

All minutes are draft and subject to approval at the next meeting

FERRING PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the meeting of FERRING PARISH COUNCIL held on **Monday 26th January 2026** the Village Hall. The meeting commenced at 7.30pm.

Present:

Parish Councillors: Councillors, Clare Royal (Chairman), Ruth Arnold (Vice Chairman), Marlon Foakes, Simon Bromley, Andy Walker, Lesley Young, Simon Ash, Stuart Davies, Roger Elkins & Graham Bootle.

West Sussex County Councillor: Councillor Roger Elkins

Arun District Councillors: Councillor Roger Elkins

Residents: There were two residents in attendance

Councillor Clare Royal, Chairman, welcomed all present to the meeting and commenced the formal proceedings.

01-01-2026 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from District Councillor Mark Turner. The apologies were accepted.

02-01-2026 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

03-01-2026 Public Questions

A resident noted that the tarmac works at the railway crossing are now complete and expressed thanks to the Clerk and District Councillor Mark Turner for pursuing Network Rail and helping to ensure the works were completed.

A resident referred to correspondence received from ADC regarding the local election scheduled for 7th May 2026 and asked whether the election was going ahead.

Councillor Roger Elkins advised that the timing of the ADC correspondence was unfortunate and confirmed that he had raised the matter with the Leader of the Opposition and Conservative Group, Shaun Gunner.

04-01-2026 Minutes of the Full Council Meeting 17th November 2025.

The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting on 17th November 2025 were approved by Council. The minutes were signed by the Chairman for this meeting presiding as a correct record.

05-01-2026 Actions update from the last meeting

There was nothing to mention.

06-01-2026 To receive and consider reports from Committees including the authorisation of orders for payment:

a. **Environment Liaison Committee** - Councillor John Tero, meeting held 15th December 2025
In the absence of Councillor John Tero, Councillor Graham Bootle advised:

Urgent items for the FPC Contractor's action

- a. Damaged Bus Stop Sign - dangerous pole removed at the Pantiles.
- b. Langbury Lane shelter - Perspex window has been replaced.

Other matters

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a. Pantiles Ditch – A blockage at the Pantiles ditch has been identified. The culvert appears to have semi collapsed and the water is high in the ditch to the east and almost empty to the west. The Parish Office spoke to Ferring Nurseries who regularly clear the ditch. They reported back to say that the pipe is blocked under the car park area outside the Dress shop and Hairdressers.

For information, WSCC Operation Watershed grant was used to complete CCTV and clearance of the ditches which was completed in 2015.

F&GP Committee 14th January agreed Actions:

The Clerk will liaise with Arun District Council (ADC) and West Sussex County Council (WSCC) to establish whether there is a formal process and any suggested or standard correspondence, as this matter relates to riparian ownership.

The Clerk will visit the businesses believed to own the relevant section of the ditch to confirm ownership and to make them aware of the issue.

The Clerk will forward all relevant information to Councillor Roger Elkins, who will investigate the riparian ownership process further with WSCC.

The Clerk has contacted ADC & WSCC. Due to this being riparian ownership, the Clerk is liaising with a WSCC Flood Risk Management Officer. WSCC are now taking the lead on this matter.

Council noted that the WSCC Flood Risk Management Officer has advised that the immediate headwall/culvert entrance is on your parcel of land.

b. **Planning & Licensing** – Councillor Ruth Arnold, meetings held 14th & 26th January 2026. At the Planning & Licensing Committee Meeting this evening with just one objection.

c. **Neighbourhood Development Plan Committee** – no meeting held.

There was nothing to mention.

d. **Roads, Community & Sports Committee** - Councillor Clare Royal, meeting held 1st December 2025

a. **Road matters** – Agreed to form a FPC Working Group comprising Councillors Clare Royal, Stuart Davies, and Marlon Foakes, to explore the possibility of Community Highways Schemes (CHS) for parking outside shops, bus lane bays and two Traffic Issue Sea Lane/Rife Way Junction.

e. **Finance & General Purposes Committee** (including the authorisation of orders of payments and recommendations from the Committee). Councillor Lesley Young meeting on 14th January 2026.

a. **Accounts and Finance** – Income & Expenditure October & November 2025 - Approved

The above is **RESOLVED** by Full Council.

07-01-2026 Council noted payments made under dispensation for expenditure for Committee minuted instruction.

Environment Liaison Committee 15th December 2025

Surplus noticeboard refurbishment (community noticeboard) £300.00

Pantiles noticeboard refurbishment £215.00

08-01-2026 FPC Precept 2026 – 2027 –

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The Clerk presented the 2026 – 2027 Precept. Council approved a 5% increase and the set precept amount for 2026 – 2027 will be £97,843.20. Based on a 5% increase in the parish precept, as calculated by Arun District Council and adjusted for the Tax Base figure (the number of registered contributing dwellings), the Band D Council Tax contribution for 2026–2027 will be £39.71. This is slight increase compared with the 2025 – 2026 rate of £37.62.

The above is **RESOLVED** by Full Council.

09-01-2026 Grant Application – Wadars grant application £1000.

After a brief discussion, Council approved a grant at £500.

The above is **RESOLVED** by Full Council.

10-01-2028 Devolution Working Group –

Council noted that there is no further update following the submission of the Completed Business Case 26th September 2025.

11-01-2026 Ferring Village Hall Liaison (Councillor Ruth Arnold)

The next meeting will be held on 27th January 2026, any matters to be raised to be sent to Councillor Ruth Arnold.

12-01-2026 ADC Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) Consultation – Council noted Comments submitted.

13-01-2026 Reports from District and County Councillors

Arun District Councillor Mark Turner, in the absence of District Councillor Mark Turner, Councillor Clare Royal advised:

- Arun District Council has been reviewing its Public Spaces Protection Order (for alcohol related Anti-Social Behaviour) which expires in March 2026. The public consultation closed at midday on the 19 January 2026. The ADC proposal is to rewrite the PSPO from its current designation covering most of Arun District Council's area and reduce it to just the town centres of Littlehampton and Bognor Regis. I have strongly advocated that the area of the Goring Gap within Arun District MUST be included and listed with a PSPO to ensure that it correctly relates to and complements the Worthing Borough Council's PSPO which includes their element of the Goring Gap. The Goring Gap is a known and recurring magnet for all sorts of drinking, including under age, and a PSPO is a useful tool in managing this problem.
- The height restriction barrier on the southern end of metal road running North-South between Marine Drive and Amberley Drive has been replaced with a new 2.2m steel barrier. This complements the concretes posts repaired last year. I am grateful to Cllr Elkins CC for his work with his WSCC Colleagues and Highways in getting this work done.
- Arun District Council's Monitoring Officer, Daniel Bainbridge, has resigned and will leave his post in early April for an appointment with another council. He is the primary advisor on legal and governance issues for the Council and all its associated town, borough and parish councils. We wish him well in his new appointment.
- In September ADC announced a review of its Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme (LCTRS) for 2026, aimed at strengthening support for our most vulnerable working-age residents. The revised scheme was approved by the Full Council in December and now for the first time the scheme also includes Armed Forces Veterans.
- Simpler Recycling update – new bins and food waste service. From early December 2025, all residents will start to receive a postcard with details about the delivery of new

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180-litre wheeled bins, scheduled to begin in early January. This marks the first major step towards introducing weekly food waste collections in April. The postcard includes important information and directs residents to options for: opting out of receiving a new 180 litre bin (only if they already have a 180-litre or smaller bin) and requesting collection of any old, unwanted bins. Both services will be available via e-forms on the council website or by contacting the council's customer service team. Further details about these changes and the new waste collection arrangements can be found at: www.arun.gov.uk/simpler-recycling.

Arun District Councillor Roger Elkins advised the following:

- Staying with the changes to the refuge and recycling, there appears to be confusion with regards to the delivery of the new 180 litre bins and the return of existing bins to ADC. The Clerk will advise Councillor Mark Turner that a few Councillors have not received the postcard or a copy of Arun Times with details about the delivery of new 180-litre wheeled bins. The Clerk advised that the information is available on the parish council website.

WSCC County Councillor Roger Elkins advised the following:

- The major clean-up operation continues to recover debris including organic materials, metals, plastics and container parts that came from cargo ships off the coast in December and January.
- WSCC Children's Services have underperformed in past years. However, significant improvements have now been made to better support children with additional needs.
- WSCC will shortly be setting their 2026 – 2027 budget with a recommended 4.99% increase which will be considered by Full council 20th February. It was noted that this will be the last budget set before moving to a Unitary Council.
- Reference to local elections, it was noted that the local elections for May 2025 were postponed. It was confirmed that the May 2026 are postponed due to resources being used to support the move to a Unitary Council. It was advised that the mayoral elections are scheduled for 2028.

NB. Clarification supplied 27.01.2026: With reference to local elections, the elections for a West Sussex Unitary Council are expected to take place in 2027, with mayoral elections scheduled for 2028.

14-01-2026 Urgent matters arising, since the preparation of this Agenda & Items to be referred to next agenda.

Councillor Ruth Arnold gave her apologies for the next meeting on 16th March 2026.

The next meeting date is 16th March 2026

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.45pm

Mrs Nadine Phibbs,
Clerk to Ferring Parish Council

Minutes approved

Chairman **Date**