



**Minutes of the Meeting of the Property Committee
at the Billingshurst Centre
Wednesday 10 December 2025 at 7pm**

Present

Cllrs Craig Gale (Chairman), Paul Berry, Phillip Day, Craig Jones and Doug Waller.

In Attendance

G C Burt, Clerk to the Council

Cllr Kate Rowbottom

1 Member of the Public

55/25 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman

- a. Advised that the meeting was being streamed to the internet.
- b. Asked Members to raise their hands if they wished to speak and speak clearly.
- c. Mobile phones should either be switched off or silenced.

56/25 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Edna Benger and Sandy Duck for approved reasons. On the proposal of Cllr Craig Gale, seconded by Cllr Doug Waller **RESOLVED** that the apologies and reasons given be accepted.

No apologies: Cllr David Hingamp

57/25 Declarations of Interest and Notification of Changes to Members' Interests

None.

58/25 Minutes

On the proposal of Cllr Craig Gale seconded by Cllr Doug Waller **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 8 October 2025, previously circulated, be accepted and signed as a true record by the Chairman of the meeting.

59/25 Clerk's Report

None.

60/25 Public Session

Cllr Kate Rowbottom advised the Council to be wary of taking on the woodland above Little East Street as it contained paths and steps which could be costly to maintain.

Steve Cooper said that WSCC was responsible for the hard surfaced routes on the above site. He then went on to expand upon the issues the 14 residents faced in trying to maintain the site so that the footpath remained clear.

61/25 Improvements to footpath link at Manor Fields

Agreement had been reached with HDC on a scheme to improve a soggy path linking Manor Fields to the Bypass Path and HDC had kindly offered to fund 50% of the cost. On the proposal of Cllr Doug Waller seconded by Cllr Craig Jones **RECOMMEND** to the F&GP Committee that it approves expenditure of £1,016 (from earmarked reserves emanating from the acquisition of Land at Kingslea Farm) towards the improvement of the footpath link between Manor Fields and the Bypass Pass. (HDC contributing the other 50%.)

62/25 Update on transfer of Cedars Farm Pond and Orchard to the Council.

A site meeting had been held between HDC and the Council to discuss the condition of these sites upon transfer. HDC had undertaken some work on the pond side already. The orchard side was largely just meadow. It had been agreed that HDC would seek a cost to clear the pond itself and create a circular walk. This could be done before transfer, or the sum given to the Council to organise itself. Councillors intimated that they would like to get the community and volunteers involved in shaping and maintaining the site. NOTED

63/25 To consider replacement of bus shelter at Adversane.

The wooden bus shelter at Adversane was in need of replacement and the Clerk had sought quotes accordingly for a design similar to existing. One from Littlethorpe was for an off the shelf model costing £11,608. The other from Woodscape was £17,080 but was a bespoke shelter. Cllrs felt that as the location was in a Conservation Area, the additional cost for a bespoke shelter was justifiable. On the proposal of Cllr Doug Waller seconded by Cllr Craig Jones **RESOLVED** that s106 funds for sustainable transport be sought for the replacement shelter in the sum of £17,080 from Woodscape accordingly. They also approved the proposal to relocate the noticeboard from Adversane Hall to the rear of the new shelter.

64/25 To receive the South & South East in Bloom results for parish.

The Committee reviewed the judges' reports for the village's three entries into the South & South East in Bloom competition. Station Road Community Gardens (SRCG), the village itself and St Mary's Churchyard had all retained their Silver Gilt. The extra work of volunteers had been appreciated by the judges, a point echoed by Councillors, who thought that overall the results were welcome, encouraging and pleasing. NOTED

65/25 To consider a request that Council purchases land at Maple Road.

The owner of protected open space at Maple Road had asked to meet with the Council to discuss its future, with a view to the Council purchasing it. The Committee considered that as the Council would not be willing or able to meet the likely £100,000+ asking price, a meeting would serve no purpose. On the proposal of Cllr Doug Waller seconded by Cllr Paul Berry **RESOLVED** that the request for a meeting be declined accordingly.

66/25 To consider a request that Council takes ownership of land at Little East Street (Bowling Alley)

Open woodland linking Little East Street to Amblehurst Green was privately owned by local residents, but through it runs a very popular public footpath. As it is a ROW, WSCC maintain the surface, but the land to the sides including some large trees is maintained by the said residents who are increasingly finding it difficult to fund through a charge on just 14 households. They were keen to see what assistance there may be from councils to help with what they consider an

onerous obligation. The Committee was sympathetic to the issue, but not inclined to take ownership and responsibility but see what help could be offered. On the proposal of Cllr Craig Gale seconded by Cllr Paul Berry **RESOLVED** that the Council not take ownership, but meet with residents and maybe other councils to see what help might be possible.

67/25 To receive property updates for information only

NOTED. The Committee's usual thanks to Officers for their endeavours was noted.

68/25 Date of Next Meeting: **11 February 2026**

Meeting finished at 7.43pm.

Chairman

Date