



Rusper Parish Council  
c/o Rusper Village Stores  
East Street  
Rusper, RH12 4PX  
Tel: 07380 468256  
clerk@rusper-pc.gov.uk  
www.rusper-pc.gov.uk

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday 30th September 2025 at 7.00pm. This meeting was held at Rusper Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs M Cooke (Chair), G Hussey (Vice Chair), R Gatt, F Maitland-Smith, M Fenton, D Matthews, S White, G Fleming.

Apologies: Cllrs G Sallows, M Fillmore.

There were 5 members of the public for part of the meeting including representatives from Homes England and CAGNE.

*Meeting commenced 1900hrs*

#### **92-25/26 Apologies**

Apologies were received from the following Councillors: Cllr Malcolm Fillmore and Cllr George Sallows.

#### **93-25/26 Declarations of Interests**

**Agenda Item 9 – SWOI Campaign:** Councillor Fenella Maitland-Smith declared a **prejudicial interest** as she is also the Chair of the SWOI campaign.

*It was agreed to move the Planning matters item to follow after the CAGNE Agenda item.*

#### **94-25/26 Climate Crisis**

The Council acknowledged the current climate crisis and confirmed that all decisions made during the meeting would take consideration of climate impacts.

#### **95-25/26 Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the Council meeting held on **29th July 2025** were approved as a true record. It was noted that the minutes of the meeting held on **18th September 2025** will be approved at the next Council meeting.

#### **96-25/26 Open Forum**

Members of the public were invited to speak for up to three minutes each. Questions not addressed during the meeting will either be responded to in writing or included on a future agenda.

A question was raised regarding the status of the new bench in the playground. The Chair responded that the matter was included as a separate agenda item.

#### **97-25/26 CAGNE Legal and Expert Team Opposition to Proposed Gatwick Airport Runway & Airspace Change**

### **Update on Gatwick Proposal:**

CAGNE Chair provided an update on the current Gatwick Airport proposal, the Government's announcement of the new runway and the impact this will have on parishes near to Gatwick.

### **CAGNE Funding Application:**

The Council reviewed the funding application submitted by **CAGNE**. Consideration was given to the application and a decision on funding was made. It was **resolved** to award **£2,000** to CAGNE under **Section 137** to contribute towards legal fees for the Judicial Review. This expenditure is to be **budgeted for resolution at the October meeting for FY26/27 payment**.

### **98-25/26 Planning Matters**

#### **a) DC/25/1312 – West of Ifield, Charlwood Road, Ifield, West Sussex:**

The Council agreed its response to the planning application to meet the **deadline of 12th October 2025**.

It was **resolved** to **strongly object** to the application, with one **abstention** recorded.

The Council **delegated Councillors Simon White and George Sallows** to submit the **final wording of the objection** to the **Clerk** prior to the deadline.

The Clerk noted that the objection would be **copied to Homes England and Save West of Ifield**, as well as being **published on the dedicated West of Ifield page** of the Rusper Parish Council website.

#### **b) DC/25/0447 – Hilly Barn Road Appeal:**

Points raised in the appeal were discussed, and further evidence to the Planning Inspectorate was agreed and no further comments to be made.

### **99-25/26 Reports from Other Authorities**

None.

### **100-25/26 Financial Matters**

**a) Reports:** The following reports were approved: Reconciliation, Budget Report, and Unity Bank Statements/Transactions for July and August 2025. It was **resolved** to approve the reports the reports were signed.

**b) Schedule of Payments:** Approved as presented. It was **resolved** to approve the schedule of payments for August and September and to include the payment to Surrey Hill Solicitors as previously agreed by council.

**c) Poppy Wreath:** It was **resolved** to purchase a **poppy wreath** at a value of up to **£50.00** (s137).

### **101-25/26 Rusper Sports Club**

**a) Underlease Update:** A verbal update was received regarding the Sports Club underlease.

**b) Monitoring Compliance:** Next steps to ensure **transparency, compliance with lease terms**, and **financial reporting obligations** were discussed.

It was agreed that **Councillor Simon White** would progress the **financial records of the Sports Ground** to the Council. The matter will be **carried forward to the next meeting**.

**c) Security:** The Council noted recent incidents of **cars accessing the pitch at night** and discussed potential security measures. It was noted that the **football club** has posts ready to install to prevent vehicles from accessing the pitch. It was agreed that the installation of the posts could proceed **in accordance with the terms of the Lease**.

#### 102-25/26 **Gatwick**

The Gatwick report, published on the Parish Council website, was noted.

#### 103-25/26 **Roads, Footpaths, and Open Spaces Committee**

**a) Liz Kitchen Memorial Bench:** Deferred to the next meeting due to no update as the playground is currently under maintenance.

**b) Fingerposts Maintenance:** The Council noted that a **contractor has been appointed** and that **works will commence in October**. Additional repair costs were noted for the **telephone box hinge** and the **Lambs Green fingerpost**. It was noted that **two fingerposts may be missing**. This matter will be **carried forward to the Roads, Footpaths and Open Spaces Committee**.

#### 104-25/26 **Rusper Parish Council – TRO Application: WSCC Highways**

**a) TRO Application:** The Council noted the 20mph, 30mph, and 40mph zone TRO application was rejected.

**b) SID Socket Licence:** Consideration was given to supporting the **licence for the SID socket on Horsham Road**. It was **resolved to support the application**.

#### 105-25/26 **Reports from Representatives**

Councillors provided updates on any representation or working party activity since the last meeting. **Cllr Geoff Hussey** reported that playground repairs have started and are expected to be completed this week.

**Cllr Ritchie Gatt** reported that Village Hall meeting works have started, and expressed concern regarding future booking levels and rental usage in the village.

#### 106-25/26 **Code of Conduct Training**

Councillors noted that HDC Democratic Services has requested that all members reserve 2nd October 2025 for an online Code of Conduct training session.

#### 107-25/26 **New .gov.uk Website and Email Transition**

Council considered to terminate the contract with IONOS following the migration of councillors to the new email addresses from 31st October 2025. As 2 Councillors need to migrate across, it was agreed to carry this item to the next meeting.

#### 108-25/26 **Award of Contract – Procurement Act 2023 Compliance**

##### **Replacement Slide and Apparatus – Rusper Playground:**

It was resolved Under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public were excluded due to commercially sensitive information.

##### **a) Contract Award:**

The Council considered the **award of contract** for the replacement slide and playground apparatus.

Following **evaluation of bids** and compliance with the **Procurement Act 2023**, the **preferred supplier was approved as Wicksteed**, based on style, suitability, and compliance with the **evaluation matrix**.

The **Clerk/RFO** is to **issue the contract award** and **publish the necessary notices**.

**b) Funding Sources:**

Funding sources for the purchase and installation of new playground equipment were agreed. As follows:-

<b>Section 106 (Open Space Sport &amp; Recreation)</b>	<b>£16,018.16</b>	Allocated specifically for sports facility improvements under S106 agreement HDC:91003	Not applied for
<b>Courage Dyers Grant</b>	<b>£5,000.00</b>	External grant contribution towards the project	Not applied for
<b>EMR Reserve</b>	<b>£30,000.00</b>	Earmarked Reserve from Parish Council funds	Ear marked reserve
<b>Best Practice:</b>			
		Use Section 106 funds for eligible elements of the project, external grants (like Courage Dyers) to supplement, and only a proportion of EMR reserves to fill any remaining funding gap — ensuring balanced and responsible financial management.	

**109-25/26 Matters Arising**

Items for inclusion on the agenda of the next meeting were noted.  
Bank Accounts, Fingerposts, Budget.

**Next Meeting:** Planning Committee – Tuesday 15th October 2025

*Meeting closed 2118hrs*

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