

**FINDON PARISH COUNCIL
34 NORMANDY LANE
EAST PRESTON VILLAGE
WEST SUSSEX BN16 1LY**

TO: ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

You are hereby summoned to attend the meeting of Findon Parish Council (FPC) to be held on **Monday 27 July 2026** at **7.30pm in Nepcote Hall** for the purpose of transacting the following business.

THIS IS AN OPEN MEETING AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND

**Miss Fiona MacLeod
Clerk to the Parish Council
21/7/2026**

AGENDA

26.90 TO RECEIVE AND NOTE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

26.91 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

26.92 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Members and Officers are reminded to make any declarations of personal and/or prejudicial/pecuniary interests they may have in relation to items on this Agenda.

The interest should be declared by stating:

- a) the item you have the interest in
- b) whether it is a personal interest and the nature of the interest
- c) whether it is also a prejudicial/pecuniary interest
- d) if it is a prejudicial/pecuniary interest, whether you will be exercising your right to speak under Public Question Time

Members and Officers will then need to re-declare any prejudicial/pecuniary interest at the commencement of the item or when the interest becomes apparent.

26.93 TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 22 JUNE 2026.

26.94 UPDATE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIONS NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA

To note the update report (FM).

26.95 TO RECEIVE VERBAL REPORTS FROM WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL (WSCC) AND ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL (ADC) COUNCILLORS

26.96 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME OF UP TO FIFTEEN MINUTES

The Question Time is the only opportunity for the public to address the meeting, make representations, answer questions and give evidence in respect of any item within the remit of the Council, and not limited to matters of the agenda for that meeting. (Standing Order 1d). Where it is not possible to give immediate answers, the answers will be given at the next Meeting or, if preferred, sent direct to the questioner.

26.97 COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

To consider a way forward and set up a Working Group (SS)

26.98 HARMONISATION OF VILLAGE GRANTS PROCESS

To receive an update on progress (SS)

26.99 REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS AND OUTSIDE BODIES FOR NOTING/RATIFYING

- a) Open Spaces Working Group (PS)
- b) Trees Working Group including Community Orchard (AG)
- c) Allotment Gardens (JW)

- d) Village Hall Trust (SH)
- e) Community Resilience Plan (DP)
- f) Roads and Parking Working Group (LK)
- g) Wattle House Feasibility Study Working Group (CG/KD)
- h) FPC and Findon Village Pre-School Working Group (SH)
- i) Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Working Group (KD)

26.100 VILLAGE DEFIBRILLATORS

To note progress. (FM/JW).

26.101 VILLAGE SHOP NOTICE BOARDS

To note progress. (KD)

26.102 CLERKS REPORT

To note the report and consider any items for ratification/approval (FM).

26.103 REPORTS FROM FPC COMMITTEES FOR NOTING/RATIFYING

- a) Planning.
- b) Finance & Governance.

26.104 FINANCE (FM)

- a) To note Receipts and Bank Reconciliations as circulated.
- b) To approve Payments as circulated.
- c) To note Q1 budget spend.

26.105 ITEMS TO BE REFERRED TO NEXT AGENDA

**Agenda Item
26.94**

Report to **Findon Parish Council**
Meeting Date **27 July 2026**
From **Fiona MacLeod, Clerk**
Title of Report **Previous actions not covered elsewhere on the Agenda**
Purpose of Report **To note**

Updates for noting

25.143	Public Area Risk Assessments	Carried forward.
26.35 3	'Street Audits' trial	Carried forward.
26.51	Generic ToR for Working Groups (Cllr Smith)	Carried forward.
26.70	Trees/overgrown vegetation School Hill	Carried forward.
26.71 4	AGAR documentation	Completed.

Findon Village Hall Trust – FVHT

West Sussex County Council – WSCC

Arun District Council – ADC

South Downs National Park Authority - SDNPA

Date Jun-26

	Receipt ID	From	Details	Precept	Interest and credits	Allotment Gardens	Sheep Fair	Open Spaces/ misc
				37500.00	69.30	0.00	0.00	5000.00
17/06/2026	cr	Sheep Fair	inv reimburse				216.00	
29/06/2026	cr	HSBC	interest		35.27			
				37500.00	104.57	0.00	216.00	5000.00

Date Jun-26

	Pmnt ID	Paid to		Salary & Tax	Admin incl subs	BT & SSE	Grants	CIL
				2773.40	1241.25	386.12	0.00	384.00
01/06/2026	BP	HMRC	Clerk May tax	277.40				
	BP	F MacLeod	Clerk May salary	1109.30				
	BP	F MacLeod	Clerk May expenses		52.50			
10/06/2026	BP	Grasstex Ltd	grass cuts April					
16/06/2026	BP	EDF Energy	WH services					
22/06/2026	dd	SSE	services			62.56		
23/06/2026	dd	SECOM PLC	WH security					
25/06/2026	BP	Smithe & Co	audit services		350.40			
	BP	Arun Business Supplies	supplies		53.50			
	BP	J Wilson	expenses					
26/06/2026	BP	Grasstex Ltd	grass cuts May					
				4160.10	1697.65	448.68	0.00	384.00

Bank reconciliation

Balance as at 30 June 2026
CA 36686.69
DA 32482.96
69169.65

Balance B/forward
Receipts
Payments

Agenda item 26.104 a June 2026

SDNPA	tba	tba	VAT reclaim	Total Receipts
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	42569.30
				216.00
				35.27
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	42820.57

Open Spaces	Public Works Loan	Grass cutting	Parking and Signage CIL	tba	Sheep Fair	Wattle House	Web site, Teams, P/O/L	Total Payments
307.93	0.00	1200.00	0	0	148.16	0	450	6890.86
								277.40
								1109.30
								52.50
		1572.00						1572.00
					22.98			22.98
								62.56
					52.50			52.50
					259.20			609.60
								53.50
17.68								17.68
		1572.00						1572.00
325.61	0.00	4344.00	0.00	0.00	482.84	0.00	450.00	12292.88

74320.40

251.27

5402.02

69169.65

CONNECTING SPACES

Findon Wattle House Thinking Day Outcomes Report July 2026

Client: Findon Parish Council

Project: Community Thinking Day

Executive Summary

The Wattle House is one of Findon's most significant historic buildings and is believed to be the last surviving purpose-built Wattle House associated with the historic sheep fairs. Situated on Nepcote Green, the building remains an important symbol of the village's agricultural heritage and identity. As part of the early development of a long-term vision for the building, a Thinking Day was held on Wednesday 15 July 2026 between 3.00pm and 6.00pm at Findon Parish Hall. The event invited residents and stakeholders to consider how the Wattle House could be conserved and used in the future whilst respecting its historic significance. The event generated discussion and demonstrated a strong desire to preserve the building whilst making it a more active community asset. The feedback consistently highlighted education, heritage, community use and sensitive restoration as priorities.

1. What is a Thinking Day?

A Thinking Day is an informal community engagement event designed to encourage local people to share ideas and shape the future of an important community asset. The Findon Wattle House Thinking Day took place on Wednesday 15 July 2026, between 3.00pm and 6.00pm at Findon Parish Hall. Participants recorded their thoughts on flipcharts and discussion boards throughout the afternoon. The event was structured around a series of open questions encouraging residents to consider:

1. How could Findon use the Wattle House?
2. What should the building look like?
3. What activities should happen there?
4. Who should use the space?
5. How should parking and access be managed?

2. Target Audience

The Thinking Day sought views from:

- Residents
- Community organisations
- The Findon Sheep Fair Committee
- Visitors with an interest in the South Downs

Connecting Spaces
The Water Tower
Blomfield Drive, Chichester, PO19 6BZ
Tel: 01243 537526

Company Registration Number: 12954680

2.1 Attendance

Approximately 65 people attended throughout the afternoon, broken down as follows:

Age Group	Male	Female
0–18	6	3
18–25	0	0
26–40	0	3
40–55	0	2
55+	26	25

The audience was predominantly residents aged over 55, reflecting the strong local interest in the future of the building. There was also encouraging participation from younger families and children.

3. Community Feedback Overview

Across all discussions, several consistent themes emerged. The community overwhelmingly supports preserving the Wattle House but wishes to see it become a more active community resource whilst respecting its historic character. Four broad themes appeared repeatedly:

- Heritage conservation
- Education
- Community use
- Sensitive restoration

3.1 Question One: How can Findon use the Wattle House?

3.1.1 Heritage & Education The strongest theme was using the building as an educational resource. Suggestions included:

- Local history museum
- Sheep Fair interpretation
- Downs heritage centre
- Flint mining interpretation
- Nature education
- Schools learning space
- Heritage craft demonstrations

Many residents felt the building should become somewhere people could learn about Findon's history rather than simply view it.

3.1.2 Community Hub The emphasis was on creating somewhere local people could regularly use. Many respondents supported the creation of a small community space including:

- Drop-in café
- Community meeting place
- Workshops
- Art and craft activities

- Talks
- Clubs
- Small exhibitions

3.1.3 Sheep Fair Almost every discussion recognised the importance of the Sheep Fair. Residents strongly felt:

- Storage for Sheep Fair equipment must remain
- The building's historical connection with the Fair should never be lost
- Any future use must complement rather than replace this historic function

3.1.4 Sustainability Many comments recognised that whatever future use is chosen, the building needs to generate sufficient income to support its long-term maintenance.

3.2 Question Two: What would you like the space to look like?

The strongest message was remarkably consistent. Many people stressed that the building should remain recognisably the Wattle House. Residents wanted:

- Restoration rather than redevelopment
- Original appearance retained
- Historic character protected
- Traditional materials
- Windows restored
- Sensitive repairs

Additional suggestions included:

- Toilets
- Better flooring
- Water supply
- Small interpretation displays
- Outdoor seating

3.3 Question Three: What should happen here?

Residents envisaged a flexible building used throughout the year. A recurring suggestion was creating a Findon Museum telling the story of sheep farming, the Downs and village life. Suggested activities included:

- Heritage workshops
- Schools' visits
- Community café
- Craft demonstrations
- Local history exhibitions
- Walking information
- Small markets
- Talks

- Youth activities
- Village meetings

3.4 Question Four: Who should use the space?

Respondents saw the Wattle House serving both residents and visitors. Suggested users included:

- Local community
- Schools
- Scouts and Guides
- Walking groups
- Heritage organisations
- Visitors to the South Downs
- Artists
- Craft groups
- Families
- Volunteers

Several respondents suggested partnerships with organisations including:

- Weald & Downland Living Museum
- National Trust
- Sussex Wildlife Trust

3.5 Question Five: Parking & Access

Parking generated considerable discussion. The overwhelming majority opposed creating parking on Nepcote Green. This demonstrates that protecting the setting of the Wattle House is considered just as important as conserving the building itself. Key messages included:

- Protect the Green
- No large car park
- Improve existing parking where possible
- Provide disabled drop-off only
- Encourage walking and cycling
- Avoid increasing traffic

4. Overall Findings

Five clear priorities emerged:

4.1 Preserve the Building

Residents strongly support restoring rather than altering the Wattle House.

4.2 Celebrate Heritage

The building should tell the story of:

- Sheep Fair
- Agriculture

- Findon
- South Downs
- Rural crafts

4.3 Increase Community Use

The building should become active throughout the year rather than being used primarily for storage.

4.4 Support Education

Schools, heritage learning and practical craft skills featured throughout the consultation.

4.5 Respect Nephote Green

Future development must protect the unique character of the Green and avoid inappropriate parking or overdevelopment.

5. Conclusion

The Thinking Day demonstrated overwhelming community affection for the Wattle House and recognition of its unique historic importance. Residents do not wish to see the building fundamentally changed. Instead, they support a carefully balanced approach that combines:

- conservation,
- interpretation,
- education,
- community activity,
- and sustainable management.

Perhaps the strongest message to emerge was that the Wattle House should remain a living part of Findon; celebrating the village's unique heritage whilst providing opportunities for learning, community activity and enjoyment for future generations.

Prepared by:

Clare de Bathe – Director, Connecting Spaces

Liz Woodsell – Director, Connecting Spaces

liz@connectingspaces.co.uk, 07930 451776