

WOOLBEDING WITH REDFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2025

In Redford village hall at 7p.m.

Present: Cllr A. Hearle (Chairman)

Cllr P. Hansford

Cllr. P. Fox

Cllr H. Talbot-Baker

Cllr S. Floyd

Elizabeth Robinson(Clerk)

Yvonne Gravely (WSCC)

There was 1 member of the public attending

**1. Welcome and Chairman's Remarks**

The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. He told the meeting that Mike and Lesley Reynolds are organising a training session for the defibrillator and also emergency resuscitation on 24<sup>th</sup> September. It is hope that as many people will attend as possible.

**2. Apologies**

D. Elliott and Hannah Burton did not attend.

**3. Public Question Time**

There were no questions

**4. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest

**5. Local Reports**

**5.1 Cllr. Yvonne Gravely**

Her report is below:

Midhurst Fire Damaged Buildings

The following is a joint statement issued by me following a meeting recently:

A meeting was held on 26th August 2025 with all the owners of the fire damaged buildings, and representatives of the South Downs National Park Authority, Historic England, Chichester District Council, Midhurst Town Council, Midhurst District Councillor and County Councillor were also present.

The meeting's purpose was to review any progress each of the owners have been able to make and to understand what might be needed to break any deadlock, and how this might be facilitated.

The situation is extremely complex with several businesses and insurance companies involved, and the personal toll on the owners, together with the impact on other businesses in the town, were made very clear throughout the meeting.

The façade of the buildings were discussed at great length including the steps needed to decide whether they should be retained or not, and progress was made in understanding the next steps for the owners, with support, where possible, from the authorities. These steps will be pursued and further meetings will be arranged as required.

It is impossible, due to the complexities to be specific about the details of the situation, the potential outcome, or indeed any timescales at this stage. There are still so many issues to be resolved from an insurance, and a logistical perspective where each of the owners are dependent upon each other.

However, after two and a half years, this was a really important and positive step and everyone was in agreement that continuing the dialogue going forward, is hugely important to the businesses and residents of Midhurst, and for the future of the town.

There was unanimous agreement that a specialist survey was the only possible next step. I am now working towards commissioning that survey which would need to be acceptable to the authorities, and we will be exploring with the owners how this will be financed.

Public interest is high, and people and businesses are rightly impatient and anxious for resolutions to a problem that has blighted Midhurst and surrounding villages for too long. It is important however to stress that this is an incredibly complex issue, the meeting was an important first step in getting the dialogue going again, but it is one step of many that will be needed, and people's expectations will need to be managed accordingly.

#### West Sussex Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2025-2030

New strategy to improve West Sussex residents' health and wellbeing A new five-year strategy has been published which is the county's overarching plan to improve the health and wellbeing of residents and communities across West Sussex and reduce health inequalities.

Developed by the West Sussex Health and Wellbeing Board and wider partners, the plan also includes feedback following a public consultation on the draft strategy held earlier this year.

The strategy presents the Board's vision of 'Improving Lives Together in West Sussex.' It focuses on five priority areas, with three principles which are central to its delivery.

The five priority areas are:

- Food and nutrition
- School readiness
- Transitioning to adulthood – children and young people's mental health and wellbeing
- Tobacco control

· Health and wellbeing in temporary accommodation

I have attached the communications toolkit for you to use with Parish Communications.

Fire service offers free electric blanket testing

The following is important and useful public information from the fire service:

West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service is running a series of electric blanket testing sessions to help residents stay safe this winter.

Faulty electric blankets are a common cause of fire in the home. Last year more than a third (37%) of the blankets tested by the service were defective and posed a serious risk of starting a fire.

Regular testing is recommended for blankets over two years old to ensure they are still safe to use. Blankets over ten years old should be replaced.

The sessions will take place on the dates below by appointment only. For venues with events running over two days, appointments will only become available on the second day after the first day has been fully booked.

You can book an appointment to have your blanket tested by calling 0345 872 9719.

The sessions will also be attended by nurses from the Prevention Assessment Team and the Sussex Fraud Team who will be on hand to offer advice and support.

West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service's Safe and Well Manager Samantha Barber said:  
"We are really pleased to be offering free electric blanket testing again this year.

"Last year we tested 286 blankets and 105 were deemed unsafe to use as they failed to meet safety standards, which posed a great fire risk.

"We would encourage residents to come and have their blankets tested to ensure they have peace of mind that their blanket is still safe to use. Please book an appointment to meet our friendly team.

" If your blanket is found to be faulty, a limited number of replacement blankets will be available thanks to our partnership with SGN. These will be given free of charge to vulnerable residents who receive certain benefits, while stocks last."

Further advice on keeping safe and warm at home can be found at  
[https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/fire-emergencies-and-crime/west-sussex-fire-and-rescue-ser  
vice/home-fire-safety/electrical-and-heating-appliance-safety-advice](https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/fire-emergencies-and-crime/west-sussex-fire-and-rescue-service/home-fire-safety/electrical-and-heating-appliance-safety-advice)

## **6. Minutes**

The following minutes were signed. They were all proposed by Cllr. Hansford and seconded by Cllr. Talbot-Baker.

Annual meeting 21st May, 2025

## **7. Finance**

### **7.1 Banking**

The RFO had circulated the cash book.

### **7.2 Cheques**

The RFO submitted a list of payments due which are:

Clerk's salary £384

Redford Village Hall £25

Parish on line £28.80

Proposed: Cllr Hansford Seconder: Cllr Fox

## **8. Planning**

Wispers

Nothing to report.

## **9. Highways**

9.1 Cllr Hearle proposed that he applies again for a TRO to reduce the speed limit through the village to 30 m.p.h. He pointed out that it is dangerous when there is an event at the hall and people park in the road and also there is no footpath through the village. He suggested that there should be a sign at the entrance to the village to remind people to slow down. This would have to get the approval of the National Trust. Cllre Graveley (WSCC) agreed to e mail Highways in support of this.

This was unanimously approved

Proposer: Cllr. Hansford

Seconder: Cllr. Floyd.

### **9,2 Hollycombe House**

The road to Liphook will be closed until 13<sup>th</sup> October which is causing some inconvenience.

## **10. National Trust Plans**

The application for fencing the common has not been put in yet.

## **11. Parish Online.Gov Domain and e mail address**

Marion Hansford has kindly agreed to look into this and investigate costs. The council agreed that it would be sensible to do a full migration to compliant e mail addresses.

Proposer: Cllr. Hearle

Seconder: Cllr. Fox

**12. SDNPA Webinar**

Cllr Floyd attended remotely and forwarded the recording of the meeting. The consultation ended on 1<sup>st</sup> August.

**13. WSALC consultation on reforms to NPPF and planning system**

Cllr Floyd will attend.

**14. Water Champion**

A letter had been received that Louis Barnetson has been appointed as the Water Champion for Western Sussex Rivers Trust. An event will be held on 7<sup>th</sup> October in partnership with SDNP at the South Downs Centre. Cllr. Hansford has agreed to attend

**15. Training Days**

There were no suitable ones

**16. Correspondence**

An invitation has been received recently to SDNPA virtual parish meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> October. Cllr Floyd will attend.

**17. Any other business**

There was none.

**18. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on 17<sup>th</sup> November.

The meeting ended at 7.40 p.m.

Signed.....

Dated.....

