

COCKING PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
MONDAY 5 OCTOBER 2026, 6.30PM

PRESENT: Cllrs A Cornwell (Vice Chairman in the chair), D Imlach, W Renney and Miss F Russell and D Summerfield

IN ATTENDANCE:

G Burt, Clerk to the Council
Dis Cllr Hannah Burton

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 submitted a written report, in tending apologies.

Dis Cllr Hannah Burton invited any questions but there were none. She mentioned that some halls were being taken to task on the lack of separate hand basins in hall kitchens where occasional commercial food preparation was undertaken

5. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the 7 September July 2026, 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.

Nothing new to report

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

Nothing new to report

10. Highways Updates

- a. Footpaths & Footways. Nothing to report.
- b. Traffic Calming incl. to receive latest Speedwatch report. Results from the last months had been circulated.

- c. To receive any update on bid to extend speed limit in village southwards. The Chairman had received a letter of support for the proposal from Andrew Griffith, MP. He had also made contact with an individual at SDNPA and provided them with the necessary details, currently awaiting their response. He had also chased local businesses (Cadence and English Woodlands Timber) asking them to respond to the email he sent them back in July requesting their written support for this initiative.
- d. SID update. The licence to place the equipment on the highways had been submitted and the obligatory public notices displayed.
- e. Highway Rangers - the Chairman has submitted a document listing possible work identified for them. WSCC Highways have raised 15 separate enquiries on their system to cover the list of work submitted. Members reported that all items had already been completed!
- f. Bus stops - Chairman had received a response from WSCC Highways to his enquiry as to whether the work on the bus stop opposite The Croft would have any impact on the lay-by to the north of it. The response confirmed that the lay-by would not be affected.
- g. Sussex 1550 Celebrations – Chairman had passed the details on to 'The Friends of the Blue Bell' who have expressed interest in taking on the organisation of a suitable celebration in Cocking, hopefully with the assistance of a grant.
- h. Branches etc overhanging Daffodil bank required a trim – Cllr Imlach to action.

11. Updates on Parish Matters

- a. Playground – The ROSPA report had been circulated to all Cllrs. Cllr Imlach said no urgent matters had been raised but other Cllrs noted comments about deterioration of kit and suggested we ought to think about replacing some items. The Vice Chairman said that grants had been mentioned during a recent SDNPA online meeting – Clerk to investigate.
- b. Village Hall – Cllrs Carter & Cornwell had cleared the low hanging branches at the bottom of the drive in to the car park and disposed of at the HWRC.
- c. Policing – No new meetings
- d. Other Village Maint. Issues – the carved wooden bench overlooking Costors Brook was wobbly! Cllr Imlach to investigate,
- e. Other meetings attended - none.

12. Finance

- a. Payments since the last meeting were **RESOLVED** and a list thereof was subsequently initialled by the Vice Chairman – Appendix A, and any receipts NOTED
- b. Bank Reconciliation to 14 September 2026 was **RESOLVED** – Appendix B and the corresponding bank statement was subsequently initialled by the Vice Chairman.
- c. To start consideration of 2027-28 budget – Members briefly discussed the 2027-28 budget. They noted that provision should be made in case an election takes place in May. Also work, albeit phased, was needed on the play area and may not be fully covered by grants. The Clerk once again was concerned about the level of reserves.

13. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 2 November 2026 6.30pm

The meeting closed at 7.00pm.

Chairman:

Date:

APPENDIX A

INCOME & EXPENDITURE SINCE LAST MEETING TO 5 OCTOBER 2026

EXPENDITURE

Date	Payee	Cheque no.	Details	Gross	VAT	Net
03/10/2025	Cowdray Estate	1212	Ground Rent- Village Hall - 2nd Part	143.66		143.66
			Ground Rent- Rec Field - 2nd Part	100.00		100.00
03/10/2025	4 Sight Vision Support	1213	Grant	£50.00		£50.00
03/10/2025	G Burt	1214	Clerk salary - June	£209.36		£209.36
03/10/2025	HMRC	1215	Clerk Tax - June	£140.00		£140.00
				£643.02	£0.00	£643.02

INCOME

04/09/2026	CDC	BACS	Precept Part II	£10,109.50
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APPENDIX B

BANK RECONCILIATION

CASHBOOK

Balance brought forward as at 01/04/2026		13,312.37
Add Total Receipts		21,099.37
Less Total Payments		-12,084.20
TOTAL		22,327.54

BANK

Lloyds Treasurers A/C (14/09/2026)*1		25,277.24
Less unpresented cheques		
1206	£279.20	
1207	£252.00	
1210	£1,820.84	
1211	£354.00	
1212	243.66	
		-2,949.70
Plus unpresented deposits		0.00
TOTAL		22,327.54

TALLY



*1 Includes £7,461.70 CIL