, RH12 4QA.

The application was considered, and no objection was raised, subject to the use remaining ancillary to the main dwelling.

Resolved: No objection.

PL007-26/27 Planning Applications Received Since Publication of Agenda (Planning Tracker)

a) DC/26/0269 – Hawksbourne Wood, Rusper Road, Rusper, West Sussex

Variation of Condition 1 and removal of Conditions 7 and 10 of previously approved application DC/23/1806 relating to repositioning of site entrance and removal of water neutrality requirements.

The application was **noted** and considered.

PL008-26/27 DC/25/1312 – West of Ifield, Charlwood Road, Ifield, West Sussex

The Committee **noted** advice from Horsham District Council that amendments to the application were forthcoming, with a Committee decision anticipated in June 2026. Noted that some documents have been uploaded but nothing has been received from Jason Hawkes and noted that Transport has not been updated. Clerk to ask HDC for a list of the amendments and confirmation and confirmation of the consultation period with a deadline for document response. It was **agreed** that the Committee would consider and determine its response in due course.

PL009-26/27 Examination of the Horsham District Local Plan 2023–2040 – Hearings

The draft agenda for Week 1 of the Local Plan Examination hearings was noted. The hearings commenced on 21 April 2026. Housing numbers were considered on that day, and the overall impression was that the Inspector was supportive of Horsham District Council and keen for the Plan to proceed to adoption, appearing broadly in favour of the proposed housing figures.

Subsequent hearing sessions will address other matters. The Parish Council maintains that the proposed site allocations do not align with the Plan’s overarching strategy. In particular, it considers that the spatial policies do not support the Ifield development, and that this element of the Plan is therefore unsound.

Concerns were also raised that unmet housing need from the south coast has not been adequately taken into account. While some of Crawley’s housing need has been incorporated, there has been no formal requirement or clear justification for the extent to which needs from other neighbouring areas, including the south coast, have been addressed. These matters relate directly to the spatial strategy.

It was noted that evidence regarding housing demand is scheduled to be examined at the following day’s hearing session.

PL010-26/27 Appeals and Amendments

No appeals or amendments were reported.

PL011-26/27 Enforcement Report

An update on enforcement matters within the Parish. It was also noted that Prestwood Lane was upheld, and comments were made in support of the made Neighbourhood Plan.

Next Meeting

The next Planning Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, 19th May 2026.

Meeting closed 1936hrs

Signed.....Dated.....