

# Clerk's Report – Full Council Meeting 10<sup>th</sup> February 2026

## Agenda Items

### 9.4. i **Internal Audit and Control**

The PC need to be satisfied that it has maintained an adequate system of internal control, including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and reviewed its effectiveness.

### 9.5. i **Risk Register – recommendations from Office and Finance Committee:**

- a. It was noted that the level of Fidelity Insurance cover should be increased to a minimum of £1m, given both the current fund holdings and anticipated future balances. The PC's insurers are being asked for additional information regarding the possibility of raising the fidelity limit to £1.2 & £1.5m.  
*Wording changes per tracked changes (shown in red) in the papers for the following:*
- b. Election costs: To remove wording 'per year until £8,600 balance is reached'. This is to allow for annual rising costs and to safeguard funds should an interim election be called.
- c. Security of data (IT systems and support): To amend the wording: Remove 'ESDET Security' and replace with 'Microsoft Windows Defender and security tool with built in antivirus, antimalware and antiransomware'. This is to reflect the current security in place.
- d. Failure to meet our statutory duties e.g. Breach of GDPR and failure to comply with Inland Revenue and HMRC regulations: To add 'Council has a GDPR policy'.
- e. Written communication to third parties – Reputation: To add: 'unless delegated'.
- f. One risk rating change – re "Lack of engagement by Cllrs and residents on major items of public interest". It was deemed that likelihood is now reduced to 3 (from 4) giving an overall score of 9 due to an improvement in engagement over the past year.

### 10.1. ii **Covered seating area at Fingerpost Field**

Following the Office & Finance Committee Meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2026, AW was asked to liaise with JS, who is overseeing the Fingerpost Field improvement project, to incorporate a proposed Cart Barn-style structure, pending Full Council approval.

### 11.1 **Lewes District Council Local Plan Consultation**

Following the Full Council meeting in January, a leaflet was prepared and distributed by hand to all households in Ringmer. The Parish Council appreciates the efforts of the volunteers who enabled this delivery. Subsequently, Councillors convened a further informal meeting later in January to consider a proposed response to the LDC Local Plan Consultation. JW was delegated the task of preparing notes to inform the response and to incorporate any feedback from residents at the LDC Meeting scheduled for 7<sup>th</sup> February at Ringmer Village Hall.

### 11.2 **Speed Indicator Device (SID)**

As agreed at Office and Finance Nov 25, Clerk to investigate the cost for installation of a SID. Before we can progress to quotation, Highways need to agree which sites would be acceptable and the cost involved for each, as some may need traffic management for installation, which would add significantly to the cost. The Clerk met with Cllr Grange, and a member of the local speedwatch group and their suggestions are noted in the papers.

### 13.1 **Land north of Lewes Road, Ringmer (Thakeham Homes) s278 proposed highways works**



There was an error in the drawings re bus shelters. To confirm:

1. The shelter on the westbound carriageway outside Kings Academy is to be replaced with a new bus shelter that is of an equivalent size - 'Surrey' style shelter by Littlethorpe of Leicester <https://www.bus-shelters.co.uk/surrey/>
2. A new replacement bus shelter will be provided at the westbound Chamberlains Lane bus stop. Bus shelter style to be 'Newstead' <https://www.bus-shelters.co.uk/newstead/>
3. No new bus shelter to be provided at the eastbound Chamberlains Lane bus stop. Chris Levitt, Civil Engineer for Thakeham advised that "As there is a steep drop with fencing to the back of eastbound carriageway bus stop, we feel there is insufficient room to place a full-size shelter. We would therefore suggest that the existing lining is removed and re-painted as part of these improvement works."

## General

**Streetlight Column** at the bottom of Vicarage way has now been removed

**Village Pond Project:** At the O&F Committee Meeting on 29th January, approval was granted for a new EMR to allocate £2k from the Lightsource Fund. These funds will support The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) attendance over three days (in the latter part of the year), together with volunteers, to remove invasive shrubs (specifically Bamboo and Portuguese Laurel), carry out sensitive coppicing of small trees on the north bank to promote regeneration, and stack cut materials into dense habitat piles in a manner that does not expose the north bank. Additionally, where necessary, native flowering and fruiting species such as Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Crab Apple, and Rowan will be replanted.

**Pump Green Boundary Posts** – The Monday Club have kindly agreed to install these posts at cost per Cllr Whitlock's specification.

Planning Decisions		
Description	RPC Decision	LDC Decision
<b>LW/25/0448 - Land adjacent to 1 Trinity Field, Bishops Lane, Ringmer</b> Erection of 1no. Detached dwelling with car parking	Strongly objects	Refused (26/01/26)
<b>LW/25/0604 - 4 Broyle Mill Ringmer BN8 5GB</b> Replacement of an existing detached shed with a single-storey detached garden room	No objection	Approved (13/01/26)
<b>LW/25/0669 - Rest Harrow Gote Lane Ringmer. BN8 5HU</b> Erection of single-storey side/rear extensions, replacement of existing single garage with double garage, addition of first floor and front porch to the existing dwelling and associated alterations	Strongly objects	Approved (16/01/26)
<b>LW/25/0700 - 11 Shepherds Way Ringmer. BN8 5LT</b> Construction of a single story front porch	No objection	Approved (20/01/26)

Appeals Determined		
Description	RPC Decision	Planning Inspectorate
<b>LW/24/0216 - Merlins, Uckfield Road, Ringmer, BN8 5RU</b> APPEAL/25/0012 / APP/P1425/W/25/3368895 Outline application for demolition of existing buildings, erection of new employment/commercial units and up to 43 residential dwellings and other associated works with all matters reserved apart from access to the site	Strongly objected	Dismissed (12/01/26)