

Rudgwick Parish Council

Weekly Clerk's Update: 17th – 23rd January 2026 (Agenda February 2026)

To: Parish Councillors

c.c: Christian Mitchell (West Sussex County Councillor)
Richard Landeryou (Horsham District Councillor)

From: Anna Clayton

The weekly update provides information regarding:

- Announcements/delegated decisions by the Clerk
- Planning information
- Correspondence/communications from parishioners
- Correspondence/communications from outside organisations

List of organisations that communicate with the Council on a regular basis.

- AIRS (Action in Rural Sussex)
- APCAG (Association of Parish Councils Aviation Group)
- CAGNE (Communities Against Gatwick Noise Emission)
- CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England)
- HALC (Horsham Association of Local Councils)
- HDC (Horsham District Council)
- NALC (National Association of Local Councils)
- WSALC (West Sussex Association of Local Councils)
- WSCC (West Sussex District Council)

Clerk's announcements/delegated decisions:

- **£3,706.22 VAT Reclaim received from HMRC**

GENERAL REMINDER: If you wish to speak face to face to a member of staff, please contact the Clerk on 07927 702321 during her office working hours (Monday – Wednesday 9.30 – 15.30).

Applications for noting at Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting

Applications for noting at Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 9 th February 2026	
Application No:	Response/Comments:
Applicant:	

Reason for Application:	
Official Response Date:	

Applications for consideration at Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting

Applications for consideration at Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 9th February 2026	
Application No:	Response/Comments:
Applicant:	
Reason for Application:	
Official Response Date:	

Decisions

HDC Council Decisions – Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 9th February 2026	
Application No:	Response/Comments:
Applicant:	
Reason for Application:	
Official Response Date:	

Applications going to Committee

Applications going to Committee – Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 9th February 2026	
Application No:	Response/Comments:
Applicant:	
Reason for Application:	
Official Response Date:	

Appeals Lodged / Appeals Determined

New Appeals Lodged / Determined – Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 9 th February 2026	
Application No: DC/24/0848	Response/Comments: Written representations must be submitted by 25th February 2026
Applicant: Land to the West of Whites Copse, Horsham Road, Rowhook	
Reason for Application: Change of use of land from agricultural to mixed agricultural, day nursery and forest school (Use Class E(f)). Retention of existing field shelters. Construction of education/nursery building, polytunnels and woodwork shelter. Alterations to existing access and extensive hard and soft landscaping.	
Official Response Date:	

New Planning Compliance Issues

New Planning Compliance Issues – Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 9 th February 2026	
Application No: EN/26/0019 16.01.2026	Response/Comments:
Address: The Levee, Loxwood Road, Rudgwick	
Nature of Complaint Alleged: Unauthorised importation of material to site without planning permission.	
Official Response Date:	

Parish Councils Website

Rudgwick Parish Council's New Website is now live!

<https://rudgwick-pc.gov.uk>

Correspondence

Email dated 22.01.2025 from SSEN
SSEN's Stakeholder Engagement Workshop



Dear Anna

On behalf of Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) Distribution, I'd like to invite you to our upcoming stakeholder workshops. We're bringing people together across our licence areas in both the north of Scotland and in central southern England, on 18 and 23 March respectively, and hosting an online session on 26 March. On each of these dates, we'll share our emerging plans and hear what matters to you most.

Why we're keen for your input

The settlement for the forthcoming ED3 Price Control will be fundamental for the future of the electricity system we all depend on. This five-year framework from 2028 to 2033 will set out how we'll invest in the network, further strengthen resilience and empower local communities. Given the rapidly-growing role of electricity in powering heating and transport in our homes, communities and workplaces, getting the best-possible settlement matters to us all – and your thoughts really matter to us.

Your insights will help us focus on what delivers the most value for the customers and communities we serve. These workshops are designed to be practical, open and interactive, so we can learn from your experience and reflect it in our priorities and commitments. The feedback you provide will directly inform our decision-making process in building our business plan, which we'll submit to Ofgem towards the end of 2026.

This plan will prioritise growing our network to support electrification, whilst building and maintaining a network that is even safer, even more reliable and even more resilient, so that communities can continue to rely on us every day, both now and in the future.

At the same time, we're committed to running a network that's respectful of the environment and ensures customers in vulnerable situations get the support they need.

We are also committed to ensuring we approach our plan in a way that will drive long-term efficiency and affordability.

We're looking for your views on

- **Our overall business plan strategy** for 2028–2033 and how we aim to support regional growth and the transition to a lower-carbon economy.
- **Improving the Low Voltage (LV) network** - the part of the network that delivers power directly to homes and businesses, increasing reliability and allowing customers to connect low-carbon technologies including EV chargers and heat pumps more easily.
- **Customer support and service improvements**, including how we make it easier to engage with us.
- **Network resilience and reliability**, including how we manage weather related disruption, and set the right level of ambition for investment to keep power flowing and manage our impact, as the climate changes.

Are these workshops for you?

These sessions are **open to all stakeholders**. We're expecting particular interest from local authorities, organisations supporting vulnerable customers, consumer groups, customers looking to connect to our network (including households, businesses, developers and community projects), community groups and community energy organisations, and partner organisations who work closely with us, including our supply chain and consultants.

Please feel free to share this invitation with colleagues or partner organisations who may find the workshops useful.

What to expect

- Short presentations from our teams of experts, followed by small-group discussions and Q&A
- Clear next steps and how your feedback will shape our plans, ensuring your voice is heard and acted upon
- For in-person events: tea/coffee on arrival and lunch with networking

If you have any questions about joining these events, please email the team at ED3@sse.com.

I hope you can join us, either in person or online.

To register to attend one of these engagement sessions please click on the relevant link below.

26 March, Webinar

Yours sincerely, Patrick Erwin
SSEN Distribution Commercial Director



Email dated 22.01.2026 from NALC
Chief Executives Bulletin

New look bulletin

- We are continuing to improve our weekly bulletin to better reflect how our members engage with information. Building on the introduction of clearer sections, the latest update focuses on greater concision, recognising the pressures on members' time. Information is now easier to absorb at a glance, with clear hyperlinks enabling members to choose what they want to explore in more detail, while reducing the risk of essential updates being overlooked within longer text.

Meetings

- Our Smaller Councils Committee held its first meeting of the year on Tuesday, where it [received an update from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government](#) (MHCLG) on the government's proposed reforms to the local government standards regime. MHCLG confirmed they are actively seeking parliamentary opportunities to take the proposals forward and are committed to keeping us updated as work progresses on this crucial matter for parish and town councils.

Parliamentary and political engagement

- We have set out our position in response to the government's consultation on reforms to the statutory consultee system, warning that some of the proposed changes risk weakening protections for communities if not handled carefully. You can [read the full response](#) on our website.
- We have welcomed the government's proposals to introduce multi-year financial settlements for local government and to exempt parish and town councils from council tax referendum principles for the next three financial years. It is a long-

standing priority that will bring much-needed stability and certainty to local government finance. You can [read the full response](#) on our website.

- We have urged the government to consider parish and town councils when planning potential postponements to elections in areas undergoing reorganisation, warning that holding parish and town council elections in May 2026 without principal authority elections could create significant financial burdens on parish and town councils and lower voter turnout. You can [read the full response](#) on our website.

Resources

- [In this week's blog](#), the Lancashire Association of Local Councils explore how Lancashire's parish and town councils are calling for a smarter, faster and more cost-effective approach to delivering a net zero energy infrastructure.

Support

- We're pleased to confirm we've released additional tickets to our upcoming sold-out online event, [Beyond the Precept: Funding solutions for smaller parish and town councils](#), scheduled for 11 February 2026. This event builds on the theme explored earlier this year and digs deeper into practical, achievable funding routes for smaller and medium-sized parish and town councils.
- The [Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments has announced a significant step forward in modernising financial reporting](#) for parish and town councils, with work well underway to digitise the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR). The new online system aims to make the AGAR process simpler, more consistent, and more accessible for all smaller authorities.

From across the sector

- As Surrey moves forward with one of the most significant local government reorganisations in recent decades, [we welcome the leadership shown by the Surrey Association of Local Councils](#) in setting out a clear, constructive role for parish and town councils in shaping the new local government landscape in their Stronger Vibrant Communities report.
 - We welcome the [publication of a new report from the Local Policy Innovation Partnership](#), which provides a timely and compelling examination of the vital role played by parish and town councils as the community tier of government, and the action needed to ensure they are correctly recognised and supported as England's devolution agenda develops.
 - The [Centre for Ageing Better wrote an article for the MJ](#) about how devolution offers the potential for parish councils to have greater influence on how their communities are shaped, including taking steps to ensure they become better places to age well. [Read our joint guide](#) on how your parish or town council can make the most of these opportunities.
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Email dated 22.01.2026 from WSCC

Statutory Proposals to discontinue Twineham CE Voluntary Controlled Primary School (Parish and Town Councils)

Further to the Cabinet Member decision CYPL20 (25/26)

[Decision - Proposed closure of Twineham CE \(Voluntary Controlled\) Primary School - Publication of Statutory Proposals - CYPL20 \(25/26\)](#)

We are writing to you to advise that the second stage of consultation, the publication of statutory notices proposing the closure of Twineham CE (Voluntary Controlled) Primary, has commenced. Please see the attached notice and prescribed information. More details can be found on the Your Voice webpage.

[Consultation on the proposal to close Twineham CE \(Voluntary Controlled\) Primary School | Your Voice West Sussex](#)

The representation period runs from 22 January 2026 to 26 February 2026.

Please do not hesitate to share this information if it is helpful to colleagues and stakeholders in the area.

If you want to discuss in more detail, please do feel free to contact me.

Kind regards,

Ness.

Vanessa Cummins | Schools Planning Officer, School Organisation and Capital Team |
Education Directorate | [West Sussex County Council](#)
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Email dated 16.01.2025 from Sussex Police

How to solve the 'maths gap' in police funding





Yesterday I held my first Performance & Accountability Meeting (PAM) of 2026 with Chief Constable Shiner, scrutinising some of the key issues currently affecting policing in Sussex.

The focus of the meeting was the provisional police grant settlement for 2026/27, announced by the Government in December.

Sussex Police was previously forecasting a £4.5 million deficit for 2026/27. However, based on the provisional settlement, Sussex Police's deficit has now increased to £8.5m.

This further shortfall is a result of the Government's disastrous decision to consolidate previously specific grants, such as for the recruitment of additional police officers and pay rises, into the core police funding grant.

Before, Sussex Police were rewarded with additional funding for not only hitting their recruitment targets but for over-achieving. Now, rolling this money into the main core grant, means that every police force takes a slice according to an out-dated formula - including Forces like the Met who did not once achieve their targets.

While the Government says this change brings 'simplicity and flexibility', the reality is that money is no longer following the people - it is following an outdated, 20-year-old mathematical model and is simply unfair.

The Government's funding allocation for Sussex Police in 2026/27 is £442.1 million of which 43% comes directly from local taxpayers' pockets through the police precept - the amount we pay for policing in our council tax.

At the PAM I asked the Chief Constable what this provisional settlement means for Sussex Police and whether we can maintain current police resources without dipping into our reserves.

She told me the Force "will have to look carefully at how we can make sure we achieve the savings required while being prudent in relation to further officer recruitment", agreeing that "this is a tough settlement."

I will be working closely with the Chief Constable and our respective Chief Finance Officers over the coming months to work out how we can balance our books and continue to provide a high quality police service - without overburdening local taxpayers unduly.

Other topics discussed at the PAM were the results of the Force's drink and drug driving campaign (Operation Limit), tackling organised crime and protecting vulnerable residents, and improvements to firearms licensing processes. You can watch a recording of the meeting on my [webcasting platform](#).

Winter of Action

The "Winter of Action" is a national campaign focusing on tackling crime and anti-social behaviour, particularly shoplifting and town centre disorder, by increasing police visibility, patrols and community engagement to make everyone safer over the festive season and beyond.

"Winter of Action" in Sussex has seen the momentum build following the "Safer Summer Streets" initiative, prioritising police resources where they are needed the most.

This has included an enhanced police presence in Bognor Regis, Horsham, Bexhill, Crowborough and Seaford as well as in Worthing, Crawley, Brighton, Eastbourne and Hastings town centres.

Protecting those in the night-time economy and tackling shoplifting have also been key areas of focus. Police and partners have been working to improve safety by increasing visibility, spreading the word on safety initiatives such as anti-spiking measures, Ask for Angela, and the availability of night safety marshals, street pastors and safe spaces.

Our newly-launched Live Facial Recognition (LFR) Vans are playing a key role and they have been deployed six times so far across the campaign. The vans have been placed in hotspot areas and, across the six deployments, 156,629 faces have been scanned leading to 56 alerts and six arrests.

This week I joined officers and the business crime reduction partnership in Brighton to learn more. This included watching the LFR vans in action - witnessing two further police arrests - visiting businesses on North Street with the Operation Apprentice Team and engaging with members of the public about tackling crime in the city. I look forward to sharing the outcomes of this year's "Winter of Action" campaign with you in a future edition of this newsletter.

We then visited [WBC Cares](#) - a dedicated boxing club operating across Sussex, who received funding through my Safer in Sussex Community Fund and our Violence Reduction Partnership. WBC Cares works with children and young people who need a guiding hand to show them what boxing teaches us: sportsmanship, personal discipline

and respect. I'll be sharing more with you about their amazing work in the coming weeks.



Katy Bourne OBE
Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner

FRIDAY FORCE FOCUS

Sussex Police and partners complete festive domestic abuse safeguarding operation

Every year at Christmas – and other times that can see spikes in domestic abuse, such as major sporting events – Sussex Police and partners embark on Operation Hope.

Operation Hope involves making proactive visits to people identified as being at the highest risk of domestic abuse, to make sure they are safe and to offer safeguarding advice or support.

In the lead up to Christmas, Sussex Police and partners visited 35 properties across the county.

Signposting victims towards support services can help engage with some people who may feel less comfortable speaking to police officers.

Almost 80% of the victims spoken to were happy to engage with the police and 40% shared offences or safeguarding concerns that had not previously been disclosed.

Feedback from the visits showed 83% of those visited felt it was beneficial.

During one visit, officers suspected an offender may be inside a property but did not have lawful grounds to enter. They returned to the address and found Mikey Turner, 32, of Somerville Crescent, Yateley, hiding inside a hollowed-out section of a sofa.

He was arrested and subsequently pleaded guilty to assault and two breaches of non-molestation orders. He will appear at Basingstoke Magistrates' Court on 5 February for sentencing.

The latest figures show Sussex Police has one of the highest levels in the country of victims supporting investigations through to their conclusion. That is in part due to their faith in Sussex Police to bring a positive outcome and offer that important wraparound care.

If you or someone you know is a victim of domestic violence, please report it to the police online, via 101 or by dialling 999 in an emergency.

There are also discreet reporting mechanisms, which you can find out more about on the [Sussex Police website](#).

If you have concerns around a new partner, or the new partner of someone you know, you can request information on their criminal history through [Clare's Law](#).



[SHARE WITH A FRIEND](#)