



**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING of Hadlow Down Parish Council
held in Hadlow Down Village Hall, Hadlow Down
at 7pm on Tuesday 3rd March 2026**

Present: Councillors: Michael Lunn (ML) Chairman (+WDC), Ben Floyd (BF), David Munday (DM), Stephen Lester (SL) and Graham Long (GL).

In attendance: Vicki Rutt (Clerk), Cllr Bob Standley (ESCC) and 4 members of the public.

233. PUBLIC QUESTIONS – The following issues were raised during public question time and were noted:

- A resident reported that the caravan at Wander Down has finally gone. It was agreed that WDC should be written to, to acknowledge and thank them for the works carried out so far. **Action 1.**
- A resident reported that the double yellow lines at the top of School Lane, put in for safety reasons, are now invisible. Resident to send a picture to the Clerk so she can attach to her report. **Action 2.**

234. APOLOGIES – Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Peter Weston and Cllr Alan Hobbs.

235. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – None.

236. MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on the 3rd February 2026 was recommended for approval and signed as a true record (previously circulated).

237. 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).

238. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a. WD/2026/0095/F & WD/2026/0096/LB for STILEREED FARM, CRIERS LANE, FIVE ASHES, HEATHFIELD, TN20 6LG
Single storey bedroom and shower room addition.

PC comments: They have no objections.

b. Approved applications: WD/2026/0039/FA for CRISPHAMS COTTAGE, ROSERS COMMON, BUXTED, TN22 4QA.
This was noted by the Council.

c. Enforcement updates: There are none at this time as they are currently with legal and information can't be shared.

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

ESCC - Cllr Standley reported that the County Council elections are back on in May 2026. The Unitary elections are being held in May 2027 and the Mayor elections will be in May 2028. The road closure on the A267 at Argos Hill has been causing issues, but the large vehicles do seem to be avoiding Hadlow Down route. The Government have confirmed they will give the £70m loan to ensure the budget is balanced. The delayed white paper on SEND has been received but will not come in to affect until 2030. The Government have reported that they will cover 90% of a deficit due to SEND which is a substantial amount of money that ESCC will be receiving. Cllr Lunn raised the top dressing that was done last year in Five Chimneys Lane, which was not actually needed, has failed and is causing issues with the drains. The Road sweeper has been out twice. This should not have failed and ESCC should raise an enquiry on the waste of public funds. Cllr Standley to look at this. **Action 3.**

WDC - Cllr Lunn reported that Full Council was held a few weeks ago and the District Council alliance has agreed to a zero % increase of the WDC part of the Council Tax for 2026/27. The Local Plan Regulation 18 consultation is still live, there are some implications to Hadlow Down. Exhibition in Frant coming up, there has been poor public attendance. An evaluation of trip movements has shown that it will be worse in Wealden, travel movements will be slower. There is a challenge happening on the housing needs survey. It has been reported that WDC are not going to partake in any legal action regarding the Crowborough Army Camp, a lot of residents in Crowborough are upset by this. The Crowborough Shield have raised the funds to raise their own community judicial review, so we await an update.

240. HIGHWAYS: Along the A272, near Dog Kennel Lane, this is a national speed limit, but the road surface is dangerous. It was agreed if the Clerk could ask for uneven surface signs to be installed, especially as additional use at the moment due to Argos Hill closure. A part of the A26 has had the speed reduced due to the road surface so could this be considered for the A272. Clerk to report. **Action 4.**

241. COMMUNITY CENTRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATE

a. To note minutes from the Advisory Committee held on the 10th February 2026 – The minutes were noted.

b. To discuss and agree membership of the Advisory Committee regarding a layperson sitting on committee – ML updated that the Terms of Reference state there are two lay members on the Committee. One of those lay members is now a trustee of the Hadlow Down Village Hall so it was agreed that as this is a conflict of interest and that the Village Hall will be invited to attend the Committee as and when needed, the member should step down and

another lay member appointed. It was agreed to be taken to the Advisory Committee for discussion and an advert published in due course to see if anyone is interested. **Action 5.**

c. To agree an official resolution that the Parish Council fully support the HDCC project – It was explained that whilst the Parish Council have quite clearly supported this project for many years, the HDCC need a minute reference from the Parish Council to show a resolution of support. ML proposed that the Parish Council fully support and endorses the delivery of the Hadlow Down Community Centre project as defined under the Advisory Committee. This was seconded by DM and all Cllrs agreed. RESOLVED.

d. To agree the final copy of the HDCC new lease and arrange for it to be signed following the meeting – The final copy of the lease has received a thorough review from both parties and is now ready for signing. ML proposed that the lease is ready, and this was seconded by BF. RESOLVED. The lease was signed by ML and SL on behalf of the Parish Council and by Mr Bob Lake and Mrs Mandy Chapman on behalf of HDCC. All signatures were witnessed by the Clerk who also signed where necessary. The Clerk will now circulate and submit to the solicitor. **Action 6.**

242. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON DEVOLUTION – Nothing further than the County Council elections are back on and we await confirmation on the 26th March on what the unitary will look like.

243. TO AGREE RESPONSE TO THE LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION – DM and BF drafted a response to the Local Plan consultation which was circulated to all Cllrs for review. All Cllrs have reviewed and are happy with the response, thanks were expressed to BF and DM for all their work on this. Clerk to submit the response on the portal. **Action 7.**

244. PARISH ASSEMBLY

a. Confirm Parish Assembly date as 14th April 2026 – The date was agreed.

b. Discuss and agree Parish Assembly logistics and expenditure – The Clerk laid out a plan to show what she needed to action and what expenditure was needed. All was agreed and Clerk will now action. **Action 8.**

245. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

a. Argos Hill closure – The information was noted. An increase in vehicles using School Lane and Hastingford Lane has been noticed but no large vehicles.

b. Wilderness Lane ditches – This was noted and Clerk will report to Highways. **Action 9.**

246. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS (COUNCIL MATTERS AND OUTSIDE BODIES): Nothing to report.

247. CLERKS MATTERS:

a. Clerks hours for February 2026 – These were approved.

248. OTHER FINANCE MATTERS:

a. Agree Finance Report for March 2026 - The finance report was noted and approved by DM and SL. The detail can be found in [Appendix A](#).

b. Agree and sign Bank Reconciliation for February 2026 - Approved and signed by DM and SL.

249. DEFIBRILLATOR BATTERY – this was checked on the 3rd March 2026.

250. ITEMS TO GO ON NEXT AGENDA: Nothing currently.

The meeting closed at 19.46

The next PC meeting date is Tuesday 7th April 2026 at 19:00

Appendix A

Finance report for 3rd March 2026 PC meeting

<u>Payments by Bank Transfer paid pending authorisation</u>			
Date	Payee	Payment Details	Amount
None			
<u>Payments by Bank Transfer pending authorisation</u>			
Date	Payee	Payment Details	Amount
28.03.26	Vicki Rutt	Standing Order Salary for March 2026	£1,216.02
03.03.26	Vicki Rutt	Feb 2026 OT	£201.99
03.03.26	Hadlow Down Village Hall	Hall hire March 2026	£60.00
03.03.26	Lucy McConachie	Play area inspection Feb 2026	£40.00
03.03.26	East Sussex Pension Fund	Pension Feb 2026	£421.30
03.03.26	HMRC	Tax and NI for Feb 2026	£326.23
<u>Payments by direct debit for authorisation</u>			
Date	Payee	Payment Details	Amount
28.02.26	Unity Trust	Monthly service charge	£6.00
<u>Acknowledge receipt of monies</u>			
None			