

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 13TH JANUARY, STARTING AT 6.30PM IN THE DURLING HALL

01/26 To Record those Present and list any Apologies

Those Present: Councillors, S Parish – Chairman, S Instance, K Gipson, G Worthy
Also present were 2 members of the public and the Proper Officer (PO)

Apologies; Cllr J Hollingsbee, Cllr E Martin – FHDC and Cllr Hespse – KCC.

02/26 To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI), Other Significant Interests (OSI's) or a Voluntary interest relating to items on the agenda.

None were declared.

03/26 Minutes

- a) To note, agree and sign the minutes of the November 2025 meeting
Having been previously circulated these were agreed and signed.
- b) To note the Minutes of previous committee meetings:
(Please be aware that Committees agree their own minutes, these for information only)
 - F&GP
 - Planning

The above were noted and will be placed on the website.

04/26 District and County Councillors reports

- a) Elaine Martin – Noted
- b) Jenny Hollingsbee – Noted
- c) Christopher Hespse – Noted

Reports from each of the above Cllrs have been placed on the PC Website, the PO highlighted various items during the meeting.

05/26 Public questions on items on the agenda only

(The public can send in questions at any time, and raise issues with a Cllr prior to the meeting, these can then be considered at a later meeting)

1. Observation. Earlier last year draft minutes were being placed on the website quicker than of late, the PO replied that she was aware of some delays, and would ensure that this is resolved.
2. With regards to the above, the other observation was that not everyone looked at the committee Minutes, could a report be made at the Council meeting? The PO replied that this could then be repeating stuff, but with Councillors would review the process.

06/26 Finance

- a) To note, agree/ratify payments as listed (See Report 2026.01.01
The following was agreed

Name	Reason	Gross Amount	Payment details
Vision ICT	Invoice 21377 Ann email hosting x2	£40.00	Bacs 04/01/2026 50650777
Sellindge V/Hall	Invoice 25/238 Electric	£222.50	Bacs 04/01/2026 50651048

N-power	Invoice for standing charge, new office	£186.13	Bacs 09/01/2026 50529282
Linda Hedley	Reimbursement Fuel for van	£30.00	Bacs 14/01/2026 50651156
JAG	Invoice for ignition cylinder at the getting it.	£102.00	Bacs 14/01/2026 50657577

07/26 Budget

To Agree consider the recommendation of the F&GP for the Budget

The Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee explained that committee had been through and considered each line. The budget was agreed. It was noted that for the last two years the precept has not been increased by the Parish Council.

(a member of the public requested that this is placed on the website, and highlighted Kingsnorth PC system)

08/26 Precept request

To consider the recommendation of the F&GP for the Precept.

The following was agreed

Projected Expenditure	£196,578
Projected Income	£108,300
Use of reserves	£ 13,278
Precept Request	£ 75.000
This equates to	£84.61 for a band D, or an increase of £2.32 for the year

09/26 Correspondence

See appendix attached.

10/26 Matters of General Interest

(This item is not for issues that require a decision, it is where Cllrs can ask for items to be placed on the next agenda.)

It was noted that the residents of The Lees are having a residents meeting on 23rd January at 7.30pm in the village.

11/26 Date of Next Meeting will be 10th February,

This was noted.

12/26 To exclude members of the public under the Public Bodies (Admission To Meetings) Act 1960, para 2, and the Local Government Act 1972 ss100a

The members of the public left.

13/26 To consider/agree a recommendation with regards to the New Office

The PO had circulated the email from Mike of Motiveinteriors. It was agreed that the PO would contact and confirm the commitment to the project and ask if it is possible if he could come along and mark out the areas so that Cllrs can understand in more details how the completed building will function on completion

14/26 To hear a verbal update on burial ground

The PO gave a verbal update, it was agreed that perhaps we should ask that either one or both of the sons meet with the council at a later date. The PO will contact Mr J Small

Correspondence Appendix.

1. Emails from KALC, NALC, F&H District & County Council and other round robin emails have been forwarded as they arrived.
2. Emails regarding the following;
Communication regarding Microshade, discovered higher invoice due to none being sent since the summer.
3. Defibs – electrodes and battery will need to be replaced in two of the defibs. But after 2028 no further replacements as defibs now to old. Suggestion to have 2 replacement defibs cost £892.50 each. To consider how we go forward, have asked Ken what the costs of the battery and pads are. Pads & battery £171.60. **Agreed to replace pads and batteries**
4. Pilot scheme for NHS, North Downs Forum. Meeting on 22nd January at 7.00pm venue to be confirmed. This is to explain how the NHS is organised in the rural area. *To find out where venue is.*
5. CPRE asking if we would like to sign the letter they are sending to mark 100 years of protecting the rural landscape – email circulated. *Yes as members the council should support this.*
6. Email from resident asking about lighting on The Lees. *PO to reply to the resident, this is a dark sky area, as much as can be saved, notwithstanding the large amount of development*
7. Planning department have stated that the mobile home did not need permission. *The PO, states that she doubts this as in other parishes where she has worked applications had to be submitted, unless the rules have been changed. Will contact FHDC*
8. Salt bins – I have requested further information regarding the free salt, but no-one has come back to me yet. *To monitor for reply*
9. The logs left around the pond to set up a biodiversity area, for various invertebrates are being thrown into the pond. Noted by Cllrs, it was agreed that there is nothing that can be done and they will have to be left, it is too dangerous to try to and retrieve them.