

COLDWALTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD

ON TUESDAY 13th JANUARY 2026 7.30PM

ST JAMES SCHOOL, CHURCH LANE, COLDWALTHAM

Those Present:	Cllr G Nelson Cllr J Evans Cllr C Dennis Cllr K Coughtrey Cllr J Stevens Cllr I Dreger Cllr A Davies Cllr O Dudman	Chairman Vice-Chairman
	Mrs LD Sherlock-Fudge	Clerk
Parishioners:	Mr S & Mrs J Berry	

Cllr Nelson welcomed everyone to this new venue.

25 / 39.00 TO RECEIVE AND ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Apologies were received and accepted Cllr Lane, C Cllr Kenyon and D Cllrs Clarke, Ellis Brown and Campbell.

25 / 40.00 TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATION OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS FROM MEMBERS, AND ANY CHANGES SINCE THEIR LAST DECLARATION OF INTERESTS
No new declarations were received.

25 / 41.00 TO APPROVE AND SIGN MINUTES
Minutes for the Parish Council meeting held on 11th November 2025 and the planning meeting 18th November 2025 were accepted and signed by the Chairman.
Cllr Dreger queried the minutes regarding item 250/035.02 on the Post Office. Cllr Nelson noted his comments however thought that the minutes reflected the meeting.
Cllr Dennis asked for an update on the footpath to the south of the sewage works – The Clerk advised that she had raised the issue with WSCC PROW and was still waiting for a response.

25 / 42.00 FINANCE
Account Summary: The Clerk distributed the accounts for Parish Council and Alban Head Playing Fields Committee to members prior to the meeting. These are attached as Appendix A & B respectively.
Cllr Evans queried the space for balances on the summary, the Clerk explained that the funds had been split for the PO and CIL after the previous meeting and so there no balance on the 11th of November to bring forward.
The Clerk confirmed that the funds to cover the Post Office salaries had been transferred back to the PC account less the donations received in the past month.

25 / 42.02 **Payments:** payments were authorised for:

Consentino Outreach	Post Office Salaries (November)	£240.00
Consentino Outreach	Post Office Salaries (December)	£180.00
St James CE School	Meeting Fee	£25.00

25 / 43.00 **BUDGET AND PRECEPT FOR 2026/27**

25 / 43.01 The Clerk advised that there had been little change to the provisional budget distributed at the last meeting.

RESOLVED **Members agreed the budget of £19855.**

25 / 43.02 Members confirmed the proposed increase to the precept of 2% to £19674. Cllr Dreger noted that the average increase in parish precepts last year was 9%, which reflected well for Coldwaltham.

RESOLVED **Members agreed a 2% increase in the precept, to £19674.**

25 / 44.00 **CHAIRMANS REPORT**

25 / 44.01 Cllr Nelson updated members that the Post Office had not been open much over the recent weeks. There had been issues with the Post Office equipment and technology. Simon Berry had been in communication with the CEO of Post Office Ltd to resolve the problems. It is hoped that the problems in the technology have been dealt with, and with new equipment due to be installed and tested tomorrow, it is hoped that the Post Office will be open again on Thursday. Cllr Nelson thanked Simon Berry for his continued successful support of the Post Office.

25 / 44.02 Cllr Nelson noted that following the decision not to hold elections this year, he observed the letter received from WSCC highlighting their desire for a 'strong stable' local government.

25 / 44.03 Cllrs Nelson and Coughtrey have written a first draft of the Village Statement of Priorities, which will be shared shortly with council members for their comments. Following incorporation of members comments, it is hoped that the next draft will be shared with the residents in about May. The hope is that this will be available in various formats to allow more residents to access the document. Cllr Nelson envisioned that when completed the Village Statement of Priorities will be used to help inform decisions made by the Parish Council.

25 / 44.04 Cllr Nelson advised that he had received correspondence from Simon Berry on behalf of the SHMV committee, asking the Parish Council to nominate a member for the Sandham Hall Management Committee as a trustee. He suggested that if anyone wished to put themselves forward for this role, they should discuss it first with the chair and vice-chair before any proposal is put on an agenda.

25 / 44.05 **Alban Head Update** – The new fencing has been installed around the regular carpark, which has been much admired. The Committee is hoping to hold a work party soon, to redecorate the club house. Cllr Evans reminded members that the lease at the Alban Head is due to expire in 2033, he had written to the Fields in Trust but has had no reply yet. Cllr Nelson noted that there has been no further information regarding the proposed new water pipe which crosses the playing fields.

25 / 45.00 **BROOKLAND WAY PLAY AREA**

Cllr Nelson updated members regarding communications he had with Emma Grundy at HDC. The community should seriously consider transferring the Brookland Way Play Area into local control. This can be to a local group which the Parish Council would support in construction a proposal, there are many issues to consider: insurance, ongoing maintenance, future purpose. HDC have said that there is no fixed timetable for the transfer to be actioned by, and that the policy to Transfer Assets will survive any devolution changes. However, any transfer agreement would come with covenants to prohibit any sale of the land and to ensure its future recreational designation.

Cllr Nelson suggested he and Cllr Dudman would write a leaflet to be sent to residents in Brookland Way and Brookview, for their support for the plans and encourage volunteers to get involved.

Cllr Dreger had spoken to residents, in passing, and had receive overwhelming support for the Play Area. Cllr Dennis suggested that the area could have other uses not just as a play area. , Cllr Evans to advertise the potential transfer in the Link.

25 / 46.00 PLANNING

25 / 46.01 The Clerk updated Council regarding recent applications decisions:

- SDNP/25/04070/HOUS, Meadow House River Lane Watersfield, Permitted
- SDNP/25/04069/HOUS, Meadow House River Lane Watersfield, Permitted.
- SDNP/25/04439/HOUS, Winterwell, Sandy Lane, Watersfield, Permitted
- SDNP/25/04406/FUL, Hardham Water Treatment Works, London Road, Hardham, Permitted

25 / 46.02 Cllr Dennis updated Council regarding recent planning applications.

- There had been numerous emails regarding the Kings Lane application which ad been forwarded on to the SDNPA.
- Ambleside, Sandy Lane, - Various changes which include the demolition of the existing porch, utility room and roof, and the construction of rear and side infill extension. This had only just been received and would advise if there is any need for a meeting in due cause.

25 / 47.00 ITEMS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL / PARISH CLERK

25 / 47.01 Cllr Dennis highlighted with the funds received and expected from CIL she suggested that some of the funds from should be spent on additional traffic calming measures, underlining that recent resident surveys had each emphasised the issue of speeding along the A29.

Cllr Nelson suggested that when funds are confirmed, members should meet to allocate funds for any number of projects brought forward at that time. The Clerk would check what types of projects that CIL funds can be spent on.

25 / 47.02 Cllr Dreger updated members regarding the proposed traffic changes. These have been put forward for to be completed in the 2026/27 financial year. These include: a 20mph zone by the school, a 40mph zone between Pulborough and Coldwaltham, the existing 30mph zone to be extended to the railway bridge and from Watersfield to Bury Gate, the addition of chevrons to make the road appear narrower in various places.

WSCC must hold a consultation period, prior to any work, so it cannot be assumed that there will be no objections. However, he highlighted other projects where the number of objections outnumbered those in support, and the project still was actioned.

He highlighted that should the parish wish to install Village Gates, he had been advised that WSCC would fund the installation of Village Gates and any permissions, but not their purchase. So, if the Parish provides them, they could be installed for free.

25 / 47.03 Cllr Nelson would send a letter wishing C Cllr Kenyon a speedy recovery.

25 / 47.04 Cllr Coughtrey asked if the Alban Head were going to hold a summer event again this year, Cllr Nelson wasn't sure at present.

25 / 48.00 DATE OF NEXT MEETING.

Next meeting of Council is on Tuesday 10th March 2026, at 7.30pm.

Meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

Chairman:..... Date:.....

Distributed to those present and Cllr Lane, C Cllr Kenyon, and D Cllrs Clarke, Campbell and Ellis Brown.