

# FERRING PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the meeting of **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** held on **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2025** held at the village hall. The meeting commenced at 7.00pm.

## **Present:**

**Parish Councillors:** Councillors Clare Royal, Ruth Arnold, Lesley Young, Stuart Davies, Simon Bromley, Roger Elkins, Graham Bootle, Andy Walker & John Tero.

**West Sussex County Councillor:** Roger Elkins

**Arun District Councillors:** Roger Elkins & Mark Turner

**Residents:** Three residents in attendance

The Chairman welcomed all present to the meeting and commenced the formal proceedings.

## **A01-05-2025 Approval of the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024 were approved by Council and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

## **A02-05-2025 Annual Report from the Chairman of Ferring Parish Council**

Councillor Clare Royal read the Chairman's Annual report.

## **A03-05-2025 To receive report from Arun District Councillors District Councillor Mark Turner reported:**

It has been a busy year across the Council with my attendance on the Audit & Governance, Standards and Corporate Support Committees as well attending numerous events and meetings as The Armed Forces Champion for Arun. Some key ongoing issues are:

1. Local Plan for ADC now building evidence with update reports. Proposal to employ external consultants shelved due to Local Government Reorganisation. Neighbourhood Plans are still being developed by various neighbourhoods (East Preston Neighbourhood Plan was due to commence consultation in April)
2. Some significant building and development projects have been approved including the West Bersted development of 2200 homes.
3. A number of proposed local projects have been considered and the Littlehampton Sea Front Project continues apace and a number of play areas (incl Ferring) have been upgraded or rebuilt. Other projects have been rejected, deferred or reduced often following input from councillors and residents. The plan for beach huts at 10 different sites across Arun was reduced to just two sites after significant concerns raised by Malay including your local councillors and Ferring residents. Ferring was removed from the project list altogether.
4. Parking has been an ongoing problem across the district linking as it does with the prosperity of our shopping areas. Whilst some areas enjoy free parking (using discs and apps) others suffer increasing charges or overuse. Increased parking enforcement is now in place outside the Civic Centre in Littlehampton.
5. I have attended all but one of the Arun Flood Forums who last met in April 2025 receiving updates from Southern Water, Environment Agency and WSCC. Recent news has included £5.6m investment over 5 years from Southern Water towards

biodiversity and conservation of ecological resilience of sites in the Arun Valley. The unadopted outfall at Alnwick is now being improved jointly by ADC, WSCC and Southern Water. At ADC full council on the 14th a motion was unanimously passed to write and seek a date for the termination of sewage in the sea and a corresponding degradation of sea water.

6. With changes to our bin collection due in February 2026 (including introduction of food waste) and the desire to deliver excellent local services I encourage all residents to complete "The Arun Residents' Survey" which is now live and open to all Arun residents. Available at [arunresidentsurvey2025.co.uk](https://arunresidentsurvey2025.co.uk)
7. The announcement of "Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation" has caused considerable amounts of work by staff and council members to collect information, analyse and assess the information and generate appropriate economically sound options to adhere to the demanding timescales being imposed by central government. There is a significant decision point in late September when the Arun District Council business case will be submitted to government. Liaison and coordination is taking place with other councils in Sussex but an unanimously agreed position, given the complexities of the current layout of authorities in Sussex, is perhaps unlikely. It is hoped that priorities, options and plans will be announced to residents in a timely manner.

I would like to thank all those that have contacted me during the year as we continue to make Ferring such a pleasant place to live. I would like to add my thanks to Ferring Parish Council for all their hard work. Most of which is unsung and unheralded but which reflects the very important notion that they live and work in Ferring and truly represent its people.

#### **District Councillor Roger Elkins reported**

- Noted the refurbishment of the public conveniences on the village green and that it is hoped that the planned renovations at the public convenience facility near the beach will be discussed at the next ADC Environment Meeting.

#### **A04-05-2025 To receive report from West Sussex County Council Councillor County Councillor Roger Elkins reported**

- Due to Devolution, the county elections were cancelled.
- The overall budget is 2.2 million pounds
- A new highways contractor was appointed in April 2025 and a new monitoring system has been introduced.
- Traffic Regulation Order with double yellow lines has been implemented at junctions in Greystoke Road and there has been resurfacing in Sea Lane.
- The change to the bus timetable was noted and congestion in the village continues to be a discussion point.
- With 40,000 pot holes filled in the county in 2024, the technique has become more advanced and on average a pot hole will be filled within 14 days of it being reported.
- Highways issues can be reported to WSCC, highways contact 01243 642105.
- The demands on children services and adult social care have increased significantly.
- WSCC has held a Devolution briefing and four options are being considered. A submission is expected September 2025. Elections for Mayors will be 2026 and Unitary elections in 2027 working as a shadow council working with the existing council until Devolution implementation in 2028.
- It was advised that the government paper for Town & Parish Council's expected July 2025 will not happen. The Unitary Council's will decide the role of the Town & Parish Council's.

**A05-05-2024 Public Question Time**

A resident asked regarding hang gliding flying over Goring and Ferring seafront, raising concerns with regards to safety and that the hang gliders are intrusive and incredibly close to properties and people. It was noted that Worthing Borough Council does have a bylaw in place.

It was agreed that the Clerk will contact Worthing Borough Council and Arun District Council for further information and to highlight the issue.

Mrs Nadine Phibbs  
Clerk to Ferring Parish Council