MINUTES OF THE MEETING of Hadlow Down Parish Council
held in Hadlow Down Village Hall, Hadlow Down
at 7pm on Tuesday 3rd February 2026

Present: Councillors: Michael Lunn (ML) Chairman (+WDC), Peter Weston (PW) Vice-Chair, Ben Floyd (BF), David Munday (DM), Stephen Lester (SL), Alan Hobbs (AH) and Graham Long (GL).
In attendance: Vicki Rutt (Clerk), Cllr Bob Standley (ESCC) and 3 members of the public.

216. PUBLIC QUESTIONS – The following issues were raised during public question time and were noted:

- A resident read out a statement about the potholes on the A272. *"I am writing to inform the council of my recent observations regarding potholes on the A272. Firstly, I am seeing almost every day at least one vehicle, often two parked up changing damaged wheels and tyres. I see this as I travel the road and as I am working opposite the layby exiting the village going east. Also, outside my house or in Wilderness Wood entrance. Secondly, when traveling the A272 (and pretty much every other road) the oncoming vehicles are often swerving or driving on the wrong side of the road to avoid the potholes. I have seen some very near misses caused by this nature of driving. Both of the above are potentially life-threatening situations especially if you ride a motorbike or bicycle. Additionally, the method and materials used to carry out TEMPORARY REPAIRS must be challenged by ESCC Highways. I have watched these many times outside my house, and the workmanship is highly questionable and the materials substandard. The methodology is very unlikely to begin to reach industry standards. ESCC has an obligation to ensure the safety of road users and pedestrians. This is not being met by any standard. ESCC must revise their contract expectations to ensure repairs (even temporary repairs) are being carried out to the highest industry standard in both workmanship and materials used. I know this is not your problem, but I feel the council must use any power it has to correct this life-threatening issue."* The resident gave permission for the Clerk to forward to Highways. **Action 1.**
- Multiple complaints received about the state of the A272 and the fact that the recent large pothole that required Police presence has failed yet again, Clerk to report. **Action 2.**
- A resident stated that he felt trunk roads had different ownership and that is why they are repaired promptly, the answer was not known so Cllr Standley to find out. **Action 3.**

217. APOLOGIES – None.

218. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – BF and DM declared a personal interest in agenda item 221b due to it being adjacent to the New Inn.

219. MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on the 13th January 2026 was recommended for approval and signed as a true record (previously circulated).

220. OUTSTANDING ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

a. Action Log - Clerk reported from the action log which is available on the village website.
b. Clerks report - This was noted (previously circulated).

221. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a. WD/2026/0039/FA for CRISPHAMS COTTAGE, ROSERS COMMON, BUXTED, TN22 4QA
Variation of conditions 2, 3 and 11 of WD/2025/1711/f (erection of extensions, alterations, demolition and replacement of a garage and associated development) variation of materials.
PC comments: All Cllrs support this application.

b. WD/2026/0113/F and WD/2026/0114/LB for STABLE COTTAGE, HUT LANE, HADLOW DOWN, TN22 4HD
Internal and external alterations to the existing dwelling, including the excavation of a basement to provide additional rooms, and relocate the swing gate to hut lane entrance
PC comments: 4 voted in favour, 1 abstained and 2 were not allowed to vote due to declaring an interest. Therefore the Parish Council support the application however do note the issues around the impact on neighbouring properties including the New Inn during construction, the restrict access of delivery of materials and excavators, plus removal of material. There should be a traffic management plan in place for the site due it being on the A272 on a blind corner and timings to avoid peak travel i.e. school times

222. REPORTS FROM CLLR BOB STANDLEY, ESCC & CLLR MICHAEL LUNN, WDC

ESCC - Cllr Standley reported that the budget is always challenging but this is the first year that they will not be able to set a balanced budget without applying for emergency funding which is a loan. They have had an audit to confirm that there is nothing they could change to the services they deliver to save money. They have applied for a

£70m loan which will enable them to meet statutory duties. They are still awaiting the SEND white paper.
WDC - Cllr Lunn reported that Katy Bourne has requested £5.62m for extra policing at Crowborough Army Camp. The site is being monitored for incidents, there has been some false incidents reports but there have been 3 significant validated incidents thus far. There are 87 asylum seekers there at present, this is increasing daily. There was a Full Council held last week, where a further draft of the Local Plan was presented and approved to be put out for public consultation under Regulation 18. This will be a 6 week consultation with public exhibitions. There is no new housing allocation for Hadlow Down Parish except for windfalls but there are proposed 4 additional Gypsy and traveller sites in Stonehurst Lane that the Parish Council will need to respond. BF and DM to review this when consultation is formally published and draft a response. The documents are available to view now but any public responses must be submitted through the Wealden District Councils consultation portal **Action 4**.

223. HIGHWAYS: BF reported that the flooding has been terrible due to the blocked drains. ML reported that as well as Clerk reporting, a complaint has been submitted by a resident so awaiting a response. It was noted by another Cllr that only two drains were actually working through the whole village. Clerk to liaise with the road safety team about the recent consultation on speed sign reduction to seek an update. **Action 5**.

224. COMMUNITY CENTRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATE – next meeting is being held on the 10th February 2026.

225. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON DEVOLUTION – The Mayoral elections are being held in May 2028. The combined authority starts in March 2026 with the elections being held May 2027.

226. LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION – We await the consultation to be published.

227. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

a. Information re pothole on A272 w/c 12th January and incident on 15th January – Clerk reported that there have been several requests for timeline history of the pothole involving the incidents on the 12th and 15th January. All information has been shared.

b. Complaint re gulleys on A272 – A resident has written to Karl Taylor at ESCC about the state of the gulleys on the A272. It has been received and acknowledged. We are awaiting official response.

c. Removal of items from an ex-Cllr garage re asset register – BF agreed to remove the items and sorted. **Action 6**.

228. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS (COUNCIL MATTERS AND OUTSIDE BODIES): GL looked around the burial ground, the black gates are covered in mould so require a clean and there are willow clumps that need removing. Clerk to arrange a meeting with the Church wardens to discuss works required. **Action 7**.

ML updated that he met with the PCSO recently and she reported that rural crime is down this year. It was also noted that Hadlow Down should be included in Wealden Police communications when PSCO visits are being arranged and publicised.

229. CLERKS MATTERS:

a. Clerks hours for January 2026 – These were approved.

230. OTHER FINANCE MATTERS:

a. Agree Finance Report for February 2026 - The finance report was noted and approved by DM and PW. The detail can be found in **Appendix A**.

b. Agree and sign Bank Reconciliation for January 2026 - Approved and signed by DM and PW.

231. DEFIBRILLATOR BATTERY – this was checked on the 3rd February 2026.

232. ITEMS TO GO ON NEXT AGENDA: Local Plan consultation.

The meeting closed at 20:05

The next PC meeting date is Tuesday 3rd March 2026 at 19:00

Appendix A

Finance report for 3rd February 2026 PC meeting

Payments by Bank Transfer *paid* pending authorisation				
Date	**Payee**	**Payment Details**	**Amount**	
None				
Payments by Bank Transfer pending authorisation				
Date	**Payee**	**Payment Details**	**Amount**	
28.02.26	Vicki Rutt	Standing Order Febuary 2026	£1,216.02	
03.02.26	Vicki Rutt	Jan 2026 underpay	£153.74	
03.02.26	East Sussex Pension Fund	Pension Jan 2026	£402.70	
03.02.26	HMRC	Tax and NI for Jan 2026	£296.13	
03.02.26	Lucy McConachie	Play area inspection Jan 2026	£40.00	
03.02.26	Ben Blackford [pay via Miss Hulland]	Mole service in burial ground	£120.00	
03.02.26	DM Payroll Services Ltd	Payroll for Oct 2025 - March 2026	£163.20	
03.02.26	Hadlow Down Village Hall	Hall hire Feb 2026	£38.00	
Payments by direct debit for authorisation				
Date	**Payee**	**Payment Details**	**Amount**	
15.01.26	Wealden District Council	Q3 bins	£270.00	**
31.01.26	Unity Trust	Bank charge	£6.00	
Acknowledge receipt of monies				
16.01.26	Christopher Sarson Funerals	Internment fee for JW	£335.00	

**Due to the recent conversation between Clerk and WDC re bins, this quarterly service has now been reduced by £270 so 50%