



ANSTY AND STAPLEFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at

Whiteman's Green Sports Club on Monday 14th April 2026.

Members present: Maria Fielding (MF) Jon Gilley (JG), Mandi Graves (MG), Nuala Hampshire (NH), Candida Lewis (CL), Amanda Saunders (AS), Simon Stokes (SS) (Chair) and Brad Williams (BW).

Also present: Sarah Abellan (SA) (Clerk), MSDC Cllr Malcolm Avery (MA), 2 Mop's.

Meeting Started at 7.30pm.

- 1. To receive apologies for absence.** Bob Birthwright (BB), Crispin Salimbeni (CS), Heinrich Schmidt (HS). **Absent:** Chris East (CE)
- 2. Public Session.** No public speakers.
- 3. To receive declarations of interest in items on the agenda.** None noted.
- 4. To agree the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 9th March 2026.** Minutes were **agreed** by full council and the chair signed the minutes from 9th March 2026.
- 5. To receive updates from District and County Councillors.** Cllr Avery advised council that he had an upcoming meeting with Cllr Jim Knight and Judy Holmes, being held this week. He would discuss the District Plan, Cuckstye and the Rocky Lane Mast planning application. Cllr Avery was the only external councillor in attendance and had nothing to relay from County, other than that Cllr Pete Bradbury had now retired after 18 years. ASPC would like to take this opportunity to formally thank Councillor Pete Bradbury for all his dedication and hard work over the years. His contributions as both Councillor and Chair have been greatly valued by the ASPC.
- 6. To consider the following planning applications and any others that arrive before the meeting.** Cllr Saunders requested to discuss the Rocky Lane Mast planning, application number DM/25/1495. There are serious medical concerns over a resident who lives within 90 metres of the proposed mast. Despite numerous communications between the residents and MSDC being made aware, they were never advised they needed to submit details of the resident's medical device. The resident needs to know the output level of the mast to calculate a safe distance but this crucial detail has yet to be released. Details of the exclusion zone have also not yet been provided. Cllr Avery will address these concerns during his meeting with Judy Holmes.

DM/26/0506	Whitehouse Farm Cottage Staplefield Lane Staplefield Haywards Heath	Replacement of existing modern steel windows with slimline heritage double glazing to windows GF01, GF02, GF07, GF08, GF09, FF01, FF02, FF03, FF04, FF09 as labelled on proposed plans, together with the replacement of the existing roolight in the downstairs bathroom with a new conservation roof light.	No Objections
DM/26/0505	Whitehouse Farm Cottage Staplefield Lane Staplefield Haywards Heath	Replacement of existing modern steel windows with slimline heritage double glazing to windows GF01, GF02, GF07, GF08, GF09, FF01, FF02, FF03, FF04, FF09 as labelled on proposed plans, together with the replacement of the existing roolight in the downstairs bathroom with a new conservation roof light.	No Objections
DM/26/0602	Millfield Yard Pickwell Lane Ansty Haywards Heath	Construction of existing Agricultural Barn This is an application to establish whether the development is lawful. This will be a legal decision where the planning merits of the existing use cannot be taken into account.	Noted
DM/26/0640	Land Adj To Ash Tree Cottage Rose Cottage Lane Staplefield Haywards Heath	T1 - English Oak. Reduce by up to 3m, no further than previous points.	Noted
DM/26/0746	Meadow Cottage Rose Cottage Lane Staplefield Haywards Heath	Red Oak (T1) - Monolith, Oak (T2) Crown reduce by 2mteres, Oak (T3) (AOD)- Monolith, Beech (T4) Crown reduce by 2metres Oak Tree (T5) - Crown reduce by 2 metres,	No Objections
DM/26/0738	Thickets Deaks Lane Ansty Haywards Heath	Proposal for Loft extension This is an application to establish whether the development is lawful. This will be a legal decision where the planning merits of the proposed use cannot be taken into account.	No Objections
DM/26/0681	Fowlers Broxmead Lane Cuckfield Haywards Heath	Proposed renovation and refurbishment of family bathroom and shower room, including the removal of a stud partition wall, replacement of an existing extractor fan and the removal in part of external pipes on the north elevation	No Objections
DM/26/0365	Little Haslings Orchard Way Warninglid Haywards Heath	Installation of free standing 3.3 x 5.3m glass and aluminium veranda garden room located on patio out side kitchen patio doors. (Additional plans recieved 23.03.2206)	No Objections

DM/26/0790	Tyes Place Brantridge Lane Staplefield Haywards Heath	The replacement of an existing summerhouse	No Objections
DM/26/0851	Tyes Place Brantridge Lane Staplefield Haywards Heath	The replacement of an existing summerhouse	No Objections

7. CGR

7.1. Set up Working group, agree members and scope. It was **agreed** that members would be SS (lead), BW, JG, NH, MF and MG. Scope to look at financial viability of the council now the CGR means the loss of the Rocky Lane Wards to ASPC including prospective income/funding measures/cost cuts and if these are not feasible, alternative measures. SS to arrange first meeting.

8. Staplefield

8.1. Request for area outside Brantridge School to be made hard standing – SA to request a meeting between Brantridge School and SA and SS, to discuss the parking issues and possible resolutions.

8.2. Playpark Update -SA, BW, CL and BB met with the contractor on site last week and agreed that the park needs some additional topsoil and grass seed to even the surface and remove trip hazards. Caloo agreed that if we provided 3 large bags of topsoil, they would add in the grass seed and distribute. The topsoil has been delivered and will be completed by Caloo this week. Weather dependant, this should take in a couple of weeks and allow the park to be re-opened. Council would like an official opening ceremony involving the children from the school who helped provide ideas for the new park and a new sign design. SA to organise.

8.3. Pavilion Update – The pavilion work has been completed with a couple of areas that need to be looked at. SA to liaise with the contractor. Council **resolved** to close off the showers. SA to action.

9. Auditor – It was **agreed** to proceed with a year only and re-asses. SA to action.

10. Land – Brook Street and Ansty acquisition updates. Brook Street Layby – CE was absent from the meeting so couldn't provide any updates. It was **agreed** by council that NH would take over the Brook Street one and SS would take over the Ansty one.

11. ACV – Update from CE on the asset of community value applications – In the absence of CE it was **agreed** that CL would take over these. SA to send over the information.

12. Finance

12.1. Monthly finances – The financial statement including the schedule of payments, the receipts, bank statements and bank reconciliation were checked and **agreed** by Council. Payments were signed off by NH and BW at the beginning of April and the accounts were **ratified** in their presence.

12.2. Payments approved since last meeting – approval of additional MOT for the park £1000 plus VAT, £55 plus VAT per bag, for 3 bags of topsoil, £13.25 (incl VAT) to Wessex IT to provide one drive for the Clerk. It was requested by council to obtain a quote to provide one drive for all councillors. Clerk to action.

12.3. Budget report for end of year – Most outgoings fell within budget apart from a few exceptions. Insurance as a variation was required, Subscriptions as some increased higher than expected, salaries due to necessary overtime, pavilion due to outstanding compliance work being required, Noticeboards, although this was recovered by an S106 grant and a new entry to provide assistance with the Rocky Lane Mast appeal, although this was covered by money still being available in the capital grants reserve. Income was greater than predicted.

12.4. Update on the budget to reflect the playpark payment is now carrying over into the new financial year. It was **agreed** to carry over the playpark budget into the new year.

13. Update Policies

13.1. Approve updated list of Direct Debits and payments – Due to a technical error on the system, this could not be checked by Council and it was **agreed** to move to the next agenda.

13.2. Re-approve Financial Risk Assessment – Council resolved to adopt the Financial Risk Assessment.

13.3. Re-approve Financial Regulations - Council resolved to adopt the Financial Regulations.

13.4. Re-approve Standing Orders - Council resolved to adopt the Standing Orders.

13.5. Re-approve Scheme of Delegation - Council resolved to adopt the Scheme of Delegation.

14. Local Publications – BW to write a piece about the new playpark and to add in quotes and photos from the children at the opening. It was agreed to submit to both Cuckfield Life and Common Interests magazines.

15. Meetings attended – SS update council on a meeting he and SA attended with Barry Gilham and Cllr Lucraft at HHTC to discuss the upcoming move of the Rocky Lane Wards to HHTC. It was **agreed** to work together to enable a smooth transition and financial compensation for the loss of the wards was discussed. Various options are currently being considered and updates will be provided in due course.

16. Minor matters for consideration and items for the next agenda – MF requested access to the S106 wish list, potholes to be looked at by the Staplefield noticeboard (SA already looking into this and the layby) and to ask if council can get involved in discussion about bringing fibre to the village. BW advised they can apply online if they have enough people and suggested residents look at the various options online such as Openreach. MF to feed back. SA advised she was assisting a resident with a tree issue and trying to find somebody to take responsibility for its condition as it's in a dangerous state.

17. Confirm date and place of next meeting. Ansty Sports and Social Club, Committee Room, 7pm Annual Parish Meeting, 7.30pm Annual Parish Council Meeting.

Meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Minutes are in draft form until agreed and signed at the next full council meeting.

Ansty and Staplefield Parish Council										
Listing of transactions dated between 01/03/2026 and 13/04/2026										
Voucher	Date	Description	Type	Supplier / customer	Account name	Reserve	Bank Account	Net	VAT	Total
817	31/03/2026	Credit Interest	Receipt	Unity Trust	Bank Interest	General	Deposit Acct	675.10	0.00	675.10
818	13/04/2026	December Inspection	Payment	GB Sports and Leisure	Playpark inspections	General	Current Acct	-112.50	-22.50	-135.00
819	13/04/2026	meetings	Payment	Ashenground Communit	Room Bookings	General	Current Acct	-33.24	0.00	-33.24
820	13/04/2026	Final Invoice	Payment	Caloo	Staplefield Play Park refurb	Play Park refurb	Current Acct	-30,732.58	-6,146.52	-36,879.10
821	03/03/2026	March Support	Payment	Wessex IT	Equipment and software	General	Current Acct	-30.67	-6.13	-36.80
822	09/03/2026	February Salaries	Payment	WSCC	staff salaries and on costs	General	Current Acct		0.00	
823	09/03/2026	January Salaries	Payment	WSCC	staff salaries and on costs	General	Current Acct		0.00	
824	13/03/2026	February Emails	Payment	Wessex IT	Equipment and software	General	Current Acct	-24.99	-5.00	-29.99
825	14/03/2026	Jan-Feb 26	Payment	Smartest Energy	Staplefield Pavilion	General	Current Acct	-9.90	-0.49	-10.39
826	15/03/2026	Bronze package feb-march	Payment	Hugofox Ltd	Equipment and software	General	Current Acct	-9.99	-2.00	-11.99
827	16/03/2026	March Mobile Phone	Payment	Plan.com	Equipment and software	General	Current Acct	-22.00	-4.40	-26.40
828	17/03/2026	Water Feb	Payment	Castle Water	Staplefield Pavilion	General	Current Acct	-5.95	0.00	-5.95
829	18/03/2026	April Support	Payment	Wessex IT	Equipment and software	General	Current Acct	-30.67	-6.13	-36.80
830	19/03/2026	Bank charges	Payment	Unity Trust	Bank Charges	General	Current Acct	-9.85	0.00	-9.85
831	20/03/2026	Website	Payment	Ionos Cloud Ltd	District Plan/Cuckstye	General	Current Acct	-10.00	-2.00	-12.00