



TELSCOMBE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of an Extra-Ordinary meeting of Telscombe Town Council held on Wednesday 11th February 2026 at 7.30pm in the Council Chamber at Telscombe Civic Centre.

Councillors Present:- Cllrs Gallagher, Judd, O'Connor, Page, Robinson & Williamson

Also present: Stella Newman, Town Clerk & RFO (*minutes*)
2 members of the public

In the absence of both the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, it was proposed by Cllr Robinson, seconded by Cllr Judd and unanimously **RESOLVED** that Cllr O'Connor chair the meeting.

2575. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from the public present.

2576. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Clarkson who was working, Cllr Lawrie who was away, and Cllr Watts who was attending another meeting. These reasons for absence were accepted. Cllr Sharkey has been granted leave of absence until May 2026. Cllr Ndeloa was absent but had not sent apologies.

2577. TO RECEIVE MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN RELATION TO MATTERS ON THE AGENDA

Cllr Gallagher declared that she is Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Committee and Cllr O'Connor declared that he is the Lewes District Council (LDC) Cabinet Member for Planning & Infrastructure and will be one of the people to sign the Decision Statement issued by LDC.

2578. TO APPROVE & SIGN MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 21st JANUARY 2026

It was proposed by Cllr Gallagher, seconded by Cllr Williamson and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting on 21st January 2026 were a true record of the proceedings and were signed as correct by the Chair of the meeting, Cllr O'Connor.

2579. TO NOTE ACTION LIST AND AGREE ANY FURTHER ACTIONS REQUIRED

Date of Meeting	Issue Detail	Action Owner	Update	Due Date
20.11.24	Min 2362, p 4243 – To consider purchasing Adobe Pro	SN	It was agreed at full Council on 17.9.25 to proceed with purchase & set a revised due date.	March '26
16.7.25	Min 2480, p 4394 – To review possible merger with Peacehaven TC	SN	As agreed, I contacted PTC Clerk re a meeting, but no response received. <i>Agreed at meeting on 21.1.26 to continue to pursue & Cllr Gallagher to follow up with PTC.</i>	July '26

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2579. To note action list and agree any further actions required (Contd)

Date of Meeting	Issue Detail	Action Owner	Update	Due Date
19.11.25	Min 2535, p 4471 – To consider devolvement of assets from LewesDC	SN	As agreed at the last meeting, further info is to be obtained from LDC & a possible meeting to be arranged to discuss. <i>Meeting arranged for early February and update to be taken to next Council meeting</i>	March '26
10.12.25	Min 2554, p 4489 – To consider costed service level agreement from LDC for proposed case in Chatsworth Park & decide how to proceed	SN	Final updated SLA awaited from LDC which will then be signed & returned. Working group to be set up to establish a business case for the café.	March '26
21.1.26	Min 2567, p 4508 – To approve insurance renewal with Zurich Insurance	SN	Zurich notified we agreed renewal, being year 4 of a 5 year contract.	Complete
21.1.26	Min 2568, p 4508/09 – To adopt updated IT Policy	SN	New Policy now published on our website. Councillors & staff have been emailed requesting acknowledgement that they have read & understood it.	Complete
21.1.26	Min 2569, p 4509 – Adopt updated Sickness & Absence Policy	SN	New Policy now published on our website.	Complete
21.1.26	Min 2570, p 4509 – Approve estimate for wetpour repairs in 3 playgrounds	SN	The purchase order has been issued and a date for the works to be undertaken is awaited.	Complete
21.1.26	Min 2571, p 4509 – Update on request to move Vodafone equipment at the Civic Centre including installing new equipment and to agree way forward	SN	Trial hole exploration being undertaken on 12.2.26 and updated awaited after that from United Infrastructure.	May 2026
21.1.26	Min 2572, p 4509 – Neighbourhood Plan update and agree any actions required	SN	Noted that some minor amendments recommended by the examiner.	See new agenda item

The action list was noted.

2580. TO AGREE THE UPDATED NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN AND THAT IT IS PUT OUT FOR A REFERENDUM

The progress of the plan was briefly summarised. Following submission of the amended plan to Lewes District Council (LDC), incorporating the Examiner's recommended modifications, LDC advised that further minor amendments were required. These had now been completed, and Councillors had been provided with a copy of the updated Plan and the Examiner's Report.



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2580. To agree the updated Neighbourhood Plan and that it is put out for a Referendum (Contd)

The Examiner concluded that the Plan was presented to a high standard, with a clear and effective vision supported by seven aims and nine well-articulated objectives relating to the development and use of land and are unique to the Plan.

Councillors were verbally advised that LDC's Legal Services had confirmed no further decision was required from this Council or Peacehaven Town Council regarding progression to referendum, as this had been determined at the time of submission for examination. The Council's current role is solely to agree the accuracy of the modified Plan. Responsibility for confirming that the Plan meets the basic conditions and for formally deciding to proceed to referendum rests with LDC.

Thanks were given to the Steering Group chair and planning consultant for their work on the plan.

It was proposed by Cllr Robinson, seconded by Cllr Williamson and unanimously **RESOLVED** to agree the modifications to the Plan and to note it will be forwarded for a referendum.

2581. REPORTS FROM:-

County Councillor:- Cllr Robinson advised that ESCC have a £55m budget gap and had applied for exceptional support of £70m. Cllr Robinson also advised that East Sussex has the second highest population of elderly people in the Country and that there had been a 40% increase in spending for adult social care and 55% for children's services.

District Councillors:- Cllr O'Connor reminded everyone that the Lewes Local Plan consultation ends on 28th February and there had been several consultation events. He also advised that earlier in the day Cllr Robinson as Deputy Leader of LDC had opened Lilian's Room at the Downs Leisure Centre in Seaford which is a new dedicated space designed to support gentle, low-impact exercise and rehabilitation in a calm, welcoming environment.

2582. URGENT MATTERS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN FOR NOTING OR INCLUSION ON A FUTURE AGENDA

There were no urgent matters and the meeting was closed at 7.58pm.

Signed
Deputy Mayor

Date of next Council meeting – 18th March 2026