

EAST LAVINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
DRAFT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY 17th NOVEMBER 2025 at 18:15

The 6th Form Cafe, Hollington Centre, Seaford College

<p><u>PRESENT</u> Cllr Simon Longman, , Cllr Charles Britton, Cllr William Yates and Cllr Patrick Limpus. Parish Clerk Amy Harte.</p>	
<p><u>IN ATTENDANCE</u> District Cllr John Cross, 25 members of the public, Michael Blunt Graffham Parish News</p>	
<p><u>72/25</u> AGENDA ITEM 1: WELCOME Cllr Longman welcomed all to the meeting.</p>	
<p><u>73/25</u> AGENDA ITEM 2: APOLOGIES Cllr Barry Gosden, CDC; County Cllr Tom Richardson WSCC.</p>	
<p><u>74/25</u> AGENDA ITEM 3: DECLARATION OF INTERESTS None.</p>	
<p><u>75/25</u> AGENDA ITEM 4: MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS HELD ON 1st and 15th SEPTEMBER 2025 TO BE AGREED AND SIGNED AS A TRUE RECORD. Cllr Gosden to sign the minutes of the Meeting held on 15 September as Cllr Longman was not present. The Planning meeting minutes from the 1st September were RESOLVED to be a true record and duly signed by Cllr Longman. 4.2 COUNCILLORS & CLERK TO REPORT BACK ON ACTION POINTS FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Register of Interests has been updated with Cllr Britton’s involvement in CDALC & WSALC 2. All other actions carried out. 	<p style="color: red;">Minutes from the 15th September to be carried over to the January meeting for approval.</p>
<p><u>76/25</u> AGENDA ITEM 5: VISITORS’ QUESTIONS Niel Addison emailed the councillors with questions –</p>	

1. Cllr Yates stated that there was overwhelming support for the merger at the joint meeting. A significant matter which requires councillors to listen to parishioners' views. An ongoing process
2. Cllr Yates stated that Seaford College holds no view on the merger but will support whatever council is in place. Cllr Yates stated that he is present as a councillor not representing the School.
3. Cllr Britton stated that he thought the joint parish meeting would run differently and chose not to present a case against the merger. Cllr Britton stated that he could not see a benefit for residents of East Lavington but can see a benefit for Graffham Parish. He cannot see that there will be much difference for the residents. A member of the parish said that perhaps the money could be spent on other aspects apart from wholly administration.
4. Cllr Yates stated that the precept would perhaps double. Identity would be difficult to preserved perhaps. He referred to the different needs of parishioners. Graffham and East Lavington look at planning differently, he used a recent example. Bear in mind safeguarding the needs of both parishes.

Angie Mitchell, not in favour of the merger, asked how would it operate? Would East Lavington be outnumbered in the council? Precept would increase, and finances would be used for Graffham facilities. This is possible now anyway, she restored the war memorial and was not offered anything from Graffham's precept. Graffham is looking to gain East Lavington precept. Cllr Longman responded that he feels that it is one community sharing facilities and feels that all residents should contribute. Angie Mitchell stated that residents do pay to use those facilities. She doesn't feel that there will be any savings. Cllr Longman stated that the precept was used on 7 planning applications. Cllr Longman stated that joint parish councils can set up 'wards' and deal with planning applications relevant to the area. There is no local plan in either East Lavington or Graffham. Would it be proportionally represented? Cllr Limpus stated that it would be possible for the East Lavington parish councillors to decide on aspects relating specifically to East Lavington. The precept for East Lavington is one of the lowest, and he doesn't believe that an affluent area such as this would be adversely affected by a rise in precept. How would an East Lavington resident benefit? Cllr Longman feels that is it one community. New playground used as an example. Cllr Longman stated that CIL funding several years ago was offered to a neighbouring parish as East Lavington has nothing to spend it on. Cllr Limpus stated that this was a pre-emptive action as devolution would probably happen anyway and it would be better for East Lavington and Graffham to be in control of the situation and would therefore be in a better position to resist any further boundary changes. Cllr Limpus referred to the precept and how if we look further forward the money could be used for something that would benefit everyone. It is an opportunity to invest in the wider community.

Chris McGolpin, stated that what he doesn't feel has been covered is the rationale for Cllr Yates, Cllr Gosden and Cllr Britton being against the merger, he was disappointed that there wasn't a case presented against the merger. He would like to hear the views. He stated that Cllr Britton was quite strong in his opinion and would like Cllr Britton to share that. Cllr Britton cannot see a benefit for East Lavington residents to benefit from the merger. He didn't feel it appropriate to present as all he would say is he didn't see the benefit. Chris asked why should ELPC remain independent, Cllr Britton said that he could provide a document about it to him. He cannot see any benefit in the merger, he would prefer to stick with the independence of the parish. East Lavington is very small. He stated that he was horrified by the suggestion that there should be limits to councillors representing

East Lavington. Cllr Longman stated that he notified ELPC in July of the intention to hold a Parish meeting on merger, published the notice on Sept 14th, updated ELPC on 15th September that both cases would have equal time to present their case. The joint Parish Meeting was advertised to the community through the Parish news delivered to every house and shared on social media. Cllrs Britton, Gosden and Yates were given plenty of notice and the opportunity to speak, but chose not to. Cllr Limpus asked if it would be possible to take an indicative vote from people in the room. Cllr Yates pointed out that it may not be right to indicate your votes publicly. 6 people in the room had not yet voted. Chris asked Cllr Britton to reply to his question.

Cllr Britton read his response – as a councillor his views are that he is not objecting to the proposed merger and thinks it may well happen, it is just that he cannot see a benefit for ELPC but there is definitely a benefit to Graffham, he thought that public would speak more, and due to the fact that the Chair had given such a good presentation he didn't want to say anything.

Some history from 1570's was explained. East Lavington had a large house and everything was owned by the lord of the manor, the lord of the manor gave the playground to Graffham as they had lots of houses.

To what extent are councillors expected to represent the views of the parish. Cllr Limpus, Longman and Yates felt that councillors should listen to what parishioners have to say rather than their own views. Cllr Yates stated that it was also important to look after the needs of the parishioners which may be different to the interests of Graffham parish.

It was stated by a visitor that East Lavington exploits the resources of Graffham anyway, so that may be why it is difficult to see the benefits.

77/25

AGENDA ITEM 6: DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT (Mr John Cross, District Councillor)

December 2025

CDC Matters

In the early 1980s the then CDC Council purchased, with the help of a National Heritage Memorial Fund, eight paintings on wood for the sum of £6500. The paintings known as the 'Amberley Panels' or more correctly 'The Worthy Women' date just before Henry VIII's split from Roman Catholicism and formed what is now the Anglican (Catholic) church. It is thought one of the women depicted is indeed his first wife Catherine of Aragon, all the women are portrayed as Goddesses. The paintings were painted in 1526 and were commissioned by the then Bishop of Chichester for his castle at Amberley, and the artist is the same artist who painted the images of Kings and Queens of England in Chichester Cathedral, Lambert Barnard. These panels are of national, if not international significance, because of their provenance, the depiction of Women and their place and commissioning just prior to the reformation.

A great asset for the district, yet these paintings are badly in need of conservation and display cases that protect them for the future. The Cabinet at CDC, on the 4th November, agreed to put aside £191.300 for this work, but with the hope that external sources of funding could be sought to mitigate and reduce this sum. This is a lot of money, but the Council is Museum Accredited, which means that the down side we are

<p>obligated to look after our collection and if we choose to dispose of anything we have to offer that object first to other collections and museum that are also museum accredited. CDC did investigate doing this with these panels, but all offers were keen to have the paintings after we had spent the money conserving them! The good side of being accredited gives us access to national and government funding, which otherwise would not be available to us. The Novium Museum in the coming weeks and months will be introducing various fund raising projects and I will let you know when they come on stream.</p> <p>On another matter there has been an increase in fly tipping, particularly around the lanes around Fittleworth, Bignor, Sutton and Barlavington. Every week I seem to be reporting another instance of this happening, this cost us all a lot of money to clear up. In some cases, the waste is toxic, and specialist services have to be called out. If you witness or suspect any vehicle of fly tipping, could you drop me a line. Obviously clear evidence is great, but sometimes several reports of the same suspected vehicle/person gets us to where we need to be.</p> <p>John Cross Fittleworth Ward Chichester District Council</p> <p>Cllr Cross said that CDC is not giving away its reserves. He stated that he is neutral to the merger but has had numerous residents contact him as they don't feel that the parish council is neutral on planning matters, particularly in relation to Seaford College so is something that the council should be aware of.</p>	
<p><u>78/25</u></p> <p>AGENDA ITEM 7: COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT (Mr Tom Richardson, County Councillor)</p> <p>No report received.</p>	
<p><u>79/25</u></p> <p>AGENDA ITEM 8: PROPOSED MERGER OF GRAFFHAM AND EAST LAVINGTON PARISH COUNCILS</p> <p>Cllr Longman stated that the merger has been discussed for a year now. Several electors expressed that they wanted to be consulted. In September he announced that the joint Parish Meeting would take place on 14 October. Cllr Longman believes that it was widely advertised, and the engagement was far greater than expected. The indicative vote was 92% in favour. Letters were written to get further engagement. There are letters of support from Westerlands, Lavington Studd. Seaford College as a charity remains neutral and will support any council in place. The Clerk was asked for further responses. Cllr Yates stated that he would like to make sure that this is done right before forging ahead, but before devolution. Cllr Britton felt that it would be fairer to draw from the whole community and both parties need to be involved. Cllr Limpus is clear on why he thinks the councils should merge. He feels thrashing out the details can come after agreeing to move forward. Cllr Yates feels that Cllr Gosden should also be present if making such an important decision, Cllr Longman asked if the council could make a decision on moving forward at this meeting. The need to move forward together with Graffham was mentioned. Discussion took place on the views of Cllr Gosden. Model orders are available and there are mechanisms Cllr Yates believes that the merger should go forward but once details are decided. Cllr Longman proposed the</p>	<p>All – Consult with Graffham PC and move forward with the merger process.</p>

vote: ELPC are in favour of merger with protections for East Lavington residents This was agreed unanimously.

80/25

AGENDA ITEM 9: PLANNING - Applications & Decisions,

1. **SDNP/25/03160/FUL** The Lavington Stud, The Drive, East Lavington, West Sussex, GU28 0NQ. Restoration and regeneration of Lavington Stud and Estate with a new environmental farming and management regime supported by development proposals on two sites comprising: Home Farm: main stud stables area and office. Demolition of C20th stable ranges and barns and the construction of a new principal Estate dwelling with pool and tennis court; renovation and alteration and change of use of traditional courtyard buildings to form 7 no. self-contained holiday lets, offices and a multifunctional space for education, Estate meeting room, and ancillary residential and tourist visitor use; retention of other buildings as existing stables and storage; and Callows (alternative to implemented scheme SDNP/18/00938/FUL): Renovation and alteration of existing buildings to facilitate a change of use to form 5 no. dwellings; demolition of existing bungalow and replacement with one dwelling; renovation, alteration and change of use of existing equestrian buildings to enterprise units within Use Class E(g). Retention of the existing portal framed barn for agricultural storage.
Comments submitted, application in progress.

2. **SDNP/25/01181/FUL Tangletrees** The Street Graffham West Sussex GU28 0QA Replacement dwelling, ancillary building and associated landscaping including ha-ha and pond. Comments submitted. **Still in Progress**

3. **SDNP/24/04099/FUL Westerlands** Norwood Lane East Lavington West Sussex GU28 0QJ. Application for the use as a campsite consisting of 24 tent pitches, including up to 5 motorhomes and structures including an outdoor kitchen, 2 toilet blocks, a shower/washing up block with a drainage field, wooden shelter for diners, non-permanent trailer for managers accommodation and a car park. (Change from temporary to a permanent permission (originally approved under SDNP/18/05595/FUL). ELPC Raised No Objection. **Decision Pending**

81/25

AGENDA ITEM 10: FINANCE

Documents circulated to Councillors by email.

1. Approval of Accounts to 17/11/25

Income & Expenditure

EXPENDITURE	DETAIL	DATE (TO BE PAID)	AMOUNT
Clerk's Salary	27 hours@ £18.72	18/11/25	£505.44
Office Allowance	2@£20	18/11/25	£40.00
Website Hosting	One.Com	27/10/25	£270.89
Total expenditure			£816.33

Clerk to make payments, make amendments to the accounts spreadsheet and to submit the precept request.

INCOME RECEIVED FROM	DETAIL	DATE REC'D	AMOUNT
Total income			

The Accounts were approved with amendments to the summary spreadsheet which was not showing the website hosting. All payments RESOLVED to be approved.

2. Other Financial Issues
2.1 Budget Setting

The budget was discussed with the increased website hosting cost due to Graffham Parish Council now hosting through Parishes Online.

Precept request of £4250 was RESOLVED.

82/25

AGENDA ITEM 12: CORRESPONDENCE & INVITATIONS RECEIVED 16 September to 16 November 2025

DATE	FROM	DETAIL	AGREED ACTION

83/25

AGENDA ITEM 13: REPORTS RE ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS, COURSES AND / OR SEMINARS

Cllr Longman attended the 150th St Giles celebration service in Graffham.

Also the Remembrance Service at Graffham War memorial – with a wreath he personally funded.

Cllr Britton 4th November, WSALC AGM, and then on 10th. CDALC meetings.

Cllr Longman requested that when there are votes taking place at CDALC or WSALC these should be communicated to the parish council as Cllr Britton has a declared interest as a Director of WSALC.

Cllr Britton to inform the parish Council of any relevant votes.

84/25

AGENDA ITEM 14: PARISH MATTERS

1. RIGHTS OF WAY & HIGHWAYS

Nothing to report

85/25

AGENDA ITEM 14: Dates of Forthcoming Meetings

Monday 19th January 2026

Monday 16th March 2026

Monday 18th May 2026

Monday 20th July 2026

Monday 21st September 2026

Monday 16th November 2026

These minutes are an accurate record of the meeting

Signed:

Name & Position:

Date:

Meeting closed 1938