Minutes of the Meeting of the Property Committee
at the Billingshurst Centre
Wednesday 11 November 2026 at 7pm

Present
Cllrs Craig Jones (Chairman), Edna Benger, Paul Berry, Phillip Day, Sandy Duck and Doug Waller.

In Attendance
G C Burt, to the Council
3 members of the public

36/26 Chairman's Announcements
The 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.

37/26 Apologies for Absence
Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs David Hingamp and James Marchant for approved reasons. On the proposal of Cllr Craig Jones seconded by Cllr Doug Waller, **RESOLVED** that the apologies and reasons given be accepted.

38/26 Declarations of Interest and Notification of Changes to Members' Interests
None.

39/26 Public Session
Richard Cordy of Billingshurst Tennis Club spoke in support of their application for landlord's consent for an additional tennis court, then answered questions from Cllrs.

40/26 Approval of Minutes of the Property Committee meeting held on 9 September 2026
On the proposal of Cllr Phillip Day, seconded by Cllr Craig Jones, the Committee **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the meeting held on the 9 September 2026 as an accurate record and were signed as a true record by the Chairman.

41/26 Clerk's Report
The Clerk reported that he had been advised that day that the ownership by a third party of the garden to the rear of Adversane Village Hall had now been registered with the Land Registry. This was a precursor to its transfer to the Council, which was a prerequisite for the sale of the hall to the purchaser who required the garden.

42/26 To consider request for landlord's consent for additional tennis court at Lower Station Road Recreation Ground.
Members considered a request from Billingshurst Tennis Club for landlord's consent to site an additional tennis court at Lower Station Road Recreation Ground. Two sites were suggested, one

to the south of the existing courts (1) the other to the west (2). The Club had said that the extra court was required to meet a growing demand in a growing village. Members said the Council regularly supported clubs based at Jubilee Fields and had only recently agreed to support the Bowling Club. They recognised that the Tennis Club's previous bid for a new court at site 1 had been unsuccessful as it encroached too much into the centre of the Recreation Ground and were therefore pleased to see an alternative on the table. On the proposal of Cllr Phillip Day, seconded by Cllr Paul Berry the Committee **RESOLVED** that landlord's consent for a new court to the west (2) be supported accordingly, with suitable replacement tree provision to be agreed.

43/26 To receive update on land at The Cedars and to consider suggestion for future use of former orchard.

Members were advised that the transfer of land at The Cedars from HDC to the Council was proceeding. In anticipation of the transfer, Cllr Sandy Duck had proposed that the orchard site be used as a new burial site for human ashes in a garden setting, meeting a long-time requirement for villagers who wished to be buried in the village. Councillors spoke enthusiastically in favour of the idea, saying it would be an appropriate use for the site: it would preserve community usage, was central, would generate little traffic and deliver a long-standing need. On the proposal of Cllr Paul Berry, seconded by Cllr Sandy Duck, the Committee **RESOLVED** that the suggested use of Cedars Orchard as a space for the interment of (human) ashes be supported and that officers investigate further and report back accordingly.

44/26 To consider quotation for improved tree pit (to allow for a larger Christmas Tree) on the Village Green for Christmas 2027 and seek CIL funds accordingly.

DEFERRED pending additional quotations.

45/26 To consider quotation for replacement litter bins in Station Road Community Gardens and seek CIL funds accordingly.

Following another busy summer where litter had been a persistent problem in Station Road Community Gardens, officers proposed replacing the four litter bins in the gardens with larger and more robust steel bins. On the proposal of Cllr Craig Jones, seconded by Cllr Sandy Duck, the Committee **RESOLVED** that the replacement bins in the sum of £1,493 be supported accordingly, to be funded from existing budgets.

46/26 To support request to F&GP Cttee that the new tots' plays area gate in SRCG be met from the Council's CIL fund.

The Council's request to HDC to use S106 funds to replace a wooden gate at the entrance to a young children's playground in SRCG with a steel self-closing gate had been declined. As the gate needed to be replaced, officers had arranged for its replacement and had sought the Committee's support for it to be funded from CIL funds. On the proposal of Cllr Paul Berry, seconded by Cllr Doug Waller, the Committee **RESOLVED** that the replacement gate in the sum of £2,886 be supported accordingly, to be funded from existing budgets.

47/26 To consider replacement of remaining planters in High Street.

The wooden High Street planters were reaching the end of their life, and one had already been replaced this summer with one made of recycled plastic to test for its durability and attractiveness. On the proposal of Cllr Doug Waller, seconded by Cllr Phillip Day, the

Committee **RECOMMEND** to the F&GP Committee that CIL funds be released to allow for the remaining five planters be replaced accordingly in the sum of £3,175.

48/26 To consider major rebuilding and possible improvement of driveway to Jubilee Fields.

Members received a report on the state of the access road to Jubilee Fields; it was life-expired and being patched up regularly. The Clerk had met a civil engineer on site to look at a possible reconstruction which could include additional parking; some design concepts were included with the report.

The cost to rebuild as per existing was in the region of £150k to £175k and additional new parking £75k. HDC had confirmed since the agenda was issued, that s106 funds which it was thought could be applied to the scheme, were already committed to Better Billingshurst projects. The Clerk thought that the Council could at the moment possibly muster £100k from existing sources. On the proposal of Cllr Doug Waller, seconded by Cllr Craig Jones, the Committee **RESOLVED** that a specification be requested for both options, and more definite costs obtained so the Council can seek funds accordingly.

49/26 To receive property updates for information only

NOTED. The Committee's usual thanks to Officers for their endeavours was noted. Cllrs thanked and congratulated all involved in the parish's *In Bloom* efforts.

50/26 Date of Next Meeting: 13 January 2027

Meeting finished at 8pm.

Chairman Date