

**COCKING PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**MONDAY 14 APRIL 2026, 6.30PM**  
**AT COCKING VILLAGE HALL.**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs T Carter (Chairman), D Imlach, Mrs J Jackson, W Renney, Miss F Russell and D Summerfield.

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

G Burt, Clerk to the Council

**1. Apologies**

An apology for absence was received from Cllr A Cornwell 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 in tending his apologies had circulated a report in advance – **NOTED.**

**5. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the 2 March 2026, previously circulated were agreed as a correct record and signed by the 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.**

Councillors considered whether to make a submission at the Reg 19 stage of the Draft SDNP Local Plan process, even though the Council had been successful in getting the site in the village removed from the plan at committee stage. They were mindful that the landowner may try to get it re-instated; if we did not make a submission at this stage, then we would not be able to appear in person in front of the Plan Inspector later on and challenge any reinstatement of the site.

i. **RESOLVED** that the Council make a submission at the Reg 19 stage.

ii. **RESOLVED** to reappoint Tony Fulwood to make such submission.

Councillors were concerned at the cost (£2.5k approx..) and the Clerk was delegated in liaison with the Chairman to seek a reduction in price given that so much of the *homework* etc had already been undertaken.

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

The Government had decided to reject all the options presented to them for possible new councils in Sussex upon which they had recently consulted. They would be consulting on their own hybrid option in due course – **NOTED**.

**10. Highways Updates**

- a. Footpaths & Footways – although WSCC had cleared the footway along the A286 as far as Bex Lane, the surface was breaking-up and someone had recently tripped. Clerk to report to WSCC.
- b. Centurion Way – updates from the SDNPA had been circulated. Members commented positively on the most recent extension and were pleased to hear that thought was being given to the extension to Cocking.
- c. Traffic Calming – Community Speedwatch – Report for March previously circulated- **NOTED**.
- d. Speed reductions – No progress on resubmitting the application to reduce the speed limit to the south of the village.
- e. Speed Indicator Device (SID) – A quote from Elan City for a SID had been circulated.
  - i. **RESOLVED** to accept the quote from WILBAR to install poles and sockets etc to allow the mounting of a SID in the sum of £2,108.50 to be funded from the Council’s CIL fund. (Cllrs Tim Carter and Andy Cornwell kindly volunteered to rotate the SID between poles as appropriate together with charging batteries etc.)
  - ii. **RESOLVED** to accept the quote from Elan City for a SID in the sum of £2,489.99 to be funded from the Council’s CIL fund.

**11. Updates on Parish Matters**

- a. Playground – The Clerk would arrange the annual ROSPA inspection.
- b. Village Hall – A new monthly Film Night was proving successful.
- c. Policing – No meetings had taken place.
- d. Other Village Maintenance Issues – *bent* signs were thought to be the result of extra-wide vehicles.
- e. No other meetings had been attended.

**12. Finance**

- a. Payments since the last meeting were **RESOLVED** and any receipts **NOTED** – Appendix A which was initialled by the Chairman.
- b. Bank Reconciliation to 10 March 2026 was **RESOLVED** – Appendix B and the corresponding bank statement was subsequently initialled by the Chairman.

**13. To receive minutes Annual Parish Meeting of Electors**

No matter had been raised requiring the Council’s attention. **NOTED**. Cllrs were disappointed with the low turnout despite the excellent presentation. The Clerk was asked to see if someone from *i-gas* may be able to attend the 2027 meeting.

The Clerk was asked to prepare a summary of Cllr attendance at council meetings each year that could be presented at the electors meeting.

**14. Date of Next Meeting**

**Monday 11 May 2026 6.30pm**

*The meeting closed at 7.27pm.*

Chairman:

Date:

**APPENDIX A**

**INCOME & EXPENDITURE SINCE LAST MEETING TO 31 MARCH 2026**

**EXPENDITURE**

Date	Payee	Cheque no.	Details	Gross	VAT	Net
23/03/2026	G Burt	1189	Clerk salary - March	£279.36		£279.36
			VH external lighting repairs	£384.00	£64.00	£320.00
23/03/2026	Cowdray Estate	1190	Ground Rent- Village Hall - 1st Part	143.66		143.66
			Ground Rent- Rec Field - 1st Part	100.00		100.00
23/03/2026	HMRC	1191	Clerk Tax - March	£70.00		£70.00
31/03/2026	Andrew James	1192	Play Area grass cutting	£115.00		£115.00
			Recreation Field grass cutting - March	£115.00		£115.00
				<b>£1,207.02</b>	<b>£64.00</b>	<b>£1,143.02</b>

**APPENDIX B**

<b>BANK RECONCILIATION</b>				
<b>CASHBOOK</b>				
Balance brought forward as at 01/04/2025		17,485.38		
Add Total Receipts		36,115.17		
Less Total Payments		-39,484.16		
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>14,116.39</b>	◀	
<b>BANK</b>				
Lloyds Treasurers A/C (10/03/2026)*1		14,116.39		
<b>Less unrepresented cheques</b>				
<b>Plus unrepresented deposits</b>		0.00		
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>14,116.39</b>	◀	
<b>*1 Includes £10,316.02 CIL</b>				

**TALLY**