



MINUTES OF THE ABOVE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN RINGWOULD VILLAGE HALL 13th JANUARY 2025 AT 7PM.

001/25 To record those present and accept any apologies.

Present were Cllr Hogben (Chair), Cllr Wilson, Cllr Selwyn, Cllr Hermer, DDC members Oliver Richardson and Martin Bates, KCC member Steve Manion, 4 members of the public and Parish Clerk.

002/25 To Note any Declarations Pecuniary Interest (DPI), Other Significant Interests (OSI) or any Voluntary Interests. Cllr Wilson declared an OSI in item 006/25 and 009/25

003/25 To approve the following minutes:

- a. Ordinary Meeting 9th December 2024

The minutes were proposed as a true record of the meeting by Cllr Wilson, seconded by Cllr Hermer and all members voted in favour.

004/25 Open session for members of the public to ask questions on items on the agenda.

(Visitors are welcome to speak on any item on the agenda for up to 3 minutes. This item will last for a maximum of 15 minutes, unless the Chair extends the time allowed.)

- a) A member of the public expressed her interest in becoming a Councillor. Clerk to follow up.
- b) A local resident queried about the 2025/2026 budget and why some of the figures have been reduced and some increased. Clerk explained that staff cost has gone down because there is no assistant clerk; the contribution to the public conveniences has come down as the Parish Council is only paying for the Months they are open to the public, not for the whole year. Clerk to publish the figures on the website.

005/25 Verbal Reports by District and County Councillors

KCC Member Steve Manion wished everyone a very Happy New year.

The number 1 concern is the proposed reorganisation of local government. Parish councils will not be affected. There is a meeting this week to decide whether Kent should go into first round of reorganisation. The outcome that central government has set out is the abolition of district and county councils and the creation of unitary authorities with a population of about 500,000 residents. In Kent this would mean three new authorities. Eats Kent would be Dover, Canterbury, Thanet, Folkestone and Ashford. The proposed timeline would be election next year with shadow authority 26-27 with new authority taking full control in May 27. There would also be the creation of elected mayors to coordinate more strategic activities such as transport and economic development. KCC Member Oliver Richardson reported on the following:

1. PARKING SURVEY

As part of their work to prepare a new Parking Strategy for the area in the new year, Dover District Council has launched a parking survey, and your views are sought. Please share your views with them by 19 January 2025. The survey covers a range of subjects including your typical journeys, your priorities for the future, and your views going forward. The results of the survey will inform the preparation of the new Parking Strategy. The strategy will look at a range of parking matters across the district, looking at how parking needs in each area can be met for the future. We encourage all residents to fill out the survey and share it so we get as wide a range of views as possible.

For more information, please see the DDC website at www.dover.gov.uk/parking



2. DEVOLUTION AND LOCAL AUTHORITY WHITE PAPER

The white paper was published before Christmas and can be found on the following link: [English Devolution White Paper](#)

Members of Dover District Council have yet to receive a briefing on the ramifications but they will be tremendous; i.e.

- a). KCC and all District Councils in the county will be abolished. They will be replaced by three unitary councils and a Mayoral Strategic Authority.
- b). Funding will come from the centre via the Mayoral Strategic Authority.
- c). No information yet as to what will happen to parish and town councils.
- d). KCC wish to push this forward and join the first tranche of regions to transition. If this is the case then the county elections will be suspended until May 26 when the new local authorities will be put in place.

The following motion was passed by the KCC Council on 9th January:

Cabinet is asked to:

1. **Agree to submit a request to Government, jointly with Medway Council, for Kent and Medway to be included in the Devolution Priority Programme.**
2. **Agree to request that the Minister for Local Government and English Devolution consider postponing County elections scheduled for May 2025.**
3. **Note that acceptance onto the Devolution Priority Programme will commit Kent and Medway to elections to a new Mayoral Strategic authority (MSA) in May 2026 and implementation of local government reorganisation by either April 2027 or April 2028.**

The voting figures were 39 for, 19 against and 1 abstention. 4 of our Dover County Councillors voted for the proposal whilst 3 others were absent from the chamber and therefore did not vote.

3) NEW MEMBER

The DDC Conservative Group are happy to welcome Cllr Charles Woodgate who has resigned from the Labour Party and joined our team. This means that the council is now in No Overall Control with 16 Labour, 15 Conservatives and 1 Independent.

4. LOCAL ISSUES

None at present

Finally, we would like to take the opportunity to wish you all a very Happy New Year.

006/25 Finance

- a. To approve the payment schedule for January was proposed by Cllr Hogben seconded by Cllr Selwyn and all members voted in favour.

To	Reason	Gross amount	How paid	Vat
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ICO	Data Protection Fee	35.00	DD	0.00
J Boot	NP fee September-December	1447.65	BACS	0.00
L Morris	Tree works (Phase 2)	1900.00	BACS	0.00
Smith of Derby	St Nicholas Church clock maintenance	325.20	BACS	54.20
Ringwold Village Hall	Room Hire	220.00	DD	0.00

December income: Field rent 5 x 18 = 90.00

- b. To note reconciliation for December. The reconciliation for December was noted.

007//25 Precept/Budget

- a. To discuss/ agree 2025/2026 precept and budget. To request £62,836 from DDC as the precept figure. A new figure represents a 4.6 % increase to the last precept. This was proposed by Cllr Hogben seconded by Cllr Wilson and all members voted in favour. Clerk to organise signing and return of paperwork to DDC.

008/25 Planning

- a) To note decisions made by the District Council:

Noted:

- i) 24/01190 Beachcombers Cliffe Road Kingsdown Deal CT14 8AJ Erection of a rear extension, which would extend beyond the rear wall of the original house by 5.10m, for which the maximum height would be 3.95m, and for which the height of the eaves would be 3.60m. Conditional Extension.
- ii) 24/01113 Zetland Arms Wellington Parade Kingsdown Deal Kent CT14 8AF Replacement hardscaping materials and new post and rope balustrade. Planning permission granted.
- b) To note the applications as listed, consider, and agree any comments to be sent to the District Council.
- i) 24/00678 (Amended) Club House Walmer and Kingsdown Golf Club, The Leas, Kingsdown, CT14 8EP Creation of 50 parking spaces. The council has no objection to the planning proposal that has been re- submitted; however, the Parish Council would like the owners to retain any screening and if possible, improve the screening that the parking area can't be seen from the beach. This was proposed by Cllr Hogben seconded by Cllr Selwyn and all members voted in favour. Clerk to submit the comment.

009/25 Management of Trees & Woodland



- a) Update on tree works. ER 23 works are now completed and the trees opposite the Village Hall in Ringwould main road have been felled. Works will continue on ER 14, ER 15 and ER 19.
- b) Logs - offer by local seller of logs for burning, to buy some logs in Oxney woods. The Parish Council discussed this proposal and agreed that only the trees that's been felled can be removed and they have to be removed by a certain time no longer than a year. The Parish Council would also require the seller to have a public liability insurance. To go on February meeting agenda.
- c) Tree planting event. To review and agree on risk assessment. Tree planting event will take place on Saturday 25 January and Sunday 26 January. Clerk had circulated the risk assessment prior to the meeting. There will be pre-meeting taking place in the morning. Cllr Hogben to purchase some protective gloves. Clerk to publish risk-assessment on the website. To approve the risk assessment was proposed by Cllr Hogben seconded by Cllr Selwyn and all members voted in favour.

010/25 Allotments

- a) Update from Cllr Wilson. There is currently no one on waiting list. The contractor to push garden waste with mini digger away. Water taps are still leaking, the contractor to take a look at them if they can be fixed or need replacing.

011/25 Playing Fields

- a) Update on inspections and remedial actions. Most of the remedial works have now been completed. The hedge behind the playing field has not been cut back. Clerk to email the contractor.

012/25 Neighbourhood Development Plan

At the end of November Visioning event took place. Next event: Policy writing workshop will take place 22nd January, this is mostly for the steering group, but all residents who have an interest in policy writing are welcome.

013/25 Bus Shelters

- a) To review the quotes for replacing the roof. Two quotes were received, however the Councillors had not had enough time to review them before the meeting. To go February meeting agenda.

014/25 Highways Improvement Plan

- a) Update on Highways Improvement Plan. Clerk had a meeting with Kent Highways Improvement team and discussed what are the next steps:
 - Upper Street. There is a satellite data recording attached which shows a speed data on Upper Street.
 - As the entire Kingsdown is already 20mph zone, SIDS lights are not allowed. KCC will provide extra 20mph stickers. They will be delivered beginning of February.
 - The banner attached to the fence entering Kingsdown from Ringwould is not visible and needs repositioning. They suggested to install ballets and attached the banner to it.
 - Additional banner will be provided when entering from Walmer and where the 20mph zone is starting, plus extra 20mph roundels when entering 20mph zone.There should more social media posts about 20mph and sharing the road.
Parking issues and obstruction issues Upper Street. KCC to see whether some double yellows could be installed, especially on the corner of Church Cliff and near Kings Head.
Lorries entering Kingsdown. KCC to see if more signage could be installed.



Ringwould A 258. Clerk had emailed to see KCC Highways sub-contractor to see if SIDS lights are possible. A local resident suggested whether the Children on the road sign could be installed when entering Kingsdown. Clerk to follow up with KCC Highways improvement team.

015/25 Correspondence

- a) DDC parking survey. This item was noted. Clerk to publish info on the website.
- b) Langdon Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan Consultation. To go on February meeting agenda.
- c) 2024-2025 Community Transport Grant Scheme extended until 9th February 2025. This item was noted.

016/25 Matters of General Interest

(For councillors to highlight issues that do not require a decision or for items on the next agenda.)

None.

017/25 To agree date of next meeting- 10 February 7PM in Ringwould Village Hall.

018/25 Confidential Matters – To exclude the public under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, and Section 12a of the Local Government Act 1972, due to the sensitivity of the items to be discussed.

Meeting closed at 21:10

A Nigol
Parish Clerk

Signed: Sharon Hogben (Chair) Date: 10 February 2025 Paper copy on file with Clerk