

Minutes of the Open Spaces, Roads and Footpaths Committee Meeting held at Rusper Village Hall on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at 7.30pm.

**Present:** Cllrs F. Maitland-Smith (Chair), D. Matthews (Vice Chair), M. Cooke, G. Hussey, M. Fenton, S. White, M. Fillmore, G. Fleming, G. Sallows, D. Halsey.

**Apologies:** Cllr R. Gatt.

**Clerk:** Lisa Wilcock.

*Meeting commenced 2007hrs*

**OS37-25/26 – Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr R Gatt.

RESOLVED: Apologies were noted and accepted.

**OS38-25/26 – Declarations of Interest**

Members were invited to declare any personal or pecuniary interests relating to items on the agenda. No declarations were made.

**OS39-25/26 – Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the Committee meeting held on 18 November 2025 were considered.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be approved as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

**OS40-25/26 – Open Forum**

No members of public.

**OS41-25/26 – Trees**

**a) The Glebe Field – TPOs**

Cllr George Sallows provided an update on potential Tree Preservation Orders for The Glebe Field.

RESOLVED: To progress with exploring TPO options and report findings to the next Committee meeting. Clerk to investigate the regrowth of the hedge along East Street and seek clarification on whether the regrowth of the hedge in East Street requires permission before construction takes place.

**b) Tree Survey**

The Committee reviewed the latest Tree Survey.

RESOLVED: To identify any necessary tree works as identified in the survey, prioritising safety and conservation, and to request cost estimates from approved contractors.

**OS42-25/26 – Millfields Open Space**

The Committee discussed the open space at Millfields.

RESOLVED: Invite Emma back to the Committee for an update with regard to the playground facility.

**OS43-25/26 – Fingerposts**

Councillors provided verbal updates on the ongoing fingerpost refurbishment programme, including progress from those maintaining their adopted posts.

RESOLVED: To continue the cleaning programme of the fingerposts.

#### **OS44-25/26 – Defibrillator**

The Committee reviewed current defibrillator provision in the Parish. It was agreed the cabinet does not need replacement. Noted that Circuit contacted the Vice Chair on Christmas Eve to advise that ambulance on the way and defibrillator may be used. It was not used.

Cabinet is recommended not to be replaced outside the shop. It was discussed to have an additional defibrillator in the Sports Club (requires landowner permission). WelMedical quoted £1,434 to replace original defibrillator, and supply a further defibrillator with a cabinet. It was agreed to recommend this option for Council resolution.

**RESOLVED:** To **recommend** to Full Council that the current defibrillator should be supplied by WelMedical with an additional defibrillator at the Sports Club. Clerk to add to the agenda.

#### **OS45-25/26 – Rusper Recreation Ground**

Maintenance, security, and potential improvements to the pavilion were discussed. The missing hedge outside the Sports Club was due to a car accident, which also removed the 40mph sign – Clerk to report sign to Highways. A dead tree by the entrance needs to be assessed. Plus barriers need to be installed next to the pavilion to prevent cars accessing the pitch at night. The Committee recommended that the parish council should install the 2 bollards as a safety measure.

The underlease was also discussed and agreed as well as the need for regular reporting from the Sports Club. The committee noted the recent written complaint in connection with accessibility of the Tennis Courts. The Clerk reminded the Council of their responsibility to uphold the Council's reputation, as well as to comply with all relevant safety and accessibility obligations.

**RESOLVED:** It is **recommended** that the Relationship Agreement and Underlease Agreement be formally agreed and signed by the Council, and that a plan be put in place to address the current reporting issues. It is further recommended that the Chair of the Sports Club be invited to attend a Parish Council meeting to discuss arrangements for regular reporting.

#### **OS46-25/26 – Rights of Way**

The Committee noted the latest update from WSCC regarding Footpath Closure 1492.

**RESOLVED:** Cllr S White and Cllr G Sallows to arrange a Zoom meeting with PROW to discuss the long-term closure of Footpath 1492. Item to be **carried** forward to the next meeting.

#### **OS47-25/26 – Asset Dashboard**

The Committee reviewed the Asset Dashboard and discussed the following:

- Telephone Box Refurbishment: to be repainted in the Spring.
- Water Trough: Cllr D Matthews and Cllr D Halsay to assess how the trough can be maintained.
- Plaque by Car Park: to be repainted and filled in the Spring.
- Additional Bins: To recommend installation at key locations to Full Council. Carry to next meeting.
- Potholes – Clerk to contact the landowner to address the potholes at the entrance to the Parish Council car park.

#### **OS48-25/26 – Date of the Next Meeting**

**RESOLVED:** The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Tuesday, 17 February 2026.

*Meeting closed 2108hrs*

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