

SLAUGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Meeting MINUTES

Meeting 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.



Present: Cllrs Julia Elliott, Eric Prescott, Gary Marsh, James Keating, David Dunn, Jane MacNaughton

1. **Apologies for Absence:** To receive and accept apologies for absence. Cllr Lesley Read, Cllr Ken Boyle
2. **Declaration of interest from members in respect of any items on the agenda:** To record any declarations of interest: None
3. **Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting/s held on 28th November 2024** -To receive and accept the Minutes Proposed Cllr David Dunn, Second Cllr Eric Prescott **APPROVED RESOLVED**
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: None
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*

26th January 2026 -The Council has published its response to the Inspector's initial letter (IDJB-01) in the form of three topic papers:

 - [MS-TP1: Updates Since Submission \(357 KB, PDF\)](#)
 - [MS-TP2: Housing \(2 MB, PDF\)](#)
 - [MS-TP3: Employment \(340 KB, PDF\)](#)

These have been added to the examination library. In addition, the Council has added some additional documents to the [Evidence Library](#).

16th January 2026. - The Inspector has provided a [Guidance Note \(88 KB, PDF\)](#) and draft [Hearing Programme \(23 KB, PDF\)](#) for the forthcoming hearings, scheduled to commence on 24th February 2026. The Council has Given Notice of the Examination, details available below.

The Inspector has also provided the Council with comments and proposed modifications on [Development Management policies \(222 KB, PDF\)](#) and [Matters and Issues for Examination \(158 KB, PDF\)](#).

The documents have been added to the Inspector's Documents section below and the Council will respond in due course.

24th December 2025 - The Inspector Jonathan Bore has issued a letter ([Letter IDJB-01 \(180 KB, PDF\)](#)) to the Council which has been published in the examination library.

8th December 2025 - The Planning Inspectorate has written to inform the Council that a new Inspector has been appointed to conduct the examination of the Mid Sussex District Plan 2021 – 2039.
 - [Letter from the Planning Inspectorate advising of a new Inspector \(December 2025\) \(130 KB, PDF\)](#)
 - 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.
 - 6.1.5. 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: Meeting scheduled 17th February 2026
 - 6.3. **Neighbourhood Planning: Land at St Martin Close** - To update members on current activities to review and approve meeting/note minutes where required: Cllr Prescott provided an update on current discussions regarding the disposal of land at St Martin Close. *Members noted the update and agreed that further work would continue.*
 - 6.4. **Planning Committee:** Members to consider updates: To approve meeting minutes of meeting/notes *cc'd in advance*

