

## **WEALD PARISH COUNCIL**

**MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 19<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER, 2025**  
**AT 7.15 P.M. in the Memorial Hall**

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs L Harris (in the Chair), Mrs R Hewett, Mr R Trapp, Mr S Brennan, Mrs C Beddoe and Ms J Humphreys

Also attending were District Councillor Thornton and three members of the public.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – Mrs R Wood, John Caird (Clerk), County Councillor Mayal (arriving late), District Councillor Hogarth
2. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST** – there was none.
3. **MEETING HELD ON the 15<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER, 2025** – the Minutes were approved and will be signed by the Chairman.
4. **MATTERS ARISING**

(a) **Neighbourhood Plan - request for volunteers to assist in preparation**

Still no volunteers have come forward to assist. Parish Council asked if the Village Newsletter could repeat the appeal for help. Mrs Hewett suggested Parish Council could obtain a quote for professional help to draw up a Neighbourhood Plan if no volunteers come forward.

(b) **Request for Comments on SDC's Local Plan – Deadline 11th December 2025**

Reminder to be posted on Facebook to give villagers a chance to respond. Clerk to gather comments from Parish Council members to send a joint response from Councillors.

(c) **Children's Play Area – Summary of 2025 Inspection Report**

Ms Humphreys reported that the recent inspection of the Play Area found that the general condition of the area is largely compliant with safety regulations. There are no major defects requiring repairs. It was noted that the Infant Area is in better condition than parts of the Junior Area. It was suggested that some pieces of equipment in this area would need replacing in the near future.

Ms Humphreys has obtained some designs for the update to the Play Area from Everyday Play. She is meeting a second company in December and will present their plans in due course. Both companies will assist with obtaining a grant towards the cost of the new equipment. It was suggested that including some equipment suitable for disabled children would be beneficial when applying for grant funding.

**(d) Rent of PC Land adjacent to Weald Primary School – Response from WCPS**

A letter was shared with Parish Council members (copy attached). The headteacher requested a longer lease than the 1 year offered by the Parish Council. The Headteacher explained that the field requires considerable tree work and boundary work for it to be suitable for school use, therefore he requested a lease of 3 – 5 years at a cost of £200 per year.

Mrs Harris notified the council that the land falls outside the village envelope and is unlikely to be suitable for development in the foreseeable future.

The Parish Council confirmed they were happy to grant a 5 year lease. Clerk will be asked to prepare a suitable lease document and to send it to the school.

**(e) Setting Rent at Recreation Ground**

A 5% increase was agreed. Annual Club Fees will be as follows:

Weald Wolves	£2,100
Cricket	£262
Stoolball	£525
External Cricket Club	£500
Dog Training	£21 an hour

Further details on attached email.

Mrs Hewett will investigate a sign for the car park, to be placed on the path by the entrance of the car park to encourage drivers to use the facility rather than parking on the actual recreation ground.

**5. CORRESPONDENCE**

No correspondence

**6. PLANNING**

Details of current planning applications are available on the Parish Council website.

**7. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

The Meeting adjourned at 7.50 p.m.

Councillor Thornton advised that at a recent SDC meeting Councillor Hogarth resigned as Leader of the Council – he has been replaced by Councillor Kevin Maskell.

Local Government Reformation. SDC has discussed the options and they have decided to submit Model 3a as their favoured outcome. All councils are required to submit their favourite by 28<sup>th</sup> November. A final decision should be announced in early 2026.

SDC Local Plan: Councillor Thornton advised that pop-up meetings with local residents have been taking place to discuss the impact of the proposed developments in the various villages. No developments are planned in Weald. Councillor Thornton informed the meeting that the housing targets have to be met to satisfy central government. If the Local Plan is passed, it will control how the developments are built and the council will be able to add conditions to the planning permission.

County Councillor Mayal (arrived 7.55) He noted that the Parish Website is currently off-line. Mr Trapp advised that it is being updated by our web designer Hugo Fox. He advised that his council are favouring Model 1a in the Local Government Re-organisation plan. Finally, Councillor Mayal announced that he has a membership grant to spend on local projects. If council members would like to submit an application, it will be considered.

A member of the public requested that the white line markings are reinstated on Glebe Road/Hubbards Hill between the Church and the entrance to Panthurst Farm. Also, further up the hill over the bridge between the entrance to Weald Place and the crossroads. Clerk to contact relevant department,

The Meeting resumed at 8.10 p.m.

## **8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Deputy Chairman invited attendees at the Parish Council Meeting to be held on 17<sup>th</sup> December to join the Parish Council for pre-Christmas refreshments after the meeting. The meeting will start at 7 p.m.

Clerk to contact Morleys Farm to arrange delivery of a Christmas Tree for the Village Green.

Dates have been set for Litter-Picking Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> January & Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March at 10 a.m.

Suggestion that a camera could be placed by the main sites where fly-tipping occurs – Mr Trapp to contact SDC.

Clerk to set dates for PC meeting for 2026.

The Meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.