

**COCKING PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**MONDAY 2 FEBRUARY 2026, 6.30PM**  
**AT COCKING VILLAGE HALL.**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs A Cornwell (Vice Chairman in the chair), D Imlach, Mrs J Jackson, W Renney and Miss F Russell.

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

G Burt, Clerk to the Council

**1. Apologies**

An apology for absence was received from Cllr T Carter due to a prior engagement. The apology and reason given was approved.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

Members and officers were invited to make any declarations of pecuniary and/or non-pecuniary interests that they may have in relation to items on the agenda and were reminded to make any declarations at any stage during the meeting if it then became apparent that this may be required when a particular item or issue was to be considered. None.

**3. Questions from Visitors**

None

**4. To receive reports from County & District Cllrs.**

Dis Cllr Dominic Merritt had circulated a report in advance, in tending his apologies. Both he and Dis Cllr Hannah Burton were at CDC meetings. Cty Cllr Tom Richardson had advised the Clerk that due to the number of parishes in his division, he could no longer regularly attend unless there was something that required his input etc.

*[The Clerk apologised to Members for omitting to inform them that Cllr Merritt had not been able to attend some recent meetings due to incapacity.]*

**5. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the 5 January 2025, previously circulated were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Vice Chairman.

**6. Clerk's Report**

None

**7. Planning**

There were no planning applications to consider.

**8. SDNP Local Plan Review - to receive any updates or new information.**

Members believed that the site in Cocking village was to be included in the final draft of the new Local Plan and discussed possible options.

**9. Local Government Reorganisation - to receive any updates or new information.**

The Government was expected to announce a decision on how Sussex unitaries would look in March. The Clerk said that at the CDC All Parishes meeting prior to the meeting, it was said that the Government was considering making the next term for parish councillors, starting in 2027, last 5 years, so as to bring the elections back into sync.

**10. Highways Updates**

- a. Footpaths & Footways – Nothing to report.

- b. Traffic Calming – Community Speedwatch – No report.
- c. Speed reductions – Still to be actioned.
- d. SID – Wilbar’s quote for new poles etc did not include an actual SID. The Clerk had circulated details of SIDs supplied by a leading supplier. He was asked to seek their advice on suitable models. (Easy to put up/take down/battery-operated.)
- e. Gritting – Cllr D Imlach had purchased some salt to go in the grit bins which had recently been emptied during the icy weather.

**11. Updates on Parish Matters**

- a. Playground – All planned repairs were now complete. It was agreed that the next ROSPA inspection would be arranged for the summer, as per usual.
- b. Village Hall – tarmacing in front of the relocated pedestrian gate was still to be undertaken.
- c. Policing – No meetings had taken place.
- d. History Column – Cllr Mrs Jean Jackson undertook to visually inspect the column annually and advise the Council accordingly.

**12. Finance**

- a. Payments since the last meeting were **RESOLVED** and any receipts **NOTED** – Appendix A and the list was initialled by the Vice Chairman.
- b. Bank Reconciliation to 13 January 2026 was **RESOLVED** – Appendix B and the corresponding bank statement plus bank rec. was subsequently initialled by the Vice Chairman.
- c. To consider grant application from Tylers Trust. **RESOLVED** not to support the application on this occasion.

**13. To consider draft new Financial Regulations**

The Clerk had circulated the NALC Model new Financial Regulations with suggested amendments. **RESOLVED** to adopt the new NALC Model Financial Regulations as amended.

**14. To review bank mandates**

The Council reviewed regular DDs, SOs and BACS payments and **RESOLVED** accordingly.

**15. To review the Council’s Asset Register**

Purchases since last year had been added accordingly, therefore **RESOLVED** as presented.

**16. To review the Council’s Corporate Risk Assessment**

There had been no changes since last year, therefore **RESOLVED** as presented.

**17. To consider draft new Standing Orders**

**DEFFERED** until next meeting.

**18. To note details of Annual Parish Meeting of Electors: Mon 23 March 2026 7pm.**

**Speaker, High Sherrif of West Sussex – Dr Tim Fook. NOTED.** Cllrs discussed the annual newsletter which is usually distributed in advance, to help promote the event. Cllr D Imlach offered to coordinate the content.

**19. To note date of Spring Clean: Saturday 21 March 10am-noon.**

**NOTED**

**20. Date of Next Meeting**

**Monday 2 March 2026 6.30pm**

The meeting closed at 7.15pm.

Chairman:

Date:

**APPENDIX A**

**COCKING PARISH COUNCIL**

**INCOME & EXPENDITURE SINCE LAST MEETING TO 2 FEBRUARY 2026**

*AC*

**EXPENDITURE**

Date	Payee	Cheque no.	Details	Gross	VAT	Net
02/02/2026	G Burt	1182	Clerk salary - Jan	£279.56		£279.56
			50% balance on new playground fence	£2,298.00	£383.00	£1,915.00
			VH Gutter repairs	£90.00		£90.00
			VH Room Hire 2025	£150.00		£150.00
02/02/2026	HMRC	1183	Clerk Tax - Jan	£69.80		£69.80
				<b>£2,887.36</b>	<b>£383.00</b>	<b>£2,504.36</b>

**APPENDIX B**

**BANK RECONCILIATION**

**CASHBOOK**

Balance brought forward as at 01/04/2025		17,485.38
Add Total Receipts		34,200.17
Less Total Payments		-34,119.45
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>17,566.10</b>

**BANK**

Lloyds Treasurers A/C (13/01/2026)*1		17,566.10
<b>Less unrepresented cheques</b>		
<b>Plus unrepresented deposits</b>		0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>17,566.10</b>

*AC*

**TALLY**

\*1 Includes £10,316.02 CIL