LANCING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council held at the Council Chamber on Wednesday 8th July 2026

Councillors present: Denyse Whillier (Chair), Carol Albury, Ann Bridges, Mandy Buxton, Lee Cowen, Vanessa Evans, Mike Mendoza, Steve Neocleous (Vice Chair), Kathryn Penny and Joe Pannell.

Officers: Steven Trice (CEO/Clerk)

Members of the Public: None

The Chair welcomed all present and read the safety announcement.

025. Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Devoy, Bradley, Haywood, Strudwick and Carson Albury.

026. Declarations of Interest

None.

027. Public form and questions

None

028. Minutes of the council meeting held on 20th May 2026

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the full council meeting held on 20th May 2026 as a true and accurate record.

029. Reports

To receive the following reports and agree recommendations

i. Clerk's Report

The CEO/Clerk provided the following updates to his report:

- Paddle Courts, Monks Recreation Ground: Planning consultants had instructed the preparation of the supporting reports required for the planning application.
- Youth Hub, Monks Recreation Ground: Revised plans, now including a first floor, would be presented to the ACE Committee.
- Widewater Lagoon: New welcome and advisory signage was scheduled for installation on 17 June. NPC Car Parking was also obtaining quotations for line marking works in the East Car Park.
- Marketing Assistant: Had successfully completed her Level 3 Multi-Channel Marketing Apprenticeship, achieving a Distinction. Members conveyed their congratulations.

Cllr Pannell asked about the funding for the proposed line markings at Widewater. The CEO/Clerk confirmed that the works would be funded from earmarked reserves for car parking. Cllr Pannell also questioned whether parking income could be used for other expenditure not directly relating to the car parks. The CEO/Clerk confirmed that a report would be presented to the August meeting of the ACE Committee and that he was seeking clarification from the Internal Auditor regarding the rules governing the use of parking income.

Cllr Mendoza asked about payments from NPC Car Parking. The CEO/Clerk confirmed that payments were up to date and that an outturn report would be presented to the Finance and Governance Committee to demonstrate such.

Cllr Evans asked about the build-up of silt and sand at Widewater Lagoon. The CEO/Clerk advised that guidance from the Environment Agency had been received and was currently being reviewed.

ii. Chair's Report

- Bi-weekly meetings with the CEO/Clerk had continued.
- South and South East in Bloom: The Chair and other Councillors had supported the Estates and Facilities Manager during the judging day, which had been successful. The judge had appeared impressed, with Cllr Albury also confirming that positive feedback received. Results were expected in September, with an invitation to the awards should the Council be successful.
- People's Emergency Briefing was scheduled for August, with publicity to be issued shortly.

iii. West Sussex County Councillor Report

- Cllr Mendoza reported that it had been a busy period following the May elections, with the new Council now sitting and Councillor training underway.
- Chester Avenue had reached the required points threshold for parking restrictions to be introduced, which would improve access to the road.
- Cllr Mendoza advised that compensation was being considered for those affected by the ongoing issue of melting tar at Beach Green.
- As the WSCC Councillor for Lancing, Cllr Mendoza welcomed Councillors approaching him with local issues, which he would investigate.

Cllr Buxton referred to the recent resurfacing of Sompting Road and asked Cllr Mendoza to request that the double yellow lines be reinstated, as inconsiderate parking was obstructing the road and it was increasingly being used for station parking.

iv. Adur District Councillor Report

- Cllr Cowen reported that the North Farm Road consultation would close on 19 July 2026 and urged Councillors to encourage residents to respond to the formal consultation, noting that comments made on social media would not necessarily be counted. It was noted that a compromise involving retention of part of the pocket park and allowing one-way traffic was being considered.
- It was noted that Olds Salts Community Farm had received permission for agricultural use and a sauna. Cllr Mendoza asked why the sauna was included, with Cllr Whillier explaining that it would provide an income stream.
- It was noted that traffic cones remained in place on the westerly A27 loop by the sports centre to prevent vehicles from turning. It was agreed that a permanent solution should be considered, as the cones had been in place for an extended period.
- Funding for the Norton Road Height Barrier had been allocated through the ADC capital works programme and the height barrier had been ordered, with installation pending.

- Cllr Pannell raised concerns about areas of the Parish where bins had been removed, resulting in increased litter. It was noted that bins had been reallocated elsewhere, and replacement bins were required. Cllr Cowen raised concerns about the collection capacity for additional bins, which ADC officers would have to review.

iv. Action and Working Group Reports
Cllr Mendoza informed the Council that the Youth Working Group had been revitalised, with new ideas emerging for how the Council could engage with young people. The CEO/Clerk advised that the proposed actions would be presented to the ACE Committee as the parent committee, with further work to follow.

v. Any other outside Body Representative Reports
- Lancing Football Club: Cllr Buxton noted that there was optimism for the new season, with the new manager now permanently appointed having done an excellent job last season. Despite a recent heavy defeat, there was considerable potential with the addition of new players.
- Widewater Lagoon: Cllr Evans promoted the Bat Walk taking place on 16 July 2026 and reported that three cygnets had survived from a nesting pair, although unfortunately a significant number had not. It was noted that a letter would be sent in October reminding residents not to feed the swans, as this had contributed to an increase in territorial behaviour among the swans on the Lagoon.

030. Committee Reports

To receive the following Committee Reports

i. HR Committee (meeting held 10th June 2026)
ii. Finance & Governance Committee (meeting held 10th June 2026)
iii. Amenities, Communities and Environment Committee (meeting held 13th May 2026)

Without comment **Members NOTED** the **Committee reports**

031. Finance

The following reports were received.

i. Income and expenditure summary report (May 2026, June 2026)
ii. Payments List (May 2026, June 2026)
iii. Bank Reconciliations (May 2026, June 2026)

The Chair, Cllr Neocleous, reminded Councillors that they could submit questions to officers in advance of the next Finance and Governance Committee meeting on 15 July 2026, to allow officers time to prepare responses where required.

Without comment **Members NOTED the Finance reports.**

032. **Update on Council Appointments**

Members noted the report and agreed to the formation of the Strategic Planning Group, with Chair, Vice Chair Committee Chairs confirmed as members. It was agreed that the Council's representative on the Adur Adaptation Project (ADA) – Ouse and Adur Rivers Trust would be appointed. Members agreed to appoint Cllr Haywood as the Council's representative. The CEO/Clerk invited further volunteers to serve on the Planning Committee. It was noted that the successful candidate from the Mash Barn by-election would be offered a place on the Committee following the election the following evening. No others appoint was made to the Committee, with this;

> Member **RESOLVED** to **note the formation of the Strategic Planning Group and that Cllr Haywood be appointed as the Councils representative on the Adur Adaptation Project (ADA) – Ouse and Adur Rivers Trust**

033. **Public Realm Improvements – North Farm Road**

The CEO/Clerk presented the background to the report and stated that, while the Council collectively may not be able to reach a consensus on whether to support or oppose the proposal, the Council should make a representation.

The Chair asked Members whether they wished to make a representation. Cllr Albury agreed that she was not certain a collective view could be reached, as Members held differing views, and questioned how a representation could be achieved. The Chair felt that the diversity of views and breadth of concern and support for the proposal should be conveyed, alongside any technical points raised.

Cllr Neocleous suggested that the Council should ask Adur District Council (ADC) for feedback from the first round of consultation, as there appeared to be conflicting information regarding the level of community support for the project.

The Chair then formally asked Members whether they wished the Council to submit a representation, which was agreed.

Cllrs Pannell and Albury expressed concerns that the project did not represent the best use of the available funding and felt that the potential loss of funding should not, in itself, be a reason to support the project.

Further concerns were raised regarding potential anti-social behaviour, future maintenance responsibilities and the condition of the surrounding highway. Members noted that the Parish Council's efforts to improve the area, including through planters, were being undermined by weeds and overhanging trees. Particular concern was expressed regarding the proposed one-year maintenance period and whether ADC would have sufficient resources to manage the site thereafter.

Cllr Cowen declared an interest as an ADC Cabinet Member and reminded Members that pedestrianisation had been identified as a community aspiration during the Lancing into the Future consultation. While acknowledging that the area could be difficult to regenerate and that the proposal may not be ideal, he noted that the project would bring funding into the Parish. Members were also reminded that any scheme would require a planning application, providing the Council with a further opportunity to comment.

In summary, the Chair acknowledged the concerns raised but noted that projects of a similar nature, including those initially facing community opposition, had subsequently proved successful.

Cllr Bridges asked whether the project could be imposed on the Parish. Cllr Cowen stressed that, if there was overwhelming community opposition, consideration would need to be given to whether the project should proceed.

Notwithstanding the views expressed, Members felt that the key issue to be addressed was the level of community response to the proposal. The Clerk was therefore asked to make representations to the relevant ADC officer to obtain the feedback from the first consultation.

Members RESOLVED to ask the CEO/Clerk to raise issues in the minute above and seek feedback from ADC Officers on the consultations undertaken regarding the North Farm Road proposal.

034. Electricity Contract

Members thanked the Finance Officer for her work in researching the electricity contract pricing options presented in the report and unanimously agreed without comment.

To **RESOLVE** to **enter into a contract for three years with company B as presented, namely EDF Energy, at the annual cost of £7,473 for the Parish Hall and Depot combined from 11th July 2027.**

035. Items for information and/or inclusion on future agendas

None.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.06pm

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