

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 20th April 2026** the Village Hall. The meeting commenced at 7.30pm.

Present:

Parish Councillors: Councillors, Clare Royal (Chairman), Simon Bromley, Simon Ash, Stuart Davies, Roger Elkins, John Tero & Graham Bootle.

West Sussex County Councillor: Councillor Roger Elkins

Arun District Councillors: Councillors Roger Elkins & Mark Turner

Residents: There were two residents in attendance

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

01-04-2026 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Andy Walker & Ruth Arnold. The apologies were accepted.

02-04-2026 Declarations of interest

Councillor Clare Royal declared an interest in agenda item 6,e,d Allotment Water System.

03-04-2026 Public Questions

There were public questions.

04-04-2026 Minutes of the Full Council Meeting 16th March 2026.

The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting on 16th March 2026 were approved by Council. The minutes were signed by the Chairman for this meeting presiding as a correct record.

05-04-2026 Actions update from the last meeting

There was nothing to mention.

06-04-2026 To receive and consider reports from Committees including the authorisation of orders for payment:

a.**Environment Liaison Committee** - Councillor John Tero, meeting held 23rd March.

There are a number of ongoing projects including the proposed boardwalk and replacement of the planter at the community noticeboard area.

The Clerk advised that, following a meeting with the Contractor, difficulties have arisen with the installation of hanging baskets on lampposts due to existing signage. The Clerk will discuss this further with Councillor Andy Waker.

b.**Planning & Licensing** – Councillor Ruth Arnold, meetings held 8th & 20th April

A Planning & Licensing Committee meeting was held earlier this evening, at which the Committee resolved to object to application FG/22/26/PL.

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

There was nothing to mention.

d.**Roads, Community & Sports Committee** - Councillor Clare Royal, no meeting held.

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a. **Village Hall Event** – ‘Expo’ morning 30th May 10.00am – 12.30pm timings corrected. Councillors will check their diaries and confirm their attendance to the Clerk.

b. Level Crossing Matters

The Council noted that in summer 2024, East Preston Parish Council (EPPC) held a meeting with Network Rail, Stagecoach Group, County and District Councillors, and local residents to discuss ongoing concerns regarding the level crossing in East Preston. As a result of that meeting, a number of resolutions were agreed in relation to potential improvements.

Recent concerns have been raised that the gates at the Ferring level crossing remain closed for extended periods, sometimes for 15–20 minutes. The Clerk is currently liaising with a Senior Public Affairs Manager at Network Rail to establish whether any of the agreed improvements have been implemented and to express concerns regarding the continued extended closure periods at the Ferring level crossing.

c. A259 bus lane into Langbury Lane

The Council noted that the dedicated bus lane on the A259 north of Langbury Lane, intended for buses turning right into Langbury Lane, appears to be regularly misused by other vehicles.

Police attended the site on 14th April, positioning themselves at the northern end of Langbury Lane during peak morning hours, where they stopped approximately 40 vehicles. It was noted that similar enforcement action will continue in future

e. Finance & General Purposes Committee (including the authorisation of orders of payments and recommendations from the Committee). Councillor Graham Bootle, Meeting held 8th April Meeting

a. **Accounts and Finance** – Income & Expenditure February 2026 – Approved

b. **Benches on the Village Green** – Council approved the purchase of 2 x heavy duty picnic benches at £403 each excluding VAT (£806) and 2 x Sen Reston seat at £265 each excluding VAT (£530), Delivery £150. The Clerk has liaised with ADC, who have agreed to take delivery of and install the benches, including suitable flooring, at no cost.

c. **Community Allotment** – Council approved FPC involvement with the proposed project and Councillor John Tero & Amanda Thomas will meet with Community Charity Champion.

d. **Allotments Water System** – Council to approved to the meeting with the allotment holders with a view to FPC financing the water system.

e. **Grant request Ferring CofE School** – Council to approve the Grant application of £700 for the purchase of put out on pavement ‘do not park here’ signs.

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

07-04-2026 Appoint Internal Auditor – Council resolved to appoint Smithe & Co (Jennifer Smith) as the Internal Auditor for 2025 – 2026.

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

08-04-2026 Council noted payments made under dispensation for expenditure for Committee minuted instruction.

There were no payments.

09-04-2026 Ferring Rife Car Park & Public Conveniences –

Full Council 21st July 2025, minute item 07-07-2025, d, 3, ADC Meeting. Councillors Clare Royal, John Tero, and District Councillor Roger Elkins met with ADC to discuss options to improve drainage and develop part of the Rife Car Park near the Bluebird Café. ADC will revert to FPC with a full proposal.

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ADC has now contacted the Clerk requesting a discussion of the possible proposals. It was agreed that, in the first instance, FPC will request a formal follow-up meeting to review the progress of any proposals. It was also agreed that FPC will provide the agenda. The Clerk has liaised with the ADC Property & Estates Manager and the meeting has been confirmed for 30th April 2026 in the Parish Office. Councillors Clare Royal, John Tero, District Councillors Mark Turner & Roger Elkins and the Clerk will attend the meeting.

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

10-04-2026 Devolution Working Group –

Council noted that West Sussex local authorities were expecting a decision from the Government on local government reorganisation in our area by the end of March. The Government issued an update on 25th March 2026.

They have not made a decision on which unitary solution to apply in Sussex. A second technical consultation is underway, allowing local authorities to raise concerns about the proposals. The first proposed modification is moving Chichester District Council into a unitary with Crawley Borough Council, Horsham District Council and Mid Sussex District Council. Leaving a second unitary in West Sussex comprising Arun District Council, Adur District Council and Worthing Borough Council as a coastal district. The overall timescale for reorganisation remains the same with elections to the new shadow unitary authorities expected in 2027 preparing for the new authorities to formally launch in 2028.

11-04-2026 Ferring Village Hall Liaison (Councillor Ruth Arnold)

In the absence of Councillor Ruth Arnold, the Clerk advised:

- ‘Expo’ morning 30th May 10.00am – 12.30pm timings corrected.
- Village Hall invitation to their Annual General Meeting (AGM) 5th May 2026, 7.00pm.
- FADS invitation to the opening of the Scenery Costume & Props Store 9th May 2026, 1.00pm.
- Men in Shed invitation to the opening of their new site at the Pump House 16th May 2026, 11.30am.

12-04-2026 Reports from District and County Councillors

Arun District Councillor Mark Turner advised the following:

- Councillor Mark Turner, as a member of the Arun District Council Assets Working Group, has been reviewing council owned assets to assess their financial or community value and determine whether they should be transferred to other authorities.
- Further to the recent police attendance on the A259, as previously reported, it was advised that any traffic related issues can be reported via Operation Crackdown.
- In relation to the new refuse arrangements, including food waste collections, these have been well received. Full details of collection services for the Arun area are available via the Adun District Council app.
- Angmering Sports Hub has received funding of £1 million to support its projects.
- It was noted that there are proposed changes to the planning system affecting larger developments (typically over 150 dwellings), which may involve greater central government oversight. It was also noted that Planning Officers may be granted additional delegated powers

Arun District Councillor Roger Elkins advised the following:

- It was noted that the new refuse arrangements have been mostly positive, with benefits including a reduction in the amount of waste sent to landfill.

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- Devolution - The first meeting of the Strategic Authority has taken place, with two representatives from each of East Sussex, West Sussex, and Brighton & Hove in attendance. A shadow unitary authority is expected to be in place by 2027.

WSSC County Councillor Roger Elkins advised the following:

- Due to the upcoming elections, there are currently no meetings.
- It was noted that 55,000 businesses and rural households will benefit from gigabit investment to receive fibre broadband

13-04-2026 Urgent matters arising, since the preparation of this Agenda & Items to be referred to next agenda.

Councillor Simon Bromley advised that a local resident would like to arrange a village fair to be hosted at the school and enquired whether FPC would be interested in supporting and being involved. The Clerk requested further information, with a view to FPC potentially providing first aid support at the event

The next meeting date is Annual Statutory Meeting 18th May 2026.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.15pm

Mrs Nadine Phibbs,
Clerk to Ferring Parish Council

Minutes approved

Chairman **Date**