



Working for the Community in Rotherfield, Mark Cross, Eridge Green, Boarshead and surrounding areas.

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 29TH JANUARY 2026 AT 19:30 AT MARK CROSS COMMUNITY CENTRE

PRESENT

Cllr R Harris (Chair)	Cllr L Buck	Cllr D Hiles
Cllr B Johnstone (Vice-Chair)	Cllr J Richardson	Cllr D Johnstone.
Cllr P Beach	Cllr P Kember	Cllr J Gosney
Cllr B Cheeseman	Cllr E Holmes-Cutting	

COUNCILLORS ABSENT

ALSO PRESENT

Cllr Bob Standley (East Sussex County Council), Cllr Georgia Taylor (East Sussex County Council), Adam J Hardy (Parish Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer) and **10** members of the public.

1. TO CONSIDER A CANDIDATE FOR CO-OPTION FOR THE ROTHERFIELD WARD

The Clerk confirmed that one application for Co-Option had been received.

It was **RESOLVED** to Co-Opt Paul Snelling to the vacant Rotherfield Ward Seat.

The meeting was paused while the successful candidate signed his acceptance of office form.

2. TO RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING: -

a) Introduction of Councillors & Officers.

The Councillors and Officers introduced themselves.

b) Public forum.

None.

c) Apologies for absence (LGA 1972 s 85).

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr P Turner.

It was **RESOLVED** that the reasons for the apologies be accepted.

Cllr Michael Lunn (Wealden District Council) and Cllr J Hulbert (Wealden District Council) had also sent their apologies for this meeting.

Last Updated: Wednesday, 4 February 2026 - 1:55 pm

Clerk: Adam J Hardy, 3 Trinity Mews, Mill Crescent, Crowborough, East Sussex TN6 2QU

Tel: 07969512099. Email: Clerk@rotherfieldparishcouncil.co.uk

Parish Council Website: www.rotherfieldparishcouncil.co.uk **Twitter** @rotherfieldpc and on **Facebook**

d) Declarations of personal, prejudicial, and disclosable pecuniary interests on items on the agenda and updates to members' register of interests.

Cllr Buck had notified the Council that she would declare an interest in item 5v as she is the CEO of Good Company People. She confirmed that she would withdraw from the debate and not vote on this item.

e) District and County Councillor reports.

Cllr Bob Standley (East Sussex County Council)

A report had been circulated to Councillors ahead of the meeting.

- Cllr Standley emphasised from his report that East Sussex County Council had had to apply to the Ministry of Housing, Community and Local Government for 'Exceptional Funding'. This is not a grant but a loan that will have to be funded by future increases in council tax. Current expectation is that the county council will have run out of reserves by 2028.
- Cllr Standley added that the 'Fair Funding Review' had not come to fruition in the context that it was going to account for East Sussex's age demographic and needs, but had actually taken £6million off East Sussex's allocation.
- The County is still eagerly awaiting the publication of the new SEND White Paper.
- Cllr Standley reported that he had concerns about the Government's 12-month limit on the use of Crowborough Army Camp to house asylum seekers being adhered to.

It is understood that the Cadets have now secured a temporary alternative premises, but most of their equipment remains locked up in the army camp and cannot be easily moved.

Cllr P Beach asked if there was any truth in the rumours that some of the asylum seekers have already absconded. Cllr Standley replied that he is aware of those rumours but does not have a current update on the numbers in the camp.

- Cllr Standley confirmed that he is following up on the Mayfield Road Drain cleaning request.

Cllr Georgia Taylor (East Sussex County Council)

- Cllr Taylor added that she was chasing up action on the double yellow lines around Eridge Station and will send an update to the Clerk.

Cllr J Richardson, having a grandson in the Cadets, wished both District and County Councillors to be aware that alternative provision for the Cadets is extremely inferior to what they had at Crowborough Army Camp and will limit what they can do. It is an unacceptable situation.

f) Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday, 11th December 2025, for approval as a true record.

It was **RESOLVED** that these were a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.

g) Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday, 6th January 2026, for approval as a true record.

It was **RESOLVED** that these were a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.

Last Updated: Wednesday, 4 February 2026 - 1:55 pm

Clerk: Adam J Hardy, 3 Trinity Mews, Mill Crescent, Crowborough, East Sussex TN6 2QU

Tel: 07969512099. Email: Clerk@rotherfieldparishcouncil.co.uk

Parish Council Website: www.rotherfieldparishcouncil.co.uk Twitter @rotherfieldpc and on Facebook

h) Clerk's update on action items from previous meetings.

- The Clerk confirmed that he had sent the 2026/2027 Precept Request to Wealden District Council. This has been acknowledged.
- The Clerk notified East Sussex Vision Support on the success of their grant application.
- The Clerk signed the agreement with Tangent Space for the redevelopment design of Rotherfield Sports Club House.
- The Clerk notified the Sports Club of the council's consent for the club house regeneration to be entered as one of Wealden's Strategic Sport & Leisure Goals.
- The Clerk confirmed that he had raised a report with East Sussex Highways regarding the surface conditions of Chant Lane Rotherfield.

3. TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE BANK RECONCILIATION AS AT THE END OF DECEMBER 2025, REVIEW EXPENDITURE AGAINST BUDGET TO DATE AND NOTE OR AUTHORISE PAYMENTS.

I Budget, other financial reports, and actions arising.

The bank reconciliation up until the **31st December 2025** was presented for all of the Council's bank accounts.

The Council **NOTED** the budget report up until the 31st December 2025

ii Approval of payments.

Regular Payments			
Rotherfield Sports Club	4340	302 Grounds Maintenance	£368.75
BT Business Broadband	4409	302 Broadband	£52.16
Cloudy Group Ltd	4110	101 Rialtas Hosting	£76.56
Veolia	4391	303 Village Hall Bins	£175.30
Tollwood Garden Services	4364	302 Litter Picking	£1,210.00
Tollwood Garden Services	4252	203 Street Sweeping	£220.00
Rotherfield Village Hall	4125	101 RVH Hire (1)	£156.00
Rotherfield Village Hall	4125	101 RVH Hire (2)	£9.20
Rotherfield Village Hall	4125	101 RVH Hire (3)	£18.40
Rotherfield Memorial Institute	4125	101 RMI Hire	£64.00
Mark Cross Community Centre	4125	101 MCCC Hire	£24.00
F Wilson	4117	101 Clerk's Admin Assistant	£965.98
Tollwood Garden Services	4255	203 Girt (1)	£62.00
Tollwood Garden Services	4255	203 Grit Bins Refill (1)	£201.00
Tollwood Garden Services	4341	302 Village Hall & Rec (1)	£170.00
Tollwood Garden Services	4255	203 Grit (2)	£330.00
Tollwood Garden Services	4255	203 Grit Spreading (1)	£45.00
Tollwood Garden Services	4258	203 Grit Spreading (2)	£75.00
Tollwood Garden Services	4255	203 Grit Spreading (3)	£90.00
Tollwood Garden Services	4258	203 Grit Spreading (4)	£45.00
Tollwood Garden Services	4255	203 Grit (3)	£330.00
Tollwood Garden Services	4258	203 Tree at Mark X	£100.00
Tollwood Garden Services	4255	203 Highways (1)	£150.00
Tollwood Garden Services	4255	203 Grit (4)	£70.00
			Total £5,008.35

Other Payments

Last Updated: Wednesday, 4 February 2026 - 1:55 pm

Clerk: Adam J Hardy, 3 Trinity Mews, Mill Crescent, Crowborough, East Sussex TN6 2QU

Tel: 07969512099. Email: Clerk@rotherfieldparishcouncil.co.uk

Parish Council Website: www.rotherfieldparishcouncil.co.uk Twitter @rotherfieldpc and on Facebook

Action in rural Sussex	4120	101 Housing Needs Survey - Final	£3,654.48
MW Turfcare Partnership	4340	302 leaf spot treatment.	£39.96
East Sussex Vision Support	4150	101 RPC Grant	£500.00
Ultralite	4225	202 Christmas Lights 2025	£5,550.00
KPS	4393	303 Burial Fee P Denness	£727.14
Rotherfield & Mark Cross Bonfire Society	4110	101 Carnival Advert 2025	£100.00
Adam Hardy	4110	101 Norton Anti-Virus Renewal	£99.99
G.TECH Building Services Ltd	4113	101 RMI Design	£3,900.00
Simon Blackwell	4408	303 Rotherfield Parish War Memorial Roll of Honour Booklet/Website	£187.50
MW Turfcare Partnership	4340	302 Grounds Maintenance	£138.60
Coppard Plant Hire LTD	4110	101 Container Hire - Dec25	£176.40
MPH Limited		Pre-School Heating Repairs & Investigation	£394.78
MPH Limited	4116	101 Mark Cross CC Boiler Repairs	£66.00
Swarco UK	4259	203 SID Brackets	£198.00
Robert Shreeve Associates Ltd	4113	101 RMI Architect Fees	£348.90
Newman Business Solutions Ltd	4110	101 Printer Invoice Oct 25 -Jan 26	£1,449.90
SLCC	4120	101 SLCC Membership Renewal	£379.00
		Total	£17,910.65
Sussex Primary Care	4399	305 Surgery Costs	£629.08
Phil Ireland	4405	305 Surgery Windows	£15.00
MPH Limited	4405	305 Radiator Repairs	£30.00
			£674.08
Staff Costs - includes Tax, NI, pension and expenses		Total figure reported separately	£4,954.75

iii Note spending and justification of any payments agreed under delegated powers.

None.

4. RECEIVE REPORTS, UPDATES & RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING PERSONNEL

Cllr J Richardson reported that there were no personnel matters to raise; however, it would be good to try to organise a councillor refresher training, particularly on finances. **Clerk** to investigate and arrange an appropriate training course.

5. TO CONSIDER INFORMATION AND MAKE DECISIONS ON ACTIONS AND EXPENDITURE AS REQUIRED, REGARDING THE FOLLOWING ITEMS.

i. Consider making further representation on:

WD/2025/2722/F - Highfields Farm, New Road, Rotherfield, TN6 3JS

Demolition of existing agricultural buildings and residential dwelling and erection of 8 no. New dwellings with associated landscaping, amenity, parking and biodiversity enhancements.

Documents relating to this item had been circulated to Councillors ahead of the meeting.

Five members of the public addressed the council speaking against the application.

Last Updated: Wednesday, 4 February 2026 - 1:55 pm

Clerk: Adam J Hardy, 3 Trinity Mews, Mill Crescent, Crowborough, East Sussex TN6 2QU

Tel: 07969512099. Email: Clerk@rotherfieldparishcouncil.co.uk

Parish Council Website: www.rotherfieldparishcouncil.co.uk Twitter @rotherfieldpc and on Facebook

It was **RESOLVED** that an additional representation would be made with regard to the above planning application.

A further **recommendation of OBJECTION** to the planning application due to the increase in the volume of traffic up and down New Road and entering and exiting the site. This is considered unreasonable as per Wealden Policy EC4. This objection is in addition to the objection already submitted by the Council.

A **COMMENT** that the Parish Council supports residents' concerns with regard to traffic use and parking on the junction of New Road and Mayfield Road and how the development may exacerbate this.

Should the planning application be approved, the Parish Council **would recommend the following conditions:**

- A S106 or appropriate Legal Agreement for the formation of an Estate Management Committee to manage and maintain in perpetuity the proposed estate road and its highway visibility splay, the surface water drainage system including the on site water storage tanks, the proposed footpath to the southern boundary and communal landscaped areas.
- A Grampian condition that would prevent occupation of the housing units until Southern Water has carried out essential capacity upgrades to the local drainage system.
- A condition in the Construction Plan that all site traffic and deliveries must enter and exit New Road using the adopted highways with the junction to Mayfield Road and not the unadopted section with Station Road.

Clerk to send to Wealden District Council.

ii. Receive a presentation from the new owner of Kennedys Garage.

Ben McKay addressed the council as the new owner of Kennedys Garage. He assured the council that it was business as usual and was looking forward to working with the community. The Chair thanked the new owner for taking on the business and ensuring this service is available for residents of the parish.

iii. Discuss and resolve the appointment of a Planning Agent for the change of use and development of a Pump Track on the land behind the Children's play area at Rotherfield Recreation Ground.

Documents relating to this item had been circulated to councillors ahead of the Committee.

It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Appleby Petfield as Planning Agents for the development of the Pump Track. **Clerk** to confirm with the agent and residents group.

Last Updated: Wednesday, 4 February 2026 - 1:55 pm

Clerk: Adam J Hardy, 3 Trinity Mews, Mill Crescent, Crowborough, East Sussex TN6 2QU

Tel: 07969512099. Email: Clerk@rotherfieldparishcouncil.co.uk

Parish Council Website: www.rotherfieldparishcouncil.co.uk Twitter @rotherfieldpc and on Facebook

iv. Receive and note the Parish Independent Remuneration Panel - Town and Parish Councillor Allowances for 2026/27.

Documents relating to this item had been circulated to councillors ahead of the meeting.

It was **RESOLVED** to note the Parish Independent Remuneration Panel – Town and Parish Councillor Allowances for 2026/2027.

v. Discuss and consider grant application from Good Company People.

Documents relating to this item had been circulated to councillors ahead of the meeting

It was **RESOLVED** to make a grant of £500.00 to Good Company People. **Clerk** to notify Good Company People of a successful grant application.

vi. Review Burial and Cemetery Regulations particularly in relation to the use of plastic flowers in the cemetery

It was **RESOLVED** to strengthen the existing regulation that prohibits plastic flowers in the cemetery. **Clerk** to arrange for additional signage in the cemetery and ensure this condition is clear in the cemetery regulations.

vii. Discuss and review the Council's response to the Local Government Reorganisation plans.

Documents relating to this item had been circulated to councillors ahead of the meeting.

It was **AGREED** that the Parish Council would save its representation for when the chosen model of reorganisation had been decided.

viii. Receive and resolve the District Valuation report for the rent renewal at Rotherfield Surgery.

Documents relating to this item had been circulated to councillors ahead of the meeting.

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the District Valuers report of £36,100 per annum. **Clerk** to notify Sussex Primary Care and request payment of backdated rent from the 1st April 2024.

ix. Discuss and review further lobbying and action for speed reduction measures on the Boars Head to Eridge Road section of A26

It was **RESOLVED** to resume discussion on speed reduction measures with East Sussex Highways regarding this section of the A26. It was suggested that we could engage our media contacts to raise the profile of this campaign. **Clerk** to share previous feasibility report with councillors for fresh input.

x. Discuss and consider quotations for drainage works at the bottom of New Road, Rotherfield.

Documents relating to this item had been circulated to councillors ahead of the meeting.

Councillors discussed recent commitments from East Sussex Highways regarding draining and flooding at the New Road junction with Station Road. We will monitor to see if the situation improves.

Last Updated: Wednesday, 4 February 2026 - 1:55 pm

Clerk: Adam J Hardy, 3 Trinity Mews, Mill Crescent, Crowborough, East Sussex TN6 2QU

Tel: 07969512099. Email: Clerk@rotherfieldparishcouncil.co.uk

Parish Council Website: www.rotherfieldparishcouncil.co.uk Twitter @rotherfieldpc and on Facebook

It was **RESOLVED** to reconsider this item at the April 2026 Parish Council Meeting.

xi. Discuss and consider actions for trees overhanging the highway.

Documents relating to this item had been circulated to councillors ahead of the meeting.

The Chair raised concerns regarding several locations where trees are overhanging the highway. The Clerk confirmed that he had received the East Sussex Highways Asset Map for one of the areas and debate remained as to whether the tree was on Highways Land or private property.

It was **AGREED** that the Chair would inspect the site before proceeding any further.

xii. Discuss and consider options for the future of the Container in the Recreation Ground Car Park.

Documents relating to this item had been circulated to councillors ahead of the meeting.

It was **RESOLVED** to purchase the existing container for £2,500.00. **Clerk** to arrange purchase.

Clerk to contact TN6 Electrical for the CCTV camera to be moved.

6. RECEIVE UPDATE ON THE ROTHERFIELD MEMORIAL INSTITUTE.

Documents relating to this item had been circulated to councillors ahead of the meeting.

Cllr B Johnstone summarised her report to the council. The Clerk explained the Management Committee would carry out the tendering process and ask the Parish Council to ratify its chosen contractor.

7. RECEIVE UPDATE ON THE MARK CROSS COMMUNITY CENTRE.

- The Clerk reported that a recent power cut in Mark Cross had caused an underground fault on one of the three phases to the Mark Cross Community Centre. A temporary fix has been put in place, but the pavement in front of the Community Centre and a trench to the building will need to be dug up to make a permanent repair. We will be notified by the Parish of Rotherfield & Mark Cross (the landlords) when this is to take place.
- The Clerk reported that the boiler remains temperamental despite a repair. A full service of the boiler has been arranged.

8. RECEIVE UPDATE ON THE ROTHERFIELD SURGERY BUILDING.

- The Clerk reported that correspondence had been received from a resident regarding the external lighting being triggered throughout the night and disturbing their sleep. The sensitivity of the lights has been adjusted by our contractor, and we will continue to monitor the situation.
- The Clerk reported that correspondence had been received from the Practice Manager stating that East Sussex Fire and Rescue want to carry out a Fire Safety audit of the site and premises. Louise Henrick, in her capacity as Chair of the Working Party, will arrange for the assessment and report back to the Clerk.

Last Updated: Wednesday, 4 February 2026 - 1:55 pm

Clerk: Adam J Hardy, 3 Trinity Mews, Mill Crescent, Crowborough, East Sussex TN6 2QU

Tel: 07969512099. Email: Clerk@rotherfieldparishcouncil.co.uk

Parish Council Website: www.rotherfieldparishcouncil.co.uk **Twitter** @rotherfieldpc and on **Facebook**

9. RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE ROTHERFIELD PRE-SCHOOL BUILDING.

- The Clerk reported that the Chair, Cllr P Turner and he had agreed to the installation of film on their windows to prevent people looking in, but they could still look out.
- The Chair reported that a quote for installing ventilation in the undercroft has been requested.
- The Council requested an update on the process of merging the Pre-School with Rotherfield Primary School. **Clerk** to request an update.

10. TO NOTE MINUTES OF COMMITTEES PUBLISHED SINCE THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING.

Date	Meeting
13 th January 2026	Highways, Lighting & Transport Committee Meeting

11. TO RECEIVE OTHER REPORTS AND CONSIDER ACTIONS ARISING FROM THEM.

a) Meetings attended on behalf of the Parish Council.

- The Clerk reported that he had attended the Village Hall Committee meeting. They are shortly to use some legacy money to purchase a new cooker for the Village Hall. The cooker will be paid for by the Council on the February pay run, and the money will then be reimbursed by the Village Hall Committee.

b) Clerk's updates and issues.

- The Clerk reported that he had investigated costs to improve the CCTV cameras so they can track ANPR through the existing system. These will be reviewed and bought back to a further meeting.
- The Clerk reported that he had responded to a freedom of information request (FOI) regarding the reporting of drainage conditions and flooding on the area surrounding the New Road Junction with Mayfield Road. A timeline of correspondence was compiled as part of the request.

12. TO RECEIVE DETAILS OF INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE.

- The Clerk reported that he had received an update from East Sussex County Council on the conclusion of their Bus Service Improvement plan.
- The Clerk updated the Council on the regular and excellent correspondence from SGN regarding the recent gas outage at Argos Hill. Although service has been restored to the affected households, the gas main does require replacement. The gas main runs through the A267. They are updating me on their discussions with East Sussex Highways, and we have made a representation regarding traffic management. The Clerk is awaiting further updates on this.

13. TO RECEIVE INSPECTION REPORTS AND RECREATION & BURIAL UPDATES.

Date	Inspection Report	Comments
24 th January 2026	Parish Cemetery	We still need something like a small concrete ramp so that the bin can be placed in the new bin store.

Last Updated: Wednesday, 4 February 2026 - 1:55 pm

Clerk: Adam J Hardy, 3 Trinity Mews, Mill Crescent, Crowborough, East Sussex TN6 2QU

Tel: 07969512099. Email: Clerk@rotherfieldparishcouncil.co.uk

Parish Council Website: www.rotherfieldparishcouncil.co.uk Twitter @rotherfieldpc and on Facebook

		The deer and/or windy weather is scattering ornaments and plastic flowers around.
24 th January 2026	Old Burial Ground	Nothing to report.
24 th January 2026	Court Meadow Green	Nothing to report.
24 th January 2026	Playground	Nothing to report.
24 th January 2026	Recreation Ground	Nothing to report.
24 th January 2026	REACT and Storage Container Box	Nothing to report.
24 th January 2026	Scout Hut and Pre-School Buildings	Nothing to report.
24 th January 2026	Village Hall and Car Park	Nothing to report.
24 th January 2026	Norman's Field	Nothing to report.

- The Clerk reported that he had chased the contractor regarding the installation of a ramp to the cemetery bin store.

14. TO AGREE ON FIVE POINTS FOR THE COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY DOCUMENT.

1)	The Parish Council were pleased to welcome back Paul Snelling who has been co-opted to vacant Rotherfield Ward seat on the Council.
2)	The Parish Council welcomed Ben McKay, the new owner of Kennedys Garage, who informed us it was business as usual at the garage.
3)	We have appointed a planning agent to proceed with getting planning permission for the new pump track on the gift of land adjacent to the children's play area at Rotherfield Recreation Ground.
4)	The Parish Council reminds residents that plastic flowers are not permitted in the Parish Cemeteries.
5)	The Parish Council approved a grant application for Good Company People to assist them with setting up their new HQ.

15. TO RECEIVE DATES FOR FORTHCOMING MEETINGS.

Date	Meeting	Venue
5 th February 2026	RMI Management Committee	Rotherfield Community Hub (Memorial Institute)
17 th February 2026	Planning & Environment Committee	Rotherfield Village Hall
	Communications & Events Committee – Following the P&E Committee Meeting.	
26 th February 2026	Parish Council Meeting	Rotherfield Community Hub (Memorial Institute)
10 th March 2026	Planning & Environment Committee	Rotherfield Village Hall
24 th March 2026	Highways, Lighting & Transport Committee Meeting	Rotherfield Community Hub (Memorial Institute)
26 th March 2026	Parish Council Meeting	Rotherfield Community Hub (Memorial Institute)
31 st March 2026	Planning & Environment Committee	Rotherfield Village Hall

All meetings are at 7:30 pm unless otherwise stated.

Last Updated: Wednesday, 4 February 2026 - 1:55 pm

Clerk: Adam J Hardy, 3 Trinity Mews, Mill Crescent, Crowborough, East Sussex TN6 2QU

Tel: 07969512099. Email: Clerk@rotherfieldparishcouncil.co.uk

Parish Council Website: www.rotherfieldparishcouncil.co.uk Twitter @rotherfieldpc and on Facebook

16. REPORT DETAILS OF ITEMS AND ISSUES NOTIFIED TO THE CLERK IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING FOR INVESTIGATION, FURTHER ACTION OR FOR FUTURE AGENDA.

- Cllr L Buck asked if we could review the newsletter at our next Community & Events Committee meeting. **Clerk** to add item to the 17th February committee meeting agenda.
- The Clerk reminded Councillors that shortly a new dog bin would be delivered to the Millennium Green and the one from that site would be relocated to Mark Cross Millennium Green.

Chair declared the meeting closed at: **21:43**

..... Chair..... Date

Last Updated: Wednesday, 4 February 2026 - 1:55 pm

Clerk: Adam J Hardy, 3 Trinity Mews, Mill Crescent, Crowborough, East Sussex TN6 2QU

Tel: 07969512099. Email: Clerk@rotherfieldparishcouncil.co.uk

Parish Council Website: www.rotherfieldparishcouncil.co.uk **Twitter** @rotherfieldpc and on **Facebook**