

# WASHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL



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## WASHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

**MINUTES** of the monthly meeting of Washington Parish Council held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2026 in the Washington Village Hall (Doré Room) School Lane, Washington RH20 4AP

**PRESENT:** Cllr C. Brookes, Cllr A. Dillaway, Cllr O. Jupp, Cllr T. Keech (Vice-Chairman), Cllr A Lisher (Chairman) and Cllr J. Thomas.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Cllr E Beard (HDC), Cllr J Grech (HDC) and Cllr C. Fisher (HDC). Apologies received from Cllr P Marshall (WSCC).

**ALSO:** Clerk to the Council.

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:** Mrs Patsy Mandeville, the Parish Tree Warden; and Mr Andy Gattiker the National Trails & Countryside Access Lead for the South Downs National Park Authority

**ABSENT:** 1

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7:30pm

**FC/26/02/01 Apologies for Absence**

The Council **RESOLVED** to accept apologies from Cllr Hanvey

**FC/26/02/02 Declaration of Members' Interests and Dispensations.**

There were no interests declared as defined under the Localism Act 2011 and the Council's Code of Conduct for the business of this meeting.

**FC/26/02/03 Minutes of the last Full Council meeting**

The Council **RESOLVED** to adopt the [Minutes for the Full Council Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026](#) as a true and accurate record to be duly signed by the Chairman.

**FC/26/02/04 Public Forum**

The SDNPA's Strategy Lead for Access, Mr Andy Gattiker, outlined early-stage plans to improve the South Downs Way through Washington, prompted by long-standing safety issues with the A24 crossings and the narrow, hazardous village roads. He referred to the recently shared draft A24 South Downs Way Project proposals, explaining that they present only initial, non-detailed options and will be shaped through community

involvement.

There followed a Q&A in which Councillors discussed potential solutions, including a bus gate on the Bostal road, which the Chairman felt could resolve the issues from rush-hour "rat running;" through the village. Questions arose about access for residents living beyond the proposed gate, with Andy noting that Traffic Regulation Orders could be tailored but would require further exploration with West Sussex Highways. Councillors highlighted safety concerns for children, bus stop issues and illegal manoeuvres on the A24, with suggestions including CCTV, closing the left-turn off the Steyning bypass to the village, and locating the bus gate further down the hill.

Mr Gattiker explained that the next 12 months will focus on developing designs, supported by Active Travel England funding, and that early parish support and clear priorities would help accelerate progress. Several Councillors expressed a desire for a fast solution, and Andy emphasised that although work would proceed as quickly as possible, full implementation is realistically a 1–2 year process. The parish was invited to set out its preferred approach and any "red lines" to guide the next design stage.

The Chairman thanked Mr Gattiker and confirmed the Council would let him know after its formal discussion of the project later in the meeting.

Mr Gattiker thanked the Council before leaving the meeting.

The Parish Tree Warden reported that she was in the process of reading information on the Tree Council scheme from the WSCC's co-ordinator, and agreed to speak with the Clerk in the morning on next steps.

The Parish Tree Warden thanked the Council before leaving the meeting.

**FC/26/02/05 South Downs Way Study: Washington parish**

To Receive and comment on the [SDNPA's A24 South Downs Way Project Report](#) on improving connectivity between Washington village and the South Downs Way in the parish, and how it might link to other local initiatives.

Due to an oversight on the order of business, this item was discussed under Minute Reference: **FC/26/02/23**

**FC/26/02/06 County and District Councillors**

**WSCC Reports**

It was noted that Cllr Marshall had given his apologies prior to the meeting that he was unable to attend. There were no reports.



## HDC Reports

Cllr Beard and Cllr Fisher reported the following:

- **HDC Food Waste Collection Service**  
HDC does not have storage capacity for any unwanted food waste containers from residents and is seeking help from parishes.
- **Planning Application DC/25/13/56 – Crosswinds, Hampers Lane**  
Approval granted for two detached dwellings with garages. Cllrs Beard and Fisher had objected, citing conflict with the Heath Common Design Statement (HCDS). HDC has imposed planning conditions for stronger construction management plan, privacy tree planting and differentiated designs in each dwelling to give individual character as per the HCDS.
- **Planning Application DC/25/1480 – Land North of 6 Montpelier Cottages**  
Approval granted for four 3-bed homes, parking, amenity space, acoustic fencing, and an ecological buffer. Cllrs Beard and Fisher reported that they requested a deferral for a traffic survey, arguing lack of data on Old London Road traffic levels, but this was rejected. Their proposal to reduce the speed limit from 60mph to 30mph was also rejected. Planning conditions have been imposed to include strengthened noise-mitigation conditions and post-installation verification to ensure these are effective.
- **Safety Concerns on Old London Road**  
Cllr Beard raised road safety concerns about the Old London Road on behalf of residents, Parish Council support will be sought for solutions to be explored between residents and Cllr Marshall (WSCC).
- **“Active Wellness” Initiatives**  
Cllr Beard highlighted district-wide efforts to support active wellness, and praised the Chanctonbury Leisure Centre at Storrington for the “amazing work” they do.
- **UK Harvest Community Food Hub (Chanctonbury Leisure Centre)**  
The Hub is open to all residents; surplus food available on the fourth Wednesday, 10–11am. Washington residents who need the service and are unable to attend can contact Cllr Fisher for alternative local redistribution arrangements by emailing her at: [Claudia.Fisher@horsham.gov.uk](mailto:Claudia.Fisher@horsham.gov.uk)

The Chairman thanked the District Councillors for their reports. Cllrs Grech and Fisher then left the meeting.

## **FC/26/02/07 Planning applications, Decisions, Appeals and Compliance Matters**

The Council reviewed the following planning applications in the parish:

**DC/26/0035 - Land to the South-East of Spring Gardens Washington West Sussex**  
*Erection of 1 no detached two storey dwelling and associated landscaping. Relocation of*

*existing stable. View application documents at:*  
<https://publicaccess.horsham.gov.uk/public-access/>

Cllr Jupp declared a non-prejudicial personal interest in the application because the applicant had contacted a family member about purchasing some of their land in Rock Road as an alternative storage site. Cllr Jupp reported that he was aware this would not be popular with nearby residents.

The Council discussed the planning application, noting that in a previous refusal for the stabling, planning reference DC/24/1327, HDC had stated the importance of conserving the countryside character, landscape and appearance of the site and surrounding area. The Council agreed that the current proposals for a four bedroom two-storey dwelling would be harmful to these important characteristics. It would also generate additional traffic which previous applications for the site were required to minimise.

Following a discussion the Council **RESOLVED** to make a **STRONG OBJECTION** for the following reasons:

- The Spring Gardens site is outside the Built Up Area Boundary, not designated for residential development in the Storrington, Sullington and Washington Neighbourhood Plan (SSWPNP) or Local Plan;
- It does not meet local strategic policies which support Settlement Expansion outside the BUAB or to support local housing needs
- The cumulative impact of the proposals and additional traffic would be harmful to the rural character, landscape and appearance of the site and surrounding area, contrary to Policies 32 and 33 of the Horsham District Planning Framework, and Policy 14 of the Storrington, Sullington and Washington Neighbourhood Plan.

**SDNP/26/00250/FUL – Memorial Hall, School Lane, Washington, West Sussex, RH20 4AP**  
*Replacement of four existing floodlight fittings on sports court. View application documents at:*  
<https://publicaccess.horsham.gov.uk/public-access/>

The Council noted its application and planning statement which already states the Council's full support of the proposed energy efficient lighting scheme on the MUGA.

**DC/25/2087 – Land at Thakeham Tiles, Rock Road, Storrington, West Sussex**  
*Outline application for the demolition of existing buildings, and the re-development of the site for up to 108no. dwellings (including a mix of private and affordable housing units), with associated infrastructure including vehicular, cycle and pedestrian access, parking, landscaping, open space and play provision, and sustainable drainage with all matters reserved except access. View application documents at: <https://publicaccess.horsham.gov.uk/public-access/> .*

The Council discussed this application, noting that the site has prior approval for 90 homes and is designated for development in the adopted Thakeham Neighbourhood Plan.

Following a review, the Council **RESOLVED** to make a **STRONG OBJECTION** to the outline proposals, for the reasons stated in its written submission (October 2018) on the original application DC/18/2095, and to add the following comments:

- Overdevelopment  
The addition of 18 dwellings represents further overdevelopment of this site particularly as there has been significant development in the area since the original application was approved, with more planned in the future, and no supporting local infrastructure.
- Adverse traffic impact  
The proposed development will generate a substantial amount of additional traffic, adding to the existing pressures on the nearby rural road network, including Rock Road in the Washington parish and its junction with the A24. The Council requests that if HDC is minded to approve the application, it seeks allocation of potential S106 funds to mitigate this impact and to expedite Washington Parish Council's CHS scheme, included in the WSCC Annual Delivery Programme for design in 2022/23, to improve the Rock Road/A24 junction. Further the Council requests a condition that construction traffic uses the Water Lane accesses and not eastwards from the site in Rock Road.
- Loss of local jobs  
The loss of established valuable local employment in a rural area with no appropriate alternative site put forward.

**FC/26/02/08 Planning Decisions on significant applications in the parish:**

The following planning decisions and related HDC reports from earlier in the meeting, were noted:

**DC/25/1480 - Land north of 6 Montpelier Cottages, Old London Road Washington West Sussex**

*Erection of 4no. 3-bedroom dwellings with associated car parking, private amenity space and acoustic fencing. Creation of an ecological buffer zone.*

**Decision:** Application Permitted

**DC/25/13/56 - Crosswinds, Hampers Lane, Storrington, West Sussex, RH20 3HZ**

*Demolition of existing bungalow and erection of two detached dwellings and associated garages*

**Decision:** Application Permitted.

**FC/26/02/9 Appeals on significant applications in the parish**

None reported

**FC/26/02/10 Compliance matters on significant applications in the parish**

**Village pub: Enforcement Case Reference: SDNP/25/00327/BRECON**

It was noted that the wall balustrading in the beer garden of village pub had been painted black but there was no obvious progress on rendering the wall since the SDNPA had raised an enforcement investigation last May.



Following a discussion, it was proposed and agreed that the Council explores ways to support the village pub in completing the works because of its importance to the local community, and to seek reinstatement of its registration as a community asset. Clerk to follow this up.

**FC/26/02/11 Clerk's Report**

The Council received and noted the [Clerk Report](#) and the following matters arising since the last meeting:

**FC/25/11/06:** SDNPA Access Leader had attended this meeting to present early draft Proposals for the A24 South Downs Way Link path improvements.

**FC/25/12/07:** S106 and CIL monies: The Clerk had distributed the latest reports of S106 and £435,666.22 CIL funding collected by HDC from parish developments. An email (30.1.2026) to the Council from HDC's Development Contributions Technician stated that the authority had "not spent any" of the HDC CIL from developments in the parish, "*although as all HDC CIL funds collected go into a single pot to be used on strategic projects throughout the district we won't be able to confirm if any CIL expenditure by HDC is from CIL collected in specific areas*"

A separate email (30.1.2026) from HDC's Head of Development and Building Control, indicated that they would be open to discussing potential delivery of affordable housing in the parish from the £245,000 S106 funds (Old Clayton Kennels care home development) if it met HDC's established process and criteria of delivery and assessment.

**FC/25/12/16:** the developer confirmed they were unable to change the name of the care home development at the former Old Clayton Kennels site, at the Council's request, to accurately reflect its location in the parish, because it was already approved by HDC and they had notified Royal Mail .Email shared with the Council 2.2.2026 prior to this meeting.

**FC/26/01/14:** No obvious navigation link on the Lloyds business account for their credit card application form. Clerk to seek telephone advice from the bank.

Other matters arising:

WSALC Chairs Forum on the Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February at 7pm on Zoom

The Chairman confirmed he would be attending the forum

HDC meeting with parishes around the District Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at 6pm at The Ashington Community Centre, Foster Lane, Ashington, RH20 3PG

Cllr Dillaway confirmed he would be attending the meeting

HALC meeting on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at 7pm on Thursday on Zoom.

Cllr Thomasa confirmed he would let the organisers know that he will be attending this.



**FC/26/02/12 Reports from Committees and representatives of Outside Bodes**

OSRA Committee and Planning & Transport Committee Meetings on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

The Council noted the draft minutes of these two meetings and that there were no recommendations for approval.

CityFibre local stakeholder online meeting 8<sup>th</sup> January 2026 on planned closure of Long Furlong A280

As part of the BDUK Project Gigabit full fibre roll out across West Sussex, CityFibre is in the process of requesting a road closure, likely to be from 13<sup>th</sup> April, on Long Furlong at neighbouring Findon for approximately 10 days. CityFibre presented their plans for the closure in a meeting with local stakeholders on 8<sup>th</sup> January. They gave assurances on measures to mitigate the impact on parishes including Storrington and Washington, such as diversions, 24-hour gate control and emergency plans. A briefing between City Fibre and the Highways Authority is expected on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026. Representatives from at least two parish councils asked why the works could not be scheduled during the Easter break when traffic is much lighter and consequently will have less impact. CityFibre advised that the scheduled dates could not be changed.

The Council noted the Clerk's report.

**FC/26/02/13 Neighbourhood Plan**

The Chairman reported that there was no further update since the last meeting.

**FC/26/02/14 Urgent matters**

The Chairman reported on the application received for Barnards Nursery Rok Road.

The Clerk reported that she had received notification of a revised planning application reference DC/26/0084 for Permission in Principle for the demolition of existing structures/buildings and erection of 1no. dwelling at Barnards Nursery, Rock Road, in the parish. It was noted that the Council had previously objected to the original application DC/25/1584 last November which sought consent for 4 x dwellings at the same site.

The Council noted that the public consultation deadline was before the next meeting. It was agreed to delegate authority to the Clerk to reiterate the Council's objection to the revised proposals, for the same reasons as before: *'in the Council's opinion the proposal is an inappropriate form of development, not in conformity with the adopted Storrington & Sullington and Washington Neighbourhood Plan, and could create an unfortunate precedent for further development.'*

**FC/26/02/15 Payments**

The Council **RESOLVED** to Approve the following amended payments schedule of invoices totalling **£3,611.11p**:



Payments Schedule - FC Feb 2026 - PUBLIC amended

Voucher	Code	Description	Supplier	Net	VAT	Total
183	Litter Bin Emptying	Litter Bin emptying	Horsham District Council	9.90	0.00	9.90
184	CIL (to be spent by 18/10/26)	Planning Application	South Downs National Park Authority	294.00	0.00	294.00
184	CIL (to be spent by 18/10/26)	Service Charge for planning application	South Downs National Park Authority	70.83	14.17	85.00
185	CIL (to be spent by 18/10/26)	Planning fee	Architekton Architects	114.00	0.00	114.00
186	Subscriptions and legal fees	Allotment Society Annual Subscription	National Allotment Society	70.00	14.00	84.00
187	Safety Inspections	Weekly Safety Inspections	Mr T Ashburner Cox	300.00	0.00	300.00
188,191-196	Staff salary & expenses	Salary & expenses Jan 2026	Z Savill	1,908.70	5.29	1,913.99
189	HMRC	PAYE - Jan 2026	HMRC	608.33	0.00	608.33
190	Staff Pension	Pension - Jan 2026	NEST	201.89	0.00	201.89
<b>Total</b>				<b>3,577.65</b>	<b>33.46</b>	<b>3,611.11</b>

Cllr Brookes and Cllr Keech agreed to authorise these online.

**FC/26/02/16 Income**

The Council **RESOLVED** to note the following report of **£1,670.98** receipts since the last meeting:

**Income Report – FC Feb 2026**

Vouche	Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Receipt No	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
23	Bank interest	30/09/2025		Nationwide		Bank interest	Nationwide	X	124.28		124.28
24	Bank interest	28/11/2025		Nationwide		Bank interest	Nationwide	X	179.31		179.31
25	Allotments	26/01/2026		Lloyds Current		Allotment Rent 2026	Mr G. Turner	X	35.00		35.00
26	Allotments	20/01/2026		Lloyds Current		Allotment Rent 2026	Mrs K. Cosham	X	17.50		17.50
27	Allotments	19/01/2026		Lloyds Current		Allotment Rent 2026	Mrs Angela	X	17.50		17.50
28	Donations	12/01/2026	FC Feb 2026	Lloyds Current		Village Hall Annual Lease	Washington Village	X	1.00		1.00
29	VAT reclaim	07/01/2026	FC Feb 2026	Lloyds Current		VAT reclaim	HMRC	R		1,296.39	1,296.39
<b>Total</b>									<b>374.59</b>	<b>1,296.39</b>	<b>1,670.98</b>

**FC/26/02/17 Bank Reconciliation**

The Council **RESOLVED** to note the Lloyds balance statement since the last meeting reconciled at **£8,711.08p**

**FC/26/02/18 Chairman's announcements**

None reported.

**FC/26/02/19 Dates and Times of the next meetings**

It was agreed to cancel the following meetings in the Clerk's planned absence:

Planning & Transport Committee: **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at 7:00pm**

OSRA Committee: **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February at 7:45pm**

The following meetings would take place:

Full Council Meeting: **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2026 7:30pm**

Personnel Committee Meeting: **To be confirmed**

**FC/26/02/20 Co-option**

There were no applications received for co-option vacancies on the Council.

**FC/26/02/21 Confidential Session**



The Council **RESOLVED** that under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the next item of business as publication would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

**FC/26/02/22 Washington Recreation Ground Charity: Rampion 2 legal matters**

The Council **RESOLVED** to defer this item to the next meeting pending the revised Heads of Terms from Rampion, requested by the Council's Agent.

The Chairman re-opened the meeting to the Public for the next item. None present.

**FC/26/02/23 South Downs Way Study: Washington parish**

The Council received and reviewed the [SDNPA's A24 South Downs Way Project Report](#) on improving connectivity and road safety between Washington village and the South Downs Way in the parish. It was noted that the report had been published with this meeting agenda on the Council's website and that there was well established and strong local support for safety improvements on the London Road and the Washington Bostal.

Members also took into consideration the presentation on the project during the public session earlier in the meeting, given by the SDNPA's Strategy Lead for Access, Mr Andy Gattiker, and comments from Horsham District Cllr Beard who lives in the village.

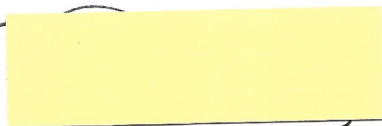
Following a discussion, the Council resolved unanimously to agree its support in principle to the project, with priority given for the proposed bus gate on the Washington Bostal road which it felt would solve many of the safety problems.

The Council also agreed to recommend the following:

- Relocation of the proposed bus gate in the project design so that it does not cut off residents from the village.
- To seek SDNPA support for CCTV at the new bus gate and also on the existing A24 bus gate to help deter motorists from illegally cutting through the village; and for the Council's planned TRO application to the West Sussex Highways Authority in the interim for further speed reductions in the village and Washington Bostal. The application to include a request for the permanent closure of the left turn from the A283 Steyning bypass to the village via The Pike/Triangle.

Cllr Thomas agreed to draft a list of all relevant points for the Clerk's letter to Mr Gattiker after the meeting.

There being no further business to transact, the Chairman closed the meeting at **9:06pm**



2/3/26