

Rudgwick Parish Council

Weekly Clerk's Update: 31st January – 6th February 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:

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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 March 2026	
Application No: DC/25/2091 05.02.2026	Response/Comments:
Applicant: Hawthorns, Church Street, Rudgwick	

Reason for Application: Construction of ramped access to connect existing front entrance to the public footpath to facilitate wheelchair access.	
Official Response Date: 26.02.2026 / Determination 19.03.2026	
Application No: DISC/26/0029 27.01.2026	Response/Comments:
Applicant: Rudgwick Brick Works, Lynwick Street, Rudgwick	
Reason for Application: Approval of details reserved by condition 4 to approved application DC/24/0272.	
Official Response Date: Not available / Determination 24.03.2026	

Applications for consideration at Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting

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

Decisions

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

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Applications going to Committee

Applications going to Committee – Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 9 th 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:	Response/Comments:
Applicant:	
Reason for Application:	
Official Response Date:	

New Planning Compliance Issues

New Planning Compliance Issues – Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 9 th February 2026	
Application No:	Response/Comments:
Address:	
Nature of Complaint	
Official Response Date:	

Parish Councils Website

Rudgwick Parish Council's New Website is now live!

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

Correspondence

Email dated 03.02.2025 from WSCC

Next steps for budget and new combined authority agreed by Cabinet



news release

Next steps for budget and new combined authority agreed by Cabinet



Budget 2026 to 2027 update

West Sussex County Council's Cabinet has agreed the next steps for its proposed balanced budget, which includes significant capital investment and increased net investment in key

services for communities. The Cabinet also reaffirmed its commitment to the devolution process, which will see the creation of a new combined authority for the whole of Sussex.

The decisions made at a meeting at County Hall, Chichester, today (Tuesday 3 February) follow confirmation from Government that the Sussex & Brighton Combined County Authority will be created this May, with the first mayoral election due to take place in May 2028.

The new combined authority will see powers and funding transferred from national to local government to provide strategic leadership on issues such as economic growth, highways and transport, housing, and public safety.

Cllr Paul Marshall, Leader of West Sussex County Council, said: "The new combined authority will bring additional investment into the region whilst providing us with a voice at national level. Sussex delivers huge economic benefit to the country, and the creation of this new combined authority will only strengthen this."

The county council will continue to work with East Sussex County Council and Brighton & Hove City Council on the devolution process, ahead of the anticipated legal creation of the new authority in the spring.

The Cabinet also agreed the next steps for its balanced budget for the year ahead at today's meeting. The proposed budget will now go before Full Council on Friday 20 February for final approval. The Full Council meeting will be held in public at County Hall, Chichester, and can be viewed online via a [webcast](#).

Proposals for a balanced budget were set out at the [Performance and Finance Scrutiny Committee](#) last week.

The Cabinet meeting heard that the county council is expected to spend £2.3 billion on day-to-day services in 2026-27 as follows:

- £1,346.7m Managing schools and education, children's social care and support
- £577.2m Caring for adults and keeping people healthy
- £90.1m Protecting the environment, recycling and waste disposal
- £84.6m Maintaining our roads and providing transport
- £83.8m Running our organisation
- £72.8m Fire and Rescue services and supporting communities
- £5.8m Supporting the local economy
- £61.9m Financing our capital programme and other corporate items

This includes a gross revenue increase of £65.1m to meet increasing demand pressures and costs, particularly in social care, home to school transport, and special educational needs and disabilities.

Actions have been taken to successfully balance the draft budget for the coming year, despite the added pressure of the Government reducing funding by £30m over the next 3 years and redistributing the funds elsewhere in the country.

Councillor Jeremy Hunt, Cabinet Member for Finance and Property, said: “We are proud that we have been able to balance the budget for the year ahead without cuts to frontline services or a reliance on reserves.

“We have managed to find savings of £30.4m but to balance our books we have no choice but to increase council tax by 4.99% - as Government assumes we will have this additional revenue when it allocates funding to us.

“Despite this challenging process we are confident our limited resources, which are aligned with the priorities in Our Council Plan, will provide effective services which offer maximum value for our residents.”

You can read more about the budget setting process at www.westsussex.gov.uk/budget and learn more about devolution and the creation of the new strategic combined authority at www.westsussex.gov.uk/campaigns/future-of-local-government-in-sussex

To hear regular updates please [sign up to receive updates from the county council via email.](#)

Notes to editors:

See our press release issued on 28 January 2026 for further background on the budget:
[Next steps for West Sussex County Council budget set out following scrutiny committee meeting - West Sussex County Council](#)

Email dated 02.02.2026 from HDC Planning Compliance Monthly Planning Compliance Team statistics for January 2026

During January 2026, we received 34 new Planning Compliance investigations.

The closure statistics for January are shown below:

Year	Month	Complaints Closed	No Breach	Breach Ceased	Plan App. Received	Not Expedient	Closed within 90 days	Closed over 90 days	% Closed within 90 days
2026	January	16	8	2	6		10	6	62.5
Total for 2026		16	8	2	6		10	6	62.50%

One enforcement notice and two temporary stop notices were issued in January 2026, as follows:

EN/25/0118	Land at Follyfoot Farm, Polecat Lane, Copsale, West Sussex, RH13 9DJ (TSN) The breach of planning control is unauthorised operational development comprising building operations in connection with the erection of a new building and alteration to the existing buildings on the land without planning permission.
EN/25/0425	Beckley Stud, Reeds Lane, Southwater, West Sussex, RH13 9DQ (EN) Without planning permission, the erection of a Class B8 storage building in the approximate position shown hatched brown on the Plan and marked as The Building.
EN/26/0023	Cotlands Paddock, Horsham Road, Cowfold, West Sussex, RH13 8AH (TSN) The unauthorised importation of waste and other material on the land

No appeal decisions have been received during this time, however site visit dates have been arranged for tomorrow for Planning Inspectors to visit sites in relation to three outstanding appeals- it is hoped that we will receive these decisions shortly.

Appeals have been lodged against the two enforcement notices issued in November 2025 in relation to the land at Copse Wood (otherwise known as Plot 12), Dukes Paddock, Dukes Hill, Bramble Lane, Thakeham.

We therefore now have 12 outstanding decisions on appeals relating to enforcement notices previously issued.

A two day trial was heard in the Brighton Magistrates Court on 27 and 28 January 2026 to hear evidence from the case officer in connection with the Council's application for a Planning Enforcement Order on land at Plot 10 and Plot 11 Dukes Paddock, Dukes Hill, Thakeham, West Sussex RH20 2LT (also known as Kingstone). We expect the judgement to be made by the judge towards the end of February 2026, therefore I will report on the outcome at a later date.

I hope this is helpful- if you have any questions on individual cases, or any other planning compliance matters, please contact me.

Kind regards, Madeleine

Madeleine Hartley

Planning Compliance Team Leader

Telephone: 01403 215168

Email: Madeleine.Hartley@horsham.gov.uk



Email dated 31.01.2026 from APCAG

APCAG Newslwetter - Gatwick Expansion and Second Runway

The four-day judicial review hearing, bought by GACC (Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign) was held in the High Court last week.

The judge heard all the arguments from GACC's legal team - on climate change, aviation policy, the economic case for expansion – and noise impacts.

We await the judgment and will send an update when we hear. However, if GACC wins, it is likely that Gatwick will appeal.

As you can imagine this is an expensive undertaking. GACC is therefore continuing to raise funds. The link to fund raising is: <https://www.crowdjustice.com/case/gacc/>

Alternatively, donations can be made direct to GACC's bank account. Details are: Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign, Nat West Bank plc, Sort Code 60–11–41 A/c number 52474119

Route 4 – Noise Preferential Route

Discussion about Route 4 which affects residents north of Gatwick has dragged on for many years; but a series of proposals has now been reduced to four alternative revisions to the route which residents can consult on.

The details of the proposals and the consultation are here: [Route 4](#)

The consultation includes both static exhibitions and online webinars. Details are on the website. GACC will review the proposals and give its assessment in late February.

Greenhouse Gas Removals

The policies and practices surrounding Sustainable Aviation Fuels and its cousin Greenhouse Gas Removal are complex and technical, but they need to be addressed.

The Aviation Environment Federation has released an insightful article on the subject which can be read [here](#).

Ian Hare, Chair APCAG

Email dated 30.01.2026 from Sussex Police
Targeting dangerous driving behaviours in Sussex



Sussex
Police & Crime
Commissioner

KATY BOURNE OBE



LAUNCHED: FATAL FIVE UNIT

Did you know that on average, 45 people are killed and almost 1,000 are seriously injured on Sussex's roads every year?

In a bid to reduce this figure and save lives, Sussex Police has launched the new Fatal Five Unit, an intelligence-led team set up specifically to tackle the five most common causes of fatal and serious injury collisions: drink and drug-driving, speeding, failing to wear a seatbelt, distracted driving and careless driving.

The creation of the Fatal Five Unit meets my manifesto commitment and promise to strengthen investment in roads policing and reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured on Sussex roads.

Dangerous driving is putting lives at risk every single day and residents have had enough. Speeding and anti-social driving are among the most frequent concerns raised with me by local people right across Sussex.

With more than 45,000 drivers caught speeding by our Community Speedwatch volunteers last year and thousands more reported through Operation Crackdown, the message from the public is clear: they want action.

The Fatal Five Unit, which is funded via a combination of local taxpayers' contributions to the police precept and National Driver Offender Retraining Schemes, will focus on targeting people driving anti-socially, including those speeding, as well as persistent

offenders. It will also provide education and enforcement in hotspot areas and support our "Vision Zero" ambition: that no death or serious injury on our roads is acceptable.

I'm listening and acting and, together, the Chief Constable and I are determined to make Sussex's roads safer for everyone. You can read more about the Fatal Five Unit and how you can report anti-social driving in my Friday Force Focus below.

Setting the police precept for 2026/27

At today's Police and Crime Panel meeting, I presented members with a detailed overview of Sussex Police's financial position - including the operational expectations and challenges that the force faces.

The Government's police grant settlement for 2026/27 has left Sussex Police facing a £7.5 million deficit - far more than the £4.5m we were forecasting. This is due to recent, unexpected changes that the Government has made to the way police force funding is allocated.

For 2026/27, Sussex Police's budget is £443.2 million. 43% of that comes directly from you, local taxpayers, through the police precept (the amount you pay for policing through your Council Tax).

The Government's financial settlement assumes I will raise the police precept in 2026/27 by £15 on a Band D property. That's not a choice - it's an expectation - and that was the investment proposal I put to the Police and Crime Panel today. This meeting was live-streamed from County Hall in Lewes and you can watch it on the Panel's [webcasting platform](#).



Katy Bourne OBE
Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner

FRIDAY FORCE FOCUS

New Fatal Five Unit launched to save lives on Sussex roads

Sussex Police Chief Constable Jo Shiner is the roads policing lead for the National Police Chiefs' Council. Commenting on the launch of the Force's Fatal Five Unit she said: "While the vast majority of the public are safe and competent drivers, there are

still too many people who take unnecessary risks on our roads which ultimately lead to collisions.

“Data consistently shows us that the most common causes of collisions resulting in people being killed or seriously injured are drink and drug-driving, speeding, failing to wear a seatbelt, distracted driving – for example through mobile phone use – and careless driving. Not only are these five factors illegal, they are also completely avoidable.

“Nobody sets out on their day expecting to be involved in – or responsible for – a collision, but even the most minor lapse in concentration can lead to devastating consequences. That’s why I am personally urging all road users to familiarise themselves with the law and the Highway Code, and ensure their vehicle is in a roadworthy condition before setting out on their journey.

“We all have a part to play in keeping everyone safe on our roads, choosing to make good decisions, and encouraging our friends and family to do the same.

“Road collisions have a profound and lasting impact on victims, families and communities. Through targeted enforcement, community engagement and partnership working, the Fatal Five Unit aims to deliver measurable improvements in road safety.”

The public can continue to report any incidents of antisocial driving through the [Operation Crackdown website](#). Visual evidence such as dash cam footage is preferable, however any submissions without video recordings can still help to build a picture of offending.



SHARE WITH A FRIEND

Email dated 30.01.2026 from WSCC

West Sussex Highways tackling the effects of winter weather



NEWS RELEASE

West Sussex Highways tackling the effects of winter weather

The West Sussex County Council Highways team have been working hard to respond to issues on the county's road network that have occurred as a result of the recent extreme weather including flooding, fallen trees and potholes.

This winter has seen a return to freezing temperatures and heavy rain with recent storms causing significant disruption across the county's roads. Since September we have experienced above average rainfall levels, with January to date providing double the monthly average in some areas of the county.

During storm events our teams are deployed around the clock to manage safety risks and keep the roads clear and moving. The most recent storm brought 81 emergency callouts with incidents ranging from fallen trees and debris hazards to damaged infrastructure and impassable routes. 31 of these callouts were directly related to flooding.

When we receive reports of significant flooding, our teams work hard to assess and manage risks at each affected site.

Our safety response service and reactive drainage jetting crews will clear flooding where they are able to do so. If there are underlying issues that need to be investigated, we prioritise key roads that are being impacted or where there is an immediate risk to property.

We also have proactive crews who are focussed on checking for drainage grid obstructions, replacing or resetting damaged drainage grids and clearing channels for water to flow from the carriageway to ditches or water courses to remove flooding. Since the start of April 2025, we have cleared over 75,000 drainage channels as part of our proactive maintenance programme.

It's important to note that when we've had prolonged periods of heavy rain, the sheer volume of water means that no highway drainage can work effectively, as the outlet for highway water is over capacity and the water in our system simply can't go anywhere. There are also some instances where it is not possible for us to clear the flood water as it has been caused by run-off from neighbouring land or overflow from flooded water courses such as rivers.

Where it is safe to do so, roads will be kept open with appropriate flood warning signage in place. However, where there is a risk to safety, full closures will be put in place with signposted diversions. Residents are urged to:

- Avoid driving through floodwater
- Report significant hazards via the usual emergency channels
- Follow updates issued through official communication channels

Flooding isn't the only issue being caused by the weather. The pro-longed period of cold then wet weather has meant we are seeing a spike in the number of potholes on the network.

So far in January we have logged 3,725 pothole repair jobs with our contractor. This is around 1,000 more than this time in 2025, when we had a mild winter, but is still significantly less than the previous two years. January 2023 saw us raise over 7,000 pothole repair jobs with our contractor.

We repair potholes based on their severity. Our target for the least severe defects is to complete repairs within 28 days, however we always work to deliver them sooner where possible. For example, in December these repairs were completed in an average of just 12 days.

This month we have increased the number of crews we have operating to respond to the uptick in defects. We are also running 'twilight crews' to extend the working day and have crews working on Saturdays to keep on top of the work.

Despite the increased volume of work in January, this additional resource means we are still completing these repairs in an average of 15 days.

Councillor Joy Dennis, cabinet member for Highways and Transport said: "We appreciate that disruption on the roads is never welcome. We are doing all we can to keep the roads open and repair any damage caused by the extreme weather.

"Please bear with us as, although we have crews operating in all weathers, there will be times where we can't rectify every situation straight away. As soon as the weather improves we will be working to resolve all issues caused as well as investigating longer term solutions where needed."