



Clerks: Beccy Macklen & Claudine Feltham
PO Box 202, Heathfield, East Sussex, TN21 1BN
t: 01435 515219 e: clerk@buxted-pc.gov.uk w: buxtedparishcouncil.gov.uk

9 September 2025

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held in Five Ash Down Village Hall on Tuesday 9th September 2025 at 7.11p.m.

Present: Cllrs. Blandford (Chairman), Duck, Furber, Humphrey, Mallett, Marshall, Rose and Smith.
Also present: ESCC Cllr. Galley, WDC Cllr Shaw and Clerks Beccy Wadey and Claudine Feltham.

Public : 1

01/09/25 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
Apologies received and accepted from Cllr Muddle and WDC Cllr Shaw

02/09/25 **DECLARATION OF MEMBERS INTERESTS**

All councillors declared a personal interest in any matters relating to the Ionides Trust by virtue of the parish council being managing agents of the site.

Cllr Smith declared a personal interest in any matters related to allotments due to being an allotment holder.

Cllr Duck declared a personal interest in any matters relating to the High Hurstwood Village Hall Committee by virtue of being a member of the committee.

Cllr Humphrey declared a personal interest in any matters relating to the Five Ash Down Village Hall Committee by virtue of being the parish council representative on the committee and a grant for the hall.

Cllr marshal declared a personal interest in matters relating to Buxted Rifle Club by virtue of being a member.

Cllr Duck declared a personal interest in matters relating to High Hurstwood Bonfire Society by virtue of being a family member of the person who applied for a grant.

Cllr Humphrey declared a personal interest in matters relating to grants for Five Ash Down village event due to being on the organising committee.

03/09/25 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 8th July 2025 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the meeting.

Cllr Galley – any update on Local Government Reorganisation

Cllr Galley attended a briefing as there has been some doubt regarding government reorganisation given the resignation of the Secretary of State. However, the timetable for reorganisation remains the same with East Sussex, West Sussex, and Brighton and Hove councils due to meet prior to the end of September to collectively put forward a proposal for a Mayoral Combined Authority. It is anticipated Government will give a decision on this proposal in February 2026 with Mayoral elections in May 2026.

There is now more guidance on the mayor's responsibilities which involves having more power than first anticipated i.e. transport plans, skills and apprenticeships which have previously been the responsibility of the county councils. There will be an elected mayor with two representatives from each unitary authority, which sit on a cabinet. To outvote the mayor would require $\frac{3}{4}$ of the cabinet members. The mayor will also appoint a deputy mayor who will have the responsibility of the Police; and commissioners which are not elected positions (who could be businessmen/trade unionists etc). It would appear there will be more centralisation of power and less democratic control.

Cllr Galley advised it is likely there will be a proposal for four unitary authorities, being East Sussex; Brighton & Hove with Newhaven, Peacehaven and Kingston; and West Sussex possibly split into two authorities.

Road issues – hedge cutting Totease House is ongoing and should have been cut within 28 days.

Cllr Galley is chasing the road safety officer with regards improved signage outside Buxted School which was originally raised at the SLR meeting in January 2025.

Sink hole outside Buxted School – still waiting for an update from Highways.

Cllr Marshall asked if Highways carry out inspections on completed work by other utility companies as previous electric work on A272 west of Hadlow Down has resulted in the sinking of the road. Cllr Galley advised the work should be checked but will report this back to Highways.

WDC Cllr Shaw was not in attendance but provided the following update:

- I assume Roy will attend so will be able to update you on LGR, which, to say the least, is becoming a complex process, with at least two competing proposals as to what the new unitary authorities will look like,
- You should have been informed about the Parish/Town Conference on 21st October, which I think will also focus on LGR,
- Also to remind people that the Member Grants scheme is now open. I have £10,000 to contribute to local groups to support their work, which should broadly address our council priorities around wellbeing, environmental improvement etc.
- The larger Community Led Infrastructure Scheme will be opening soon again to support local organisations with a more infrastructure future focus,
- We have just given Ashdown Forest a grant of £450K to support their Winnie the Pooh Centenary celebrations next year as well as the Forests work more generally.

05/09/25 **Conclusion of audit for financial year ending 31.3.25:**

- Full council received the completion of the limited assurance review of the

Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) letter from PKF Littlejohn.

- Members received the external auditor report and certificate (Section 3 of the AGAR Form 3) and noted no advisories.
- Members received the Notice of Conclusion of Audit document.
- Members noted that the Notice of Conclusion of Audit along with the certified AGAR (Sections 1, 2 and 3) documents were placed on the parish council's website (and prior to the deadline of 30th September 2025).

06/09/25 Request for Parish Council to fund defibrillator in High Hurstwood Trinity Church – Cllr Duck advised it is proving difficult to find a suitable location as the church is not appropriate, and permission has not been given to house the equipment in the privately owned BT box. The general consensus from those in High Hurstwood is to have the defibrillator on a pole at the bottom of the church drive (vanguard way). The question would be as to whether it would need power and if this were possible.

Action – clerks to make a site visit and investigate options to house the defibrillator.

Action – Cllr Duck to confirm the verge/hedge is owned by the church.

07/09/25 Bus Shelter Coopers Green Road – for council to consider replacing the bus shelter at Coopers Green given Greymoor developers have refused to replace as part of development

In April 2025 Greymoor were requested to consider replacing the bus shelter at Coopers Green as part of the highway improvement works for the development Land West of Five Ash Down. Unfortunately, we were advised Greymoor were not in a financial position to accommodate a new shelter which it was noted is not a good example of *'creating places to put down roots in parallel with the local community'*.

The responsibility of providing a new bus shelter therefore now falls to the parish council to provide.

Resolved – the parish council would fund a new bus shelter up to the cost of £12,000. Delegated authority given to the clerk to obtain and circulate a design to be agreed via email and to be paid for from CIL monies.

08/09/25 Internal Audit – Members to consider the suitability/provision of audit services provided by Mulberry and for council to decide to appoint them for 2025-2026 audit.

Members to consider a 1- or 3-year engagement.

Proposed by Cllr Smith, seconded by Cllr Humphrey, agreed – **resolved** to engage in a 3-year appointment with Mulberry for internal audit services.

09/09/25 Assertion 10 – New audit requirement. What is it? What do we need to do to comply?

Assertion 10 is a new requirement introduced in the 2025 edition of the Practitioners' Guide by the Smaller Authorities' Proper Practices Panel (SAPPP). It applies to parish and town councils in the UK and will be part of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) starting from the 2025/26 financial year. Councils must demonstrate compliance in two areas being digital governance and UK GDPR & Data Protection Act 2018 Compliance.

In practical terms the council must ensure a number of requirements are met which were circulated to councillors prior to the meeting in a PowerPoint presentation and word document. Many requirements have already been met with the clerks attending training to assist with how best to meet the remaining obligations. This will include the updating of existing, and introduction of new policies which will be presented to the council in October.

To further assist in compliance, clerks are asking council to consider engaging the services of of Satswana to assist with the details that we are unsure of and need to make compliant. Please also refer to the 'Client Letter' from Satswana (circulated to all). Their cost is £150 + VAT per year.

Resolved – to appoint the services of Satswana.

10/09/25 Consideration of grant applications for 2026-2027

Prior to the meeting the responsible financial officer circulated a list of all grant requests for the financial year 2026/27. The grants requests are submitted prior to setting a budget in November.

A list of the grant application is appended to these minutes.
A discussion took place regarding the applications and the following grants. were awarded:

Buxted Art Club - £1,353.12
Five Ash Down Chapel - £350
Parish of Buxted and Hadlow Down - £2345
Buxted Methodist Church - £350
Five Ash Down Pop-In - £500
St Wilfrid's Hospice - £1,000
Buxted Horticultural Society - £800
Ashdown Forest Conservators - £1,000
Wealden CAB - £900
Buxted Bonfire Society (for 2025 -26) - £1,000
Five Ash Down Village event - £350
Buxted Bowls Club - £1,000
High Hurstwood Bonfire Society - £1,000
Action against abuse – further questions to be asked
Buxted Allotment Association - £700
Buxted Rifle Club - £874.44

11/09/25 Initial Approach to Parish Council – seeking support for resident's association to purchase land north of Budletts lane and register as a Community Asset

Now that a planning application for development has been refused permission for the land north of Budletts Lane (locally known at the pig field), a group of local residents are looking to register the land as a Community Asset and hopefully purchase the land for the long-term use of residents. The cost of purchasing the land is not yet known. The parish council is being asked to support this project.

The Parish Council agree to support the resident's group to investigate the registration of the land as a community asset.

12/09/25 OUTSTANDING MATTERS

Public footpaths:

Trees:

- **Land/Trees Littlewood Lane – random cutting of trees/vegetation at end of road on land not belonging to the parish council.**
The parish council have been approached by a resident to be advised the vegetation between the high wall at the end of Littlewood Lane (not the side owned by the parish council) and the boundary fence of The Briars is being cut with the debris falling on cars and being left on the pathway. Residents

have been moving the cuttings to the verge opposite. The land in question appears to be a random strip, created when Littlewood Lane was built, but not the responsibility of anyone (and not in the ownership of The Briars).

Action – suggest the resident approach the developer of the estate to request they carry out maintenance to the vegetation.

Road Safety:

➤ **ESCC Consultation - Proposed 50mph speed limits on A272 between Buxted and Hadlow Down**

In July, the parish council received a consultation regarding the reduction in speed limits across the county, one of which being the proposal to reduce the existing 60mph speed limit between Buxted and Hadlow Down to 50mph. The deadline for the consultation was 8th August, to which the parish council did submit comments, but any further comments from this meeting could still be forwarded to ESCC.

Cllr Furber wished for the Parish Council to address speeding through Buxted village (specifically at the top of the village).

Action - Speeding through Buxted Village on October agenda.

Wealden Local Development Framework: Nothing to report.

Property issues:

➤ **Buxted Recreation Ground – drainage improvements – update**

At the previous meeting council agreed to contributing half the cost of new drainage at Buxted Recreation Ground whilst submitting a grant application to WDC under the Sports Infrastructure Fund. Rules of submitting a grant application include completing the application within eight weeks and having at least three quotes. The clerk has sought quotes from six companies with only two responding. The clerk wrote to WDC to explain this but was advised we definitely require three quotes, which was then followed with an email explaining we also require a full assessment by the FA (of the pitch) to prove the proposed drainage is necessary as opposed to a simple maintenance programme. This requirement is despite having Cllr Humphrey, who is an agronomist, having assessed the land, and never being advised this was necessary. The eight-week deadline has now lapsed. Options moving forward would be to wait for additional required quotes and start the process again including requesting an assessment of the site by the FA, or self-funding the project in its entirety.

Action – continue with grant application and potentially put drainage works off until spring 2027. Cllr Humphrey to contact FA.

➤ **Dog Waste Bin, Gordon Road – update on dual waste bins**

Following the discussion at the previous meeting, the clerk sought the advice of the Waste Management team at WDC who advised the following regarding dual use bins and a possible dog waste bin at the end of Gordon Road:

“Litter bins can take dog waste but there are also some occasions, where residents will not consider using a litter bin to dispose of dog waste especially if they are used to using the normal dog waste bins.

There is also sometimes a greater issue, if animals go raking the contents out of the bin. Having a dog bin this would have a fitted lid that foxes etc. are unable to gain access to. Whereas a litter bin usually has an opening and

foxes etc. will scavenge for food out but then also pull-out bags of dog waste which have been placed in the bin which in some cases will cause more of a problem.

The litter bin provided at the junction of Gordon Road/ High Street is currently the full responsibility of waste management, so we cover the cost of emptying at no additional cost to the parish council. We are not aware of any need for an additional bin at this location, but it would be at the parish council's choosing as to whether they wanted to put a dog waste bin there if this is considered to be required at that location.

The only other point we would need to consider is if the dog bin is to be placed on the Highway verge it would probably require a section 115 application with East Sussex Highways, this would involve digging into the verge to install the post, whereas the litter bin will only sit on the surface so is less of an issue."

Resolved - Members considered this response confirming a dog waste bin is not required in this location.

- **High Hurstwood Recreation Ground – request for a memorial bench**
Agreed - with a concrete base in suggested location.
- **Grass Cutting Contract – liquidation of Countryman Contractors and completion of contract with Ace Landscapes**
Without notice, a letter was received advising of the liquidation of Countryman Contractors which left the Parish Council and Ionides Trust without any grass cutting contractor. A contractor from Countryman contacted the parish council to advise he has set up his own company, Ace Landscapes, and would like to take over the grass cutting contract, at no extra cost. Once insurance documents, risk assessments and a matching quote was received, parish councillors **agreed** (via email consultation) for Ace Landscapes to finish the grass cutting contract for 2025/26.
- **Buxted Allotments – concerns regarding future use**
Cllr Smith requested this matter was added to the agenda to confirm there is no intention for the parish council to dispose of the allotment. **Confirmed** – there is no intention to sell the allotment site.

Action – ask solicitor how best to safeguard the land either by registration or legal document.

- **Inspection of Council Owned Trees – council to consider two yearly tree inspections (last inspection 2023)**

Following the tragic circumstances earlier in the summer when a tree in a public space fell on a young child, the clerks are suggesting council owned trees are inspected every two (instead of three) years.

Action – agree and include trees in pig field on allotment land.

- **BT Phone Boxes – repainting**
Do we ask Lengthsman to repaint BT boxes?

Action – Agree. Ask Lengthsman to paint BT boxes at High Hurstwood, Five Ash Down, Tanyards Cottages.

Communications Matters: Nothing to report.

13/09/25 CORRESPONDENCE

P1 WDC – Invitation to Wealden Parish Conference Tuesday 21 October 2025 –
councillors considering availability.

P2 Uckfield & East Grinstead Railway Line – Invitation to annual meeting
Edenbridge 2nd October 11am – Cllr Mallett.

14/09/25 COMMITTEE MEETINGS

None

15/09/25 FINANCE

- i) **Payments:** On the proposal of Cllr. Rose seconded by Cllr. Marshall, payments totalling £5731.01 covered by BACS and direct debits were approved for August 2025.
On the proposal of Cllr. Rose seconded by Cllr. Marshall, payments totalling £17,088.10 +VAT covered by BACS and direct debits were approved for September 2025.
- ii) **Bank reconciliations:** The clerk had circulated completed reconciliations for July and August which were signed
- iii) **Noted:** RBS reports: Ear marked reserves, Trial Balance, Receipts and Payments, Cash and Investment Reconciliation
- iv) **consider Local government services pay agreement 2025/26 –** Proposed by Cllr Rose and seconded Cllr Blandford – **agreed**.
- v) **consider accounting scheme (RBS) annual backup services – agreed**
- vi) **Payment of swing repairs on Ionides site using CIL funds – work completed but agree to use CIL**
- vii) **Request for grant for High Hurstwood Bonfire Society for 2025 event – agreed**
- viii) **Request from Buxted Together to purchase four shovels at cost of £80 and Hi Viz vests at approx. £30? – agreed**
- ix) **Cllr Furber: request for funding for professional services to assist with ideas for a new village hall – Cllr Furber will draw up a design and brief to present to the council.**

16/09/25 OTHER MEETINGS

No other meetings

17/09/25 MEMBERS QUESTIONS

None

18/09/25 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you to Buxted Together for continued work on footpaths in village

Next Meeting – Tuesday 14th October 2025 in St Marys Church Hall, Buxted

The meeting closed at 9.20p.m.

Update on ongoing Highway cases:

DATE RAISED	CASE NO	DESCRIPTION	OPEN/CLOSED RESOLUTION
November 2024	EA007FRAMFIELD	Culvert, Framfield Road, Buxted	ONGOING Collapsed drainage leading to culvert. Reported some time ago. Highway advised works need planning and extensive repair.

			<p>19/3 – Highways contacted PC to advise Structural Team will contact PC to arrange a site meeting likely to be in April.</p> <p>May – Cllr Furber attended meeting with ESCC/Balfour Beatty. Agreed work from culver to KSV would be carried out. Design for culvert currently being designed. Work to be carried out in next financial year.</p> <p>10/06 – clerk to ask Highway if any remedial works will take place to stop the road falling away while a design is being drawn up.</p>
04/02/25	THF003389	Width of footpath between Limes Lane and Pound Green Lane – request to cut back and uncover footpath	<p>ONGOING</p> <p>10/02/25 – Highway Steward has inspected and does not consider works are needed at this time but would keep an eye on it.</p> <p>14/02/25 – Raised with Cllr Galley at meeting. He is raising this issue again with Highways.</p> <p>March 25 - Issue now CLOSED after work carried out by Cllr Furber</p> <p>01/04/25 – Highways confirmed job is now scheduled!</p>
17/02/25	CCY000737	Broken away tarmac (50cm) in Framfield Road/Limes Lane outside KSV and bollard fallen over	<p>REOPENED</p> <p>20/02/25 – ESCC Highways do not consider work is necessary at this time but would continue to monitor – Raise again with Highways.</p> <p>17/3 – Highway Steward revisited. Road still does not meet criteria, but bollard will be replaced.</p> <p>May – work should be carried out in conjunction with culvert repair woks (as above EA007FRAMFIELD)</p>
24/03/25	HED004006	Hedge at Totease House, High Street, Buxted	<p>Reported to highways by a Buxted resident</p> <p>Chased throughout following months by Cllr Galley. Some hedge cut back</p> <p>20/08 – confirmed remaining hedge to be cut is owned by ESCC Highways and should be cut in 28 days.</p>
26/06/25	SLO001206	A272 Verge next to Oast Farm entrance. Leaning tree in verge	<p>CLOSED</p> <p>26/06 – Highways confirmed this has been reported before and has not changed since 2024 however a land search is underway to establish ownership</p> <p>12/08 – highway confirmed owner has been identified and notified of responsibilities.</p>
21/07/25	SIG002087	Missing 30mph sign at Millwood Lane (FAD end)	<p>ONGOING</p> <p>21/07 – reported to Highways</p>

			<p>01/08 – Highway Steward reported the sign missing. Arranging replacement within 28 days</p> <p>01/09 – Cllr Humphrey reported sign has been replaced but it is not straight. Clerk reported back to Highways</p> <p>02/09 – Highways confirmed this would be investigated</p>
27/08/25	Wealden District Council	Court Lane street sign broken from UKPN works	<p>ONGOING</p> <p>Reported to Highways. Highways advised this is the responsibility of Wealden</p> <p>27/08 – reported to WDC</p> <p>02/09 – WDC acknowledged and advised it is on list of works</p>
01/09/25	No reference given	Verge at the end of Court Lane	<p>ONGOING</p> <p>After works carried out by UKPN the verge has been left with reinstatement very poor</p> <p>02/09 – Highways confirmed this will be investigated</p>

Buxted Parish Council Grant Application Summary for payments in the 2026-2027 financial year

This is a summary of the information taken from the completed grant application forms. If anyone would like to see the full completed form(s) please let me know and I will email to you. Claudine.

Organisation	Contact details	Description	Amount	Answer/amount agreed by the Parish Council September 2025
Buxted Art Club	Sheila Bartholomew Redbrook House Pound Green Buxted TN22 4JN 01825 733100 sheilabartholomew1@gmail.com	<p>The recent addition of the tea tent, made possible by a previous grant, has freed up valuable space within the hall. The tea tent has been used by the Horticultural Society and Art Club and is also available to other Buxted Groups. With the increased space available, we propose the installation of further display panels for our exhibitions. The introduction of new panels will significantly increase the hanging space available when configuring the exhibition layout and will offer a better viewing experience for visitors.</p> <p>The display panels will be made available to other groups in the hall for special events, promoting shared resources within the community. With the addition of extra hanging space, our members will benefit from increased opportunities to showcase larger artworks, which can also encourage greater artistic output. Flexible panel arrangements will enhance the exhibition experience for visitors. During our most recent exhibition, we presented 145 paintings, which proved challenging given the limited space available. Although we make full use of permitted wall areas, as directed by the hall trustees, they are unable to allow us to use the largest wall separating the hall from the kitchen. Acquiring an additional 3.5 metres of hanging space would significantly improve our ability to display artworks effectively. As a group we are at full capacity having just included two</p>	£1,353.12	£1,353,12

		new members from our waiting list. We are committed to remaining a low-cost activity, which for some of our members is their only opportunity for a few hours of relief from the pressures of		
Five Ash Down Chapel	<p>Secretary: Mr Sweetman, Myrtle View, Plovers Barrows, TN22 4JP. elwingsweetman@gmail.com</p> <p>Treasurer: Mr Martin, 25 Saxonbury Close, Crowborough, TN6 1EA johnmartin@talktalk.net</p>	General upkeep of grounds and gardens at Five Ash Down Chapel. Overall cost is approx. £1600. Request £350 towards the overall costs.	£350	£350
Parish of Buxted and Hadlow Down (two churches – St Marys and St Margarets)	<p>Margaret Scott, Church Warden, 5 Totease Mews, Buxted.</p> <p>E; Margaret.scott39@hotmail.co.uk</p>	<p>Applying for £3,490 of overall costs of £4690</p> <p>Info: there are two areas used daily by members of the local community. Namely the community garden at St Marys church which offers play and the picnic areas and the church yard at St Margarets which offers access to Buxted Park land for walkers and dog walkers.</p> <p>Assistance towards the upkeep and maintenance of these areas would be appreciated.</p> <p>Hedge cutting £840.</p> <p>Grass cutting £1000.</p> <p>Maintenance of paths and 2nd stage repair of Gill tomb – all of which is of considerable interest to the local community £1650.</p> <p>Monthly grass cutting to supplement £1200.</p>	£3,490	£2,345
Buxted Methodist Church	<p>Angela Jenkins Uplands Limes Lane Buxted</p>	Maintenance of the church garden, including a bench. This benefits all users of the building and provides an area where passers by and all members of the community can sit and relax.	£500	£350

FAD Pop In	Rose Hanson	<p>For FAD Pop In Help pay for hall hire and events that the group run for the community and attendees.</p> <p>Reminder sent 19.8.25 – think issue with her submitting the form via email</p>	£500 approx?	£500
St Wilfreds Hospice		<p>£1000 grant towards £15,000 costs</p> <p>Most people wish to remain at home when they are diagnosed with a terminal illness St Wilfrid's team of community nurses support over 85% of patients to continue living in their own homes. The community nurses also offer support to family and carers, who also play a vital role in enabling patients to remain at home. They visit patients regularly and the grant we are asking for will help to meet their travel costs when visiting patients' homes to visit patients in Buxted.</p> <p>The Hospice greatly appreciate the grants awarded to support end of life patients and their families living in Buxted. The purchase of a laptop in 2024/25 has meant that the Hospice is able to provide more responsive care to patients in Buxted when visiting patients. Patient records and information can be viewed and updated, helping to reduce the need for difficult hospital appointments. Nurses can stay with patients and family members for longer as they do not need to return to base so often to check patient information. grant towards £15,000 costs</p> <p>The Hospice are applying to Parish Councils in the catchment area to help support CNS travel costs for visits in 2025/26 and 2026/27. In 2024/25 the Hospice have received grants</p>	£1000	£1,000

		totalling £11,500 from local Councils.		
Buxted Horticultural Society (BHS)	<p>Lisa Ayling Clover Cottage Spotted Cow Lane Buxted TN224QG</p> <p>Trustee and Show secretary - Buxted Horticultural society</p> <p>07753 473352 lisaayling2@gmail.com</p>	<p>The grant is requested towards both the day to day running costs and our ongoing project to ensure the society survives, proactively engaging newer members as well as long-standing parish residents, strengthening the legacy of community involvement.</p> <p>To ensure longevity we are developing the website and membership and email list and are now also trying to improve the internal paper-based processes.</p> <p>The project requires promotional materials (spanning both digital and physical formats) including the updated website and we require new physical 1m + high flower show banner stands. The costs include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. On going storage of all society and show items at St Mary's church hall replacing previous reading room storage-£240. 2. New website hosting and domain charge £129. 3. Printing of publicity material, leaflets, show schedules £95.30. <p>In addition, the following one-off items:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Replacement of damaged* flower show banner stands, with custom feather banner flags printed with society name £110.78. 2. Lenovo IdeaPad Flex 3 Chromebook 15-inch HD Laptop to modernise** the society's antiquated paperwork system £249. <p>(Total: £824.08)</p>	£824.08	£800

		<p>*Unfortunately, at our last show, a 10-year-old banner stand was accidentally damaged beyond repair (an elderly driver reversed and crushed it). To replace this, and restore visibility on show days, durable, printed outdoor storable feather flag banners seem the most visible replacement.</p> <p>** To secure the society's long-term future we want to streamline the antiquated paperwork system, moving to modern technology for exhibitors' lists, show entries and judges' decisions. This makes tasks easier to share across the whole committee, reducing reliance on a single individual and ensuring smoother, more resilient, efficient operations for the future.</p>		
Ashdown Forest Conservators	Zoe Nicholls Business Manager	<p>To contribute towards ongoing operational costs, to include access and ride repair and fly tipping. This includes within the forest that includes within Buxted.</p> <p>Overall operational costs are in the region of £740,000.</p>	£1,000	£1,000
Holy Trinity Church, High Hurstwood		<i>No application received this year or the previous 3 years.</i>		
Wealden CAB	<p>Jennifer Jadia – CEO</p> <p>Uckfield Library, Library Way, High Street, Uckfield, East Sussex, TN22 1AR</p>	To contribute to the running costs of the service for residents, which can be accessed via phone, email, text or appointments at one of our 3 sites - Crowborough, Hailsham or Uckfield. Although our service is mainly staffed by volunteers we still require staff to supervise, train and manage the service. We need to maintain our IT system for effective record keeping and to enable us to	£900	£900

		<p>communicate effectively with and on behalf of our clients. We also need to cover day to day costs such as postage, photocopying, cleaning, publicity and insurance.</p> <p>In the past year alone, we have assisted 79 residents of Buxted addressing 275 individual issues, including debt, housing problems, employment rights, and access to benefits. Our support has resulted in tangible outcomes, such as £11k of income gained for clients, £13k of debts written off, and numerous successful interventions that have prevented homelessness and financial hardship. For many, our help has meant the difference between despair and hope.</p> <p>Throughout Wealden, we supported 3,900 residents last year, addressing 21,000 issues and securing £2.6m in financial gains. This demonstrates the breadth of our work and the critical need for local support across the district.</p>		
Buxted Bonfire Society (for 2025-2026)	Debbie Elliot	<p>£1,000 of £10,000 costs</p> <p>‘(We are asking for £1,000, but as I explained to Beccy if the 2026 summer fayre doesn’t happen due to the works on the football pitch, we would need to ask for a £3,000 grant due to the £2,500 loss we would make on the summer fayre).</p> <p>To help with the costs of a traditional torchlit procession and bonfire within Buxted for its third year on Saturday 26th September 2026 Monies collected during the procession will be donated to two local chosen charities for 2026.</p>	£1,000	£1,000

		<p>We have four local businesses who sponsored in total £2,500 for the 2025 and will be asking them again and asking other businesses too. We will also be doing fundraising through the year to help with these costs.</p> <p>The village, the increased number of visitors to Buxted will help generate revenue to our local businesses.</p> <p>The local community will benefit from more community events.</p> <p>Two local charities as all monies raised during the procession will be donated to these charities.</p>		
Five Ash Down Village Event	Robin Eatwell robin@twowayes.com	<p>£350 towards £400 costs.</p> <p>For the last few of years, we have organised a street party for the village in Court Lane, Five Ash Down. In 2022 it was the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and in 2023 it was King Charles III coronation. In 2024 and 2025, without a Royal event to hang our hat on, we chose to run a Village Day comprising a picnic in Court Lane. This has been supported by various musical bands and this year we had 4 bands/solo artists supporting our event.</p> <p>Past events have been well attended - a headcount halfway through the day this year came in at over 100 people and that in spite of bad weather on the morning of the event. Feedback shows that attendees were glad to</p>	£350	£350

		<p>be able to meet neighbours and friends they may not have had a chance to talk to in their everyday busy lives. The Parish Council have helped us with funding, and we have, where possible, used those funds to buy long term assets (e.g. bunting, banners etc.) for use by us in future years, and also for use by anyone else in the village who has a village event to run.</p> <p>We hope to run a similar event in 2026 and are asking for the support of the Parish Council once again.</p> <p>The objective is for the villagers to have a great day out and mingle with others in the community making Five Ash Down an even better place to live.</p> <p>Sadly, the founder member of the 2022 event died suddenly in 2023 and so, in 2023, we included a collection in favour of the British Heart Foundation which raised £323.65. The 2024 event raised £557.56 and this year we achieved £432.47 for the charity.</p> <p>Below are a couple of photos from this year's event.</p>		
Buxted Bowls Club	<p>David Driver</p> <p>Buxted Park Bowls Club, Buxted Park, Buxted.TN22 4AY c/o Dave Driver, 19 Wilson Grove, Uckfield TN22 2BU.</p> <p>Position; Hon Treasurer davedriver52@gmail.com</p>	<p>£1000 of £1140 plus additional labour costs if our members require help.</p> <p>We are looking to obtain 6 more parasols to put with the new benches around the green to create more shade during matches</p> <p>We are also looking to create a storage rack to store our bowls bags and visitors bowls</p>	£1,000	£1,000

		<p>bags during matches, this is to create a safer environment around our outside seating areas taking away potential trip hazards.</p> <p>Additional funds to be raised by: We will organise a fund raising afternoon with our club members</p>		
High Hurstwood Bonfire Society	Peter Duck	<p>£1,000 towards costs of £6,000.</p> <p>This is to help fund the annual High Hurstwood bonfire on Saturday 10th^h October 2026 (which will be its 62nd year). The event is run entirely by volunteers from the parish, and involves a parade down Chillies Lane, starting at the bottom of the road leading to the Church, with (real) lanterns (strictly supervised, of course), vintage vehicles, a towed trailer for young children, bands and dragons (carried by local school children). The police are informed of the event, but there are no road closures, and marshals are stationed along the route. The parade ends at the village hall, where a selection of amenities (BBQ, bar, stalls etc) are available. There is a good-sized bonfire (made possible by local businesses) and a professional firework display in the village hall field. The event attracts a large crowd.</p> <p>The aim each year is to to break even, in order to have sufficient reserves for the following year, however the finances are heavily dependent on the weather on the night. The event is supported by sales at the BBQ and bar and attractions and by voluntary donations. There is no admittance fee.</p> <p>Although the weather has been good in the last couple of years, we still have had to dip into our diminishing reserves, due to rising</p>	£1,000	£1,000

		costs and pressures on household finances.		
Action Against Abuse	<p>Elaine Adkins Volunteer CEO PO Box 734 TN9 9WN</p> <p>07887 722034 elaine@actionagainstabuse.org.uk</p>	<p>Action Against Abuse is a support service which helps people and their families who are experiencing Domestic Abuse (DA), obtain protective orders at court such as Non Molestation Orders (NMO) in East Sussex, we are the only organisation in Sussex providing this service.. These Orders can stop an abusive partner from contacting or harassing you, or stop them from coming to your home, work and perhaps a child's school. A breach of a NMO by a perpetrator constitutes an arrestable offence and if found guilty could lead to 5 years in prison. In most cases, a NMO is an extremely effective deterrent to further offending.</p> <p>For maximum protection a NMO must be put in place as soon as possible. The victim's risk level will remain high until an NMO is in place which is why AAA ensure that court applications are made within a matter of days.</p> <p>So why aren't they being used more often? The problem is that individuals have relied on solicitors to apply for NMOs. Solicitors are prohibitively expensive to most clients, but even if clients can find a legal aid solicitor with capacity, the whole process can be incredibly slow, with legal aid often taking up to 6 weeks to be approved, therefore meaning applications can take 2 months to get to court meaning a significant risk of harm or homicide to the victim and children witnessing multiple more incidents.</p> <p>We will support in the preparation of an individualised application (including a Witness Statement), assist in all the paperwork and attend court with the client, sitting next to them in court, advising, supporting and taking notes. We have extensive experience in making these applications to court and clients will be expertly supported throughout. Our CEO has made over 400 successful applications for NMOs over the last 5</p>	<p>£479.10</p> <p><i>(which is the shortfall of their expenditure of £35,155.50)</i></p>	Further questions to be asked

		<p>years with 100% success rate.</p> <p>Stopping the perpetrator from coming to the home, work place and school means that the abused family can stay and contribute to their community rather than flee to a refuge often miles away. They can keep their employment, children can stay in their schools and families can be near their support network. It is the perpetrator who has to change their behaviour. These orders can stop repeat offending and save lives and reduce calls to other resource constrained agencies such as police, social services, housing and probation.</p> <p>We operate a volunteer based model supporting victims of DA. Volunteers have a caseload, risk assess clients, safety plan, write the applications for the protective orders for court, fill in all the paperwork and attend court with the client, sitting next to them with appropriate safety measures in place, such as separate entrances, exits and waiting rooms and screens up in court. This funding will be to contribute towards volunteer expenses to support victims of domestic abuse</p>		
Buxted Allotment Association		<p>£700 toward £1400 costs:</p> <p>Allotment Grass Cutting & Maintenance of the ecological Hedgerow. This will enhance the experience of the current users of this existing community facility and will help to encourage future members into the association to enjoy social and wellbeing benefits afforded to our members.</p> <p>(the shortfall in the cost will be funded from Allotment Association Reserves)</p>	£700	£700
Buxted Rifle Club	Jon Newton-May 16 Nursery Field Buxted	<p>Requesting £874.44 of £1100 costs:</p> <p>To replace damaged sheets on the rifle range roof. Following the vandalism last year the rifle club</p>	£874.44	£874.44

	<p>TN22 4NG jon@buxtedrifleclub.co.uk</p>	<p>committee repaired the part of the roof that was damaged. However checking the rest of the roof showed at least 10 more roof panels that were cracked or damaged. The Rifle Club would like to have one or two working parties over the next year to replace the further sections of the roof that are leaking.</p> <p>The estimated total cost includes the expense of disposing of the removed roofing and the costs of fixings for the replacement roofs. These additional costs will be paid by the rifle club from membership fees. The labour for the project will be provided free of charge by the clubs members.</p>		
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Ionides Trust Update 9th September 2026:

- 1. Apologies – Brian Muddle**
- 2. Declarations of Interest – None**
- 3. Replacement of Swing Beam – confirmation of costs of £923 from CIL funds – see parish council minute 15/09/25 above.**
- 4. Scout Hut - any update** – a response has been received following a number of questions directed towards the Scouts since the previous meeting. This was only received recently which raised further questions around the potential hiring out of the Scout Hut in the future and if this will be possible.

Hiring of Scout Hut – Scouts have advised the hall will be used in the future for Buxted Brownies, but the IF has requested if the hut will be available outside of the scouting/guides association as this impacts on any future hall development ambitions.

Fire muster point and flagpole – suggested by IT this is positioned next to existing electricity pole as it minimises the area that contractors work around to cut grass.

Path from car park to scout centre – Scout believe the site is better for having the path in place. IT have made clear it wishes the Scouts to take ownership and maintenance of the said path. We note that the summer has been extraordinarily dry but, when the path was first constructed, and it was wet, and gulying was evident. We still maintain the slope near the top is too steep, and the gravel surface is not hard wearing or slip proof.

Pipe to Woodlands – Scouts confirmed this is an ongoing issue with IT confirming the boundary of IT land is the fence line next to the railway track.

- 5. Illegal Camping – update on legal advice/registration of land as village green**
Legal advice was sought from our solicitor to ascertain what, if any, measures could be taken to prevent unauthorised camping on the land. The Police do have powers to assist, which are enhanced if the land is either common land or a registered village green. The Buxted Recreation Ground is registered as a village green, but the Ionides land is not. To do this, the IT would need to apply to ESCC once the agreement of all leaseholders is obtained.

The solicitor also advised that signage should be erected at the site to advise unauthorised camping is not allowed and a policy is drawn up which sets out how illegal camping will be dealt with.

Members agreed to pursue the registering of the land as a village green to secure the wellbeing of the land for the benefit for the community.

- 6. Rifle Club lease**
The existing rifle club lease is out of date and should fall in line with the new Scout lease and date.

It was agreed to ask our solicitor to draw up a leased based on that of the Scout (but simplified to suit the Rifle Club)

- 7. For information - notification of rent agreement and increase between Buxted Surgery/Landlord (Opus Magnum) - noted**

8. Network Rail Fence

No update but the Network Rail official who should be responsible for this will be attending the Uckfield & East Grinstead Railway Line meeting on 2nd October – Cllr Mallet volunteered to attend.

9. Grass cutting areas – contractor update – See PC minute 12/09/25 above.

Meeting closed 9.30pm