FERNHURST PARISH COUNCIL

Property, Highways and Environment Committee

Wednesday 18 February 2026

Minutes

Minutes of the **Meeting of the Property, Highways and Environment Committee held on Wednesday 18 February 2026** at 6.15pm at The Hub

Councillors Present: Cllr Peter Bellet (Chair), Cllr Heather Bicknell, Cllr Bill Black, Cllr John Buchanan

Also in Attendance: Mrs E Ford (Clerk)

P/01/26 To Decide Chair of Meeting

RESOLVED: Cllr Bellet to chair the meeting

P/02/26 Apologies For Absence
Apologies were received from Cllrs Margaret Jenkins, Graham Inns and Chris Lloyd.

P/03/26 Declaration of Interests - None

P/04/26 To Approve Minutes of the Meeting held on 17 September 2025
The minutes of the meeting on 17 September 2025 were presented for approval.

RESOLVED: to adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Property, Highways and Environment Committee held on 17 September 2025.

P/05/26 Matters arising from the previous minutes
ACTION: Clerk to provide Cllr Bellet with the locations of armed services graves in the burial ground.

P/06/26 Public Representations
A resident had reported ongoing problems with a byway at the end of Copyhold Lane. **ACTION: Clerk** to collate previous correspondence on the byway and discuss with West Sussex County Council Public Rights of Way Team.

P/07/26 Burial Ground
The ground maintenance contract was discussed. **ACTION: Clerk** to check files for existing contract arrangements. The Clerk outlined the technical support and information available through Council membership of the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management and had included this on the agenda of the Council meeting which would be held later that evening. The remaining capacity of the burial ground was discussed and the extension of the ashes burial area was proposed as an option to extend the life of the burial ground. **ACTION: Clerk** to obtain information on planning and other constraints to support the identification of potential sites for an extension to the burial ground. Arrangements for the inspection of memorials were yet to be completed.

P/08/26 Public Toilets
Following a request for repairs by Chichester District Council, the Clerk had requested the Village Ranger to install catches to secure the gates when the toilets were open and it was planned to use padlocks with a common key. A repair to a small area of the tarmac surface outside the toilets was also underway. The performance of the cleaning contractor was discussed. **ACTION: Clerk** to look at alternative cleaning provision.

P/09/26 Van Common, Village Green and other Parish Council owned land
The extent of Parish Council ownership of land along Lickfold Road was discussed. **ACTION: Clerk** to bring Land Registry title and other maps to next meeting to plot areas discussed at meeting. **ACTION: Clerk** to progress any outstanding land registration work.

P/10/26 War Memorial
The pointing repairs to the war memorial were not yet complete and it was assumed they would re-commence when the weather improved. **ACTION: Clerk** to contact stone mason.

P/11/26 Playground
The new slide had been installed in the playground. **ACTION: Clerk** to request that the annual playground inspection was brought forward from the usual time of May/June following this change to a major piece of equipment.

P/12/26 Highways
A new culvert had been installed to replace the open roadside ditch alongside Van Common but the excessive rain since the works had washed out the backfill and repairs had not yet been carried out. The Parish Council had requested repairs to the pavement along the north side of Vann Road in the village centre but had been advised by the County Council that the condition of the pavement did not warrant repairs at this time.
There had been additional reports to the Parish Council of road safety concerns in the Parish including a request for a reduction in speed limit to 40 mph from Kingsley Green to the start of the village 30mph zone and a request for road safety improvements on Vann Road. Cllr Bellet advised on the higher effectiveness of engineering works, e.g. build-outs, in moderating traffic speeds. There was an option of a Parish Council owned speed indicator device. This would involve a high workload due to having to move the device every two weeks to comply with county council licensing requirements. **ACTION: Clerk** to obtain update on the application for road safety improvements on the approach to the school on the A286/Midhurst Road. The possible use of average speed cameras was also noted. **ACTION: Clerk** to obtain information on both speed indicator devices and average speed cameras.

P/13/26 Environment
The Clerk had been advised that electric vehicle charging points would not be installed in the Crossfield car park due to the high cost of providing additional electricity supply.

P/14/26 Date of next meeting
The date of the next meeting would be 17 June 2026

Meeting closed at 7.20 pm

Signed…… Date: