

GRAFFHAM PARISH COUNCIL EAST LAVINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES - JOINT PARISH MEETING Tuesday 14 October 2025

in the Empire Hall, Graffham
commencing at **7pm**

Present: Cllr Gillian Charlesworth (Graffham Chair), Cllr Simon Longman (ELPC Chair), Cllr John Bracey (Vice Chair Graffham), Cllr Barry Gosden (Vice Chair ELPC), Cllr Colin Barker, Cllr Charles Britton, Cllr Rachel Gerrett, Cllr Will Yates, Cllr Fiona Jacob

In attendance: Cllr John Cross (District Councillor), Tom Richardson (County Councillor) Amy Harte (Clerk & RFO)

1. **Welcome**

Cllr Gillian Charlesworth and Cllr Simon Longman welcomed all to the meeting.

2. **Apologies for Absence**

Cllr Patrick Limpus who was unavoidable detained on business.

3. **Introduction – Current Position**

(a) Graffham Parish

Cllr Gillian Charlesworth gave an introduction to the current position from the Graffham Parish Council Perspective.

(b) East Lavington Parish

Cllr Simon Longman gave an introduction to the current position from the East Lavington Parish Council perspective.

Cllr John Cross gave a presentation on the Local Government Reorganisation process currently in progress. There are three options for the organisations of Sussex and ultimately the Government will decide the outcome.

Cllr Longman outlined the route to merger. The Parish Councils individually will decide and whether they wish to move forward with the merger. If both do, they will request a Community Governance Review from CDC. If there is an election required, it will be charged to the Parishes. Petition on the other hand just requires 50% of the electorate.

4. **Case Presentation**

(a) For

Cllr Longman presented the case for amalgamation. Put together jointly by himself, Cllr Patrick Limpus, Cllr Gillian Charlesworth and Cllr John Bracey. The presentation is available on the website (Need to insert a link).

(b) Against

Cllr Gillian Charlesworth asked the Meeting if anyone wished to present the case against the merger, no-one came forward.

6. **Public Participation**

Chris Major spoke about the patchwork of communities. Ambersham, Selham, East Lavington and Graffham fingerposts were described, and he would not like to see any

changes to this and he felt it introduces an unnecessary expense. He spoke about the changing of the name of the council and felt that it should not be changed.

Tom Richardson both a Graffham and a Lodsworth parish resident, spoke. His property is half in Graffham and half in Lodsworth. He is in favour of the merger idea and felt that it should go further and include the wider local area. West Lavington, Hayshott, Ambersham, (half of Lodsworth). Tom Richardson felt more part of Graffham than Lodsworth.

Marie Bracey spoke about the local parishes working together more closely, perhaps not needing all to merge but to collaborate with other local parish councils. From experience with Duncton Parish working with Graffham, East Lavington and other local parishes.

Ian Thornley spoke and said he was broadly supportive but questioned the proposed name 'with' not 'and'? Cllr Longman replied that it was from a precedent from other local parishes, but it is open to further discussion.

Cllr Barker asked John Bracey about the extra precept going to the Recreation ground. Cllr Bracey said this was not a rumour he had heard and there was no question of the recreation ground getting more than its fair share of funding.

7. Questions

As above

8. Indicative Vote

Votes were counted following the meeting.

Of East Lavington Residents

For the Merger = 37

Remain Independent = 3

Of Graffham Residents

For the Merger = 32

Remain Independent = 1

These figures take into account those that emailed their votes to the Clerk.