

**MINUTES OF GUESTLING PARISH COUNCIL ASSEMBLY HELD MONDAY 11 MAY 2026 7PM
AT THREE OAKS VILLAGE HALL**

CLLRS: Cllr MARION ROBERTS Cllr GRAHAM FURNESS Cllr MARTIN GRIFFITHS
Cllr PETER KNATCHBULL-HUGESSEN Cllr C MAYNARD Cllr B COUPAR
PARISH CLERK: BRYONY YOUNG 3 MEMBERS PUBLIC

ITEM	NOTES	ACTION
1	Meeting started at 7.05pm APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE: Cllr Andrew Mier	
2	MINUTES: To resolve that the Chair of the Council is authorised to sign the minutes of the last Parish Assembly held 12 May 2025	
3	REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF THE PARISH COUNCIL: Thank you all for attending this evening. I'd like to present a brief overview of the Parish Council's financial position for the year ending 31 March 2026. I'm pleased to report that the council ended the year in a stable and compliant financial position. Our income and expenditure remained broadly in line with the agreed budget. Total income for the year was £14,245, and total expenditure was £13,070, leaving us with year-end reserves of £70,678. These reserves remain at a responsible level, giving us resilience and the ability to plan ahead with confidence. The precept continued to be our main source of income, supported by recreation ground hire, interest on reserves, and CIL receipts, which are ring-fenced for infrastructure improvements. On the expenditure side, spending remained within budget across all major categories. Key areas included grounds maintenance, village hall and facilities costs, community projects, and administration. We also invested in capital works, ensuring our assets are maintained and improved for long-term community benefit. This year we delivered several important projects. These included the installation of a new defibrillator at Guestling Green, replacement of the bench at Three Oaks Station, signage maintenance and forward planning, bus shelter repairs, and continued transparency improvements on the website. We also supported community engagement through leafleting for the Local Plan consultation. Our reserves remain healthy and appropriately allocated. The general reserve stands at £12,000, providing a working buffer for emergencies. Our earmarked and restricted reserves, including CIL funds, are set aside for planned works such as gate and track improvements, phone box and noticeboard refurbishment, pavilion and drainage investigations, and the future purchase of two new bus shelters. Throughout the year, the council maintained strong governance and internal controls, including monthly bank reconciliations, dual-authorisation for payments, and compliance with our Financial Regulations. The independent internal audit raised no significant issues, which is reassuring. Looking ahead to 2026/27, our priorities include the installation of two new bus shelters, continued playing field maintenance, digital and communications upgrades, and further work on drainage and pavilion options. Overall, the council remains in a sound financial position, with clear priorities for the year ahead and the reserves in place to support them. Thank you	
4	Meeting handed over to Deputy Chair due to interest of Chair in next item REPORT FROM GUESTLING PARISH COUNCIL AFFORDABLE HOUSING WORKING GROUP: Cllr Martin Griffiths (Working Group Chair) - The Working Group had an easy year this year. Disappointingly we had requested answers from the Community Land Trust (CLT) to a series of questions, waited 9/10 months and received a response which we read and would support. However the new Draft Local Plan required changes and therefore requires further public consultation to any affordable housing plans. Within the answers we were given a broad overview of how a public consultation would be carried out and the Working Group advised that they could not agree to support until this is carried out. To date there has been no public consultation and no information of one happening. The information available is that the CLT were working on one level of housing density but after Government changes Rother increased the required density Public Comment – There has been no information from the CLT since October 2024 or anything available or updates on the website	

5	PUBLIC QUESTIONS/COMMENTS: Parish Council thanked Cllr Carl Maynard for all of his work to support whilst he has been our East Sussex County Councillor and welcomed Daniel Lach who will become the new East Sussex County Councillor as of the following day, and thanked him very much for attending the meeting to introduce himself Meeting ended 7.25pm	
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