FERNHURST PARISH COUNCIL

# Property, Highways and Environment Committee Wednesday 15 July 2026 Minutes

**Minutes** of the **Meeting of the Property, Highways and Environment Committee held on Wednesday 15 July 2026** at 6.15pm at The Hub

**Councillors Present:**
Cllr Peter Bellet (Chair), Cllr Heather Bicknell, Cllr Bill Black, Cllr John Buchanan, Cllr Margaret Jenkins, Cllr Graham Inns (arrived late), Cllr Cayte Pearce, Cllr Graeme Williamson

**Also in Attendance:** District Cllr Brett Burkhart (arrived late). Cllr Rebecca Stroud-Matthews (arrived late). Mrs E Ford (Clerk)

**P/15/26 Apologies For Absence**
Apologies were received from Cllr Chris Lloyd.

**P/16/26 Declaration of Interests** - None

**P/17/26 To Approve Minutes of the Meeting held on 18 February 2026**
The minutes of the meeting on 18 February 2026 were presented for approval.

**RESOLVED: to adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Property, Highways and Environment Committee held on 18 February 2026**

**P/18/26 Matters arising from the previous minutes**
**ACTION: Clerk and Cllr Bellet** to check war graves in burial ground.

**P/19/26 To Decide on the Vice Chair of the Committee**

**RESOLVED: Cllr Jenkins to be the Vice Chair of the Committee for 2026/2027**

**P/20/26 Public Representations**
A resident had notified the Council that tree works had been carried out at Van Common in December 2025 to safeguard telephone lines.

**P/21/26 To consider Draft Terms of Reference for the Committee**
A draft Terms of Reference had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting and was discussed. Cllr Black requested the addition of a Committee task to monitor the condition and define any necessary repair or replacement of assets.

**RESOLVED: to recommend that Council adopt the proposed Terms of Reference as amended**

**P/22/26 Winter Resilience Plan for 2026/2027**
**ACTION: Clerk** to advise West Sussex County Council that no Parish Council grit bins required additional salt before Winter 2026/2027.

Discussion of the other parts of the Parish Council Winter Resilience Plan was deferred to the September meeting of the Property Committee. **ACTION: Cllr Bellet** to liaise with Clerk prior to the meeting.

**P/23/26 To consider the Public Toilets opening and cleaning contracts**

The Parish Council had instructed two new contracts for the operation of the public toilets at the Crossfield car park, each with a probationary period ending on 30th August 2026. The Parish Council provision of public toilets and the contracts were discussed. **ACTION: Clerk** to carry out a public consultation on whether the Parish Council should provide public toilets in the village. **ACTION: Clerk** to organise a survey of the level of usage of the toilets. **ACTION: Clerk** to request replacement of: 1) the road sign for the car park, public toilets and shops at the junction of Midhurst and Vann Roads and 2) the road sign for the car park, public toilets and doctors surgery at the entrance to Crossfield. **ACTION: the Committee** to recommend that Council extend the two contracts for the operation of the public toilets.

**ACTION: Clerk** to request the replacement of the road sign at the entrance to The Leys. **ACTION: Clerk** to request repair to the Vann Road sign at the Vann Road/Midhurst Road crossroads

**P/24/26 To consider possible Parish Council initiatives for improving road safety in the Parish**

It was noted that a child had been injured in a road accident on Vann Road in the previous fortnight. Possible Parish Council initiatives for improving road safety were discussed. **ACTION: Cllr Bicknell** to contact Chiddingfold Parish Council for advice on the use of average speed cameras.

**RESOLVED: to make a recommendation to Council to request that West Sussex County Council develop a scheme for engineering measures to improve road safety in key routes of Fernhurst village (Vann Road and the A286 Midhurst Road)**

Police enforcement of speed limits was discussed. Cllr Black noted that the recent reduction in speed limit on the A286 at Henley had taken five years to obtain. Cllr Pearce informed of initiatives carried out by primary schools in other nearby areas where children held placards by the road to request drivers to keep within the speed limit.

**P/25/26 Environment – To consider possible local Carbon Footprint initiative**

This was deferred to the September meeting.

**P/26/26 To note updates on:**

**Asset Review**

Cllr Bellet would be carrying out the Asset Review with the assistance of the Village Ranger in the next two months.

**Inspection of Parish Council owned trees**

*District Cllr Burkhart arrived at the meeting*

It was noted that a large tree had fallen beside the A286/Midhurst Road near the entrance to the old rectory. This had been removed in the early hours of the day of the meeting.

The inspection of the Parish Council owned trees plus three additional large trees had been carried out on 9th July. An initial verbal report on inspection including the holly and one of the oaks on Church Road had been received. A written report would be provided in time for quotes for any tree works to be obtained for consideration by the September meeting. It was noted that less tree work would be required than following the previous survey in 2024.
A "Tree Works in Conservation Area" notification had been submitted on 25th June to Chichester District Council by the landowner for works on the holly tree. **ACTION: Clerk** to inform the District Council tree officer of the Parish Council inspection of the tree.

*Cllrs Inns and Stroud-Matthews arrived at the meeting*

**Repair Works at the Village Green, playground and the junction of Lickfold Road and Miggs Lane**
The repair works at the Village Green, playground and the junction of Lickfold Road and Miggs Lane were now complete apart from the regrading of the damaged edge of the Village Green. The regrading had not been carried out partly on account of the soils being too dry and had not been charged in the invoice to be considered by the Council meeting later that evening. **ACTION: Clerk** to check that the rails were not in contact with the ground and that the fence posts were vertical. If the fenceline was not affected it would be confirmed to the contractor that the regrading should not be carried out.

**Burial Ground remediation works**
Only a single day of remediation work on subsided grave plots was considered to be necessary at this stage and the work had been carried out the previous week. The Diocese had been advised retrospectively that the work was being carried out.

**P/27/26 Date of next meeting**
The date of the next meeting would be 16 September 2026

Meeting closed at 7.09 pm

**Signed…… Date:**