



BUXTED

PARISH COUNCIL

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9th December 2025

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held in St Mary's Church Hall on Tuesday 9th December 2025 at 7.55p.m.

Present: Cllrs. Blandford (Chairman), Duck, Humphrey, Mallett, Marshall, Muddle, Rose and Smith.

Also present: ESCC Cllr. Galley and Clerks Beccy Macklen and Claudine Feltham.

Public : **Representatives from the A267/A272 Road Safety Group to provide information regarding the group** – Melvyn Butcher and Susan King introduced themselves to the all in attendance and set out the vision of the group.

For the past two decades, the A267 from Mayfield to Horam has been a hotspot for vehicle crashes, deer collisions and, said to say, two recent fata crashes at Isenhurst junction in 2022 and Mayfield Flat in 2024.

Over the years road traffic groups have been formed, petitions raised, extensive press, TV and media coverage given to accidents, all eventually being forgotten and archived.

Although there have been other fatalities on the A267, coupled with numerous crashes, the fatality at Isenhurst Junction (March 2022) and at Mayfield Flat (October 2024) were the catalysts which led to the creation of the A267 Road Safety Group.

The A267 Road Safety Group

The initial vision was to make the A267 from Mayfield to Horam a safer road for private, HGV and public service vehicles as well as for pedestrians, motorbikes and cyclists – especially at the 'black spot' sites namely: Wellbrook Hill, A267/A272 junction, Mayfield Flat and Isenhurst.

The group is media based with three founder members who all work in the media: Sarah is a PR consultant, Susan is a senior reporter for the Sussex Express and Melvyn is a community correspondent, also for the Sussex Express, covering Mayfield, Cross in Hand, Horam and Uckfield.

In October 2025 the group suffered a virus attack on the founding members personally, and the Facebook, with an investigation ongoing. Consequently, a new group A272/A267 Road Safety Group was set up and extended the area is covers up to Frant (north), Buxted to Coopers Green (west) and the Boship roundabout (south).

Achievements so far include the reduction of some speed limits; the cleaning of

signs, clearance of drains; assistance with setting up Speedwatch groups (with limited resources from ESCC).

The group would like to help Buxted parish help themselves to work in partnership with county and other parish councils to make changes to the roads.

They are available to assist in any way they can, drawing attention to issues both through social media and directly with ESCC and to assist the parish council with advice on SIDS/VAS/Speedwatch and working together with other parish councils.

Susan King and Melvyn Butcher left the meeting following the presentation.

A local resident who lives on the main road through Buxted is acutely aware of the speed of traffic through the village and was a previous member of the Speedwatch team. He believes that further Speedwatch patrols or a blackcat device are academic as evidence of speeding is already available from previous data gathered via the Speedwatch team and the recent ESCC road safety audit. Another method to stop speeding which is more robust is now necessary.

However, the parish council had decided on a strategy whereby they would support any speedwatch initiative and have been actively looking into purchasing up to date VAS signs. The clerk then advised that at the last Strengthening Local Relationships (SLR) the Highways Road Safety Officer advised they would be able to assess sites submitted by the parish council for the suitability of a Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS). The suggested sites had been received from a councillor and would be forwarded to the Highways officer. It was also advised that the more modern VAS signs not only show the oncoming vehicles the speed which they are travelling but can also gather data. That data could then be used as evidence to inform ESCC Highways of any speeding issues, who are ultimately the decision makers with regards to speed prevention methods. Up to date data will be more powerful.

01/12/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received and accepted from Cllr Furber and WDC Cllr Shaw.

02/12/25 DECLARATION OF MEMBERS INTERESTS

All councillors declared a personal interest in any matters relating to the Ionides Trust by virtue of the parish council being managing agents of the site.

Cllr Smith declared a personal interest in any matters related to allotments due to being an allotment holder.

Cllr Duck declared a personal interest in any matters relating to the High Hurstwood Village Hall Committee by virtue of being a member of the committee.

Cllr Humphrey declared a personal interest in any matters relating to the Five Ash Down Village Hall Committee by virtue of being the parish council representative on the committee.

03/12/25 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th November 2025 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the meeting.

04/12/25 ESCC/WDC REPORT

Cllr Galley reported the following:

Positives – a Care Quality Commission review of adult social care concluded that by and large, services are outstanding. Ofsted assessed children's services and

reported a rating of very good with one home being given outstanding.

The ESCC owned hedge outside Totease House has finally been cut and it should be recognised the Buxted Together team have done a great job on the pavements and drains along the A272 through Buxted.

He is aware there are still issues with drains on Gordon Road (householders' responsibility), and the culvert on Framfield Road which is being repaired next year.

Negatives – the financial position at ESCC remains dire, with uncertainty as to how/if Govt will help.

It currently remains unclear if County Council elections will take place in May 2026 given the Govt decision to push back the Mayoral election until 2028. Govt is currently consulting on the shape of the unitary authority, but further advice is awaited as to whether LGR will go ahead as scheduled.

Cllr Galley was asked why there are no markings on the lanes approaching the roundabout at the end of Bell Lane, Uckfield. He has previously raised this issue and has been told nothing can be done. He will raise the issue again.

05/12/25 **FOR MEMBERS TO RECEIVE THE INTERIM INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT FROM MULBERRY AND CONSIDER THE FINDINGS:**

- Members **noted** that the FSCS limit increases from £85,000 to £120,000 per financial institution from 1st December 2025
- Members considered a transfer of funds from the Natwest Account to both the Unity Trust account and The Cambridge account to maximise the amount of funds covered under the FSCS limit as per agenda item and **resolved** the clerk to move money up to £120,000 in accounts.
- Members considered the fidelity limit and balances on bank accounts and **resolved** to leave the current fidelity limit as it is, due to recent expenditure which has taken the overall funds below the fidelity limit. However, the clerk was authorised to increase the fidelity limit should income be received that takes funds above the current set amount within the insurance policy.

06/12/25 **OUTSTANDING MATTERS**

Public footpaths: Nothing to report.

Trees: *see Property Issues below.*

Road Safety: Speeding in Buxted – any update – see 'Public Speaking' session above. In the absence of Cllr Furber, the clerk confirmed no locations for a VAR have been received yet although he has met with a local resident and have identified some positions. Now received. Thanks to Buxted Together for their hard work which makes a huge impact and is widely appreciated.

Wealden Local Development Framework: No update, but advised by WDC Cllr Shaw a new consultation on a revised Local Plan will be issued towards the end of January 2026

Property issues:

- **Buxted Recreation Ground** – drainage improvements – update – Cllr Humphrey and the clerk met with football club representatives and completed the FA PitchPower assessment. We are now waiting a report from the FA to be able to move forward with the Sports Infrastructure grant application form.

- **Tree Work to Council owned trees** – update – five tree reports have been forwarded to the council's tree surgeon for costs.
- **Allotment shed** – update – the base for the new allotment shed begins on 12th December with delivery of the shed being arranged.
- **Bus Shelter Five Ash Down** – update – the frame is being made in the workshop with fitting due to take place the week commencing 15th December.

Communications Matters: Nothing to report.

07/12/25 CORRESPONDENCE
No priority correspondence

08/12/25 COMMITTEE MEETINGS
None

09/12/25 FINANCE

- i) **Payments:** On the proposal of Cllr. Marshall seconded by Cllr. Rose, updated the November 2025 payment list and the initial December 2025 payment list totalling £13,865 covered by direct debit and BACS payments were approved.
- ii) **Bank reconciliations:** The clerk had circulated completed reconciliations for November which were signed.
- iii) **Noted:** RBS reports: Ear marked reserves, Trial Balance, Receipts and Payments, Cash and Investment Reconciliation
- iv) **Holy Trinity Church High Hurstwood** – request for annual grant 2026/27 of £400 – approved.

10/12/25 OTHER MEETINGS
No other meetings

11/12/25 MEMBERS QUESTIONS

FAD Post office reopening? – reported as being 15th December.

12/12/25 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Meeting – Tuesday 10th February in Five Ash Down Village Hall

The meeting closed at 8.45p.m.

DATE RAISED	CASE NO	DESCRIPTION	OPEN/CLOSED RESOLUTION
November 2024	EA007FRAMFIELD	Culvert, Framfield Road, Buxted	ONGOING Collapsed drainage leading to culvert. Reported some time ago. Highway advised works need planning and extensive repair. 19/3 – Highways contacted PC to advise Structural Team will contact PC to arrange a site meeting likely to be in April. May – Cllr Furber attended meeting with ESCC/Balfour Beatty. Agreed work from culver to KSV would be carried out. Design for culvert currently being designed. Work to be carried out in next financial year.

			10/06 – clerk to ask Highway if any remedial works will take place to stop the road falling away while a design is being drawn up.
17/02/25	CCY000737	Broken away tarmac (50cm) in Framfield Road/Limes Lane outside KSV and bollard fallen over	REOPENED 20/02/25 – ESCC Highways do not consider work is necessary at this time but would continue to monitor – Raise again with Highways. 17/3 – Highway Steward revisited. Road still does not meet criteria, but bollard will be replaced. May – work should be carried out in conjunction with culvert repair works (as above EA007FRAMFIELD)
24/03/25	HED004006	Hedge at Totease House, High Street, Buxted	CLOSED Reported to highways by a Buxted resident Chased throughout following months by Cllr Galley. Some hedge cut back 20/08 – confirmed remaining hedge to be cut is owned by ESCC Highways and should be cut in 28 days. 30/09 – Cllr Galley confirmed the hedge has not been cut but is now scheduled to be cut within 72 days 25/11 – Buxted Together chasing cutting of hedge with Roy Galley (still not cut) 2/12 – photographs received showing cutting of hedge
27/08/25	Wealden District Council	Broken Court Lane street sign from UKPN works	CLOSED Reported to Highways. Highways advised this is the responsibility of Wealden 27/08 – reported to WDC 02/09 – WDC acknowledged and advised it is on list of works 3/11 – WDC advised new road signs are ordered quarterly. The road sign should be replaced by the end of November Dec 25 – repaired
20/10/25	HED005343	Verge/hedge opposite Howbourne Lane	ONGOING 20/10 – reported overgrown verge to Highways. It is a wildflower verge so cannot be cut. Also requested wildflower status is removed. 27/10 – Highways advised no overgrown verges/hedges, just fallen leaves which is WDC responsibility. Clerk to ask Lengthsman to clear leaves. Highways consulting internally on wildflower status 25/11 – Lengthsman cleared pathway. Still waiting for a response

			from Highways on classification as a wildflower verge. Further information from local resident passed to Highways.
10/11/25	HED005411	Hedge overgrown lamppost junction Britts Farm Road/High Street, Buxted	<p>ONGOING</p> <p>10/11 – reported overgrown hedge over lamppost</p> <p>17/11 – Highway Steward inspected, does not need cutting back. Clerk queried who owns hedge as if not Highways, clerk would write to the owner to ask them to cut back.</p> <p>25/11 – chased response from Highways</p> <p>03/12 – Highways advised the issue would be dealt with within 28 days</p>

Ionides Trust Update 9th December 2025:

- 1. Apologies – Cllr Furber**
- 2. Declarations of Interest – None.**
- 3. Land after Scout Bonfire evening** – on inspection the Scouts have completed a good job of clearing up the bonfire site and relaying the turf. It was noted that portaloos were hired for the event. It is a shame the Scouts rules do not allow the use of the hall for such events.
- 4. Registration of Land as a Village Green – update** – still no response from the owner of the surgery site.
- 5. Any update on long term vision of Ionides land (SF & PS)** – the clerk has received confirmation from WDC Planning that any pre-application advice is chargeable. Cllr Smith advised plans are currently on hold .

Meeting ended 8.47pm