

STEDHAM WITH IPING ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2025 **DRAFT**

Meeting: Stedham with Iping Annual Parish Meeting 2025

Held on: Wednesday 23rd April 2025 - 7:00pm at Stedham Memorial Hall

Present:

Ruth Cooper	- Chair of the Parish Council & Chair of the Meeting
Morag Birch	- Clerk to the Parish Council (prepared notes)
Terry Stevens	- Parish Councillor
Rachael Wildman	- Parish Councillor
Hannah Burton	- Parish Councillor & CD Councillor for Midhurst
Jane Peel	- Women's Institute
Hannah Raishbrook	- Women's Institute
Jane Crawford	- Church Warden & Midhurst Area Cycling
Penny Baxter-Glidewell	- Stedham Memorial Hall
Chris Steibelt	- Friends of Rother Valley Way

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Amanda Hollingshead (Parish Councillor)

2. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:** Notes for APM held on 29th May 2024 were reviewed and signed by the Chair

3. REPORTS FROM CDC (Hannah Burton)

(Note: no report from WSCC. New member to be elected)

The main topic of discussion is the plan for devolution. The interim plan for local government reorganization in West Sussex was submitted in March 2025. Since then, the Chichester District, including Midhurst, has been developing its business case which is due to be submitted in September 2025. There are various options for creating either a single unitary or multiple unitary councils within West Sussex. The latest information can be found at the following link: <https://www.chichester.gov.uk/devolution>

4. REPORTS FROM LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

4.1. Stedham Women's Institute (Jane Peel)

The presentation is attached and can be viewed on the Parish Council Website

4.2. Parish Churches (Jane Crawford)

The presentation is attached and can be viewed on the Parish Council Website

4.3. Midhurst Area Cycling (Jane Crawford)

The presentation is attached and can be viewed on the Parish Council Website

4.4. Stedham Memorial Hall (Penny Baxter-Glidewell)

The re-decoration of the inside of Hall is nearing completion, the final piece will be to fit the new curtains. The external emergency lights have been repaired. Continuing improvements are under discussion with the aim of attracting more events and users to generate more revenue so the planned improvements can be implemented. Volunteers who would like to join the Committee would be welcome as would any ideas for new uses for the Hall. The current committee is in the process of preparing a submission to SDNPA to request a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) grant to improve both internal and external facilities at the Hall.

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4.5. **Friends of Rother Valley Way (Chris Steibelt)**

The Friends of Rother Valley Way is local community group working to create a safe, accessible and traffic-free pathway that follows, where possible, the route of the former railway between Petersfield and Midhurst. A short film was presented showing a brief summary of the line and what the benefits might be if it was opened up again. The film can be viewed at the following link: <https://www.rothervalleyway.org.uk>

4.6. **Friends of Stedham School (FOSS) (Hannah Burton)**

FOSS is the equivalent of the Parent Teachers Association.

Stedham School currently has fewer than 50 pupils and its recent OFSTED review was summarized as “requires Improvement”.

FOSS arranges lots of events which both students and the wider community can participate. FOSS is working on developing better links with the greater community. We had a very lively quiz night recently and raised just over £500. The next event is the our jumble on Sunday 18th May. Money is raised to make contributions to activities and equipment for the benefit of the children, eg Forest school, music lessons, trips out and other creative activities.

5. **PARISH COUNCIL(Ruth Cooper)**

A copy of the Chair’s Report is attached and can be viewed on the Parish Council Website

6. **PARISH COUNCIL FINANCES 2024-25**

A summary of the SIPC’s Budget and actual income and expenses for 2024-25 was reviewed and a copy is attached and can be viewed on the Parish Council Website

7. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- A request was made to provide additional Parish Newsletters for the Churches and Rotherhill Nursery. **ACTION:** MB, HB
- **ACTION:** MB to follow-up with WSCC possible improvement of Bridleway 1132 which runs south of the River Rother from Stedham Bridge. The surface becomes nearly unusable during the winter and after heavy rainfall.

8. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Suggested timing is sometime in April, date to be confirmed.

Meeting closed at 8:10pm

Chair:Date: