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14th July 2026

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held in St Mary's Church Hall, Church Road, Buxted on Tuesday 14th July 2026 at 7.15p.m.

Present: Cllrs. Smith (Chairman), Blandford, Duck, Furber, Mallett, Marshall and Muddle.
Also present: Clerks Beccy Macklen and Claudine Feltham.

Public : None

01/07/26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received and accepted from Cllr Humphrey, ESCC Cllr Coleman and WDC Cllr Shaw

02/07/26 DECLARATION OF MEMBERS INTERESTS

All councillors declared a personal interest in any matters relating to the Ionides Trust by virtue of the parish council being managing agents of the site.

Cllrs Smith and Furber declared a personal interest in any matters related to allotments due to being an allotment holder.

Cllr Duck declared a personal interest in any matters relating to the High Hurstwood Village Hall Committee by virtue of being a member of the committee.

03/07/26 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 9th June 2026 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the meeting.

04/07/26 ESCC REPORT

In the absence of both ESCC and WDC councillors, there were no updates at the meeting.

Both councillors have sent a monthly update via email which have been uploaded to the website.

05/07/26 UPDATE ON COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL) INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

Clerk Claudine circulated CIL income and expenditure information to councillors prior to the meeting for information to ensure parish councillors are aware of current funds - **noted**.

Public footpaths: Nothing to report.

Trees:

- **Works to Ash Trees (with ash dieback) on recreation ground – update** – works to the trees started the week commencing 6th July and will be finished this week. No issues reported.

Road Safety:

- **Speeding in Buxted – update on VAS sign** – the clerk sought four quotes which were circulated to the parish council. There are two designs, with preferences for each of them. Prices range from between just under £3,000 to nearly £4,000. It was agreed to use the equipment that is the most noticeable by drivers to give maximum warning, with the least amount of labour and most amount of data collectable.

In relation to the fitting of the equipment, the clerk is in correspondence with ESCC Highways who have advised our Lengthsman, whilst having street works accreditation, does not have the correct accreditation unit to make an excavation on the roadside. An alternative contractor will need to be sourced (a list of approved contractors is available on the ESCC website).

Wealden Local Development Framework: Nothing to report, although Cllr Mallett advised the next phase of the plan will be published in September 2026

Property issues:

- **Buxted Recreation Ground – update on WDC Sports Infrastructure Grant application; delegation to approve Grant Funding Agreement via email circulation and nominate two councillors to sign the agreement once approved** – the grant has still yet to be approved but is just waiting for the head of service to sign it off. In the meantime, the drainage work commenced on site on Monday 6th July and should have finished on Monday 13th July.

It was **resolved** to delegate to approve the Grant Funding Agreement when it is received; and councillors Smith and Blandford were **nominated** to sign the agreement.

- **Buxted Football Club – request to extend car parking area up to post and rail fence**
The parish council has been approached by Buxted Football Club requesting to extend the existing car park up to the existing post and rail fence at their own cost. The removed topsoil/earth would be moved to the uneven area at the west side of the pitch. **Resolved to approve this work.**
- **Nevill Road site – possible disposal of site**
Following the previous meeting the clerk approached a woodland sales specialist who advised the land is too small to market with them. Uckfield Town Council was also advised of the potential disposal of the land. This will be initially discussed at an Uckfield TC General Purposes Committee the following week. A local land agent has advised he would assess the land with a view to marketing it but wanted the parish council to receive a response back from Uckfield TC first as he believes they will want to take ownership of it.

Communications Matters: Nothing to report

P1 – ESALC – invitation to send up to two councillors to attend AGM and to have voting rights on 4th November 2026 – Cllr Mallett commented that if we want a voice on how we contribute to a new unitary authority, we should be attending the conference as ESALC could be the organisation that is our link. Cllr Mallett and Smith volunteered to attend and be our nominated members.

P2 – ESCC Major Projects Team – any initial response to potential interventions on A26 through Herons Ghyll/Five Ash Down – no major changes proposed but the parish council would support any changes that make the road safer.

P3 – High Hurstwood Resident – would it be possible for the High Hurtwood Recreation ground to be used for a local tabletop sale? No objection to the idea with no charge.

08/07/26 COMMITTEE MEETINGS
None

09/07/26 FINANCE

- i) **Payments:** On the proposal of Cllr. Marshall seconded by Cllr. Muddle, updated payments list for June 2026 totalling £9,341.91 was approved.
- ii) **Payments** On the proposal of Cllr. Marshall seconded by Cllr Muddle payments list for July totalling £8,427.54 covered by direct debit or BACS payments were approved.
- iii) **Bank reconciliations:** The clerk had circulated completed reconciliations for May which were signed
- iv) **Noted:** RBS reports for May: Ear marked reserves, Trial Balance, Receipts and Payments, Cash and Investment Reconciliation
- v) **request to pay FAD Village Hall annual insurance of £1,265.01 – proposed by Cllr Smith and seconded by Cllr Marhsall - agreed by unanimous vote.** Cllr Furber requested that a future agenda item be created to review the council's grant-awarding framework against UK government guidance on local government finance. He noted that the discussion should focus on best practices for transparency, establishing clearer guidelines on funding recurring operational costs versus one-off and capital projects, preventing dependency or even expectation among local bodies and to protect the Parish Precept. He emphasised that a revised framework should proactively encourage maximum community coverage and ensure public funds deliver optimal value for money and not just rely on the website.
- vi) **request to install cyber security package onto clerk's laptops costing £3 per month per laptop - Agreed.**

10/07/26 OTHER MEETINGS

Cllr Mallett attended the WDALC meeting noting that WDC are in a financially strong position which contrasts with most other councils in this area.

The main topic of discussion was the disposal of Wealden District Council assets to town and parish councils. If the asset does not bring in any revenue (or potential to create revenue) i.e. car parks, the parish/town councils can express an interest to take on these assets. Buxted Parish Council does not have any Wealden assets apart from Buxted Court but that is part of the Housing Revenue Account and is not included.

Wealden is finalising the local plan for agreement at full council in September in preparation to publish a technical consultation which ensures procedures and processes have been followed.

ESALC (East Sussex Association of Local Councils) representatives attended the WDALC meeting to introduce the idea of Neighbourhood Committees in preparation for the transition to a unitary authority, but WDC and WDALC have rejected this

proposal.

Finally, Cllr Mallett commented that Crowborough Town councillors have had an appalling time off the back of the Crowborough army camp issue including death threats and needing security.

Cllrs Smith and Furber reported back on a Buxted Together meeting with ESCC Cllr Coleman and the newly appointed Head of Highways Andrew Turner who commented that the work undertaken by Buxted Together is highly commendable and that it is very encouraging to see such proactive community involvement. He was pleased to hear that they have developed their own risk assessments and method statements to support their activities. He also offered further training, guidance, or support they might feel would be beneficial.

11/07/26 **MEMBERS QUESTIONS**
No questions

12/07/26 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

No meeting in August – next meeting date is 8th September 2026 to be held in Five Ash Down Village Hall

The meeting closed at 8.30p.m.

DATE RAISED	CASE NO	DESCRIPTION	OPEN/CLOSED RESOLUTION
November 2024	EA007FRAMFIELD	Culvert, Framfield Road, Buxted	ONGOING Collapsed drainage leading to culvert. Reported some time ago. Highway advised works need planning and extensive repair. 19/3 – Highways contacted PC to advise Structural Team will contact PC to arrange a site meeting likely to be in April. May – Cllr Furber attended meeting with ESCC/Balfour Beatty. Agreed work from culvert to KSV would be carried out. Design for culvert currently being designed. Work to be carried out in next financial year. 10/06 – clerk to ask Highway if any remedial works will take place to stop the road falling away while a design is being drawn up. 17/06/26 – update from Highways. Work will commence on 1 st September 2026
17/02/25	CCY000737	Broken away tarmac (50cm) in Framfield Road/Limes Lane outside KSV and bollard fallen over	REOPENED 20/02/25 – ESCC Highways do not consider work is necessary at this time but would continue to monitor – Raise again with Highways. 17/3 – Highway Steward revisited. Road still does not meet criteria, but bollard will be replaced.

			May – work should be carried out in conjunction with culvert repair woks (as above EA007FRAMFIELD)
27/05/26	CCY001221/CWY009219	State of road and Highway verge roadside of High Hurstwood Village Hall Car Park/Field gate	ONGOING Current state of the road and dip in the highway verge to entrances of HHVH car park and field entrance. Cars bottom out entering car park. Cars cannot access the field gate due to drop in land on verge. 27/05 – Highways have instructed Steward to assess. Highway Steward could not find the tree despite the W3W and photo. Steward asked to reassess 11/06/26 – confirmation from Highways repairs will take place 13/07 – email received to advise CCY001221 (entrance to village hall) has been repaired so this matter has been CLOSED Repairs are still needed to the field entrance.
15/06/26	SIG002814	St Mary's Church sign knocked off lamppost opposite Church Lane, Buxted	CLOSED 22/06 - Highway Steward inspected the sign, however as this sign is not classed as regulatory, therefore they are unfortunately unable to undertake any repairs works

Ionides Trust Update 14th July 2026 following the parish council meeting:

- 1. Apologies – Cllr Humphrey**
- 2. Declarations of Interest - None**
- 3. Request from Buxted Surgery owners for two amendments to the current lease**

There is no benefit to the Ionides Trust to accept these changes. The only benefit is to the leaseholder and could be a disbenefit if the building was left empty at any time as we would not receive the rent. It was **agreed** not to accept the proposals.

- 4. Consideration of Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults and Children Policy – adopted.**
- 5. Village Hub - Proposal for concept stage** – the proposals to create a concept for the site is proposed at a cost of £8,250 to be funded from the previous BCHT left over funds to start the scoping to forward a village hub project. Cllrs Furber and Smith noted that the fees proposed are considered reasonable in comparison to other companies. Stage 1 concept will propose a location and size of a new hall and work on this could start almost immediately if approved. **Agreed concept work should go ahead at the cost of £8,250 + VAT.**

Meeting closed 8.50pm