FERNHURST PARISH COUNCIL

Property, Highways and Environment Committee

Wednesday 17 September 2025

Minutes

Minutes of the **Meeting of the Property, Highways and Environment Committee held on Wednesday 17 September 2025** at 6.15pm at The Hub

Councillors Present: Mr J Buchanan, Mr P Bellet (Chair), Mrs M Jenkins, Mr G Inns, Mr C Lloyd

Also in Attendance: Mrs E Ford (Clerk)

P/37/25 To Decide Chair of Meeting

RESOLVED: Cllr Bellet to chair the meeting

P/38/25 Apologies For Absence
Apologies were received from Cllr Bicknell, Cllr Black and Cllr Williamson.

P/39/25 Declaration of Interests - None but please see min P/46/25.

P/40/25 Public Representations - None

P/41/25 To Approve Minutes of the Meeting held on 16 June 2025
The minutes of the meeting on 16 June 2025 were presented for approval.

Resolved: to adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Property, Highways and Environment Committee held on 16 June 2025.

P/42/25 Matters arising from the previous minutes - None

P/43/25 To organise a review of the Council input to WSCC Winter Offer Agreement – submission closing date 24th October 2025
A review of previous arrangements and proposals for 2025/2026 would be prepared for the October Council meeting**. ACTION: Clerk** to check contractual and other arrangements for the Parish Council paying for additional road clearing in the event of heavy snow.
ACTION: Clerk to circulate proposed update of Parish Council Winter plan for 2025/2026, and the WSCC 2025/2026 information, to Councillors for review, including a spreadsheet allocating responsibility for checking grit bins through the winter period**.**
ACTION: Cllr Jenkins to confirm name of local farmer carrying out road clearance on behalf of WSCC. **ACTION: Clerk** to circulate WSCC advice note on applying grit.

P/44/25 To consider any requirement for additional works on Parish Council trees

A request had been received from the Horticultural Society for the Parish Council to fund the removal of two dead hawthorn trees to the rear of the wildflower area on the junction of The Leys and Vann Road. A quote from a tree surgeon for £250 exc VAT to carry out the work had also been received.

RESOLVED: Cllr Buchanan to remove the two dead trees voluntarily on behalf of the Horticultural Society.

ACTION: Clerk to contact householder regarding the large dead ash tree in the hedge alongside the grass area at the junction of Hogs Hill and the A286.
ACTION: Clerk to obtain quotes for the crown lifting of the Parish Council plane tree at the village green.
ACTION: Clerk to contact WSCC to request repairs to be carried out of the pavement: (1) on Vann Road; (2) by the A286 by the Youth Club access; and (3) by the A286 at the crossroads by the traffic lights.

P/45/25 To consider ongoing concerns with road safety in the Parish
ACTION: Clerk to repeat request to WSCC to repair the collapsing ditch along Vann Road at Van Common.
ACTION: Clerk to contact Lynchmere Parish Council regarding joint application for a reduction in the speed limit of Vann Road to 40mph.

P/46/25 To consider carrying out annual maintenance of the war memorial

Cllr Inns declared an interest as a member of the Parochial Church Council and elected not to take part in the discussion or decision on this item.

The recent grant application to the War Memorial Trust had been refused. The War Memorial Trust also recommended that the Parish Council introduce a regular maintenance regime of gentle hand cleaning of the stone annually to avoid stubborn/unremovable deposits building up on the stonework. **ACTION: Clerk** to discuss annual cleaning of the war memorial with the Village Ranger.

P/47/25 To consider value of establishing a Council Lead for the Burial Ground, including inspection of gravestones

It was decided not to have a Council Lead for the burial ground. **ACTION: Cllr Jenkins** to advise Clerk on the required checks at the burial ground, including checks on the stability of memorials. **ACTION: Clerk** to discuss checking of the memorials with the Village Ranger.
ACTION: Cllr Buchanan to include trees and soft landscaping in the burial ground as part of his role as Parish Council Tree Lead.
ACTION: Cllr Bellet to liaise with the Commonwealth Graves Commission for the maintenance of all armed services personnel graves.

P/48/25 Date of Next Meeting – 6.15pm Wednesday 18th February 2026

Meeting closed at 7.04pm

Signed…… Date: