

Minutes of the Withyham Parish Council **PLANNING COMMITTEE** meeting held at The Parish Office, Station Road, Groombridge on 27th April 2026 at 6.30pm

PRESENT: Cllrs Allan Gaukroger, Robert Gordon-James (Meeting Chair), Di Kelly, Penny Lawne, Jill Pardey, and Beth Rhodes.

In attendance: Natalie Brett – Assistant Clerk (for Minutes)

Members of the public are encouraged to attend the meetings in person or via Zoom and there is a 10-minute opportunity at the start of the meeting for them to address the Planning Committee. There were no members of the public in attendance.

1. **ENQUIRE WHETHER ANYONE PRESENT INTENDS TO FILM, PHOTOGRAPH AND/OR RECORD THE MEETING** – recorded by the Clerk for the purposes of the minutes – to be destroyed when completed.

2. **APOLOGIES** – Cllr Deviani Parekh-Jones - Family Commitments

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** - None

4. MINUTES

4.1 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13th APRIL 2026

003212 **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 13th April 2026 be agreed and signed by the Chairman.

4.2 **MATTERS OUTSTANDING FROM THESE MINUTES** - None

5 REVIEW AND AGREE THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

003213 **RESOLVED** that the Terms of Reference for the Planning Committee be adopted

6 ENFORCEMENT

7 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

COMMENTS TO BE RETURNED TO WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL

7.1 **WD/2026/0675/LBA** TOLLHURST FARM, OAK LANE, BLACKHAM, WITHYHAM, TUNBRIDGE WELLS Description: VARIATION OF CONDITION 3 OF WD/2024/0836/LB (PROPOSED CONVERSION OF OUTBUILDING INTO HOLIDAY LET) TO ENABLE MINOR CHANGES TO APPROVED SCHEME.

Wealden District Council Expiry date for comments: 29 April 2026

<https://planning.wealden.gov.uk/Planning/Display/WD/2026/0675/LBA>

It was agreed that this would be a visual improvement.

Withyham Parish Council Supports this application subjects to the views of the Listed Buildings Officer.

- 7.2 WD/2026/0654/LB** WHITE HOUSE FARM, WHITEHOUSE LANE, CROWBOROUGH, TN6 1UY Description: UNDERPINNING WORKS TO THE VICTORIAN CATSLIDE EXTENSION OF FARMHOUSE, THE REMOVAL OF EXTERIOR PAINT TO THE FARMHOUSE AND RE-POINTING OF BRICKWORK WITH LIME MORTAR.

Wealden District Council Expiry date for comments: May 2026

<https://planning.wealden.gov.uk/Planning/Display/WD/2026/0654/LB>

The committee were glad to see investment in a listed building. The design and access statement made a good argument. The application appears to be sympathetic and will improve the building.

Withyham Parish Council Supports this application subjects to the views of the Listed Buildings Officer.

- 7.3 WD/2026/0425/F** STABLES, IRON CHURCH LANE, BLACKHAM, TN3 9TS
Description: PROPOSED FORMATION OF NEW VEHICULAR ACCESS

Wealden District Council Expiry date for comments: 1 May 2026

<https://planning.wealden.gov.uk/Planning/Display/WD/2026/0425/F>

It was noted that no objection had been made by East Sussex County Council Highways and that the application would resolve access issues. The new officers recommendations were supported.

Withyham Parish Council Supports this application subject to the recommendations of the Newt Officer.

- 8. APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AFTER THE AGENDA BY THE CLERK – None.**
The Clerk advised that application had been received with expiry dates for comment prior to the next meeting. Extensions would be requested and the committee advised if any action is needed.

003214 RESOLVED that the observations on the planning issues detailed in these minutes be submitted to the Planning Authority.

9 PLANNING DECISIONS FOR NOTING – All noted

APPROVED

WD/2026/0035/LB & WD/2026/0034/F REPLACEMENT OF EXISTING GLAZED ROOF AND TIMBER DOORS ON NORTH-EAST SIDE OF KITCHEN WITH A ZINC COVERED TIMBER ROOF WITH ROOFLIGHTS AND REPLACEMENT GLAZED METAL DOORS. OLD BIRCHDEN FARM, FORGE ROAD, GROOMBRIDGE, TN3 9PJ

REFUSED

WD/2026/0389/F REAR EXTENSIONS AND PORCH ENLARGEMENT 2 WATCH OAK VILLA, WATCH OAK HILL, BLACKHAM, WITHYHAM, TN3 9TR

- 10 MATTERS OF URGENT IMPORTANCE FOR NOTING OR INCLUSION ON A FUTURE AGENDA - None**

- 11 DATE OF MEETING** - to note that the date of the next meeting is on **Monday 18th May 2026 at 6.30pm** if needed to be held at The Parish Office unless otherwise notified by the agenda.

The meeting closed at 6.47pm