



Shermanbury Parish Council

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**Minutes of the Shermanbury Parish Council meeting held
Monday 28th September 2026 at The Bull, Shermanbury
commencing at 7.00pm.**

Present: Cllr T. Brown, Cllr M. Amos, Cllr D. Barling, Cllr R. Few, Cllr P. Field, and
Cllr A. Rowsell.

West Sussex County Councillor R. Noel.

Clerk D. Langston

One member of the public.

Minutes

42.26 Apologies for absence were received from Horsham District Councillors J. Knowles, L. Lambert and Shermanbury Parish Councillor J. Read.

43.26 No interests were declared.

44.26 Approval of the minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 27th July 2026. Minutes were accepted by Council and signed by the Chair.

45.26 Horsham District Councillors J. Knowles and L. Lambert sent a written report updating on the following items.

- A meeting is being held at HDC this evening regarding the Local Governance Review which will revisit parish boundaries. Shermanbury Parish Council have not proposed any changes to their boundaries.
- Local plan examination commences on 13th October 2026 and runs through until 23rd October 2026.
- On the 7th September the Government has announced that it is pausing the Local Government Reorganisation programme whilst it reviews if decisions already taken, and those to be made, are the right ones. No timeline has been given to local authorities as to when the review is to be carried out or when it will be concluded. This means that we anticipate elections for HDC councillors in May '27 for what will probably be a two-year term as it is expected that the government will want to enact this reform before the next election which will be held before August 2029
- Gatwick Airspace & Noise Annual Forum Wednesday 14 October from 3pm to 6pm at the London Gatwick STEM Centre. You can also find out more about the Noise Management Board and how residents can get involved in helping shape discussions around aircraft noise management. This informal drop-in event is an opportunity to engage with industry and learn more about how Gatwick and its aviation partners are working to improve airspace and manage noise impacts.
- Community Climate £5k & £1K
The Community Climate Fund is a grant available to community groups to reduce their carbon emissions and create community value locally. We provide grants in six different priority categories
 - Carbon Emissions – Reduce carbon emissions and other climate warming gases.
 - Energy – Reduce consumption of energy and install low carbon or renewable forms of energy.
 - Water – Reduce consumption of water and reduce threats from flooding.

- Waste – Minimise waste, reduce, reuse, and recycle.
- Biodiversity – Increase biodiversity and wildlife in the district.
- Transport – Reduce the need to travel and increase cycling, walking and use of public transport.

Other considerations - education, wellbeing, community involvement, and potential for long-term positive change.

- Jobs Fair 30th September 3.30-7.30 - Drill Hall. Local jobs - young people, change of direction and fresh start opportunities
- On 20th October 2026 there is a Leaders forum being held at Leonardslee.
- Changes to the planning committee system will come into effect this week with a smaller number of Officers involved in the decision making.

46.26 West Sussex County Councillor R. Noel updated on the following items.

- The Local Government Review announcement two weeks ago that the process is paused, means there are only two local Councils that require a new review, which are West Sussex and Cambridgeshire. Hampshire, Essex, Norfolk and Suffolk have all been abandoned completely. West Sussex CEO, Leigh Whitehouse thinks there are three options left;
 - A quick review from government and a revert to the timetable previously worked upon. However, that decision needs to be made before the end of October, otherwise elections will not take place in May 2027.
 - Timetable is completely reviewed and we will have one or two years before LGR takes effect.
 - Final option is LGR is dropped. Although it is felt this option is unlikely.
- Recent meetings held with Officers from the new Strategic Authority, including the Mayor's Monitoring Officer. It is still envisaged Mayoral elections will take place in 2028, in the meantime the authority is up and running under the direction of the Strategic Board together with Constituent Council representatives. Regular meetings are being held and consist of two nominees from Brighton and Hove, East and West Sussex. They have already begun the process of taking over the Fire and Rescue services of all three areas, and are starting to look at Skills and Employment, Economic Development as well as Rural Affairs and Coastal Communities. The new Mayoral scrutiny Committee has also been appointed and will start sitting soon.
- PROW problems have now changed to report a problem page.
- WSCC Highways signs which have been left by contractors can be highlighted by residents.
- WSCC have highlighted issues with discarded vapes causing fires at sites in Crawley.
- Additional advice advises E bikes should be stored outside the dwelling.
- Local fire services are offering free electric blanket testing for any items over three years old.
- Attendance at a fire briefing last week which gave advice on the prevention of wildfires.

47.26 Cllr Brown gave an update on recent HALC meetings and correspondence. AGM was planned for July. This meeting was then postponed which does not conform to the constitution. A letter has been circulated to all parishes within the Horsham area requesting their support for a special meeting be held to discuss the issues that surround the parishes and how HALC will deal with this moving forwards.

48.26 Following a recent meeting held with representatives of Elements Green, the applicant for Mid Sussex District Council planning application DM/21/2276 BESS site located at land on Bob Lane, Twineham. Council have recently submitted letters to both Horsham District Council and Mid Sussex District Council highlighting our ongoing requests for safety and environmental issues to be addressed. This letter has been followed up by correspondence to the MSDC Planning Officer with a request for additional safety items to be reviewed. A meeting to discuss the application with the Planning Officer has been requested.

49.26 Implications of Mid Sussex and HDC plans.

- Lack of infrastructure is a major concern.
- Council resolved to support pushing forwards with arranging Inter Parish meetings.
- Clerk will investigate any outstanding CIL payments.

50.26 Review of road safety issues within the parish.

- Mock Bridge Automatic Warning System. There is no further update on this item which remains ongoing.
- A281 and Wineham Lane TRO. Clerk confirmed the Community Highways Scheme is progressing to moderation in November.
- A decision was taken to install an additional SID on the A281. Cllr Few will liaise with WSCC Highways Officer on this item.

51.26 Review of council's website and email provision. With recent issues experienced with both the provision of council email accounts and the council's website it was resolved to accept the quote provided by Digital Berry.

52.26 To agree Council's response to the following planning matters.

- Pooks Farm, Frylands Lane, Wineham. Replacement of windows and external doors, installation of log burner and chimney liner within existing fireplace, specialist conservation repair works to external timber frame and infill panels. (Listed Building Consent). Council resolved it was supportive of the application.

53.26 Update on cemetery improvements and maintenance programme.

- Quote being produced to extend the current driveway in line with the chapel entrance.
- Additional tidy-up works will be carried out this week.

54.26 Footpath and bridleway update. Cllr Barling will take responsibility for this item moving forwards and liaise with the clerk to highlight any issues.

55.26 Finance and Administration.

55.1 Council reviewed the balance sheet and budget figures. The confirmed spend for this financial year was £21,830.46 (Twenty-One thousand, eight hundred and thirty pounds and forty-six pence). Balance sheet was signed by the Chair.

55.2 Council agreed acceptance of the recent NALC pay award. Clerk will remain on scale 30 at eleven hours per week.

55.3 Council reviewed the comments in the 2025/2026 external audit report 2025/2026 which highlighted the general reserves appear on the low side.

55.4 Payments raised since last meeting:

£ 535.50 Moore Invoice 17926/979 External audit.

£ 48.00 Kitman Limited Invoice 16482 Email backups.

£ 72.00 Kitman Limited Invoice 16556 Annual offsite backup.

£ 63.47 T. Brown Planning meeting and administration expenses.

£ 40.00 S. Birnsting Invoice 030726-6 Cemetery and parish maintenance.

£ 44.20 HDC Invoice 23840048 Litter bin emptying.

£1153.77 WSCC Invoice 8002094929 Salary & pension costs.

£ 165.09 T. Brown Planning meeting and administration expenses.

£ 40.00 S. Birnsting Invoice 080926-5 Cemetery and parish maintenance.

£1250.76 WSCC Invoice 8002096496 Salary & pension costs.

56.26 Date of next meeting confirmed as Monday 23rd November 2026.