



**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING of Hadlow Down Parish Council**  
**held in Hadlow Down Village Hall, Hadlow Down**  
**at 7pm on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2025**

**Present:** Councillors: Michael Lunn (ML) Chairman (+WDC), Peter Weston (PW) Vice-Chair, Ben Floyd (BF), Alan Hobbs (AH), David Munday (DM) and Stephen Lester (SL).

**In attendance:** Vicki Rutt (Clerk), Cllr Bob Standley (ESCC) and eight members of the public.

*ML welcomed everyone to the last meeting of 2025 and wished everyone a very Happy Christmas and New Year.*

**175. CO-OPTION TO FILL THE ONE PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCY**

There was one candidate who submitted an application to the published vacancy. All Cllrs received sight of the application ahead of the meeting. Cllrs voted unanimously to co-opt Cllr Graham Long onto the Parish Council. Cllr Long joined the meeting, and the Clerk gave him an information pack and will do the necessary process in the coming days. **Action 1.**

**176. PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

The following issues were raised during public question time and were noted:

- There are blocked gulleys on the main road and at the top of Hut Lane. They are very dangerous and need sorting. Cllr Standley is aware, and he and the Clerk will raise with Highways again. **Action 2.**
- There were two very loud maroons for Remembrance Day recently that were a lot louder than previous years. It was confirmed that this was not connected to St Marks Church. It was also noted that attendance for the Remembrance had dropped off, and questions of timing and a combined Remembrance with Buxted should be considered.
- It was suggested that the fireworks this year caused some debris to fall onto the houses and vehicles opposite the playing field. The PC responded that they were not aware of any complaints.
- There are ongoing issues with illegal parking at the top of School Lane causing an obstruction to pedestrians and the double yellow lines have faded. ML will raise it with the PCSO. **Action 3.**
- A resident read out a statement about the rent assigned to the new HDCC lease. There is a confidential agenda item to discuss this matter.
- A resident enquired about the enforcement for the sand school at Cart Lodge Field, Stonehurst Lane, nothing has been done and now there are floodlights being installed. Clerk to request an update from enforcement. **Action 4.**

**177. APOLOGIES** – None.

**178. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – DM declared an interest under agenda item 184b.

**179. MINUTES OF THE MEETING** held on the 11<sup>th</sup> November 2025 was recommended for approval and signed as a true record (previously circulated).

**180. OUTSTANDING ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS:**

- a. Action Log - Clerk reported from the action log which is available on the village website.
- b. Clerks report - This was noted (previously circulated).

**181. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

- a. WD/2025/7048/AD for WILDERNESS FARM, THE STABLES, WILDERNESS LANE, HADLOW DOWN, TN22 4HU  
3 BAY HAY BARN

*PC commented: It was agreed to unanimously not support the application based on a lack of evidence of agricultural holding.*

**182. REPORTS FROM CLLR BOB STANDLEY, ESCC & CLLR MICHAEL LUNN, WDC**

ESCC - Cllr Standley's full report can be found on the Parish Council website. He reported the devolution needs to be approved by upper tiers and the Mayor elections will take place in May 2026. The consultation on the options is still available to comment on until 11<sup>th</sup> January. The budget has been the most difficult that ESCC have had, there is a deficit of £15m within children services and they will need to apply for emergency government funding. Cllr Standley reported that Cllr Lunn will provide an update on the Crowborough Army Camp issue but explained that ESCC will only get involved with Crowborough army camp if it goes ahead. Cllr Weston asked if ESCC know how individual SEN cases will be reviewed with the lack of funding, Cllr Standley did not know the answer and explained they are awaiting the publication of a white paper for guidance.

WDC - Cllr Lunn reported on the Regulation 18 consultation on local plan housing provision. The original consultation did not have enough housing numbers to meet the Governments new housing targets, so it now has to go out under Regulation 18. The consultation will start early 2026 for a 6-week period which will cover just the latest revisions. Cllr Lunn stated that we do not know if any landowners in Hadlow Down have given sites when WDC did their 'call for sites' so we do not know the affect it may have as yet. Cllr Lunn then reported on the issues surrounding Crowborough army camp, he explained it is a very fast-moving issue. A recent meeting with the Ministry of Defence showed the MOD stating that cadets would not be able to remain on site with 540 asylum seekers so they are having to terminate all cadet training from the 5<sup>th</sup> December and at present, do not have a replacement venue which will have a negative impact on future recruitment. There have also been serious concerns raised about the armoury remaining on site. Cllr Lunn explained that the site is due to be handed over to the Home Office imminently, but no exact date is known as yet. It was explained that safety in Crowborough is being discussed as they have no operational CCTV so there are discussions between Crowborough Town Council and Sussex Police taking place. A bus contract has also been issued to transport service users to local towns for activities although Hadlow Down is not likely to be impacted but if you are shopping in Crowborough, Tunbridge Wells, Eastbourne, Hailsham and Uckfield. The service users will also have access to the bus network to attend local doctors surgeries.

- 183. HIGHWAYS:** The Clerk reported that the proposed 50mph speed limit on the A272 Pound Green / Curtains Hill between Buxted and Hadlow Down will be advertised in the Local Press on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2025, and the Notice and Plans will be displayed on-site between 5 December 2025 and 9<sup>th</sup> January 2026. The advertisement period has been extended to 28-days (minimum 21-days) as it is during the Christmas period. The links for the consultation will be advertised widely on social media. **Action 5.**  
BF recently asked the Clerk to find out why the 40mph speed roundel on the road as you enter the village near Tinkers Park was not recently repainted, ESH have confirmed that roundel was not included in the recent Road Safety Scheme and will not be done as it would not be classified as an immediate safety concern, as there are 40 mph signs attached to the village sign on entry to Hadlow Down, along with repeaters thereafter. Clerk to send this to Cllr Standley to see if he can progress this further. **Action 6.**
- 184. COMMUNITY CENTRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATE**  
a. Note minutes from 18<sup>th</sup> November meeting – The minutes were noted.  
b. Review final lease for HDPF for final approval and signing by all parties – The proposed lease has been drafted by a solicitor and been scrutinised by the Full Council and the Playing Field Committee. The lease was confirmed fit for purpose and the Clerk will now arrange for it to be signed by all parties. **Action 7.**
- 185. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON DEVOLUTION** – No further update at this time.
- 186. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:**  
a. Christmas Rubbish & Recycling Collection dates – The dates were noted and will be on the Parish Council website and Facebook page. **Action 8.**  
b. Concern over village inequality – Standing Orders dropped. A resident raised a concern that they have noticed significant inequality in the village and wondered if the PC could help. It was pointed out that Mayfield Charity Trust is available for local residents, and the Uckfield Food Bank covers surrounding villages too. It was noted that it is a very sensitive matter. The resident will liaise with ML outside of the meeting. *Standing Orders reinstated.*
- 187 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS (COUNCIL MATTERS AND OUTSIDE BODIES):**  
BF reported that someone has been riding a horse on the playing field, which is causing damage to the grass, Clerk to put something in the village magazine. **Action 9.** DM reported that ongoing issues at Hastingford Lane which Clerk is aware about and has reported. ML reported that he recently met with the PCSO and has been informed that there are two gangs operating in the area so please report anything you see that is suspicious and be vigilant. GL raised an overgrown hedge down Wilderness Lane, he will report this to ESH. **Action 10.**
- 188. RISK ASSESSMENTS:** The village risk assessment has been completed by PW and will be on the January 2026 PC meeting agenda.
- 189. CLERKS MATTERS:**  
a. Clerks hours for November 2025 – These were approved.
- 190. OTHER FINANCE MATTERS:**  
a. Agree Finance Report for December 2025 - The finance report was noted and approved by PW and DM. The detail can be found in [Appendix A](#).  
b. Agree and sign Bank Reconciliation for November 2025 - Approved and signed by PW and DM.  
c. Discuss CCLA investment account – It was agreed that the PC would not invest with CCLA at this time due to the risk and the Clerk would monitor the amounts in the Clerk to ensure do not breach thresholds.  
d. To discuss and agree to proceed with new website following Assertion 10 audit requirements – The Clerk explained that due to the Assertion 10, all Councils must now have a .gov.uk domain PC website. At the moment the PC do not so would fail the audit if not in place by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026. The Clerk recommended that Council agree to move forward with this so Clerk can work with the company over the coming months to get it designed and live by the deadline. All Cllrs approved. RESOLEVD: Clerk to proceed with new website. **Action 11.**
- 191. DEFIBRILLATOR BATTERY** – this was checked on the 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2025.
- 192. ITEMS TO GO ON NEXT AGENDA:** Governance documents review, Interim Internal Audit report, Approval of

2026/27 Budget/precept, HDCC lease discussions, Cllr responsibilities and village risk assessment.

**193. TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC ATTENDANCE FOR AGENDA ITEM 194, THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION MUST BE PASSED.**

*That in accordance with section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, and as extended by Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, that the public including the press be excluded from the meeting for the consideration of agenda item 194 as financial lease matters are to be discussed, and this would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.*

It was proposed by PW and seconded by ML that the Full Council move into a confidential session at 20:08.

**\*\* CONFIDENTIAL SESSION \*\***

**194. TO DISCUSS AND AGREE THE RENT ASSOCIATED WITH THE HADLOW DOWN COMMUNITY CENTRE LEASE**

Cllr had received briefing notes from HDCC. A full discussion took place, and a motion was resolved. Clerk to liaise with the solicitor prior to updating HDCC. **Action 12.**

The meeting closed at 20:25

The next PC meeting date is Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at 19:00

## Appendix A

### Finance report for 2nd December 2025 PC meeting

#### Payments by Bank Transfer *paid* pending authorisation

| Date | Payee | Payment Details | Amount |
|------|-------|-----------------|--------|
| None |       |                 |        |

#### Payments by Bank Transfer pending authorisation

| Date     | Payee                    | Payment Details               | Amount    |
|----------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------|
| 28.12.25 | Vicki Rutt               | Standing Order December 2025  | £1,216.02 |
| 02.12.25 | Vicki Rutt               | Nov 2025 underpay + OT        | £234.23   |
| 02.12.25 | HMRC                     | Tax + NI Nov 2025             | £346.24   |
| 02.12.25 | East Sussex Pension Fund | Pension Nov 2025              | £433.69   |
| 02.12.25 | Lucy McConachie          | Play area inspection Nov 2025 | £40.00    |
| 02.12.25 | SLCC                     | Membership O/S paymnt         | £2.00     |

#### Payments by direct debit for authorisation

| Date     | Payee       | Payment Details    | Amount |
|----------|-------------|--------------------|--------|
| 30.11.25 | Unity Trust | Mnthly bank charge | £6.00  |

#### Acknowledge receipt of monies

|      |  |  |  |
|------|--|--|--|
| None |  |  |  |
|------|--|--|--|