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Minutes of the Roads, Footpaths and Open Spaces Committee Meeting Held at Copsale Hall on Wednesday, 6th August 2025 at 7:45pm

Present:

Cllr C Kenny (Chairman), Cllr V Court, Cllr W Bayley, Cllr D Cotton.

Also Present: District Councillor Dennis Livingstone

Clerk: Lisa Wilcock

Members of the Public: 8

Meeting commenced at 2016hrs

OS042-25/26 – Apologies for Absence

RESOLVED: Cllr S Newell, Cllr S Catterall.

OS043-25/26 – Declarations of Interest

Cllr V Court declared a **non-pecuniary interest** in the item relating to **Woodlands Walk**, as she resides in close proximity to the site (opposite) in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 and Members Code of Conduct.

OS044-25/26 – Chair's Announcements

Nothing.

OS045-25/26 – Public Session

Asset Transfer (Item 7)

Query raised regarding whether, if the transfer of the Woodland Walk Open Space goes ahead, the responsibilities currently held by Horsham District Council (HDC) – including maintenance and liability – would automatically transfer to the Parish Council.

It was noted that recent works addressing ash dieback had been carried out in the field however an ash behind number 28 needs to be inspected.

District Councillor Dennis Livingstone - noted that a new Community Transfer Policy is due to be issued by HDC on Monday. The Parish Council is encouraged to submit an Expression of Interest for the Woodland Walk site in line with this policy.

Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure / Speed Limit Proposals

HDC Full Council recently discussed: Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans, 20mph speed limit proposals. HDC will be appointing an Active Travel Co-ordinator and encourages Parish Councils to submit proposals. Local feedback from the community: General objection to 20mph speed limits, citing concerns over increased pollution. Suggestion to retain 30mph and 40mph limits throughout the wider parish. If implemented, 20mph zones should be limited to built-up village areas only.

Defibrillator Proposal – Sedgwick

A proposal was submitted to install a community-funded defibrillator at the corner of Sedgwick Lane and Broadwater Lane. Residents have requested the Parish Council adopt and maintain the unit post-installation. Concerns raised Remoteness of the location and low population density nearby, nearest existing defib is 2 miles away at Copsale Hall, which may be too far in emergencies. Access and visibility for the public must be ensured. Electricity supply to the proposed site is uncertain. Need to evaluate: How quickly access is needed in an emergency. Number of homes/residents that would benefit.

Action Agreed: Investigate alternative suitable sites nearby that can support a defibrillator with required infrastructure (e.g., electricity) and offer better access.

OS046-25/26 – Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd July 2025 be approved and signed by the Chair.

OS047-25/26 – Playground

a) To **approve** the playground report.

It was **noted** that a meeting is being arranged to discuss grounds maintenance for the playground.

A separate meeting with the Cricket Club is scheduled for early September.

The Council noted and accepted the recent Playground Inspection Report.

- It was highlighted that the ship play structure requires sweeping.
- One bolt requires replacement. A temporary bolt will be installed if this is not sufficient, Chair of Open Spaces to measure the nut (noting it is an unusual size) and order a replacement.
- Ongoing maintenance of playground equipment was discussed.
 - Two posts were found to be wobbly and require replacement. It was suggested that Horsham Fencing be asked to undertake this work.
Action: Clerk to arrange.
 - Access issues through the gates due to mud were noted. It was suggested that Ground Guard be laid as an interim solution.
 - Action: Clerk to arrange.

*A member of the public interrupted the proceedings to raise a **Point of Order**, asserting that Cllr V Court was not permitted to speak as the councillor had not registered an interest. The Chairman responded that this assertion was **incorrect** and the meeting proceeded as planned.*

OS048-25/26 – HDC ASSET ADOPTION

a) Gaglewood

- It was noted that the Gaglewood site is woodland but not usable land.

It was agreed that the area should be **assessed to determine whether it would be of any value to the Parish Council** as an asset or for community use.

b) Woodland Walk

- The Council discussed the need for a comprehensive assessment of Woodland Walk, including the current condition of the land, future maintenance needs, and ongoing costs.
- It was noted that the land is safer in Parish Council ownership to ensure its protection and proper management.
- For public context, it was clarified that Woodland Walk forms part of an S106 agreement linked to the Bryant Homes development, and was originally intended for Parish Council ownership.
 - At the time (approx. 26 years ago), the Parish Council chose not to take it on.

- A financial contribution under S106 was received by District Council, but there is a case to argue that the S106 obligation has not been fully discharged, and the Parish could now seek to take the land as a designated public open space.

c) Abinger Cottages, Nuthurst Road, Maplehurst

- The Council discussed the open space at Abinger Cottages.
- A query was raised as to whether the land is owned by West Sussex County Council (WSCC).

Action: Clerk to investigate land ownership.

Recommendation: That the Council conducts an assessment of all three identified sites and **expresses an interest** in each as a potential location for transfer to local control, in accordance with the emerging HDC Community Assets Transfer Policy. It is further **recommended** that all councillors be actively involved in the evaluation and decision-making process.

3 members of public left the meeting.

OS049-25/26 – EMERGENCY AND RESILIENCE AUDIT

It was **noted** that the **Clerk has instructed the audit**. The matter will be **carried forward to the next meeting** as the audit report is currently being written.

OS050-25/26 – CARBON BUSTERS

It was **noted** that there was positive feedback from the last meeting. The winning photographs **were** well received, and the event was well attended by representatives from Mannings Heath Golf Club.

OS052-25/26 – DEFIBRILLATOR

It was **noted that all** defibrillators have been serviced, **and** new pads were installed where required. All units are now up to date, repaired, and fully operational. It was further **noted** that the power switch for one defibrillator had been covered over, preventing it from being turned off from inside the building. A suggestion was made to place a screwdriver inside the cabinet to allow easy access to the switch if needed in the future.

OS053-25/26 – PARISH OWNED ASSETS MANAGEMENT

a) **Fingerpost – Goldings Lane**

Issue: Vegetation needs cutting back.

Proposed Action: Arrange for vegetation clearance around the post.

b) **Jubilee Tree – Monks Gate A281**

Issue: Tree requires attention (specifics to be assessed – pruning, health check, etc.).

Proposed Action: Appoint tree surgeon or relevant contractor for inspection and maintenance.

c) **Fingerpost – Monks Gate A2814**

Issue: Vegetation needs cutting back.

Proposed Action: Schedule vegetation clearance.

d) **Fingerpost – Copsale Road**

Issue: Sign requires cleaning.

Proposed Action: Arrange for sign to be cleaned.

e) **Fingerpost – Polecat Lane**

Issue: One post needs repainting.

Proposed Action: Schedule repainting work.

f) **Fingerpost** – Winterpit Lane (trough)

Issue: Needs cleaning.

Proposed Action: Schedule Clean

It was **agreed** that the Clerk would contact a maintenance provider suggested by a Councillor to arrange the upkeep of the parish assets.

OS054-25/26 – **CRICKET CLUB**

IT was noted that Nuthurst Cricket Club is hosting a charity day on **Sunday 17th August 2025** in support of **Springboard's refurbishment**, creating a more inclusive and accessible space for Horsham families. More info and donations:

OS055-25/26 – **Matters Arising**

It was **noted** that one councillor has registered their absence from the next meeting.

Date of Next Meeting - Wednesday, 3rd September 2025

Meeting closed at 2058hrs

Signed: Dated: