

WOOLBEDING WITH REDFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held on 17th November, 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)

David Elliott (NT)

Becky Hiorns (NT)

There were 10 members of the public attending

1. Welcome and Chairman's Remarks

The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Yvone Gravely (WSCC)

Hannah Burton (CDC) did not attend

3. Public Question Time

A member of the public reported fly tipping near Linch Old Rectory. This is on National Trust land and they will investigate. This is the second incident in a couple of weeks, the first being cleared quickly by the National Trust.

A question was raised about litter picking. Cllr Hearle said the annual event is planned for April when the vegetation has died down and thought there would be little appetite for a second.

4. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest

5. Local Reports

5.1 Cllr. Yvonne Gravely (WSCC)

Her report is below:

Parish and Town Councils Report November 2025

Remembrance Sunday

I was incredibly honoured to lay a wreath in Midhurst this year. I dedicated it to all who made the ultimate sacrifice, but in particular, to Corporal Dave O'Connor who was my daughter's best friend and a wonderful human being. He attended Midhurst Grammar School and always wanted to be a soldier. He was killed in action in

Afghanistan in 2012. It was a dreadful time for all his friends and family and we continue to miss him every day. Coincidentally, my friend's daughter was stationed exactly where Dave was at the time; she was working as an operating theatre assistant, and was able to reassure us that Dave was treated with the utmost dignity and respect until he was returned home to us. We must not forget that also killed with Dave, whilst they were both on patrol, was the lovely Corporal Channing Day a combat medical technician in the medical regiment. God bless them both.



We will and must remember them.

Town of Culture Competition

I am trying to gauge interest in entering Midhurst for this new competition, but with the idea that it will benefit other villages throughout the division. If anyone is interested in being involved with me in taking this forward please let me know by emailing me at Yvonne.gravelly@westsussex.gov.uk. The following link provides an excellent summary of what is involved, with an award of £3.5m for the winning town. I believe this could be just what we need to help regenerate the town, bringing back the much needed vibrancy and footfall. As with any venture it requires the dedication and support of many people and I look forward to hearing from you.

[New Town of Culture competition to shine a spotlight on the contribution of towns that tell national story - GOV.UK](#)

Local Nature Recovery Strategies

Parish and Town Councillors will be aware of the Have your Say consultation process about the Local Nature Recovery Strategies, and may have attended the webinar on 21/10 explaining more about it. This is just a reminder that the consultation ends on 26th November if you have not already contributed.

Rural Services Network Survey

There is still time to be involved in the national survey to determine the challenges faced in accessing services when living in rural areas. The survey covers housing, healthcare, transport, digital connectivity, planning and net zero, all areas that affect every day rural life and can be found here: [Have Your Say: Delivering for All Survey - Rural Services Network](#)

The data gathered is already informing discussions in Westminster within an APPG chaired by Sarah Dyke MP and further data is needed to ensure the voices of people living in rural areas are heard.

High Sherriff Conferences in West Sussex

The first medically qualified High Sherriff of Sussex has organised a series of conferences around the county to discuss male mental health. Particular focus of the conferences is on the stigma, difficulties in accessing mental health care and men's mental health generally. The emphasis throughout will be on community mental health.

Conferences still to be held are as follows: -

Chichester Wednesday 26th November 10-12.30

Worthing Tuesday 2nd December 17.30-20.00

Horsham Tuesday 9th December 10-12.30

Mid-Sussex Thursday 15th January 14.00-16.3

Anyone who feels they have a contribution to make or who has an interest, or expertise in health care provision or support services can attend and more information is available by emailing westsussex@highsheriffs.com

Fire Damaged Buildings Midhurst

Since my first meeting in August with owners and various authorities to begin the dialogue about the future of the fire damaged buildings and my subsequent statement, a great deal of work has been carried out behind the scenes with many emails, telephone discussions and meetings taking place. As you know, this was an incredibly difficult and complex situation with three different owners and three different insurance companies; but I am pleased to say that significant progress is being made and I am hopeful that I will be in a position to make a further joint statement next month.

Case Work

October and November saw continuing large numbers of emails in my inbox requiring support or guidance about a wide range of issues; the following is a sample.

-Flooding was a big problem a couple of weeks ago and I was able to get hold of emergency help for one particular business in Midhurst that was very badly affected. If you have photos of flooding caused by blocked drains – please send them to me with information about exact location. I will then pass them on to Highways for them to investigate.

-I was able to intervene in getting temporary lights changed to a different model when they consistently failed to do the job required, and were causing traffic chaos through South Harting

-I have been involved in many discussions about potential TRO's throughout the Division and given my support when needed.

-I became aware of what could have been a serious accident in Midhurst with a motability scooter not able to navigate getting onto the pavement at a pedestrian crossing, and which was stuck in the road with cars navigating around the poor person. After contacting Highways they agreed the kerbs at this crossing needed to be improved and have initiated a works order.

-I was able to intervene to get road signs removed, which were abandoned by contractors after road works.

- I am a member of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee, the Public Rights of Way committee, and the Appeals Committee and have had training for two of these in the past month as well as attending various meetings.

As always, if you have concerns please do contact me on Yvonne.gravelly@westsussex.gov.uk. If you have items on your agendas that you feel I can contribute to, but I am not able to attend, please let me know and I will send you what help/guidance I can in advance.

5.1 David Elliott (National Trust)

The following winter jobs are being carried out:

Scrub clearing

Tree Safety

Grazing Management

Fencing

2 Barn Owl boxes

Becky Hiorns said that there is going to be an archaeological walk with James Brown on 6th December. She is going to try and change the time so that it doesn't clash with the Saturday market.

6 Minutes

The following minutes were signed:

Annual Meeting held on 26th March, 2025

Parish Council meeting held on 15th September, 2024

Proposer: Cllr Talbot-Baker Seconder: Cllr. Floyd

7 Finance

7.1 Banking

The RFO had circulated the cash book.

7.2 Payments

The RFO submitted a list of payments due which are:

Clerk's salary £216
Redford Village Hall £25
Donation for defibrillator training £50
Donation to Arun and Chichester Citizen Advice Bureau £50

Proposer: Cllr Fox Seconder: Cllr Hansford

It was agreed to keep the precept to £2000. A possible major expense for 2026 could be the village entry signs as part of the 30mph TRO.

Proposer: Cllr. Hearle Seconder Cllr. Hansford

8. Planning

Nothing to report.

9 Highways

Cllr Hearle reported that WSCC only very recently accepted the TRO following some chasing by Yvonne Gravely. It is hoped the council will hear something soon.

10 National Trust Plans

10.1 Plans for fencing Woolbeding Common

Cllr. Hearle opened the meeting to the public as this is a matter which concerns the parish. There was a discussion about how the parish council should proceed and it was decided that a small working group should be established comprising Cllrs Hearle and Hansford, and David Reynolds. They would be charged with producing a request for feedback from the public on the proposal by way of preparation of public meeting for all residents. It was agreed that this meeting should be held immediately prior to the next Council meeting on 26th January. A vote will be held.

The National Trust had held an event recently to show the plans. However, a member of the public pointed out that it is impossible to form an opinion without knowing in detail what the management plans are. David Elliott said the management plan wouldn't be known until after the Trust had received the necessary permission. It was also pointed out that Health and Safety guidance is that having a large area for grazing alongside recreational use is not advised. David Elliott said that health and safety is taken seriously. Cllr Talbot-Baker asked if grants are dependent on the management plan. David Elliott said that once the application is in there will be consultations. No conclusions were reached at this stage but it was clear that there is opposition to the fencing plan.

11 Parish Online.Gov Domain and e mail address

It was agreed that the council should use this domain and the e mail addresses. The initial cost will be £380 + VAT. Marion Hansford has been asked if she can arrange this.

12 Donations

- a. The council unanimously agreed to give £50 to British Heart Foundation for the defibrillator training.
- b. The council unanimously agreed to give £50 to Arun and Chichester Citizens Advice Bureau.

Proposer: Cllr. Fox Seconder Cllr. Talbot-Baker

13. Training Days

There were no suitable ones.

14. Correspondence

There was none

15. Any other business

There was none

16. Date of next meeting

This will be on 26th January, 2026 at 7 p.m.

The meeting ended at 7.40 p.m.

Signed.....

Dated.....

