



**Minutes of the Meeting of the Property Committee
at the Billingshurst Centre
Wednesday 9 September 2026 at 7pm**

Present

Cllrs Phillip Day (Vice Chairman, in the chair until min 24/26), Sandy Duck, David Hingamp, Craig Jones, and James Marchant

In Attendance

Richard Plant, Assistant Clerk to the Council
Jade Cation, Chair of Wakoos Centre4children
2 members of the public

23/26 Chairman's Announcements

The Vice-Chairman opened the meeting and;

- 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.

24/26 To elect a new Chairman following the resignation of Cllr Craig Gale

On the proposal of Cllr Day and seconded by Cllr Duck, the Committee **RESOLVED** Cllr Craig Jones as the new Chairman of the Committee. Cllr Jones took the chair and proceeded to record his thanks to former Cllr Gale for his work with the committee.

25/26 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Edna Bengier, Paul Berry and Doug Waller for approved reasons. On the proposal of Cllr Jones seconded by Cllr Marchant, **RESOLVED** that the apologies and reasons given be accepted.

26/26 Declarations of Interest and Notification of Changes to Members' Interests

None.

**27/26 To receive a presentation from Jade Cation on Investing in Wakoos Centre4Children:
Securing Essential Early Years Infrastructure in Billingshurst**

The Committee received the presentation and asked follow-up questions. Cllr Marchant asked for clarification on the ownership of the land/building, which differed slightly from the presentation. Cllr Duck was present to give a detailed description of the events that led to the building of the WSCC C4C site. Cllr Hingamp questioned how the improvements mentioned would increase the capacity of the organisation. This was confirmed as increasing the site from 30-40 places to almost 80 places. Cllr Day questioned whether the length of Wakoos' lease would impact their grant availability.

28/26 Public Session

No members of the public wished to speak in this session

29/26 Approval of Minutes of the Property Committee meeting held on 10 June 2026

On the proposal of Cllr Day, seconded by Cllr Marchant, the Committee **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the meeting held on the 10 June 2026 as an accurate record and were signed as a true record by the chairman of the meeting.

30/26 Clerk's Report

The Assistant Clerk reported that following on from a previous enquiry, the refuse bins in Station Road Community Gardens could not be replaced for larger ones as they are emptied by HDC so would need the District Council's consent. This is being sought.

31/26 To consider granting landlord's consent to WSCC to convert Room 004 (Store) at Wakoos, Station Road to a Children's WC

Following on from the presentation earlier in the meeting that had touched on this, highlighting the need, the Committee considered the request and on the proposal of Cllr Day, seconded by Cllr Duck, **RESOLVED** to grant landlord's consent to WSCC.

32/26 To consider adopting the red BT telephone box in the High Street, to enable Whistlestop Arts to deliver an interactive local history/arts project

The Committee discussed the information provided in the report and attachments and on the proposal of Cllr Jones, seconded by Cllr Marchant, **RESOLVED** to adopt the telephone box, subject to it not being onerous on the Council's insurance.

33/26 To consider a request to mark the 1,550th Sussex Anniversary in 2027

On the proposal of Cllr Jones, seconded by Cllr Day, the Committee **RESOLVED** to support the program of activities, to include but not limited to a lighting of the Adversane Beacon and a community picnic, and to suggest to the forthcoming Budget Workshop that suitable funding be made available.

34/26 To receive property updates for information only

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

35/26 Date of Next Meeting:**11 November 2026**

Meeting finished at 7.56pm.

Chairman

Date