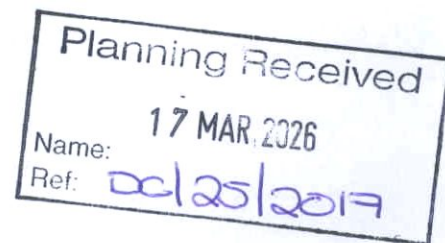


Sam Nye
Planning Department
HDC
Albery House
Springfield Road
Horsham
RH12 2GB



Dear Sir

Re-Planning application DC/25/2017

Change of use Post Office Church Street West Chiltonton RH12 2GB

I am writing to express my serious concerns over the behaviour of West Chiltonton Parish Council and how the **views of members of the council are being misrepresented or suppressed.**

On HDC planning portal/ correspondence, a submission from WCPC dated 26th Feb 2026 states they wish to offer '**no comment**'. They also share a link to the minutes of their meeting. It transpires from those minutes that councillors were '**unanimous in favouring retaining the shop as an asset**'. (copy enclosed)

These are councillors who are elected to represent the views of residents and these views are not being heard or passed on as part of this process.

Sentiment on behalf of the applicant should not out weigh the importance of a democratic vote.

Yours sincerely

A local resident

WEST CHILTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of West Chiltonton Parish Council held in the Reading Room, Parish Office, Church Street on Tuesday 27th January 2026 at 6:00 pm.

Present: Councillors B Gustar (Chairman), S. Booth F. Davis, M. Foss, D. Frost, V Gibson, S Hodges, D. Mack, J. Purcell.

Also in attendance: L. Edwards (Clerk) and 1 member of public.

226 -25/26 Apologies for absence

It was **RESOLVED** that apologies for absence from Cllr Walters, Cllr McCarthy and Cllr Fagan be **APPROVED**.

227 -25/26 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

228 -25/26 Planning Application Response – DC/25/2017 and DC/25/2018

Members considered the applications relating to the change of use of the village shop/post office and noted:

- 4 neighbouring properties had submitted responses in support of the application.
- Southern Water have requested further information.
- the Conservation Officers comments.

Members were unanimous in recognising the reason for the application and were sympathetic to the difficulties facing the applicant. Members were also unanimous in favouring retention of the shop as an asset to the village and a part of its heritage. For these reasons, it was **AGREED** not to submit comments in response to the applications.

229-25/26 Vexatious Requests

Members **RESOLVED** to move into confidential session in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, due to the nature of the business to be discussed.

Members noted the report from the council's Data Protection Officer providing advice in relation to the handling of items of correspondence received by the council.

The Data Protection Officer had reviewed the multiple items of correspondence from an applicant concerning the same or closely related subject matter over an extended period and the council's responses addressing the issues raised. The report provided advice in determining whether Section 14(1) of the Freedom of Information Act (2000) applies and considered the request in context and with reference to ICO guidance on vexatious requests.

The following factors were taken into account:

- The request forms part of a pattern of persistent and repetitive correspondence on matters already addressed;
- The Council has previously provided the information held and explained its position and has met with the applicant;
- The request does not raise any materially new issues or seek new information;