

**WASHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

**MINUTES** of the monthly meeting of Washington Parish Council held on Monday 7th April 2025 in the Washington Village Hall (Doré Room) School Lane, Washington RH20 4AP

**PRESENT:** Cllr C. Brookes, Cllr B Hanvey, Cllr P. Heeley, Cllr T. Keech, Cllr A Lisher (Chairman), and

Cllr J. Thomas.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Cllr C. Fisher (HDC) and Cllr J Grech (HDC). Apologies received from Cllr P Marshall (WSCC) and Cllr E Beard (HDC). No members of the public were in attendance.

**ALSO:** Clerk to the Council.

**ABSENT:** 1

The meeting was opened at 7:30pm.

**FC/25/04/01 Apologies for Absence**

 The Council **RESOLVED** to accept apologies from Cllr Dillaway

**FC/25/04/02 Declaration of Members’ Interests.**

 Cllr Thomas declared an interest in his planning application SDNP2501212HOUS.

 on the agenda for the Council to comment as a consultee

 **FC/25/04/03 Minutes of the last Full Council meeting**

 The Council **RESOLVED** to adopt the [Draft Minutes of the Full Council Meeting on 3rd March 2025](https://1drv.ms/w/c/c3efb697c9fee2ed/EXmycGqkSLpJsq64JIgiD1UBMa9d9DW_uYPn4gFMzLOL1Q?e=jBbEHL)

**FC/25/04/04 Public Forum**

 There were no public representations.

**FC/25/04/05 Reports from County and District Councillors**

 **WSCC Reports**

 There were no reports. Cllr Marshall gave his apologies prior to the meeting.

 **HDC Reports**

 **Washington Kia car parking**

 Cllr Fisher reported on safety concerns about Kia garage car parking along Sandhill Lane

 and that Kia had not met Councillors’ conditions to identify their cars parked off-site around the

 village.

 Alternative parking options were still being explored by the garage, and the HDC

 members for the parish would continue monthly monitoring.

  **HDC new Constitution and Planning Committee**

 Cllr Fisher reported that HDC members for the parish are not joining the newly merged HDC

 North and South Planning Committees due to time demands. But this will enable them to freely

 express residents’ views on applications and develop stronger planning arguments without the

 risk of predetermination.

 Two PC members raised concerns about reduced local influence and the democratic process

 because the three District Members will no longer have a vote on planning decisions.

 [DC/24/1460 appeal notification - The Coach House The Hollow Washington- .pdf](https://1drv.ms/b/c/c3efb697c9fee2ed/EctRdwbPL9JKoONUA4rUnqsBpQKn9Ekmt9tegS7B1c1wag?e=oTWOsA)

 Cllr Fisher reported that HDC members for the parish will be supporting the

 appeal to retain the solar panels, citing public environmental benefit in reducing carbon

 emissions would outweigh the minor visual impact.

 Cllr Fisher and Cllr Grech were thanked and left the meeting.

**FC/25/04/06 Notice of Casual Vacancy**

 The Council **RESOLVED** to note that a casual vacancy declared on 28th March in the

 Washington Ward following the resignation of Cllr Lockerbie who would be moving outside the

 area.

 Members expressed their thanks to the former Councillor for his service to the Council and the

 Washington community.

**FC/25/04/07 Planning applications, Decisions, Appeals and Compliance Matters**

 Members discussed the following applications in the parish:

 [DC250216 The Barn Rock Road Washington West Sussex.pdf](https://1drv.ms/b/c/c3efb697c9fee2ed/EftEo-6ZEG5Fi5hyrBuMWQoBHMSkNB81A2UcPaRYt_6jCQ?e=xjHGQy)

 *Erection of detached garage and garden store with a hobby room over; continued use of*

 *surrounding land as incidental residential curtilage; retention of second access point from Rock*

 *Road with gate*.

The Council **RESOLVED** to make **NO OBJECTION** with a request that the garage is ‘tied’ to the

 main property.

 [SDNP2501212HOUS - The Loft School Lane Washington.pdf](https://1drv.ms/b/c/c3efb697c9fee2ed/EY24vTu5-ndBqwzayxB4qP0BsdqkK01kqeHq6F5OMpUEQQ?e=fvh6N1)

 *Replacement of existing conservatory with orangery styled replacement*.

 Cllr Thomas declared an interest in this item because he is the applicant. The Chairman

 moved to change the order of business (Standing Orders 10a (vi)) to consider comments

 on the application at the end of the agenda. This was for reasons of expediency in order that

 Cllr Thomas can remain for the other business before leaving the meeting. All agreed.

  **Appeals Lodged and Decided**

 [DC/24/1460 appeal notification - The Coach House The Hollow Washington- .pdf](https://1drv.ms/b/c/c3efb697c9fee2ed/EctRdwbPL9JKoONUA4rUnqsBpQKn9Ekmt9tegS7B1c1wag?e=oTWOsA)

 The Council **RESOLVED** to note the appeal.

 **Compliance Matters**

 None reported

**FC/04/25/08 Sussex Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)**

 Details of [Sussex and Brighton devolution consultation](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/sussex-and-brighton-devolution/sussex-and-brighton-devolution-consultation#consultation-questions) and the West Sussex councils

 submission of an interim plan on LGR at: [West-Sussex-LGR-Interim-Submission-March-2025.pdf](https://www.horsham.gov.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0004/145660/West-Sussex-LGR-Interim-Submission-March-2025.pdf)

 were previously circulated and discussed.

 Cllr Hanvey reported on HDC’s briefing on Devolution/LGR given at the neighbouring

 Storrington & Sullington Parish Council (SSPC) Meeting on 5th March 2025. He expressed

 concerns about the negative impact on local democracy and how the new combined mayoral

 authority will be funded.

 It was noted that SSPC is seeking feedback from the Council on members’ views following

 the briefing. The Chair advised that members respond to the consultation individually as

 residents.

 The Council **RESOLVED** to respond that the Parish Council is extremely concerned about the

 extra level of bureaucracy which will be created, and the further erosion and diminishment of

 local government. It was agreed to share this response with the SSPC.

**FC/25/04/9** **Actions and matters arising**

 The Council noted the Actions list and Matters Arising (Appendix A) since the last meeting.

**FC/25/04/10 Committees**

 The Council received and noted the draft minutes for the meetings of the [OSRA Committee](https://1drv.ms/w/c/c3efb697c9fee2ed/EVil6rfcrW9GkuUCvswg3wkBjlggTByVcxiOpoWo1BLtPg?e=zSl17w) and

 [Planning & Transport Committee](https://1drv.ms/w/c/c3efb697c9fee2ed/EcEKbCZrFOBNhHBDlBnjdIoB_dLQ0wTJhJLySgNXJomftg?e=C6X5xM)  held on 17th March 2025. There were no

 recommendations for consideration.

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**FC/25/04/11 Reports from Outside Bodies**

 The Council received and noted Cllr Heeley’s [Report on Thakeham Tiles Consultation](https://1drv.ms/w/c/c3efb697c9fee2ed/EVfHJDq7WIlDuXzhcDdo-u0BkFWqAfykZ273FfcKMyL8yQ?e=bJe3CS) event

 which took place on 18th March last at Thakeham Village Hall.

**FC/25/04/12 Bus Shelter**

 The Council **RESOLVED** to agree the recommendation from the OSRA Committee Meeting

 on 17th February 2025 reference ‘**O/02/25/14** that Mr Scovell is advised of the option to pursue

 his project for the bus shelter in Old London Road as a resident.

**FC/25/04/13 Urgent Matters**

 **Maintenance and repairs**

 The Council **RESOLVED** to delegate powers to the Clerk to authorise the replacement of the

 ‘bushes’ and some of the D-rings on the swings in the Play Area, subject to a quote within

 the adopted budget, with the agreement of the Council Chair and Chair of the OSRA

 Committee.

 **Banking signatories**

 The Council **RESOLVED** to note Cllr Lisher and the Clerk as named signatories on the

 the Redwood Bank savings account, and agreed to register Cllrs Heeley, Keech and Thomas as

 additional signatories as a matter of urgency. It was further **RESOLVED** to remove the name of

 the former Cllr Buddell as a signatory on this account.

**FC/25/04/14 Payments**

 The Council **RESOLVED** to agree the amended [Payments](https://1drv.ms/b/c/c3efb697c9fee2ed/EfiqbzsnK2VEtWaCfzy61jsB_7nOg2Lx9KLqp2zk6vqpkA?e=QWigW2)  schedule for invoices totalling

 £5,390.44 to include a late presentation invoice of £166.72 from the Litter Warden.

 The Council R**ESOLVED** to agree to ratify late payment of the Q3 HMRC PAYE and

 National Insurance Contributions of £1,501.53 made 21st March last, and to reimburse the Clerk

 for paying the late filing penalty of £120.24 (including interest).

 The Clerk advised of the new payroll service which will be taking over the reporting to HMRC on

 a new monthly basis. PAYE contributions would be included in the monthly payments

 schedules.

**FC/25/04/15 Income**

 The Council noted the income report for [Receipts](https://1drv.ms/f/c/c3efb697c9fee2ed/ErDEtCt1gJ9Glmrtpa3zngkBOaONW6Hro6YaMmZVfnCsnw?e=XK498G) totalling £2,,324.69 since the last meeting,

 representing £1,274.69 interest for 2024/25 on the Nationwide instant business savings

 account, and £1,050 from Rampion for surveys on the Recreation Ground.

**FC/25/04/16 Q4 VAT and Tax and National Insurance**

 The Council noted the quarterly report submitted to HMRC for Q3 2024/25 PAYE and National

 Insurance of £1,501.53 Q3 (see MinuteRef: FC/25/04/13 ) and submission to reclaim £1,896.12

 for Q3 & 4 2024/25 VAT.

**FC/25/04/17 Bank reconciliations**

 The Council **RESOLVED** to note the [Bank Reconciliations for all the Council’s accounts](https://1drv.ms/f/c/c3efb697c9fee2ed/EogbvJa4gbJCl-yAuib3fk0B3PpHrTUESHmzSDpdg4FmpQ?e=2Ut6tx)

 of £ £111,182.21 on 31st March 2025: Llloyds current account: £24,907.62; Nationwide

 Instant Access Business Savings Account: £26,274.69; Redwood Bank business savings

 Account (locked to September 2025): £50,000.

**FC/25/04/18 Business Savings Account and Reserves Transfer**

 The Council considered a notice from Nationwide seeking confirmation whether the

 Council wants to keep its instant access business savings account after 30th April.

 Members noted that the interest on the account is reducing from 2% to 1.8%.

 They considered the option to maintain the account or transfer funds to a new 35-day business

 savings account with Nationwide to benefit from the 2.95 interest after 16th April.

 The Clerk advised that the Council defers a decision pending further advice on whether

 it is prudent to transfer funds into a restricted account, some of it earmarked for emergencies

 and unforeseen expenditure.

 Cllr Keech proposed that the Council transfers all its Nationwide savings into a

 new 35-day savers account to attract the higher interest He further proposed that the

 Council transfers £9,000 to the same account from the Lloyds current account. He reported

 that with careful management, the Council could maintain the Lloyds balance above

 £10,000 each month which comfortably covered budgeted expenditure, and

 with sufficient time to give notice to transfer funds for any emergencies that may arise.

 Following a review, the Council **RESOLVED** unanimouslyto agree both proposals from

 Cllr Keech.

**FC/25/04/19 Training**

 The Council **RESOLVED** to agree that Cllr Brookes attends the online new councillor

 training provided by Mulberry Local Authority Services Ltd at £45.

**FC/25/04/20 Clerk’s Report**

 The Council **RESOLVED** to note the Clerk’s following report:

 **Practitioners Guide**

Email notification from WSALC and associated documents for the newly published

 [Practitioners Guide 2025](https://1drv.ms/f/c/c3efb697c9fee2ed/En4isXqYGKRCk8pg4D6x7BgBCjfOXsbXwxXZhXjrkudzlw?e=TiaTKA) with changes at:

 [Practitioners guide 2025 changes - SAPPP branding.docx](https://1drv.ms/w/c/c3efb697c9fee2ed/EfP8ehmLeANEqY0R8qE7PRUBB-izpgqXNinVD1CbrjpC-A?e=w8hkIK)

 and [NALC Domain Advice note for website March 2025.docx](https://1drv.ms/w/c/c3efb697c9fee2ed/EXoxhKO3fmhGorUsU3zAzz0BJBOmqSi8-fOLDDbcrcWbsg?e=9oRfh1)

 **AGAR 2024.25**

 Email notification from Moore, the External Auditor, to submit the Council’s Annual

 Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) before 30th June 2025. The Clerk advised

 that the documents would be reviewed and signed at the Annual Meeting of the Council on 12th

 May after the internal audit by Mulberry Local Authority Services on 23rd April 2025.

 **Banking**

 The Lloyds business payment card, card machine and password were presented to Cllr Keech

 in sealed envelopes for his new role as a Full Power signatory on the Council’s account.

 Cllr Thomas agreed to visit a Lloyds branch to resolve the issue with his online business

 banking card for the Council’s account.

**FC/25/04/21 Correspondence**

 The Council **RESOLVED** to note the Council’s correspondence received and previously

 circulated to Members.

**FC/25/04/22 Financial Regulations**

 The Council **RESOLVED** to adopt the latest NALC amendments to the model policy of the

 Financial regulations for procurement. The changes are incorporated under item 5 of the

 Council’s [Financial Regulations](https://1drv.ms/w/c/c3efb697c9fee2ed/EWKQts7ZBghOv1jlevwbI7oBWWV2mpT12nAPZ0-onbepbg?e=tWwFKR) which are published on its website.

**FC/25/04/23 Chairman’s announcements**

  The Chairman was sorry to announce that Cllr Heeley would be resigning at the end of this

 month and that he would be greatly missed. At the Chairman’s invitation, Cllr Heeley

 addressed the Council on his decision to step down after 14 years’ service, 10 as Chairman

 which he “enjoyed immensely.” He cited a move to be closer to his family and that he had

 a sense that he had achieved all he could amidst the planned political changes in local

 government. He thanked the members and wished them all the best in navigating the difficult

 times ahead.

 Members, led by Cllr Hanvey, expressed gratitude to Cllr Heeley for his dedication

 and expertise, particularly in planning which had been “extremely important” to the local

 community. Cllr Heeley will formally resign on 30th April after the next Planning & Transport

 Committee Meeting. A casual vacancy in the Council’s Heath Common Ward, would

 be declared upon receipt of his written resignation to the Chairman.

**FC/25/04/24 Dates and Times of the next meetings**

 Planning & Transport Committee: **Monday 28th April, 7:00pm**

 OSRA Committee: **Monday 28th April 2025, 7:45pm**

 Annual Parish Council Meeting: **Monday 12th May April 2025, 7:00pm**

 Parish Council Meeting**: Monday 12th May 2025, 7:30pm**

**FC/25/04/25 Confidential Session**

 The Council **RESOLVED** that that under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960,

 the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the

 meeting during consideration of the following items of business as publication would be

 prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be

 transacted.

**FC/25/04/26 Rampion 2: Development Consent Order and Heads of Terms**

 It was reported that the Secretary of State has granted the Development Consent

 Order for the Rampion 2 project 4th April. The decision letter was previously

 circulated to members and considered read.

 A copy of the business terms from the Council’s agent to negotiate the access terms

 of the section of Rampion 2 cable route underneath the Recreation Ground had not

 been received in time for the meeting’s consideration.

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 Following a discussion, the Council **RESOLVED** to defer this item to the next

 meeting pending the terms of business, and to seek the agent’s advice on

 arrangements for consulting the Council on a draft agreement for the Heads of

 Terms

 The Chairman re-opened the meeting to the public.

**FC/25/04/27** [SDNP2501212HOUS - The Loft School Lane Washington.pdf](https://1drv.ms/b/c/c3efb697c9fee2ed/EY24vTu5-ndBqwzayxB4qP0BsdqkK01kqeHq6F5OMpUEQQ?e=fvh6N1)

 *Replacement of existing conservatory with orangery styled replacement*.

 The Council granted a dispensation to allow Cllr Thomas, the applicant, to clarify

 some of the aspects of his planning application. He then left the meeting and did not take

 part in the discussion or voting.

 The Council **RESOLVED** to support the application because in its opinion, the proposal

 represents a considerable improvement on the existing structure and is

 complementary to the environment.

 There being no further business the meeting was closed at **9:05pm.**

 Signed………………………………….

 Dated………………………………….