The Minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting of Lavant Parish Council held on Tuesday 8th September, 2026 at 7.00 pm in the Green Room, Memorial Hall, Pook Lane, Lavant.

137. Apologies for absence

The Clerk
Cllr. Brookes-Harmer

138. Declarations of interest and Dispensation Requests

a) Cllr. Goldsmith declared an interest in Agenda Item 147 as a result as her role as Secretary of the LVAA.
b) None.
c) None.

139. Public Session

No matters were raised.

140. To receive and approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 14th July, 2026

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 14th July, 2026 were unanimously APPROVED.

141. Brief Q&A from County Councillor on his report affecting this Parish

Cllr. Lovejoy's report, which was previously circulated to the Council, is attached at Appendix A.
WSC Cllr. Lovejoy confirmed that there would be no unitary authority election this year, Chichester District Council elections would be held in 2027.
Representatives from parishes in the Lavant valley had visited the sewage works to see and hear about latest developments.

142. Brief Q&A from District Councillor on his report affecting this parish.

Cllr. Brookes-Harmer was not in attendance, but his previously circulated report is attached at Appendix B.

143. Chairman's Report

The Chairman shared his report, as attached at Appendix C.
The Chairman stated that it had now been confirmed that land on the west side of Chalkpit Lane was owned by Hedley Jackson. Cllr. Mayhead was asked to make enquiries to establish whether land on the east side was owned by Goodwood Estate.
John Slipper was thanked for installing the noticeboard in the new St. Nicholas bus stop.
It was noted that CIL funding for bus shelters had been declined.

144. Traffic Management

We have requested a meeting with WSCC to consider possible traffic management concepts for the village. It was hoped that a report from this meeting would be available for the next Council meeting.
We understand that a 20-mph speed limit has been approved for East Lavant though we await formal confirmation.
It was noted that the pedestrian gate on the Goodwood permissive footpath was a potential hazard owing to it's location on New Road where traffic speeds can be excessive. Cllr. Finlay said that the 30mph area could be moved further along in order to slow traffic passing the pedestrian access. This would be discussed at the meeting with WSCC.

145. Finance

a) Cllr Aldridge signed the bank statement and bank reconciliation for the previous month.
b) The listed payments (attached at Appendix D) were unanimously APPROVED.
c) Payment of invoices received from Playsafe for ongoing playground maintenance were unanimously approved.
d) Cllr. Quest reported that signs reading “No Dogs, except Assistance Dogs” would be erected in the Playground, signs to be sponsored by Playsafe.

146. Car park height restrictions

It was noted that access to the lower car park area must be at least 6’6” high in order to allow access by CDC waste removal carts.
It was agreed that the upper car park be considered separately, the Chairman to investigate to find a more effective solution.

147. LVAA – Beekeeping request

Proposal from LVAA, together with National Allotment Association Beekeeping advice had been circulated by Cllr. Goldsmith (attached at Appendix E).
Cllrs. agreed that they were happy for the LVAA Committee to move forward with this proposal.
Further advice had been received from an experienced beekeeper within the village who was thanked for his help on the matter.

148. External Audit

The external audit had been received from Moore Smaller Authorities team and was Unanimously APPROVED.

149. Planning

No new planning applications had been received.

150. Clerk’s Correspondence

None received

151. Lavant Memorial Hall correspondence

Cllr. Tucker reported that an approach had been made to a potential new Treasurer

but a new Caretaker was desperately needed, an advertisement was being placed in the Lavant News.

152. Items for inclusion on the next agenda
No items were raised.

153. Date of next Lavant Parish Council meeting – Tuesday 13th October.

LAVANT PARISH COUNCIL

Appendix A

Report for Parishes and Residents Associations for the Month of September
Cllr Jack Lovejoy

On 2nd September I travelled to the Lavant sewage plant with representatives from the Lavant, West Dean, Singleton and East Dean Parish Councils. We were given a very smelly tour of the work that Southern are doing to improve the capacity of the plant to reduce the number of sewage spills into the river. It was a very interesting tour and the use of the nature-based solutions that have been successfully used previously in France and by Severn-Trent is fascinating. It was also disappointing to hear that the Environment Agency is requiring them to engage in a trial despite the evidence of thirty years of Severn-Trent using it. This five-year trial will hopefully show that the wetland system they've installed work to ensure Southern are better able to handle storm overflows and stop damaging our river's ecosystem. They are waiting for an update on their license so that they can use the full capacity of the plant (which has been more than doubled) to allow them to treat more sewage and reduce the amount of waste they pump into the river. Sadly, the system doesn't remove the phosphates that are one of the main causes of algal blooms in the river that damage the wildlife in the river. The ecologist on site explained how they couldn't use standard anti-phosphate methods like using iron because otherwise they would create a huge rusty brown streak down the river, which no-one wants. They are waiting for approval to try another method, while I hope the new system will work, I do have my suspicions because we've been dealing with this for a long time now. When I was learning to sail at about age nine, my father would refuse to let me go out after it had rained because it was well known even then that they were dumping sewage into the harbour. I want to finish this section by thanking those of you who engage in water testing in the Lavant, so we have independent evidence for what they're doing to the unique habitat that is the chalk winterbourne.

On 3rd September I attended the City Council's community affairs committee and heard about how the Jam Café on South Street have started a new youth redirect service to try and keep children at risk of criminality away from anti-social behaviour, I found the entire thing fascinating as this is something I deal with in my work life with children in care. I would strongly encourage anyone with an interest in helping in that kind of area to contact them and see whether they need any help. It very much showed to me the need for third places, where children can hang out with their friends without the expectation of spending money or of being moved along by the police when they are accused of being suspicious. We also heard about the successes this year from the Festival of Chichester and Chichester Fringe about how the grants provided to them by the city have helped them grow as organisations, it's good to see our city develop its own unique cultural scene, something which was definitely less prominent when I was a child.

On 5th September I attended the City Council's 800th anniversary mediaeval market, it was an excellent event with highly knowledgeable craftspeople showing off their crafts, I discovered I was secretly very interested in the processing of flax into linen and medieval dying. It was brilliant to see so many people of all ages enjoying themselves, and there was even a jeweller who had previously worked on the Lord of the Rings and Game of Thrones

as he's one of the few remaining traditional jewellers who work entirely by hand. I hope the event becomes a regular event because it's certainly unique, especially since the Weald and Downland stopped doing their traditional crafts fair before the pandemic.

Amusingly on 8th September an event to demonstrate highway's weather readiness plans to councillors had to be cancelled due to poor weather. I believe that is called irony.

On that day instead we had a presentation and meet and greet with the Highways team and discussed the problems they face and their use of new technology (e.g. AI pothole detection for inspection vehicles and new, tougher materials to replace the old surfaces, allowing them to take heavier modern vehicles without breaking) to face the problems we see in West Sussex (e.g. worsening weather, heavier vehicles, increased traffic, aging infrastructure, overstretched budgets, inflation etc). It was very interesting, especially to hear about how the contractors have a new risk assessment program that mean the risk assessment now only takes a matter of seconds at the beginning of the job. The council also inspects about 10% of pothole repairs, and they're guaranteed for a year, while the repair work done by the utilities companies are guaranteed to last for two years (please let us know if either of them fails within that time). Modern data collection means that we know down to the second when a repair was completed. Highways are looking at ways to bring back the pothole reporting app that was previously discontinued.

On 9th September I attended the Children's and Young People's services scrutiny committee. We scrutinised the council's services and how they're planning to improve them to hit their targets. One of the most exciting was that WSCC has managed to improve its dismal level of SEND completion from the mid to low teens to 31% completed on time in August. This is still unacceptably low, but a massive improvement from where it has been previously, it remains an area the CYPSSC will keep a close eye on. In news about one of my local schools, we were informed that the increase in capacity for St Anthony's is still on course to be ready on schedule, delays remain unfortunately for the expansion of Fordwater school owing to legal disputes.

We also heard about the county's adult learning programme, which is very impressive with a pass rate of well over 90% for their learners, they also clarified how the new combined authority would work in respect to the devolved authority around adult education, previously we were led to believe it would be taken over by the combined authority entirely, it has now been clarified that the service part will remain with us while the funding is being taken out of Westminster and handed over to the combined authority, which will make it easier for the adult education service to be more reactive to the skills needed by Sussex.

Finally, we looked at the new Youth Strategy for West Sussex, which is about to go out to consultation. I strongly suggest that anyone who works with young people read the new strategy and take part in the consultation and get as many groups involved as possible, we want to make the county a much better place for young people to live. We are currently facing a problem of youth boredom that we need to manage, and the youth strategy needs to reflect this. The youth boredom is the cause behind much of the anti-social behaviour we see. We also need to tackle the issue of e-scooters and e-bikes. I'm personally of the opinion

that their usage is due to the unreliable and infrequent buses that we have in the area. If you know any youth groups (formal or informal), parent groups (e.g. via schools) or organisations that support young people please get them involved with the consultation, we really want to make sure our strategy reflects the voices of young people in our community and those who work with them: West Sussex Young People's Strategy 2027-2032: Have Your Say | Your Voice West Sussex

On 11th September I attended my first meeting of Standing Advisory Committee on Religious Education, meeting faith leaders and RE teachers from across the county as we discussed the County's new RE syllabus (which you can read on our website) and how we can make it work for all schools. We also noted that the week of 8th-15th November is national interfaith week and we are trying to think of ways to promote it in schools, I suggested promoting learning to make religiously important food, as a lot of worship includes food or communal meals for special occasions or with symbolic meanings (e.g. Challah for Judaism, Halva for Islam, Hot Cross Buns for Anglicanism, Modak for Hinduism etc), because the way to someone's heart is often via the stomach and it helps people to learn when they have something solid in their hands to show for it. Religious education is often forgotten about, but with the amount of misinformation running around about religion, it's an important aspect of our community education and can contribute to community cohesion and social harmony. We are looking at ways we can make more resources that are not just worksheets. The future of SACREs (every council has one) is unknown because the government is currently considering plans for the future of religious education and we won't know what that looks like for a while yet.

On 15th September at Westhampnett Parish Council I was delighted to hear that Rolls-Royce's second car park is now open, this has noticeably reduced the stationary traffic that used to plague the village from about 13:45 to about 15:00 every single day during the shift change. I heard this time and again as a bug bear of the public all through my division, with people getting caught in it either entering or exiting Chichester or getting to and from Sainsbury's. This second car park was a planning requirement put on the application for Rolls-Royce's factory extension due to the planning committee understanding the frustration that it causes local residents. It has not completely solved the issue, but it has mitigated the problem.

As previously mentioned, I was away 18th-22nd September but I was right back in it on the 23rd when I attended the University of Chichester Fresher's Fair to support Jess Brown-Fuller, MP for Chichester as she greeted the new students. That evening I then attended the Chichester and District Cycle Forum to discuss the needs of active transport in the area, along with gaps in the network and the continued issues of inconsiderate drivers (including hit and runs). We also discussed the viability of a potential bike bus for Luffa and Parklands schools.

Also:
I have reported a number of items raised by the parish to the highways rangers:

1. The state of Pook Lane vegetation between the mini-roundabout and the Memorial Hall.
2. The state of Pook Lane vegetation to the west of the Royal Oak.

3. The self-seeded saplings narrowing the bridge over Centurion way.
4. The overgrown sign at the north end of the village past Lavant Down Way.
5. Overgrown brambles at the northbound Eastmead bus stop.
6. Some self-seeded saplings outside Gainsborough House.

I have also raised some of my own:

1. The northbound sign for the Pook Lane mini roundabout is becoming overgrown.
2. The sign on West Stoke Road is falling over.
3. Weeds coming through the pavement at the entrance of Potnore on Lavant Down Road
4. Fencing falling over on Warbleheath Close
5. Weeds along the edge of Sheepwash Lane
6. The obscured sign on Fordwater Road southbound.
7. The sign between the Centurion Way Bridge and Sheepwash Lane is obscured by a tree limb.
8. Moss on Springfield Close.
9. The sign opposite St Nicholas' Church is obscured by a tree limb.

The Pook Lane vegetation before the Memorial Hall was rejected as it is too dangerous for the Rangers, but they have agreed to tend to it separately as they understand that it's an issue. The bridge along Centurion Way will be cleared by Highways in their usual cycle of maintenance by using a machine that clears material from the road to remove the vegetation. The saplings outside Gainsborough House have been rejected due to them being on private land.

I have contacted the bus stop team about funding to aid in replacing the bus shelters, I will let the parish council know when I hear back.

Someone raised a query about Chalkpit Lane in the last meeting. Chalkpit Lane is indeed a highway maintainable at public expense, but it's a G-Class Highway, which is a designation for a public right of way of unknown classification, meaning we don't know if it's a byway, bridleway or footpath. Generally, G-Classes are low priority for maintenance.

OFSTED has performed their Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services, I hope that our officers won't find this too stressful and that the report comes back positive, we expect that report in November, the report and the improvement plan for it will be scrutinised at the January meeting of the Children and Young People's Service Scrutiny Committee (CYPSSC). The report for the SEND reform plans, which would have covered the vast majority of the enormous SEND deficit built up by SEND demand outpacing the Discretionary Schools Grant has been delayed to some point in the next few weeks, this isn't entirely unexpected because it was always a very ambitious timetable from the central government. We remain confident that our plans will be sufficient to receive the funding to cover the deficit.

The CYPSSC has decided the topics for our next two meetings, the November meeting will see us scrutinising the Quarterly Performance and Resources Report on our KPIs, along with the Youth Justice Service, Early Years Provision and any urgent matters related to the

budget. January will see us scrutinise the response to the OFSTED report I already mentioned, as well as our final Youth Strategy and our Psychology Hub (which provides mental health support for children and young people). We have also pencilled in for February the Quarterly Performance and Resources Report, Pupil Attainment (I requested that this pay special attention to disadvantaged pupils) and the Families First Programme. If any of these areas are of special interest to you then please feel free to come along and watch, or watch online via the WSCC webcast on our website.

If you have previously been in contact with the Public Right of Way team at WSCC using their email address, please note the email address has now closed and all inquiries should be directed to the online PROW form on the WSCC website, which is the same mechanism as reporting a pothole. Anything more complex than an obstruction, missing signpost or damaged gate will have to go via myself.

In my role as the representative governor on the board for the University Hospitals Sussex Trust, I am deeply disturbed by the report that was released by the Human Tissue Agency (HTA) when they inspected Worthing Hospital's Mortuary, this is the main hub mortuary that also oversees St Richard's Mortuary and is the only one in the trust's system that's allowed to perform a post-mortem autopsy. The report found a large number of unacceptable failings from security to record keeping to maintenance by the trust, its leadership and its staff.

I have referred the report to the Health and Adult Services Scrutiny Committee to provide further scrutiny and made sure Jess Brown-Fuller MP is aware. I strongly recommend that people read the full report. Worthing Hospital | Human Tissue Authority

If you have been in the city recently you will have noticed that the works by county council contractors on installing phone signal infrastructure in the city centre has begun, it's expected to be finished before the new year, finally bringing signal to the city centre (now I just need to work out how to get signal to the villages).

In what will hopefully be the end of the saga of the Murray statue, the city council has managed to find a private donor who has offered to pay for the statue to be cast in bronze, so the current resin one can be taken down as planned, it has been sold to a private collector and the money raised from the sale has been ringfenced for investment in the arts. The new bronze one will be erected as part of the works on North and East Street next year. The City Council has also found a contractor to undertake restoration works on the market cross, which is in a poor condition, particularly the roof.

Highways have released their annual report for the 2025/26 year, they repaired a record 32,840 potholes. As we enter into the busy season for potholes, please make sure to report potholes on the WSCC website as and when you find them. The full report is available in the press release at the bottom of this report.

The odyssey of LGR continues, the government has now put it all on hold. This was very unhelpfully released to the press before the council leaders I don't understand who at Westminster thought that was a good way to treat their partners, but it is deeply infuriating.

We don't know whether it's going ahead or what our boundaries will look like. I genuinely have no clue what's going on, and I don't think anyone does. This is infuriating for the uncertainty that it causes our staff at County Council (and likely at District as well), who will spend an unknown amount of time without an idea where they'll be working. We need stability to maintain our workforce, and we simply can't provide that at present and it's due to no fault of our own. We don't have a date a decision will be made any longer and we don't know why they've decided to pause it for review. This means that as things stand (for now) the district council elections will go ahead next year and the unitary council elections will not until the year after when the mayoral election is meant to happen (we haven't heard anything about that being delayed). The government has confirmed that it was the judicial reviews that caused the pause on LGR and withdrawal of four of the options, either due to embarrassment of the documents that could have come out, or that they would have lost the review. Our CEO suggested to councillors that the issue was probably due to miscommunication between the civil servants and the ministers on the ministers' intentions. He also noted that the model most in-keeping with the other areas under LGR plans is the ridiculous Brighton Five Unitary model, which would see us combined with Horsham and Crawley (a not terrible position for us), and Mid Sussex returning to East Sussex (where it had been until the 1974 reorganisation) to merge with most of Wealden and Lewes. Arun, Worthing and Adur would merge as well.

We don't have a date for when we expect a decision to be made, and judging by past behaviour we won't find out until it's made public. This month is the last possible date that they can announce a decision in time for the May elections, we believe this to be very unlikely, but it remains a vague possibility. The government has written to us and confirmed that they remain committed to LGR, so we are continuing to undertake the work that we are able to while we wait. I remain staunchly opposed to one unitary for West Sussex as I believe it will be undemocratic, too distant, too cumbersome, too bureaucratic and risk burn out of councillors who are not retired or independently wealthy, making it hard for working councillors to represent the communities we live in.

We have rolled out a number of initiatives recently, the one closest to my heart is the West Sussex Care Guide and the associated support surrounding it. My own Nan recently entered a home, so I know it's a very difficult transition to make, meanwhile my other grandmother has a live in carer as her dementia worsens. The Guide includes the new Planning for Your Future webpage and information booklet, which my colleague Cllr Richard Bates (LD – Chi West) is leading on as the cabinet member for Adult Services. If you are thinking about your care needs, or you have a family member who is in the process then I would recommend looking at the booklet to help make a more informed decision and avoid nasty surprises. This is not just about care homes, but also about maintaining your independence for as long as possible in your own home, fall prevention and a checklist of what you need to know to make the preparations as early as possible. If you would like a physical copy of the care guide please email publications@westsussex.gov.uk and request one, the electronic copy is available at https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/housing-options-and-care-homes/care-guide/. Care is one of the biggest decisions you can ever make, so please make sure you know what your options are.

The record office are having their annual open day on 21st November 10am-3:30pm, it will be themed on the 1940s to celebrate their 80th anniversary, it will include a guided tour (book here for free: Open Day Tours - West Sussex Record Office), screenings of old films from Screen Archive South East, oral histories recorded in the collection, stalls from West Sussex Archives Society, Sussex Family History Group and Sussex Record Society, plus free refreshments in their 1940s tea tent. They will also have their oldest document on display, the Oslac Charter of 780AD (more information about that charter here: 780 AD 'Oslac' Charter granting land south of Chichester (Cap/I/17) – West Sussex Record Office). If you're interested in more Sussex History, keep an eye on the events page for the Records Office: Events - West Sussex Record Office and sign up for the Record Office's newsletter.

Did you know that WSCC and our partners provide support for people who wish to improve their digital skills in our ever more digital world? Find out more here: https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/fire-emergencies-and-crime/digital-support-providers/

Consultations:
The County Council is currently consulting on the next phase of the roll out of the connected kerb electric vehicle charging point scheme, please make sure you take part if there's somewhere you think would benefit from this. The proposed locations in Chichester North are on Winterbourne Road. The Council is not looking at present at creating a Traffic Regulation Order to make the spaces electric vehicle only, so it will not reduce the number of car parking spaces. https://yourvoice.westsussex.gov.uk/ev-chargepoints
As I mentioned above, our Youth Strategy is currently out for consultation: West Sussex Young People's Strategy 2027-2032: Have Your Say | Your Voice West Sussex
A proposal for the expansion of Yapton Primary School is currently out for consultation: The proposed expansion of Yapton CE Primary School | Your Voice West Sussex
We have begun consulting on opening up a Specialist Inclusion Base at Petworth Primary School to aid children with SEND needs to remain in mainstream schools: Proposed creation of Specialist Inclusion Base at Petworth CofE Primary School | Your Voice West Sussex

Press Releases by WSCC since my last report:
Business owners urged to review artificial plants and decorations for fire safety risks - West Sussex County Council
Go All In at West Sussex libraries this autumn - West Sussex County Council
West Sussex County Council Response – Government Pauses LGR Programme - West Sussex County Council
Apply for your child's 2027 secondary school place - West Sussex County Council
Consultation opens on proposal to expand Yapton CE Primary School - West Sussex County Council
West Sussex County Council helps primary school pupils get active with new London Marathon Foundation Active Playgrounds - West Sussex County Council
Fire technician takes on fundraising challenge after two cancer diagnoses - West Sussex County Council
New report highlights continued investment in West Sussex's highways network - West Sussex County Council

Sexual Health Awareness Week: Council urges young women to get tested as chlamydia screening rates fall - West Sussex County Council
Waste Prevention Community Grant Fund applications to open - West Sussex County Council
Chichester set for major mobile boost as OpenDigital project launches - West Sussex County Council
Have your say on proposals to create new SEND places in Petworth - West Sussex County Council
New support helps West Sussex families take control of future care - West Sussex County Council
Crawley shop banned from selling vapes and tobacco products after repeated underage sales - West Sussex County Council
West Sussex residents asked for views on new electric vehicle chargepoints - West Sussex County Council
Get help to get online in West Sussex - West Sussex County Council
Residents urged to 'Stop the Spark' by keeping batteries, vapes and electricals out of household bins - West Sussex County Council
West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service welcomes six new on-call firefighters - West Sussex County Council
West Sussex business leaders invited to join exclusive Future CEO development programme - West Sussex County Council
New Chair appointed to lead West Sussex Economic Growth Board - West Sussex County Council
Fire service reports on wildfire preparedness at committee meeting - West Sussex County Council

Public Facing meetings in October (All viewable online):
1st October 2:00pm – Council of Governors for University Sussex Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (External Body Meeting, I sit on the council of governors on behalf of WSCC)
9th October 9:30am - Sussex Police and Crime Panel (External Body Meeting)
16th October 10:30am – Full Council (I will be attending this meeting, please let me know if you have any questions you wish me to put to the cabinet members, I will endeavour to put as many forwards as possible).
21st October 10:30am – Public Cabinet

Yours,
Cllr Jack Lovejoy
Member of West Sussex County Council for Chichester North
Covering: Boxgrove, Eartham, East Broyle, East Dean, Graylingwell, Lavant, Priory Park, Singleton and Charlton, Summersdale, Upwaltham, West Dean and Westhampnett
County Hall, West Street, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 1RQ

Appendix B

Lavant Parish council ward report
October 2026

LAVANT PARISH COUNCIL

Report author: Joseph Brookes-Harmer

Member for Lavant covering:
Lavant, Funtington, West Stoke, East & West Ashling and Asdean parishes

Email: Jbrookes-harmer@chichester.gov.uk
Telephone: 07368 410696

Welcome to October's edition of my ward report. Please see the first paragraph for the latest Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) update. Thank you to all who have been patient with this, I recognise that the uncertainty surrounding LGR can be challenging for both CDC and the parish council, however I will continue to keep you updated when further information is received from government.

In the meantime, our focus remains on delivering excellent services for residents and communities while progressing key council priorities.

The handy guide to meetings that are scheduled for this month can be found at the end of my report.

Local Government reorganisation:

As you'll be aware, the biggest news has been the Government's decision to pause the Local Government Reorganisation programme while it reviews the process and the decisions made so far.

The Government has committed to carrying out this review rapidly, with further news expected this autumn. It has also said the review will ensure LGR aligns with its wider plans to 'rewire the state', with a White Paper expected in the next couple of months. This delay continues to create uncertainty for both CDC and parish councils. All Chief Executives and Leaders have been clear that securing the right decision for West Sussex, as quickly as possible, must remain the focus. Until that clarity is provided, councils wait for a decision on the preferred LGR option. Due to this, the LGR Programme Board, made up of all West Sussex Chief Executives, has agreed that planning and preparation work should continue on a proportionate basis, so councils are ready to respond when government confirms the way forward.

The Government has reviewed the feedback from its previous consultation for local government reorganisation in Sussex and has asked for further evidence and views to ensure that any proposals taken forward reflect the identities, geography and needs of local communities. This includes consulting on two additional options, which are based on modifications to proposals previously submitted by local authorities in Sussex.

Link to overview:

https://consult.communities.gov.uk/local-government-reorganisation/east-sussex-brighton-and-hove-west-sussex

Link with summary and documents:
www.gov.uk/government/consultations/local-government-reorganisation-in-east-sussex-and-brighton-and-hove-and-west-sussex

Letter from government to West Sussex council leaders:
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-government-reorganisation-letter-to-west-sussex-council-leaders

The future of the Chichester area:

Thank you to everyone who shared their views on the survey, our council is one of 39 councils across England that must begin preparing a new local plan as a result of government planning reforms that came into force in March this year - despite having adopted our current local plan less than a year ago. The changes require affected councils to prepare plans under a revised national system and a new timetable, to meet increased housing targets. One of the most significant changes is that some planning policies currently set through local plans will, in future, be set nationally.

Residents, businesses, community groups and organisations are being invited to help shape the future of the Chichester area as work begins on a new local plan that will guide development across the Chichester plan area until 2045.

This is intended to create a more consistent planning framework across the country while allowing local plans to focus more clearly on local priorities. The consultation marks the first stage in preparing the new local plan for the Chichester plan area, covering all parts of the district outside the South Downs National Park. The South Downs National Park Authority prepares its own Local Plan for areas within the National Park. The decisions made through this plan will influence how our area develops over the coming decades. It will help determine where homes and employment opportunities should be located, what additional infrastructure will be needed, how we respond to climate change, and how we protect and enhance the places that people value most.

Food Waste:

I want to say a huge thank you to everyone who has been using our new food waste collection service. We have been blown away by the participation rates, with early results showing a 10% increase in the district's recycling rate and an 18% reduction in waste volumes compared with the same period last year.

We are now moving to phase 2, introducing the service to households with shared bin facilities, which represents around 10% of the district. The roll out will take place in five stages, beginning in the north of the district, and finishing in Chichester. By March 2027, all properties that share bins will have access to a weekly food waste collection service.

Introducing food waste collections to flats and properties who share bins is a more complex task due to the nature of waste collections at these sites. To prepare, we have been carrying out bin store audits and working with managing agents, landlords and housing associations.

By collecting food waste separately, it can be recycled through Anaerobic Digestion – a process where food waste is broken down to produce biogas and bio-fertiliser and is a much more efficient and environmentally friendly way of processing. The new service is also expected to encourage residents to reduce their food waste, potentially saving around £20 per person per month. For tips on how to reduce your food waste please visit www.westsussex.gov.uk/fightagainstfoodwaste.

Here's a quick reminder about the wide variety of food waste that can be placed in the bins:
all uneaten food and plate scrapings
raw meat and fish
cooked meat and fish
meat and fish bones
dairy products including cheese and eggs
tea bags and coffee grounds
rice, pasta and beans
bread, cakes and pastries
raw and cooked vegetables
vegetable peelings and cuttings
whole fruit
fruit stones
pet food
mouldy and out-of-date food

The following items cannot be placed in the food waste bin:
any material that is not food waste
plastic carrier bags
packaging of any kind
liquids such as milk, oil or liquid fat
garden waste or flowers
compostable and biodegradable products (except liners); and,
animal waste and bedding.

Energy-saving for homes:

Residents in the district who want to make their homes more energy efficient can now access a new website that allows them to develop a free personalised home improvement plan. Our free 'Energy Saving Plan Builder' website - https://energysaving.planbuilder.co.uk - enables residents to explore and customise the energy efficiency improvements that could be most

appropriate for their home and budget. Please do encourage residents to take a look at this new tool.

The online tool is designed to support residents in taking the first step towards healthier, more comfortable homes that are cheaper to run and have a reduced carbon footprint. The personalised plan provides estimated costs and savings for each measure, which residents can use as a starting point before seeking professional advice. On the website, householders can type in their postcode and select their property. Once they've confirmed that their property information is correct, the Plan Builder tool will create a summary of energy improvement ideas for their home.

Citizen's advice bureau:

Please do not forget about the drop-in service that is available to anyone who may need help and advice, this is available from East Pallant House that operates Monday-Friday 10.00-4.30 (available for drop-ins 10am-1pm)

Resilience support:

Residents do not have to be in crisis to receive support. They can also talk with Community Hub team about other resources or be signposted to resilience services. These include:

what benefits they can claim and how to get them

how to budget and manage money

debt advice

energy and other bills

housing information and advice

employment, skills and training support

For residents needing crisis and resilience support, please refer them to the Community Hub. The quickest and easiest way for residents to contact the Community Hub is by completing the online form. A key principle of the Crisis and Resilience Fund is the 'no wrong door' approach, and we want to be able to connect individuals to the right service regardless of their initial point of contact.

By telephone: 0330 22 27980, open 7 days a week,

9am–5pm weekdays and 10am–2pm on bank holidays

Reporting incidents:

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Reporting Incidents

Reporting a crime to the Police

Is it an emergency?

Call 999 in emergency situations like these:

- there is an immediate danger to life.
- someone is using violence or is threatening to be violent.
- a crime is happening right now, like a house burglary or a theft.
- the suspect is still at the scene.

If it's not an emergency

Complete the online form. The report will be sent direct to the control room. Report a crime | Sussex Police. Alternatively, you can call the non-emergency number: 101.

Noise, nuisance, and pollution incidents can be reported to Chichester District Council online at: Noise, nuisance and pollution - Chichester District Council. This includes:

- air quality
- contaminated land
- pollution control
- bonfire problem,
- noise, nuisance and antisocial behaviour
- water quality

Environment Agency – Environment incident hotline (24-hour service). Tel: 0800 80 70 60.
Website: Environment Agency - GOV.UK

To note: It is important to always report incidents to the appropriate organisation. Not every incident will be actioned at the time of reporting, but it will always be recorded. In some instances, there may be a need for numerous reports to be received to establish a better understanding of the situation and the impact on the individual/community. But without the reports it will not be possible to establish this.

Meetings for this month:

Tuesday 6 October Cabinet, 9.30am

Wednesday 7 October Planning Committee, 9.30am

Tuesday 13 October Joint Employee Consultative Panel, 2pm

Monday 19 October Corporate Governance and Audit Committee, 2pm

Wednesday 21 October Grants and Concessions Panel, 2pm

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Wednesday 28 October DPIP, 9.30am

Events this month:

Chichester Sloe Fair 2026

The Sloe Fair is one of Chichester's oldest Fairs, enjoyed by residents and visitors alike every year. Held at Northgate Car Park in October, the fair is believed to date back to a charter granted by King Henry I to Ralph de Luffa, Bishop of Chichester. It is thought to take its name from the sloe trees that once grew in the fields near Northgate, where the original fair was held. The car park will be closed during the following period: 6am on Monday 19 October
Fair takes place: Tuesday 20 October
The car park will reopen at 12 noon on Wednesday 21 October

As ever, please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance.

Best wishes,
Joseph

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Appendix C
Chairman's Report

Lavant Parish Council
Chairman's report 08/09/2026.

Bridge project.
Restoration and repair quotes received from Aquamaintain and Playsafe but they have not quoted identical scope of works and therefore we cannot make a direct comparison. We are working to get both in line and will report back.

School Car Park.
Quote from Landbuild £175,000. I have requested a meeting with the school head and governors to discuss whether raising such a sum is a practical option.

TRO B2141
No progress.

Operation Watershed applications.
Landbuild have advised that advance warning boards are going out today. Other signs have been made out as requested by LPC and will go out on the first morning of construction. Landbuild have stated that they will make any changes/additions to the signage that the parish think would be useful based on traffic behaviour and volume during construction.

St Nicholas Road bus shelter.
We have yet to stain the interior, but that will be done as soon as possible.

Football Pitch.
I am going to call George Sports Services to come and inspect the pitch and see what we might do to improve it. The recent rain will have helped considerably but I think it may need another application of a selective herbicide. Talking to David Kent, we think it may be sensible to do the remedial work in the autumn whilst the soil is still warm enough for grass seed to germinate and there is a better chance of sufficient rain. I will report back.

Eastmead.
Cllrs Turner, Quest, Tucker and myself have a meeting tomorrow morning with a local consultant who has some ideas that might help both the parish and the developers. We will report back.

Trees.
Chichester Trees advise us that they have completed the essential work and the invoice is in the list of payments for approval. There may be some additional non-essential work to be carried out later in the year.

LMH Car Park.

Car Park Lighting. I am meeting Rupert Burton tomorrow to review the options and will update when there is something to report. The Lavant Horticultural Society have approval to apply for some grant funding to put towards the cost.

Textile recycling bin.
Now in place.

Traffic management.
We are arranging a follow up teams meeting with WSCC Highways for later this month.
Ian Webster has expressed an interest in joining the meeting.

Playground equipment repairs.
Ongoing maintenance and repair, quote from Playsafe for £6,384 net of VAT.

Fly Tipping/wrecked cars – Chalkpit Lane.
I have obtained a copy of the land Registry Map that clearly shows the extent of the ownership of the adjacent farm. Chalkpit Lane is the boundary and the farm does not own the lane, however most of the area that is being used as an off-road racetrack is owned by the farm and we should put pressure on them to block the access and clean up the debris.
We need to ascertain if the lane is owned by Goodwood and, if so, see what measures they might take to restrict access.
The problem is that this is a public road and to close it would be almost impossible.

Request to put care home advertising on LMH notice boards.
Sussex Grange have asked if they could use the LMH notice board to advertise their home care services. Refer to LMH committee. Would we agree to a small notice on the LPC boards?

CIL Funding.
We have had our most recent application for funding for the bus shelters declined.
I suggest we re-apply at the next opportunity. There was a suggestion that WSCC were going to get to route 60 at some point so we should follow that up as an option as well.

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Appendix D
Listed payments

PAYMENTS **07/10/2026**

Income since last meeting		Amount	
Precept payment	£	28,658.47	
LCC use of Village Green for BBQ	£	50.00	
TOTAL INCOME	£	28,708.47	
ACCOUNTS			
Unity Current Account	£	46,769.38	
Unity Instant Access Account	£	-	
Redwood Savings account	£	161,827.80	
BANK TOTAL	£	208,597.18	*As of 06/10/2026
EARMARKED RESERVES			
EMR Lavant Environment Team	£	987.72	minus £583.50 for interpretation board (hasn't been deducted yet)
EMR Sportsfield Maintenance	£	-	
EMR Bench maintenance	£	600.00	
EMR LPRT	£	4,744.84	
CIL UNALLOCATED	£	2,331.59	
CIL Traffic Calming	£	34,531.00	
CIL Bus shelters	£	21,000.00	
CIL river bridge project	£	5,000.00	
TOTAL EARMARKED	**£**	**69,195.15**	

PAID SINCE LAST MEETING TO BE APPROVED	Services	Type		Amount	
Hugofox	Monthly website fee (August & September)	DD		£	47.98
Unity service charge	Monthly bank fee- (August & September)	DD		£	14.00
Scribe	Monthly accounting package fee (August & September)	DD		£	81.60
NEST	Monthly Pension contribution (August & September)	DD		£	230.40
WSCC	Clerk's salary - September	DD		£	1,521.43
Moore	External Audit fee	BACS		£	441.00
Richard Whincop	Interpretation Board + printing reimbursement	BACS		£	583.50
				£	**2,919.91**

TO APPROVE AND PAY AFTER THIS MEETING	Services	Type		Amount	
Clerk	Working from home allowance	BACS		£	26.00
Goodrowes	Wood hardener + wood screws	BACS		£	18.50
Glanvilles Solicitors	Memorandum of Understanding (LPRT)	BACS		£	900.00
	TOTAL TO PAY			**£**	**944.50**

Bank Balance	£	208,597.18
Less Earmarked reserves	£	69,195.15
Less to be approved payments	£	944.50
GENERAL RESERVE BALANCE	£	138,457.53

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Appendix E
Proposal from LVAA (including National Allotment Association Beekeeping advice)

BEEKEEPING – LVAA SITE

Proposal – to consider a request by the LVAA Committee that beekeeping be allowed on the LVAA site.

The LVAA committee have received a request from a tenant to keep bees on the site and is considering the matter.

Although the first reaction maybe "how lovely, we need to do everything we can to increase pollinators', there are wider issues that LPC as landowners and Trustees need to consider before deciding whether to give permission.

I attach a briefing sheet from the National Allotment Society (NAS) which summarizes the broad issues that the LVAA Committee would need to consider before making a decision, these include consulting the landlord – LPC..

LVAA would naturally comply with all NAS recommendations on beekeeping, in addition LPC should consider site suitability before reaching a decision ie.

- There are houses on three sides of the site + a house right in the middle.
- A public footpath leading from the A286 to West Stoke Road runs through the site and is heavily used by parents taking children to and from school.
- 60+ people have tenancies on the site most of whom bring family/friends to assist with work on their plots. At any time there can be over 100 people working on the site, equally there are times when only a few people are present and may not be visible to the public or other plot holders. The risk of allergic reaction to bees must be considered.
- Are there any insurance implications for LPC as Trustees?

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The National Allotment Society
The National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners

National Allotment Association - Allotment Beekeeping

Bees on site

- Bees make a wonderful addition to any allotment site as they play a critical role in the pollination of so many plants, especially fruit crops. Higher yields and better quality produce will result from having hives near your site.
- Bee-keeping on an allotment must carried out by someone with experience and knowledge; local branches of the British Bee Keepers Association(BBKA) **www.bbka.org.uk** run 10 week Beekeeping for Beginners courses and offer advice, advanced training and examinations to their members; they also offer public liability insurance and supply a handy leaflet for allotment beekeepers **click here**
- Beekeepers should be members of their local association and new beekeepers should have an experienced mentor to assist and support them.
- NAS would recommend that Allotment Authorities who allow beekeeping on their sites should be able to supply aspiring beekeepers with a beekeeping policy; examples are available for NAS members from the NAS office natsoc@nsalg.org.uk
- If you wish to consider keeping bees on your allotment, then please check your tenancy agreement and consult your landlord. Self-managed sites may want to consider using a vacant or hard to let plot as an apiary, where a group of beekeepers can keep their hives. It is well worth taking the time to site the apiary in the right place.
- Hives are best sited away from other plot holders, paths and public roads. The bees should be encouraged to fly over high hedges, fences or 2m screens around the hives, especially if their flight path crosses a footpath. Contact details for the beekeeper must be displayed on site.
- However, if someone on your site is allergic to bees, please do discuss your plans with them first and take their medical needs into account. The BBKA have a useful leaflet about what to do when someone is stung and/or has an extreme reaction **beestings**

If you are an allotment bee-keeper and concerned about insecticides being sprayed by local farmers, why not sign up to **BeeConnected** An on-line tool that brings farmers and beekeepers together, keeping beekeepers notified when a neighbouring farmer is applying insecticides to their crops.