COCKING PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
MONDAY 2 NOVEMBER 2026, 6.30PM

PRESENT: Cllrs T Carter (Chairman), A Cornwell, D Imlach, W Renney and Miss F Russell.

IN ATTENDANCE:
G Burt, Clerk to the Council

1. **Apologies**
   None

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.
   Cllr David Imlach declared a personal interest in Min 13d as a member of the church.

3. **Questions from Visitors**
   None

4. **To receive reports from County & District Cllrs.**
   Dis Cllrs Hannah Burton and Dominic Merritt had tended their apologies. Cllr Merritt had submitted a written report.

5. **Minutes**
   The minutes of the meeting of the 5 October 2026, previously circulated were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

6. **Clerk's Report**
   The Clerk reported that CDC were consulting on Members' allowances, which this Council did not pay. Cllrs confirmed that this was not something they are very likely to do in the future.

7. **Planning**
   There were no planning applications to consider.

8. **SDNP Local Plan Review - to receive any updates or new information.**
   The Chairman advised that the final version of the plan was due to be considered by the authority on 12 November. The Vice Chairman said that at a recent meeting of CDALC, it was explained how the National Park where new housing was constrained, put added pressure on the area to the south in particular.

9. **Local Government Reorganisation - to receive any updates or new information.**
   The Government had postponed a decision on West Sussex - again!

10. **Water supply - following recent cutting off of village's water, to consider response.**
    Members discussed recent water outages in the village. It was reported that some on the priority risk had not received bottled water as should happen. **RESOLVED** that Southern Water be contacted asking for an explanation, pointing out that this was not the first time this had happened in recent years. Residents who were not already signed up to utility

providers' priority customer service would be encouraged to do so in the *Cocking Column.* Members would consider *offline* what more could be done to support vulnerable members of the community,

11. Highways Updates

a. Footpaths & Footways. Daffodill bank still to be strimmed.
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. Having gathered a whole raft of support, the Chairman had now submitted a comprehensive bid to WSCC asking for this request to be reconsidered.
d. SID update. Licence now awaited

12. Updates on Parish Matters

a. Playground - Cllr Imlach advised that he was seeking quotes to undertake works identified in the recent ROSPA report.
b. Village Hall – Members commented on the splendid annual Firework display. Well done to all concerned. Comment was made that the Council which helps sponsor the event got little mention. **RESOLVED** that Vice-chair to include mention of Parish Council's sponsorship in next issue of Cocking Column,
c. Policing – Cllr Cornwell said he hoped to get the local POCSO to a future meeting.
d. Cocking Column – to note increase – Members asked the Clerk to ascertain how this increase was arrived at, together with a suggestion that as many access the publication online, could just a few be printed and left in local pubs?
e. New / replacement noticeboards. **RESOLVED** that the Clerk would seek a quote to replace the board on the former Post Office which was nearing the end of its life.
f. Other Village Maint. Issues – the carved wooden bench overlooking Costors Brook was still wobbly! Cllr Imlach to investigate.

13. Finance

a. Payments since the last meeting were **RESOLVED** and a list thereof was subsequently initialled by the Chairman – Appendix **A,** and any receipts NOTED
b. Bank Reconciliation to 12 October 2026 was **RESOLVED** – Appendix **B** and the corresponding bank statement was subsequently initialled by the Chairman.
c. 2027-28 budget – the Clerk advised that CDC suggested the cost of a full contested election for the Parish Council next year would be £1,300. This needed to be budgeted for. [Cllrs asked that the Clerk suggest to CDC that they hold a one-day event in Midhurst next year to save all candidates traipsing to Chichester to hand in the nomination forms.]
d. Grant Applications
RESOLVED that an application by the Parish Church of St Catherine of Siena for a grant of £500 to be supported, towards the upkeep of the (open) churchyard in accordance with Section 214(6) of the Local Government Act 1972.

14. Date of Next Meeting
Monday 7 December 2026 6.30pm

15. Exclusion of Press & Public
RESOLVED that due the nature of the business about to be transacted (staffing), the press and public be excluded and they be instructed to withdraw.

16. <u>Pay Award</u>

Members were advised of the nationally agreed 2026-27 pay award, negotiated by NALC and SLCC. The Clerk was on SCP 17. **RESOLVED** that the Clerk's salary be increased in accordance with the national agreement accordingly. The Clerk thanked the Council.

The meeting closed at 7.28pm.

Chairman: Date:

APPENDIX A

INCOME & EXPENDITURE SINCE LAST MEETING TO 2 NOVEMBER 2026

EXPENDITURE

Date	Payee	Cheque no.	Details	Gross	VAT	Net
02/11/2026	HMRC	1217	Clerk Tax - October	£139.60		£139.60
02/11/2026	G Burt	1218	Clerk salary - October	£209.76		£209.76
			VH Fireworks	£1,837.00	£306.17	£1,530.83
			Poppy Wreath / Remembrance Day	£23.00		£23.00
02/11/2026	Mrs Pauline James	1219	Recreation Field grass cutting - Oct	£310.00		£310.00
			Play Area grass cutting - Oct	£310.00		£310.00
				£2,829.36	**£306.17**	**£2,523.19**

P.C.

APPENDIX B