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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday 30th September 2025 at 7.00pm. This meeting was held at Rusper Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs M Cooke (Chair), G Hussey (Vice Chair), R Gatt, F Maitland-Smith, M Fenton, D Matthews, S White, G Fleming.

Apologies: Cllrs G Sallows, M Fillmore.

There were 5 members of the public for part of the meeting including representatives from Homes England and CAGNE.

Meeting commenced 1900hrs

92-25/26 Apologies

Apologies were received from the following Councillors: Cllr Malcolm Fillmore and Cllr George Sallows.

93-25/26 Declarations of Interests

Agenda Item 9 – SWOI Campaign: Councillor Fenella Maitland-Smith declared a prejudicial interest as she is also the Chair of the SWOI campaign.

It was agreed to move the Planning matters item to follow after the CAGNE Agenda item.

94-25/26 Climate Crisis

The Council acknowledged the current climate crisis and confirmed that all decisions made during the meeting would take consideration of climate impacts.

95-25/26 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 29th July 2025 were approved as a true record. It was noted that the minutes of the meeting held on 18th September 2025 will be approved at the next Council meeting.

96-25/26 Open Forum

Members of the public were invited to speak for up to three minutes each. Questions not addressed during the meeting will either be responded to in writing or included on a future agenda.

A question was raised regarding the status of the new bench in the playground. The Chair responded that the matter was included as a separate agenda item.

97-25/26 CAGNE Legal and Expert Team Opposition to Proposed Gatwick Airport Runway & Airspace Change

Update on Gatwick Proposal:

CAGNE Chair provided an update on the current Gatwick Airport proposal, the Government's announcement of the new runway and the impact this will have on parishes near to Gatwick.

CAGNE Funding Application:

The Council reviewed the funding application submitted by CAGNE. Consideration was given to the application and a decision on funding was made. It was resolved to award £2,000 to CAGNE under Section 137 to contribute towards legal fees for the Judicial Review. This expenditure is to be budgeted for resolution at the October meeting for FY26/27 payment.

98-25/26 Planning Matters

a) DC/25/1312 – West of Ifield, Charlwood Road, Ifield, West Sussex:

The Council agreed its response to the planning application to meet the deadline of 12th October 2025.

It was **resolved** to **strongly object** to the application, with one **abstention** recorded.

The Council delegated Councillors Simon White and George Sallows to submit the final wording of the objection to the Clerk prior to the deadline.

The Clerk noted that the objection would be copied to Homes England and Save West of Ifield, as well as being published on the dedicated West of Ifield page of the Rusper Parish Council website.

b) DC/25/0447 – Hilly Barn Road Appeal:

Points raised in the appeal were discussed, and further evidence to the Planning Inspectorate was agreed and no further comments to be made.

99-25/26 Reports from Other Authorities

None.

100-25/26 Financial Matters

a) Reports: The following reports were approved: Reconciliation, Budget Report, and Unity Bank Statements/Transactions for July and August 2025. It was **resolved** to approve the reports the reports were signed.

b) Schedule of Payments: Approved as presented. It was **resolved** to approve the schedule of payments for August and September and to include the payment to Surrey Hill Solicitors as previously agreed by council.

c) Poppy Wreath: It was **resolved** to purchase a **poppy wreath** at a value of up to **£50.00** (s137).

101-25/26 Rusper Sports Club

a) Underlease Update: A verbal update was received regarding the Sports Club underlease.

b) Monitoring Compliance: Next steps to ensure transparency, compliance with lease terms, and financial reporting obligations were discussed.

It was agreed that Councillor Simon White would progress the financial records of the Sports Ground to the Council. The matter will be carried forward to the next meeting.

c) Security: The Council noted recent incidents of cars accessing the pitch at night and discussed potential security measures. It was noted that the football club has posts ready to install to prevent vehicles from accessing the pitch. It was agreed that the installation of the posts could proceed in accordance with the terms of the Lease.

102-25/26 **Gatwick**

The Gatwick report, published on the Parish Council website, was noted.

103-25/26 **Roads, Footpaths, and Open Spaces Committee**

a) Liz Kitchen Memorial Bench: Deferred to the next meeting due to no update as the playground is currently under maintenance.

b) Fingerposts Maintenance: The Council noted that a contractor has been appointed and that works will commence in October. Additional repair costs were noted for the telephone box hinge and the Lambs Green fingerpost. It was noted that two fingerposts may be missing. This matter will be carried forward to the Roads, Footpaths and Open Spaces Committee.

104-25/26 **Rusper Parish Council – TRO Application: WSCC Highways**

a) TRO Application: The Council noted the 20mph, 30mph, and 40mph zone TRO application was rejected.

b) SID Socket Licence: Consideration was given to supporting the licence for the SID socket on Horsham Road. It was resolved to support the application.

105-25/26 **Reports from Representatives**

Councillors provided updates on any representation or working party activity since the last meeting.

Cllr Geoff Hussey reported that playground repairs have started and are expected to be completed this week.

Cllr Ritchie Gatt reported that Village Hall meeting works have started, and expressed concern regarding future booking levels and rental usage in the village.

106-25/26 **Code of Conduct Training**

Councillors noted that HDC Democratic Services has requested that all members reserve 2nd October 2025 for an online Code of Conduct training session.

107-25/26 **New .gov.uk Website and Email Transition**

Council considered to terminate the contract with IONOS following the migration of councillors to the new email addresses from 31st October 2025. As 2 Councillors need to migrate across, it was agreed to carry this item to the next meeting.

108-25/26 **Award of Contract – Procurement Act 2023 Compliance**

Replacement Slide and Apparatus – Rusper Playground:

It was resolved Under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public were excluded due to commercially sensitive information.

a) Contract Award:

The Council considered the **award of contract** for the replacement slide and playground apparatus.

Following **evaluation of bids** and compliance with the **Procurement Act 2023**, the **preferred supplier was approved as Wicksteed**, based on style, suitability, and compliance with the **evaluation matrix**.

The **Clerk/RFO** is to **issue the contract award** and **publish the necessary notices**.

b) Funding Sources:

Funding sources for the purchase and installation of new playground equipment were agreed. As follows:-

Section 106 (Open Space Sport & Recreation)	£16,018.16	Allocated specifically for sports facility improvements under S106 agreement HDC:91003	Not applied for
Courage Dyers Grant	£5,000.00	External grant contribution towards the project	Not applied for
EMR Reserve	£30,000.00	Earmarked Reserve from Parish Council funds	Ear marked reserve
Best Practice:			
		Use Section 106 funds for eligible elements of the project, external grants (like Courage Dyers) to supplement, and only a proportion of EMR reserves to fill any remaining funding gap — ensuring balanced and responsible financial management.	

109-25/26 Matters Arising

Items for inclusion on the agenda of the next meeting were noted.
Bank Accounts, Fingerposts, Budget.

Next Meeting: Planning Committee – Tuesday 15th October 2025

Meeting closed 2118hrs

Signed Dated