

**MINUTES OF GUESTLING PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD MONDAY 13 JULY 2026 7.15PM AT
THREE OAKS VILLAGE HALL**

CHAIR: Cllr M ROBERTS

PARISH COUNCILLORS: Cllr G FURNESS Cllr P KNATCHBULL-HUGESSEN Cllr M GRIFFITHS

PARISH CLERK: BRYONY YOUNG **ESCC Cllr:** Cllr D LACH

ITEM	NOTES	ACTION
1	APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE: Cllr Mier, Cllr Grohne, Cllr Maynard and Cllr Coupar	
2	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None	
3	DECLARATIONS OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE: All Councillors accepted and signed	
4	MINUTES: To resolve - The Chair is authorised to sign the Minutes of the Parish meeting held xxxxxx	
5	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Cllr Daniel Lach : Full report attached as Appendix 1 of minutes. Cllr Lach wants to encourage everyone to use the ESCC Highways reporting page (https://live.eastsussexhighways.com/report-problem) to report Highways issues as this is the only way they can be fully tracked. Each report is given a number and he advised that he is happy to follow up any ticket numbers that have not been satisfactorily answered within 14 days and asks the Parish Council to make residents aware of this. He has also requested leaflets from Balfour Beatty to be distributed to locals to make them aware of the ESCC reporting system and asks the Parish Council to help to get this information out	
6	MATTERS ARISING OR UNRESOLVED NOT COVERED SEPARATELY IN AGENDA: Welcome to Guestling sign (Ivyhouse Lane) – Sign is done, have been waiting for land owner availability, MR to meet with installer this coming week to install Phone Box Refurbishment – Work has started, concerns by Cllr Knatchbull-Hugessen as to preparation works/end colour of box etc, Clerk to arrange meeting with contractor to discuss his concerns and establish remainder of planned works Bus shelter – Second sticker added above art work, Provided by sticker was requested on front of shelter, Clerk to purchase another sticker for front of shelter Parish Council Policies – Procurement Policy separate agenda item, other policies still to be discussed via other councillors ESCC SLR Meeting – Date confirmed, feedback at next meeting BUS SHELTERS ON A259 (National Highways) – Clerk still chasing conversation with local steward, advised National Highways that they are now in contravention of response time - ONGOING	MR BY BY ALL MR/GF BY
7	PLAYING FIELDS UPDATE – Grounds work is finished, request from Bowls Club for multiple keys, up to date list of keyholders required and then decision made of key allocation amount Issues with bottom padlock access, cover too low, measurements and lock were given to supplier, BY/MR to view and then contact supplier for suggested remedy to issue	BY/MR BY/MR
8	PARISH COUNCIL PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING PROCESS AND OVERSIGHT. POLICY PROCEDURES AND MANAGEMENT – Cllr Knatchbull-Hugessen had distributed and presented suggested policy procedure based around standard information document. Clerk to draw up form, Clerk requested a cut off finance level for form requirements (linked to Standing Order levels?)	BY/ALL
9	STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO NEW RDC ENFORCEMENT POLICY – Since request for this the matter was discussed at Rother District Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee 6 th July 2026 and a Task & Finish Group to review views of Rother Parish and Town Councils has been set up (Cllr Grohne and Cllr Mier are members) to meet end August. Cllr Griffiths advised RALC (Rother Association of Local Councils) are acting as co-ordinating body to collect and make a submission on behalf of these. Clerk to set up Parish Extraordinary meeting before this to put together Parish response	BY/ALL
10	REQUEST FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL TO REPEAT ITS REQUEST TO HASTINGS BOROUGH COUNCIL MADE FIRST IN SEPTEMBER 2023 THAT THE COUNCIL REJOINS THE VISIT 1066	

	COUNTRY PARTNERSHIP – Cllr Knatchbull-Hugessen proposed, unanimously agreed. Clerk to send repeat request to Hastings Borough Council, Rother District Council, local MP and other interested parties	BY
11	RALC PROPOSAL REGARDING LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION – Distributed by Cllr Griffiths (link : https://www.ralc.org.uk/Minutes-and-agendas/quarterly-meeting-july-2026/ and hard copy available via Clerk on request) to be discussed at Extraordinary meeting or next Council meeting	
12	FOOTBALL CLUB AND BOWLS CLUB CONTRACT ANNUAL REVIEWS – Clerk to arrange and advise	BY
13	FINANCE: ARC grant request - £150 unanimously agreed, clerk to pay Quote for fire extinguisher work at pavillion– clerk to establish if we have fire risk assessment document	BY
14	Cllr Furness left meeting 8.52pm, Cllr Furness returned 8.54pm CORRESPONDENCE: ESALC (East Sussex Association of Local Councils) AGM (with West SALC) 4 th November, 2 representatives (Cllr Griffiths attending), request for ideas for topics/speakers THWART (Three Oaks and Winchelsea Action for Rail Transport) – Govia Thameslink Railway (who run the Marshlink service have taken away bins on Three Oaks station to comply with regulations requiring the separation of waste into different categories as it is an unstaffed station – they are monitoring all feedback regards this and said they are keeping the situation under review, advised there will be 3 station visits a week to collect and remove litter. Request for public to report to THWART if they see litter to obtain evidence (Clerk also happy to pass on reports) - contactthwart@gmail.com	
15	PLANNING APPLICATION: RR/2026/0499/FULL Coldharbour Farm Ivyhouse Lane Guestling East Sussex TN35 4NN New vehicular access, track and yard for agricultural use Guestling Parish Council object to this application. There is no agricultural justification presented for this. Where the proposed access is requested is currently a steep bank and there are no details of drainage and where the water run off is going to go. There are no gully"s on this part of the lane. Long section drawings are required for detail of how the banked access would be constructed to Highway standard. There is no detail as to the future usage of the yard RR/2026/0577/FULL Barn Saunters Farmhouse Winchelsea Rd Guestling East Sussex TN35 4LT Conversion of an agricultural barn to form a new residential property Guestling Parish Council object to this application. It is outside the development boundary and as such is against Policy It is not demonstrated that it adheres to any of the requirements of Policy RA3(iii) As a stand alone dwelling it needs to demonstrate good public transport connections for the future. The proposed use of the existing access will add traffic movements next to an already dangerous junction. As stated in the Heritage statement the barn is of no importance historically but is closely connected to 2 Listed buildings	
13	A.O.B. : Chair of Rother District Council has advised that he wants to support any events in Rother and to send over details Progress of development of Local Plan - Final draft of local plan due to be published in Autumn 2026 when there will be a 6 week 'Regulation 19' consultation period. This will be a limited consultation focusing on the soundness and legal compliance of the plan. December 2026 is the government deadline for submitting the Local Plan for examination by a Planning Inspector. Meeting closed 9.14pm	
	BRYONY YOUNG – PARISH CLERK 07730 015684 guestling.clerk@gmail.com	

APPENDIX 1

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

to Guestling Parish Council

Councillor:	Cllr Daniel Lach, Reform UK
Division:	Brede Valley and Marsham, East Sussex County Council
Reporting period:	May – 13 July 2026
Prepared for:	Bi-monthly meeting of Guestling Parish Council

This report covers county council business relevant to Guestling and Three Oaks from the East Sussex County Council elections on 7 May through to 13 July 2026. It sets out the new political composition of the council, decisions taken since the election, and matters directly affecting the parish, including planned roadworks on the A259.

1. New Council Following the May 2026 Elections

East Sussex County Council was elected in full on 7 May 2026. Reform UK won the largest number of seats – 22 of the council's 50 divisions, up from two – but fell short of an overall majority. The council is now composed of 22 Reform UK, 13 Liberal Democrat, 11 Green Party and 3 Conservative councillors, with 1 Independent. The Conservative group, previously the largest on the council with 22 seats, was reduced to three, and Labour lost its remaining seats.

I was elected to represent Brede Valley and Marsham, which covers Guestling, gaining the seat from the Conservatives with 1,483 votes. I look forward to representing the parish's interests at county level and would welcome contact from residents or the parish council on any matter within the county council's responsibilities, including highways, education, adult social care, and planning consultations that fall to the county as statutory consultee.

New leadership and cabinet

At the first full council meeting on 21 May, Cllr Andy Woolley (Reform UK, Heathfield and Mayfield) was confirmed as Leader of the Council, heading a minority Reform UK administration, with Cllr Pete Morley (Bexhill West) as Deputy Leader. Cllr Martin Kenward (Bexhill East) was elected Chairman of the Council, a civic role, with Cllr Victoria Carson (Bexhill South) as Vice-Chairman. Cabinet portfolios were allocated as follows:

- Cllr Andy Woolley – Leader; Strategic Management
- Cllr Pete Morley – Deputy Leader; Economy
- Cllr Stephen Chapman (Telscombe) – Resources and Climate Change
- Cllr Peter Griffiths (Uckfield South) – Transport and Environment
- Cllr Mark Estcourt (Hollington and Wishing Tree) – Adult Social Care and Health
- Cllr Daniel Bradley (Rye and Eastern Rother) – Children and Families
- Cllr Paul Soane (Hailsham New Town) – Education, Inclusion and SEND

2. Local Government Reorganisation

Government proposals to replace East Sussex's two-tier system (county and district/borough councils) with one or more unitary authorities remain live. On 11 June, Cllr Woolley signed off the council's formal response to the latest government consultation on a 'modified' proposal, which would create a unitary authority on existing county boundaries but transfer Peacehaven, East Saltdean, Telscombe Cliffs and part of Kingston ward (all in Lewes district) into Brighton and Hove.

The council's response opposes this modification and reiterates support for the 'One East Sussex' model – a single unitary authority covering the whole of the existing county, replacing the county and five district/borough councils. This position, developed jointly with all five district and borough councils, was supported across party lines, including by Liberal Democrat group leader Cllr Kathryn Field. No parishes in Rother, including Guestling, are affected by the proposed boundary change, though the wider question of local government structure remains unresolved and I will keep the parish council updated as the process continues.

3. Roads and Highways

The council's annual surface dressing programme begins later this month, with 22 roads and 34 miles of carriageway across the county being resurfaced during July and August to protect road surfaces and extend their working life.

Works affecting Guestling

Of direct relevance to the parish: temporary traffic signals will be in place on the A259 between Guestling Green and Winchelsea for surface works from 6pm on 24 July until 6am on 12 September 2026. East Sussex Highways advises delays of under ten minutes during this period. Given the length of the works, I would suggest the parish council flag this to residents and businesses along the route, and I am happy to raise any specific concerns about timing or signage with the highways team on the parish council's behalf.

I also encourage residents to report any highway concerns via the website:

<https://live.eastsussexhighways.com/report-problem>. This is the most efficient method of reporting any problems, as it enables the precise location of the issue to be identified on an interactive map. A unique reference number is generated upon submission, and the report is forwarded directly to the local Highway Steward for investigation.

4. Council Priorities and Budget

Cabinet reviewed the annual State of the County report on 22 June, alongside a look back at 2025/26 performance. This sets the framework the new administration will use to develop its spending and policy priorities for 2026/27 and beyond. I will ensure Guestling's priorities – including highways condition and rural bus provision – are fed into this process and will report back once budget proposals are published.

5. Other County News of Note

- Adult skills: on 9 July, the council secured £1.5 million in Department for Work and Pensions funding to expand its Skills Bootcamps programme, offering free, flexible training courses for adults wanting to reskill or find work.
- Special educational needs: on 8 July, the council marked a construction milestone – completion of the roof – at Acre Wood Academy in Crowborough, a new secondary school for SEND students.

- Libraries: the Summer Reading Challenge launched on 3 July, encouraging four-to-eleven-year-olds to read six books over the school holidays; the scheme is supported by East Sussex libraries.
- Employment support: the council's Connect to Work programme, running since June 2025, has helped more than 60 East Sussex residents facing barriers to employment into work in its first year.

6. Rights of Way, Footpaths and Bridleways

Guestling and Three Oaks are served by an extensive network of public footpaths and bridleways, for which the county council is the statutory highway and rights of way authority. If parish councillors or residents identify routes that are blocked, overgrown, poorly signed, or in need of repair, please pass details to me and I will raise them directly with the council's Rights of Way team.

7. Contact

I am happy to raise any matter of concern to the parish – highways, planning, education or social care – directly with the relevant county council team, and to attend a parish council meeting in person where useful. Please contact me via East Sussex County Council (email: cllr.daniel.lach@eastsussex.gov.uk) or through the parish clerk to arrange this.

Cllr Daniel Lach, P.Eng. (A.P.E.O)(ret.) · Brede Valley and Marsham · East Sussex County Council