

SLAUGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Meeting AGENDA

The Council Members are summoned to a Meeting to be held on
Thursday 29th January 2026 at 7.00pm – The Sports Pavilion, High Street,
Handcross

Sally Mclean - Clerk to the Council Email clerk@slaugham-pc.gov.uk Website: <http://www.slaughampc.co.uk>

Press and Public are welcome to attend - The Parish Council is an open and transparent local authority and encourages public attendance at meetings.



1. **Apologies for Absence:** To receive and accept apologies for absence.
2. **Declaration of interest from members in respect of any items on the agenda:** To record any declarations of interest
3. **Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting/s held on 28th November 2024** -To receive and accept the Minutes
4. **Adjournment for questions from the public:** Council to consider adjournment of the meeting in accordance with Council's Standing Orders, to receive questions from members of the public in attendance in respect of items on the agenda
5. **Matters from District & County Councillors:** to receive verbal reports from representatives of other authorities
 - 5.1. **Mid Sussex District Council (MSDC):** Press Release/s updates *cc'd in advance*
 - 5.2. **West Sussex County Council County Local Committee (WSCC/CLC)** – Press Release/s updates *cc'd in advance*
6. **Committee Reports:** Council to consider the recommendations, receive and note committee and advisory group/updates: To approve meeting and or briefing notes received in advance of the meeting convened:
 - 6.1. **Finance & Policy Committee:** Members to approve meeting/note minutes and recommendations: 22nd January 2026: *papers cc'd in advance*
 - 6.1.1. To review and approve the Income and Expenditure Year Ended 31st March 2025/26
 - 6.1.2. To review and approve Trial Balance Current Year
 - 6.1.3. To review and adopt the recommended budget for the financial year 1st April 2026 – 31st March 2027
 - 6.1.4. To review and approve the recommended precept for 2026/27:

The Committee recommends that the Council adopt a precept of £210,00 for the 26/27 financial year, reflecting an increase of £40,000. With the tax base rising from 1860.3 to 1972.0, this equates to an annual increase of £19.43 per Band D property, bringing the total to £105.64 a percentage increase of approximately 22.54%.

YEAR	Tax Base	Precept	Band D	Increase
2024/25 <i>This presented a reduction of approx. £1.62 on a BAND D property</i>	1860.3	£139000	£74.72	£3,000.00
Current 2025/26	1972.0	£170000	£86.21	£31,000.00
Proposed 2026/27	1987.90	£210000	£105.64	£40,000.00

The increase in this year's precept supports the Council's rising operational costs and planned service improvements for 2026/27. The proposed increase from £170,000 to £210,000 reflects inflationary pressures and the need to sustain parish services. The additional income will fund asset management, staffing, insurance, IT and compliance requirements, and continued investment in playgrounds, sports facilities, open spaces, and environmental works such as tree surgery and pond maintenance. It will also enable the Council to maintain and strengthen earmarked reserves to meet future obligations, including open space and common land management and infrastructure maintenance. The Council remains committed to managing its reserves responsibly and to pursuing external funding opportunities to support projects and minimise the financial impact on the community.
 - 6.15. To RESOLVE recommended precept increase for 2026/27 and issue the demand to the collecting authority Mid Sussex District Council (*attached*)
 - 6.2. **Recreation:** To update members on current activities and to approve meeting/note minutes from meeting held:
 - 6.3. **Neighbourhood Planning: Land at St Martin Close** - To update members on current activities to review and approve meeting/note minutes where required:
 - 6.4. **Planning Committee:** Members to consider updates: To approve meeting minutes of meeting/notes *cc'd in advance*
7. **Chairman's Report:** to receive verbal report for the Chair:
8. **Clerks Report** – to receive information, verbal or written report from the Clerk papers *cc'd in advance*
 - 8.1. To update members on the recent application made to WSCC as Commons Registration Authority under Section 19 of the Commons Act 2006 to amend ownership land registrations for CL319/CL24 and VG68 parcels of land within Slaugham Parish, noted as part of a wider pattern of similar claims across towns and parishes.
9. **Finance Matters Payments and receipts** The Committee is asked to RESOLVE to approve:
 - 9.1. Payments and receipts The Committee is asked to RESOLVE to approve: To approve Bank Reconciliation for December 2025 - Approval in line with scheme delegation (*Ref: Bank Payment in advance*)
 - 9.2. The Committee is asked to RESOLVE to approve the schedule of payments for December 2025 & January 2026 previously distributed.
 - 9.3. Members To consider requests for financial support from local groups under the Parish Council's Grants scheme:
10. **Correspondence/Information Items/Publications/Consultations:** (*Correspondence cc'd in advance to members*)
 - 10.1. Mid Sussex District Council has launched a new campaign promoting kindness and respect towards staff and residents. Timed to coincide with Blue Monday, the initiative encourages courteous communication across all channels and highlights the impact that abusive behaviour can have on staff wellbeing and service delivery. The campaign reinforces that council workers are human too and promotes respectful interactions, staff support measures, robust incident-response processes, and a commitment to a safe, inclusive community. Councillor Anne-Marie Cooke emphasised the importance of open, respectful conversations and thanked staff for their continued hard work. Further information is available at www.midsussex.gov.uk/promoting-kindness

- 10.2. Businesses in Mid Sussex are being made aware that from 1 April 2026, major reforms to the business rates system will take effect across the district following a national revaluation. [Significant Reforms for Business Rates from 1 April 2026 - Mid Sussex District Council](#) MSDC will use updated rateable values, set by the Valuation Office Agency (VOA), to calculate business rates for local businesses. Businesses can view their current and future rateable value through the VOA's [find a business rates valuation service](#) on GOV.UK.
- 10.3. The government's consultation on local government reorganisation (LGR) in West Sussex closed on 11 January 2026. The government will now review all submitted business cases and representations before the end of March whether to implement any of the proposals, with or without modification. If approved, a Structural Change Order will be prepared for Parliamentary consideration, setting out governance arrangements, councillor numbers, transitional functions, and election timings. Current expectations are for shadow authority elections in May 2027 and the new unitary authority or authorities to formally come into effect on 1 April 2028. All existing councils will continue to operate as normal until that date. The shared priority across West Sussex councils remains ensuring that any reorganisation delivers value for taxpayers, protects local voices, and supports long-term community and economic wellbeing.
- Further details on the reorganisation process and timelines can be found in the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government summary here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-government-reorganisation-letter-to-areas-invited-to-submitted-final-proposals/summary-of-the-local-government-reorganisation-process> and on our hub at www.shapingwestsussex.org. You can find more details about the government defined criteria which proposals are being assessed against here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-government-reorganisation-invitation-to-local-authorities-in-two-tier-areas/letter-east-sussex-and-brighton>

11. Highways/Footpaths: to review highways projects/consultation items: Members are asked to consider the following:

12. Police / NHW Report / Resilience Group Reports

- 12.1. Crime Reports cc'd members – Updates issued to members in advance

13. Any other matters that the Chairman wishes to raise for future discussion:

14. Date of next meeting/s –

Signed: _____ Date: _____