Minutes of the WAS Committee Meeting held on Tuesday August 12th 2025

Present: Keith Bolton, Alan Beazley, Sarah Brewer, Amie Friend, Theresa Griffiths, Cheryl Hutchins, Liz Lane, John Mills, Connie Shirley, Gill Turner, Donna Wiltshire.

1. Apologies: Jennie Williamson, Vicky Lillywhite.

2 and 3. Taken as we went.

4. Highdown 2. There was a long and useful discussion, but since the Meeting we have heard that Highdown 2 is likely to be done in 2027, leaving 2026 for Sompting and Burpham.
Mentioned: trench H extension, extend area by trenches G and F where there were a lot of artefacts. Sarah had an aerial photo of the square structure in F. Need to geophys first, also a detailed metal-detecting survey to remove ordinance. (The metal-detecting team found ordinance from day 1 – grenade taken away by folk from Portsmouth – thanks to Andy Baker for his initiative))
James and James will need to discuss time frames and raise funds.
Brian Drury sent John lidar of trench H. The barrow mound needs a detailed contour survey which could be done at any time of the year. Are graves avoiding the mound? We will need to be selective next time as the numbers needed will be smaller.

5. F.U.Update: Sompting: John, Dave and Phil removed a large part of the spoil heap last Friday. Connie wants to do a section – the east side prepared. Need to go 2m down, with stepping. At the end of the season, Mark will backfill. Connie's goal is to get Sompting to a publishable format, with the pottery going to Luke.
Burpham: Dig (behind the Church) to be late August/September 2026. The Finds group are very close to finishing the pottery from Forge Field.
Highdown – see above
Slindon '03,'04 – Liz to contact David Stubbings re bones. (He says he's made a start....very keen to come to the Bones day)

6. Protocol when munitions are found during a dig – see above.

7. Finds at Slindon – 21st August, 4th and 18th September, 2nd and 16th October.

8. Finance – see Alan's report.
Mike Allen's expenses to be sorted – Keith to investigate, also to sort his own expenses. Must get Ed to put in an invoice.

9. GDPR– nothing to report

10. Trustees – ditto

11. Membership – very healthy over 170 now. Have a few more Hon members. Gary Baines, Antonio Reis, Sue Harrington, Hayley, Andrew Reynolds, David McOmish (he is already Hon.)

12. Newsletter – out a bit late. Felix to do an article for the next one re stirrup mound.
Journal – desperate pleas from Cheryl – Keith will do one on Forge Field and another on the Climping urn. Felix and Portia have ideas for articles for the Journal.

13. Insurance – nothing to report – haven't asked for worked days – but need to keep record in case they do.

14. Study Day – Sarah on Bones – Saturday 15th November, at the College. Advert to come. Mike Allen has offered one for 2026 – snails. Sue Harrington happy to talk about Anglo-Saxon Burials – later in 2026?

15. Lectures and publicity – all booked for this Autumn. Will be advertised in the freebies 'All About Angmering..etc.'
Reminder about SAS Conference 8th November.
Theresa has had offers of Lectures from several folk, e.g. Natalie Cohen, National Trust. Keith to sort this.

16 Other events. BBQ 30th August.
Research Group visiting Weald & Downland on Sept 23rd.
18th October Wealden Buildings Study Group day.
7th November Social at Black Horse.

17. Website – OK, but take out depth in Burpham photos!

18. Worthing Heritage Alliance – Liz attends 3-monthly meetings for WAS, subs £10 per year. The website advertises all our events. Hopefully WAS can be involved in the 2026 Heritage Festival – provided the Museum is open again!

19. AOB –YACS – Amie and Timeseekers happy to be involved, help establish. WAS can provide equipment and opportunities – Health and Safety to be done separately.
Connie and Sarah are learning GQIS – several folk interested. Needs wi-fi/internet access - two half-days in the Autumn (1 training, 1 practical – College?
Highdown – need to plan for Highdown publishing – up to James & Historic England. Connie & Sarah can do a lot of this. It will appear in Current Archaeology.

20. Next Meeting : Tuesday 21st October – Alan's b'day!