



BUXTED

PARISH COUNCIL

Clerks: Beccy Macklen & Claudine Feltham
PO Box 202, Heathfield, East Sussex, TN21 1BN

t: 01435 515219 e: clerk@buxted-pc.gov.uk w: buxtedparishcouncil.gov.uk

9th June 2026

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held in Five Ash Down Village Hall on Tuesday 9th June 2026 at 7.08p.m.

Present: Cllrs. Smith (Chairman), Blandford, Duck, Mallett and Marshall.
Also present: ESCC Cllr Coleman and Clerk Beccy Macklen.

Public : None

01/06/26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received and accepted from Cllrs Furber, Humphrey, and Muddle, WDC Cllr Shaw and clerk Claudine Feltham

02/06/26 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.

03/06/26 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 12th May 2026 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the meeting.

04/06/26 ESCC/WDC REPORT

ESCC Cllr Coleman introduced herself to the council and explained she is still in the induction stage as a new councillor but she had met with the Buxted Together team which has initiated a request for a meeting with the Head of Highways, Andrew Turner to discuss issues with pot holes and general state of the roads in Buxted. It has become apparent that if flooding is an issue, these areas are more likely to be dealt with first and therefore photographs of when the flooding is occurring really helps. She is also meeting with Buxted and High Hurstwood Primary Schools soon.

Cllr Coleman advised that East Sussex County Council has considerable debt up, which will increase to £100 million by the end of next year. This is linked to Local Government Reform (LGR) by way of ESCC being a 'compliant council which makes it eligible for financial support by the Government. However, the new Reform leadership at ESCC is considering a Judicial Review of LGR which could then leave

the council vulnerable and in danger of losing the LGR financial assistance. Cllr Coleman is not in favour of LGR as it moves localised governance away from the people it represents, but to move away from this proposal at this stage could create some potential financial difficulties.

Although not on WDC, Cllr Coleman vocalised real concern regards the recent changes in the planning system. From the end of October district councillors will no longer have the power to call applications to committee for consideration. From May 2027 applications of more than 150 houses will automatically be referred to the minister for housing if the local authority are minded to refuse, and therefore the local planning authority will not make a decision. Additionally, enforcement cases are rising; enforcement powers are not strong enough; and concern is raised as to how a unitary authority will deal with enforcement issues without the sufficient powers.

In the absence of Cllr Shaw, there is no WDC update.

05/06/26 CONSIDERATION OF SAFEGUARDING VULNERABLE ADULTS AND CHILDREN POLICY

In the process of apply for the WDC sports infrastructure grant, the parish council was asked for a copy of its safeguarding vulnerable adults and children policy, which we did not have. Fortunately, WDC accepted the Football Club's policy as main users of the site. A new policy is therefore proposed. Cllr Marshall suggested to the policy which were agreed. Proposed by Cllr Smith, seconded by Cllr. Mallett, the policy was adopted.

06/06/26 OUTSTANDING MATTERS

Public footpaths: The Vanguard Way Footpath No.24 is to be officially reopened after 15 years on 26th June. The formal opening will include the children from High Hurstwood Primary School, and the new headmaster will be cutting the ribbon. The Parish Council thanked the volunteers for their extremely challenging work lobbying/working with ESCC to get to this outcome.

Trees:

- **Ratification of tree works at Buxted Allotments** – a quote to complete the trees works at the allotments was received and approved via email consultation. The cost of this works was £880. Proposed by Cllr Marshall, seconded by Mallett – approved and ratified.

Road Safety:

- **Speeding in Buxted – update on VAS and potential restart of Speedwatch Team** – work is progressing on the VAS sign, with four quotes now received (to be circulated) and a contractor sourced to fit the equipment.

A renewed speed watch advertising campaign has garnered some further support with seven volunteers now registered. Names have been forwarded to the Sussex Police Speedwatch coordinator who has made initial contact and will be forming a new team. The SID has been checked and is still in full working order.

Wealden Local Development Framework: Nothing to report, but it was noted the publication of an amended Local Plan is due in October.

Property issues:

- **High Hurstwood Village Hall & Car Park** – request to install solar panels/EV charger - approved subject to all required permissions being sought.

- **Buxted Recreation Ground – any update on WDC Sports Infrastructure Grant application** – no further update other than the contractor has been booked for a provisional start date of approximately 6th July.
- **Nevill Road site – possible disposal of site** – tree works totalling £2130 have been recommended for the site which triggered a conversation regarding the general cost of the site given that it is not in the parish of Buxted and has no benefit to those living in the parish.

The issue we face is that no one wants the land and it is not possible to obtain planning permission for development due to the TPO and proximity to Views Wood. It was suggested the parish council market the land. In the meantime, it is important to ensure the area is safe and therefore the works to the trees was approved.

Communications Matters: Nothing to report.

07/06/26 **CORRESPONDENCE**
No priority correspondence

08/06/26 **COMMITTEE MEETINGS**
None

09/06/26 **FINANCE**

- i) **Payments:** On the proposal of Cllr. Marshall seconded by Cllr. Blandford, updated payments totalling £24,151.74 list for May 2026 was approved.
- ii) **Payments** On the proposal of Cllr. Marshall seconded by Cllr Blandford payments totalling £5,269.67 covered by direct debit or BACS payments were approved.
- iii) **Bank reconciliations:** The clerk had circulated completed reconciliations for May which were signed.
- iv) **Noted:** RBS reports for May: Ear marked reserves, Trial Balance, Receipts and Payments, Cash, and Investment Reconciliation
- v) **Request for grant of £250 to support an event for the reopening of footpath No.24 Vanguard Way** – approved.
- vi) **confirmation of increase in Govt allowance of mileage claims from 45p to 55p per mile** – noted.

10/06/26 **OTHER MEETINGS**
No other meetings

11/06/26 **MEMBERS QUESTIONS**
None

12/06/26 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Cllr Mallet asked if the works to the culvert are still due to take place at the end of June. Clerk to ask ESCC Highways to confirm.

Date of next meeting – Next meeting 14th July 2026 St Mary’s Church Hall, Church Road, Buxted

The meeting closed at 7.44p.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.

			<p>Highway advised works need planning and extensive repair.</p> <p>19/3 – Highways contacted PC to advise Structural Team will contact PC to arrange a site meeting likely to be in April.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
17/02/25	CCY000737	Broken away tarmac (50cm) in Framfield Road/Limes Lane outside KSV and bollard fallen over	<p>REOPENED</p> <p>20/02/25 – ESCC Highways do not consider work is necessary at this time but would continue to monitor – Raise again with Highways.</p> <p>17/3 – Highway Steward revisited. Road still does not meet criteria, but bollard will be replaced.</p> <p>May – work should be carried out in conjunction with culvert repair woks (as above EA007FRAMFIELD)</p>
27/05/26	CCY001221/CWY009219	State of road and Highway verge roadside of High Hurstwood Village Hall Car Park/Field gate	<p>Current state of the road and dip in the highway verge to entrances of HHVH car park and field entrance. Cars bottom out entering car park. Cars cannot access the field gate due to drop in land on verge.</p> <p>27/05 – Highways have instructed Steward to assess.</p>
08/07/26	TRE006072	Station Road, Buxted (near entrance to Southern Water site)	<p>Dangerous tree near entrance to Southern Water site</p> <p>Highway Steward could not find the tree. Clerk sent details again – Steward to revisit.</p>

Ionides Trust Update 9th June 2026 following Ionides AGM:

- 1. Apologies –** Cllrs Furber, Humphrey and Muddle, and clerk Claudine Feltham
- 2. Declarations of Interest –** Cllr Marshall declared an interest in any matters relating to the rifle club due to being a member.
- 3. Illegal Camper – update –** shortly after the previous meeting, the tent appeared to be abandoned. A letter was put inside the tent to advise that it should be removed by the owner of the Ionides Trust will arrange for it to be removed. It has been arranged for Wealden District Council to dispose of the tent at a cost of £75. Two extra 'No camping' signs have been purchased, will be attached to stakes, and positioned where the camper pitches his tent.
- 4. To Note – receipt of funds from the estate of the late John Ferguson –** noted that paperwork to receive approximately £88K from the estate of John Ferguson has been signed.
- 5. Village Hub Update –** the topography survey has been received and paid for. This was sent to an architect, Miller Bourne, who have sent Cllr Smith a proposal to create concept drawings. This quote to be circulated and considered by the Ionides Trust in July.
- 6. Any other business -** Cllr Mallett suggested the Ionides Trust should have its own safeguarding policy. Clerk to prepare a policy for consideration in July.

Meeting closed 8.00pm