

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

PRESENT: Cllrs T Carter (Chairman), A Cornwell, D Imlach and Mrs J Jackson,

IN ATTENDANCE:

G Burt, Clerk to the Council

Dis Cllr Dominic Merritt

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs W Renney, Miss F Russell and D Summerfield due to prior engagements. The apologies and reasons given were 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, and highlighted the following: Discussions on progressing an acceptable rebuilding of the Angel Hotel in Midhurst were starting to bear fruit; he was campaigning for the front desk at Midhurst Police Station to be opened albeit PT, given that there were officers in the building anyway. Cllr T. Carter agreed to write in support from the Parish Council. Dominic was pushing CDC to allocate more funds to rural areas. He commented that he had been at another parish council meeting where the suggestion of merging small parishes was made. (Clerk advised that this was being proposed in some areas where the recruitment & retention of clerks was an issue.) Dominic had also noticed lots of bent highway signs in the area. Councillors wondered if this was due to vandalism. His next surgery is on 28 March 12-2pm Grange Leisure Centre. The Chairman thanked Dominic for attending and hoped his recovery would continue.

5. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the 2 February 2025, previously circulated were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

6. Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported that he had secured some f.o.c. traffic cones from Midhurst Town Council, to assist with village events.

7. Planning

There were no planning applications to consider.

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

The Chairman reported that he had attended the meeting of the SDNPA Planning Cttee and with local resident Robin Wills and spoke against the inclusion of the site in Cocking village, which had been earmarked by officers for inclusion in the Draft Local Plan. As a

result the site was excluded from the Draft Local Plan. Members accepted the advice that the landowner may now seek to have the site added back in to the Local Plan, at Regulation 19 stage. The Clerk had obtained a quote from the Planning consultant to prepare a submission. However, some Cllrs felt that this would not be good use of funds and that we could submit our own case. It was agreed to DEFER how to proceed, to the next meeting.

Cllr T. Carter added that he had sought clarity from SDNPA on how they had advised us of the results of the Reg 18 consultation. They advised that the feedback was cited in a planning newsletter. The onus being on interested parties to look for it!

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

The Chairman reported that he had heard a suggestion that, should future parish elections not fall on the same day as those of a principal council, then the cost to parishes would be significantly higher than currently, where parishes just pay for the marginal cost.

10. Highways Updates

- a. Footpaths & Footways – the Daffodils are looking splendid! Cllr Imlach reported that he had heard that a meeting had been held about extending the Centurion Way towards Cocking.
- b. Traffic Calming – Community Speedwatch – No reports for Jan & Feb. A new volunteer has come forward; Cllr T. Carter thought the group might wind down once the extra SID was in place.
- c. Speed reductions – The application to reduce the speed limit to the south of the village had been submitted.
- d. SID – A quote from Elan City had been circulated; to be considered at the next meeting.

11. Updates on Parish Matters

- a. Playground – All current planned works were now complete.
- b. Village Hall – A proposal by the VH Cttee to install an additional sign in the car park was supported.
- c. Policing – No meetings had taken place.

12. Finance

- a. Payments since the last meeting were **RESOLVED** and any receipts **NOTED** – Appendix A.
- b. Bank Reconciliation to 11 February 2026 was **RESOLVED** – Appendix B and the corresponding bank statement was subsequently initialled by the Chairman.

13. To consider draft new Standing Orders

The Clerk had suggested minor amendments to the latest new NALC Model Standing Orders. **RESOLVED** the NALC Model Standing Orders, as amended to be adopted accordingly.

14. Annual Parish Meeting of Electors: Mon 23 March 2026 7pm.

Cllr Mrs J. Jackson very kindly offered to make sausage rolls. The Chairman will organise red and white wine etc.

15. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 14 April 2026 6.30pm

The meeting closed at 7.25pm.

Chairman:

Date:

APPENDIX A

INCOME & EXPENDITURE SINCE LAST MEETING TO 2 MARCH 2026						
EXPENDITURE						
Date	Payee	Cheque no.	Details	Gross	VAT	Net
02/03/2026	David Imlach	1185	Rock salt for bins	£57.60	£9.60	£48.00
			Newsletter printing	£252.22		£252.22
02/03/2026	G Burt	1186	Clerk salary - Feb	£279.56		£279.56
			Room hire reimb	£165.00		£165.00
			Room hire reimb	£15.00		£15.00
			Zoom subscription	£155.88	£25.98	£129.90
02/03/2026	HMRC	1187	Clerk Tax - Feb	£69.80		£69.80
02/03/2026	Cowdray Estate	1188	Hist Col Gd rent	£20.00		£20.00
				£1,015.06	£35.58	£979.48

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		-38,294.30
TOTAL		13,391.25
BANK		
Lloyds Treasurers A/C (11/02/2026)*1		14,746.72
Less unrepresented cheques		
	1184	-£1,355.47
Plus unrepresented deposits		0.00
TOTAL		13,391.25
*1 Includes £10,316.02 CIL		

TALLY