

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held at the Arthur Herdman Pavilion, Ewhurst Green on Wednesday 29 July 2026

PRESENT Councillors Jacqui Hyett, Larry Hyett, John Lederer, Robin Matthews, Barbara Mould (**Vice Chair**), David Young (**Chair**)

IN ATTENDANCE Richard Farhall – Parish Clerk & RFO; 15 members of the public (including Herdman Association CIO Committee members, local residents and users of the pavilion/playing field)

The meeting commenced at 7pm.

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence – and the reason as lodged with the Clerk – were accepted from Cllr Gareth Matthews.

2 CODE OF CONDUCT

There were no disclosures of interest – nor dispensation requests.

3 COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED To adopt the draft Minutes of the Council meeting held on 15 July 2026 (C26-07) as an accurate record of the proceedings.

4 HERDMAN PLAYING FIELD: VERGE PARKING

Members were invited to consider Highways' email of 22 July 2026 – and proposed parking scheme plan - and to agree a response.

*Note At various points during the discussion members of the public were invited to contribute (see **APPENDIX**).*

The Clerk advised that the design appraisal estimated that a suitable formal parking scheme would create sufficient spaces for 10-11 cars.

Comments from Members included:

- The plan appears to have been designed to accommodate cars only.
- The fact that the presence of a drainage ditch (running alongside the hedge) is not marked on the plan – and the plan proposes levelling that area with spoil – suggests that the designer has not actually visited the site.
- Bollards on the verge to the SW of the proposed scheme would be out of keeping and the owner of a neighbouring property has suggested a number of them would quickly be impacted by vehicles.
- Bollards would reduce the total space available for parking and that section of the verge is useful for those with mobility issues who wish to park and use the Herdman pedestrian access.
- Bollards would add to the scheme cost and there is a risk that drivers would park on the road instead.

- EPC should not be expected to contribute to the costs of removing/replacing advisory signage because the safety of users of the public highway is the responsibility of ESCC, as the Highways Authority.
- A deeper section of Grasscrete (at the Rectory end) would undoubtedly add to the total cost. EPC needs to balance the costs and benefits, ensuring that the scheme delivers value for money. If there is a possibility that the £25k ring-fenced by EPC will increase, EPC will need a mandate from the community.

RESOLVED To ask the Clerk to respond to ESCC, incorporating the comments/requests following:

- **No support for bollards on the section of the verge SW of the proposed scheme.**
- **ESCC is responsible for signage to ensure the safety of public highway users.**
- **Can the Grasscrete be deeper at the Rectory (NE) end of the verge?**
- **Why has ESCC disregarded the ditch?**
- **What is the direction proposed of the fall?**
- **Can the scheme designer attend a site meeting to discuss the above with EPC?**

Clerk

The meeting ended at 7.38pm.

Date Chairman

4 Herdman Playing Field: Verge Parking

Contributions from the members of the public present included:

- Organised football on the field tends to attract, regularly, larger numbers of drivers (typically 15-20) seeking parking – including those with vans.
- The plan provides for the Grasscrete to remain at the same depth throughout its length, despite the verge being deeper at the Rectory (NE) end. Vans parking on the Grasscrete (parallel with the carriageway) will take up more space than standard cars. If the Grasscrete was made deeper at the Rectory end vans could be accommodated there – displacing fewer cars.
- Mud control grids could be used instead of Grasscrete – this would be cheaper and they are made from recycled material.
- The proposed camber (2.5%) appears to be towards the carriageway and not the ditch. The existing camber is towards the ditch and there has been no problem, to date, with rainwater pooling on the road at this location.
- If the ditch is incorporated into the scheme there will be no need for a soakaway.
- The status quo is hazardous and is not an option. There is widespread support in Ewhurst Green for a solution in the form of formal (all-year) parking provision – provided it is not constructed of tarmac/concrete.
- The provision of formal parking on the verge has been discussed for many years.