

Clerk's Report – Full Council Meeting 10th March 2026

Agenda Items

- 9.4 **Internal Audit Services.** The existing 3-year contract expires at the end of the month. There is an option to renew annually or to enter a new 3-year contract. The current hourly rate payable is £65, and this will increase to £80. There are 2 internal audits each year and each takes approximately 2-3 hours.
- 10.1 **Fingerpost Field**
At the Full Council meeting in September 2025 (item 12.i), it was agreed to assess the muddy areas at FPF in six months' time to determine whether any action should be taken.
- 10.2 **Springett Avenue Streetlights.**
Having now confirmed the removal of both the Bishops Lane and Vicarage Way streetlights, I contacted ESCC to obtain a quote for an unmetered electricity supply to the remaining 2 streetlights in Springett Avenue. ESCC have offered to adopt these columns as they feel it may be a more practical and cost-effective option. The EDF electricity charges are currently approx. £600 per column per annum.
- 11.2 **Document Retention Scheme Policy**
The review has been rescheduled from March 2029 to an earlier date to revise the policy and ensure compliance with Assertion 10. This new requirement, introduced in the 2025/26 Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) for Parish Councils, emphasises digital and data compliance.
Changes:
Wages Books replaced with Payroll
HR records – added
FOI requests – added
Grant Applications - added
- 11.3 **Freedom of Information Act – Publication Scheme**
This review has been brought forward from Jan 2028 to ensure compliance with AGAR Assertion 10. The existing scheme has been replaced with the NALC Model publication scheme.
- 11.4 **Ringmer Jubilee Cottages Housing Trust**
As the Trust Deed instructs, the year-end accounts must be presented to Full Council. The statement of accounts for the year ended 31st Dec-25 has been reviewed by an Independent Examiner and no issues were raised.

General

Ouse Valley Solar Farm (Norlington Lane) update:

OVESCO has submitted a planning application for the underground cable route for Ouse Valley Solar Farm. The new point of connection will be to the west of the site on the Old Uckfield Road and will reduce the cable run considerably and therefore reduce the amount of road works to connect the Ouse Valley Solar Farm.

The Ouse Valley Solar Farm has successfully applied for the National Energy System Operator's Contract for Difference. This will underpin the price of electricity for the project.

For further info please copy and paste the link below:

<https://www.neso.energy/what-we-do/energy-markets/electricity-market-reform-emr-delivery-body/contracts-difference-cfd#:~:text=The%20goal%20of%20CFDs%20is,in%20the%20wholesale%20electricity%20market>

The Bonfire and Carols event, which took place on the Village Green on 19th December 2025, generated £763.40 through a collection in support of Homelink. Thank you to everyone who came along to this event and generously donated.

War Memorial / Christmas Tree.

With Strutt & Parker's approval, contractors have been commissioned to construct a pit adjacent to the War Memorial, which will ensure safe accommodation for the annual Christmas Tree.

Owing to issues regarding the electrical supply from Ringmer Village Hall to the War Memorial, an electrician was asked to investigate and advised that the existing timeclock could be placed inside the boundary wall enclosure. This would require removing the clock, extending the supply within the building, adjusting connections in the box, and reinstalling the clock. The installation, testing, and completion will cost £255 + VAT. The work was approved under delegated authority.

Fingerpost Field.

The new picnic bench was delivered and set up on March 5th. When the ground has dried out, the bench will be secured onto concrete pads.

Fidelity Insurance.

Due to an influx of CIL payments due this year, the Fidelity Insurance limit has been increased from £750k to £1.5m with immediate effect at a premium of £73.

Planning Decisions		
Description	RPC Decision	LDC Decision
LW/25/0594 - Clayhill Woods, Isfield Road. Ringmer Replacement of agricultural barn with a residential/commercial unit (retrospective), extension to hardstanding, construction of equestrian manège and associated works	Objects	Application withdrawn (22/01/26)
LW/25/0680 - Orchard House Neaves Lane Ringmer. BN8 5UA Erection of 2no. holiday pods with access	Supports	Refused (10/02/26)
LW/25/0714/CD - Wish Farm Barn, Moor Lane, Ringmer. BN8 5UP Discharge of Condition 5 (Solar PV's) in relation to the approval of LW/25/0422	Supports	Approved (02/03/26)
LW/25/0743 - Lion Cottage, Broyle Lane, Ringmer. BN8 5PH Ground floor rear infill extension, and first floor rear extension with alterations to side and rear fenestration	Supports	Approved (25/02/26)
LW/26/0044 - Mays Farm Norlington Lane Ringmer. BN8 5SG Prior Notification for use land as a 60 day campsite between the following dates: 3rd July - 31st August 2026 (60 days)	Supports	Prior Approval not required (25/02/26)
LW/26/0056 - Plashett Park Farm Green Lane Ringmer. BN8 5SJ Engineering and groundworks associated with the erection of a hay, straw and machinery storage barn (under notification LW/26/0055) along with access track and hardstanding area	Not considered due to short response time	Approved (04/03/26)
LW/26/0055 - Plashett Park Farm Green Lane Ringmer. BN8 5SJ Erection of agricultural barn for storing hay, straw and machinery	Not considered due to short response time	Approved (04/03/26)