

## *Randwick and Westrip Annual Parish Meeting 2026*

### *Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at 7.45 pm on Thursday May 21st at Randwick Village Hall*

*The meeting had been scheduled to start at 8pm but as there were no people arriving at 7.35 when the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council had finished the chairman decided to start the Annual Parish Meeting early, at 7.45.*

***Present:** Two members of the public, six members of the parish council and the clerk*

***1 Minutes:** The minutes of the 2025 annual parish meeting were read to the meeting, confirmed, and signed by the chairman of the parish council, who chaired the annual parish meeting.*

***2 Matters arising:** None.*

#### ***3 Chairman's report:***

*Cllr Rob Davies gave his oral report. "It has been another busy and productive year for Randwick and Westrip Parish Council, with councillors continuing to work on behalf of residents across a wide range of issues affecting our community.*

*Throughout the year, the council has continued to focus on planning matters, highways and parking concerns, maintenance of community assets, financial management and support for local initiatives.*

*One of the most significant issues during the year was the long-awaited adoption of the Randwick Conservation Area Appraisal, Management Plan and issues over a proposed Article 4 Direction. Parishioners affected expressed concerns that residents had not been properly consulted regarding the possible implications of Article 4 restrictions. In response, Stroud District Council adopted the Conservation Area and Management Plan and associated boundary changes as supplementary planning advice, while deciding not to apply Article 4 Directions to the affected properties within the conservation area.*

*Road safety and community wellbeing continued to be important priorities. In May, prizes were presented to local school children for the Road Safety Poster Competition. The Council also supported a WI initiative through the installation of bleed kits alongside the parish defibrillators, helping improve emergency preparedness within the parish. Following a successful community quiz night, £626 was raised towards the purchase of a defibrillator for the Vine Tree, which the parish council agreed to adopt and maintain as part of the parish defibrillator network.*

*Traffic and parking concerns remained ongoing throughout the year. The council continued to raise concerns regarding heavy goods vehicles exceeding the 7.5 tonne restriction travelling through Randwick. Overflow parking and parking management around the village hall also generated significant discussion, particularly where prolonged parking by certain types of vehicles and trailers was affecting bookings and*

availability at the Village Hall. Discussions regarding possible parking regulation and signage also took place during the year and are continuing. The council welcomed a representative from Terram/Geosynthetics to assess the overspill parking surface area and advise on future maintenance options.

The council continued to oversee maintenance and improvements to parish assets and facilities. Brambles were cut back on the playing fields, the Rhus tree at the junction of The Lane and Chapel Fields was assessed and ultimately approved for felling, and discussions continued regarding replacement trees at Finns Way following theft and storm damage. Questions were also raised regarding the replacement of the play area fence and the future maintenance of recreational facilities.

This year also saw ongoing work relating to the lease arrangements for Randwick Village Hall and Playing Fields. Discussions with Fields in Trust (FIT) and the council's solicitor continued throughout the year and continue to do so, particularly regarding complications arising from the deed of dedication and covenant arrangements. The council remains committed to securing the best long-term outcome for these important community assets.

The parish council was saddened by the death of Councillor Mike Woods in October. Mike had served as a parish councillor since 2009 and was a highly valued member of both the council and the wider community. The council extended its sincere condolences to Mike's family and friends.

During the year, the council welcomed councillors Glenn Dooley and Denise Horton through co-option, however, Cllr Horton later resigned from the council within 24 hours of signing her acceptance of office. The council also lost Cllr Tyson, who resigned in May.

The council continued to support local volunteer initiatives and community organisations, awarding annual grants of £500 each to SARA and Great Western Air Ambulance under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Community safety initiatives progressed with the purchase of a radar gun for the Community Speedwatch Group, while efforts are continuing to repair the parish VAS sign before considering replacement options. Councillors also took part in biodiversity workshops and discussions regarding environmental improvements and future stewardship of parish land.

The council maintained a strong focus on sound financial management throughout the year. Investments and reserves were carefully reviewed, internal controls scrutinised, and budgets managed prudently. Councillors agreed to maintain the parish precept for 2026/27 at the same level as the previous year, using reserves to offset the budget deficit and minimise additional pressure on residents during difficult economic times. The draft budget for 2026/27 was set at £20,195.60, with reserves estimated at £40,818.00 at year's end, of which £14,635.00 is general reserves with the residual being earmarked for future projects and commitments.

*The council completed all governance and financial review requirements for the year. Internal controls were reviewed and approved, the accounting statements and Annual Governance Statement were formally adopted, and the Council again met the criteria for exemption from a limited assurance external audit review.*

*Finally, I would like to thank all parish councillors for their continued commitment and voluntary service throughout the year, together with our clerk, handyman, volunteers and community groups who contribute so much to parish life. Thanks also go to our district and county councillors, and most importantly to parish residents for their ongoing support, patience and engagement with the work of the council.”*

*He looked forward to continuing to work on behalf of the community in the year ahead.*

*4. **Annual accounts:** The receipts and payments account was available at the meeting. The council had used part of its reserves to keep the precept for 2026/27 at the same figure as in the previous year, 2025/26.*

*The accounts had been submitted for internal audit and would be available for public inspection in July and August 2026. The council’s income and expenditure were below the threshold for external audit in 2025/26 and the council had claimed exemption from external audit for the year ended 31 March 2026.*

*No matters relating to the accounts were raised by parishioners.*

***5 Matters raised by electors:***

*A parishioner asked whether Stroud District Council had written to residents whose properties had been affected by changes to the boundary of the Randwick Conservation Area. The clerk was asked to find out.*

*The parishioner also reported that some of the signs telling dog owners to clear up their dog’s mess had faded. The clerk was asked to arrange replacements.*

*A parishioner asked about the litter bin at the bus stop in Westrip Lane that was being used to deposit dog-waste. Users of the shelter found the smell offensive. The council had sited a red dog-waste bin at the junction of Westrip and Red House Lanes. The clerk was asked to ask SDC to remove the litter bin to encourage dog owners to use the dog bin.*

*She also asked spoke about accessible public toilet facilities and there was discussion of whether the toilets at Randwick Village Hall could be open to public use, and whether an outside toilet could be added to the building.*

*She asked whether there could be another disabled parking space by the hall.*

*The clerk was asked to contact Randwick Village Hall and Playing Fields Committee about these suggestions.*

*The meeting closed at 8.20 pm.*