

Minutes of the Open Spaces, Roads and Footpaths Committee Meeting held at Rusper Village Hall on Tuesday 18th November 2025 at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllrs F. Maitland-Smith (Chair), M. Cooke, G. Hussey, M. Fenton, S. White, M. Fillmore.

Apologies: Cllrs, G. Fleming. D. Matthews (Vice Chair) G. Sallows R. Gatt.

Clerk: Lisa Wilcock.

Meeting commenced 2007hrs

OS26 – 25/26 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and recorded from Cllrs G. Fleming. D. Matthews (Vice Chair) G. Sallows R. Gatt.

OS27 – 25/26 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made in relation to items on the agenda.

OS28 – 25/26 Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the Committee meeting held on 21 October 2025 were approved as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chair.

OS29 – 25/26 Open Forum

No members of public.

OS30 – 25/26 Replacement Slide and Apparatus – Rusper Playground

- a) **Project Management Update** - The project is scheduled to commence in early December 2025. The structure will be steel-framed and feature dark green and yellow colours. It was noted that one councillor expressed that the frame is not a multi-play apparatus and suggested enhancements; however, these were not possible as the frame was built to order in accordance with the resolution made during the procurement process. *The Clerk reminds the Council that, under Section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972 and the Council's Standing Orders, no individual councillor may make decisions or act on behalf of the Council without prior approval from the full Council.*
- b) **Close playground off** – Project Manager Cllr Geoff Hussey to ensure completion, including erecting barriers, installing signage, notifying the public, and securing the site.
- c) **Finance Update** - was verbally presented for discussion and will be formally submitted to Full Council.

OS31 – 25/26 Trees

Cllr George Sallows provided an update regarding potential Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) for The Glebe Field. A report was distributed to the Committee in advance of the meeting. A further meeting has been arranged to discuss which trees could be included in a TPO application. It was agreed councillors will put together a list of trees which they feel should be protected. Carry to next

meeting.

OS32 – 25/26 Millfields Open Space

General matters regarding the open space were discussed. Noted that money is coming in, but the Clerk recommended waiting until the rules of how that money can be spent is advised before Committee makes a further recommendation.

OS33 – 25/26 Fingerposts

A verbal update was received on the fingerpost refurbishment programme, 7 of the 16 posts are completed, Horsham Road Green Lane has not been started as yet. Some councillors have cleaned their fingerpost, but some are still to be cleaned. Noted that the fingerpost is pointing the wrong way to Newdigate opposite Ghyll Manor. Carry to the next meeting.

OS34 – 25/26 Reports to Other Authorities

a) WSCC Public Rights of Way – Footpath Closure 1492. Carry to the next meeting.

OS35 – 25/26 Asset Dashboard

The Committee reviewed the Asset Dashboard and discussed the items listed below:

- Telephone Boxes Refurbishment: noted the L hinge is fixed by the shop. The prep work has commenced. The Lambs Green one has not been started yet.
- Car Park Fencing: Options were discussed; the fence is broken and untidy. The Committee discussed if the pub could help. It was discussed if the fence is needed at all, or could be removed. Cllr Geoff Hussey to take a look and report back.
- Street Light Contract & Energy Costs: The Committee reviewed current usage and costs; Cllr Marion Fenton will contact Utility Aid and come back to committee.
- Water Trough: It was discussed that the trough is in a state of disrepair. Cllr Sallows offered to help empty it, place a drain at the bottom of the trough and for it to be painted. Another idea was to put flowers in the trough. Recommended for resolution at Council meeting next week.
- Plaque by Car Park: noted that the repair of the plaque base is in hand.
- Extra Bins: Dog litter bin needed by the footpath near the Church by the last house. Clerk to talk to Mark Greenslade. Cllr Maitland-Smith and Cllr Cooke to map all bins in and around the village.
- Noted Church wooden noticeboard is looking tired. Suggested that question was asked if the church require a new noticeboard.
- Defibrillator Renewal: Case needs to be replaced, cabinet is fine, battery needs replacing in 2029 and pads in 2027. Trimbio Horsham to do an assessment and recommendation.

Any necessary recommendations will be taken to Full Council.

OS37 – 25/26 Date of the Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Tuesday, 20 January 2025.

It was noted that the Committee does not meet in December.

Meeting closed 2036hrs

Signed..... Dated.....