

Westhampnett PC Meeting 02/03/2026

Henry Potter District councillors Report

The Council met last on 03/03 at 6 pm after a Cabinet Meeting at 2 pm. Consideration and approval was given to the council's Treasury Management and Investment Strategy, the Capital Strategy and the Budget Spending Plans for the coming year.

The net Budget requirement of £18,133,500 was approved and the Band D Council Tax to be increased by £5.74p from £192.06 to £197.80p for the financial year 2026-27

Agreement was given from Members, to support the provision of 15 Social Rented Homes at Birdham. This entails a contribution of £500,000 to be funded by £41,000 from Commuted Sums (derived from other developments) and £459,000 from the Rural Housing Fund, this being a Rural Exception Site specifically for those with a strong connection to the area.

Also on the Agenda was the adoption of a revised Housing Enforcement Policy. This revision is a result of the new Renters Act which came into force last year, 2025. This Act has serious implications for Landlords offering far stronger security to tenants, the ending of fixed term tenancy's and the provision of far higher housing standards. Also it will involve recruiting more staff to the Housing Team to carry out investigations of complaints, another cost to be absorbed by the Council, i see this as the carrot which will encourage private landlords to sell up and leave the market. Yet another cause of the loss of much needed housing which this Government is so keen to increase.

And finally, it was proposed, and agreed, to update the Councils Constitution with regard to the Complaints procedure Policy. For example, a racist complaint will now be regarded as of a discriminatory nature. The distinction of what is and what is not a Complaint, and the three stages of how complaints are dealt with. All details of the amendments can be found in the Full Council Agenda 03/03 which can be found on the Councils website.

I'm really hopeful of an agreement being reached for the sports space area which was a badly thought out Sec. 106 agreement relating to Madgwick Park, but which is west of Old Place Farm, more favourably sited for the Lavant View development, less suitable for the residents of MP who might have been liable for its management.

The CEMP for Old Place Farm was badly written and my sympathy lies with the residents of the older properties served by Old Place Lane. I drove along Madgwick Lane last week and there were still 40' articulated vehicles stopped on the roadside waiting to access the site and signs of dried mud on the road surface awaiting a further shower of rain.. However, as was explained, this hazardous parking is a matter for the Police, not for Enforcement Officers., and the mud on the road a matter for WSCC Highways

Cllr. Henry Potter

Member for the Goodwood Ward