



**MINUTES OF THE ABOVE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN RINGWOOLD VILLAGE HALL 10<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2025 AT 7PM.**

**019/25 To record those present and accept any apologies.**

Present were Cllr Hogben (Chair), Cllr Wilson, Cllr Selwyn, Cllr Edwards, DDC members Oliver Richardson and Martin Bates, KCC member Steve Manion, 8 members of the public and Parish Clerk. Apologies received from Cllr Hermer.

**020/25 To Note any Declarations Pecuniary Interest (DPI), Other Significant Interests (OSI) or any Voluntary Interests.** Cllr Wilson declared an OSI on item 027/25 and 009/25. Cllr Selwyn declared a DPI on item 027/25 and 024/25 d.

**021/25 To approve the following minutes:**

- a. Ordinary Meeting 13<sup>th</sup> January 2025

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

**022/25 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 member of the public queried about the road sign under the agenda item 024/25 No Name Road sign and what it is for. Cllr Hogben explained that the sign is to advise motorists that it's not a through road but access only.
- A member of the public asked who is going to monitor that this rule is followed. Cllr Hogben explained that is just an informative sign.
- A local resident of the No Name Road complained that the contractor who was doing some urgent remedial works on the road was not aware of the manhole cover. Cllr Hogben responded that next time the Parish Council do any works they will inform the contractor.

**023/25 Verbal Reports by District and County Councillors**

DDC member Martin Bates reported on the following:

1). DEAL LEISURE CENTRE

Major plans for a new leisure centre in Deal with a six-lane pool, gym, fun inflatable sessions and a toddler splash pad were agreed by DDC's cabinet at a meeting on 13th January. Councillors were asked to give approval for the £20m project to proceed to the next stage of development, including an additional swimming lane and leisure options. Original plans were for a five-lane pool and no dedicated splash pad, but after considering feedback from the public an extra lane and leisure opportunities have been included in the scheme. This will be in addition to a new state-of-the-art gym and health and fitness studios, toning tables and cafe area.

On this approval, the new-build facilities will potentially be delivered by summer 2027 and integrated with the existing sports hall and indoor tennis centre. The lease between the current operator Your Leisure and DDC to operate Tides Leisure Centre ends on 31 March 2025. While it had been hoped to keep the tennis centre and sports hall open at this time, during the meeting, councillors agreed that these facilities would need to close for nine months from 1 April 2025 while a new Deal Leisure Centre management contract was being tendered. The new contract would begin with a new provider in January 2026, at which point the sports hall and tennis centre would. reopen while development work continues.



Your Leisure did plan to inform their staff and to write to their customers by the end of the month to let them know how the closure of the centre would affect their membership. However, final approval was delayed by The Conservative Group who “called in” the decision for consideration by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee which sat on 27<sup>th</sup> January. We objected to the plans to close the site for the interim period and urged the Cabinet to reconsider.

Two separate operators then came forward with proposals to keep the facilities open during the interim and these were explored. A special Cabinet met on 6<sup>th</sup> February and Your Leisure was recommended as the interim operator for the sports hall and tennis centre, until the commencement of the new contract in 2026.

2). DOVER TRAINING DAY

Led by DDC and funded through the Government's [UK Shared Prosperity Fund](#), the council has brought together educational providers for a day of free workshops and taster sessions. Attendees will be able to try a range of introductory courses with [Kent Adult Education](#) and [EKC Dover College](#), from food safety and creative writing, to childcare, hair and beauty, vehicle maintenance, plumbing – plus much more!

The event is being held at EKC Dover College on Wednesday 19 February from 9:30am to 3:30pm with workshops lasting 2 hours. Booking is required, and attendees must be aged 18 or above.

3). DDC BUDGET FOR 2025/26

On 3<sup>rd</sup> February the DDC Cabinet agreed to a proposed increase in the district council part of the Council Tax bill for a Band D property for 2025/26 of 2.98% (or £6.39 per year). The budget will be considered by Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 17 February, and will return to Cabinet on 3 March, before going to the Council Meeting on 5 March.

4). IMPACT FEST

A free, fun-packed festival designed especially for young people aged 11-18 is taking place at Pencester Gardens in Dover Saturday, 29 March, from 12pm-6pm. IMPACT Fest promises an exciting line-up of entertainment, activities and workshops, with live music, dance shows and the chance to win prizes. The festival, put together by DCC with support from KCC, is funded by the Kent Police & Crime Commissioner, DDC, KCC's Family Hub, Jenner and other local partners. It's free to attend and is for all the district's youngsters to enjoy. Community safety partners will be on hand to provide advice and guidance, including [Kent Police](#), [KCC's Family Hub and Youth Engagement Team](#), [Network Rail](#) and [Kent & Medway Violence Reduction Unit](#).

5). LOCAL GOVERNMENT DEVOLUTION

On 5<sup>th</sup> February the Secretary of State for MHCLG made a statement to the House of Commons which announced which local authorities had been selected for the first tranche of mayoralities, which would be introduced in May 2026. Kent was not amongst them so elections for the County Council have not been suspended and will take place in May this year.

LOCAL ISSUES

1). The Fees and Charges for 2025/26 DDC budget will be debated at Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 17<sup>th</sup> February. There is a proposal within them “To remove the beach plot provision and replace with DDC Beach Hut ownership and to adjust Kingsdown Beach Hut pricing so that the charges are consistent across the district.” I am on the committee so would appreciate any comments that you may have ahead of the meeting. The annual cost of each beach hut will be £1,535 inc VAT.

2). An application for 70 homes on the land northwest of Kingsdown recreation grounds has been submitted. It is DOV/25/00112.

**024/25 Finance**

a. To agree payments to be made and ratify those that are completed. To approve the payment schedule for January was proposed by Cllr Hogben seconded by Cllr Wilson and all members voted in favour.



| To            | Reason  | Gross amount | How paid | Vat   |
|---------------|---|--------------|----------|-------|
| A Nigol       | Clerks wages January  | 1048.17      | BACS     | 0.00  |
| HMRC          | PAYE  | 231.19       | BACS     | 0.00  |
| KVH           | Room hire 25 <sup>th</sup> January NP meeting                           | 25.00        | BACS     | 0.00  |
| Forvis Mazars | Audit fees  | 378.00       | BACS     | 63.00 |
| Harmer & Sons | Grounds maintenance   | 528.00       | BACS     | 88.00 |
| Harrisons     | Digger works and hire(no name rd,allotments, fencing, waste, materials) | 1278.00      | BACS     | 0.00  |
| Croner        | HR services   | 132.44       | DD       | 21.04 |
| S Hogben      | Tree planting expenses  | 54.60        | BACS     | 9.10  |
| P Pepper      | Allotment refund  | 25.00        | BACS     | 0.00  |
| Castle Water  | Water charges   | 13.66        | DD       | 0.00  |
| Ringwold VH   | Hire of the Hall  | 220.00       | DD       | 0.00  |
| BT            | Phone and internet charges  | 43.33        | DD       | 7.22  |
| HSBC          | Bank charges  | 8.00         | DD       | 0.00  |

- b. To note reconciliation for January. The reconciliation for January was noted.
- c. To review and discuss on Ringwold Village Hall rent increase. Ringwold Village Hall had informed Clerk about 20% rent increase from 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2025. The Parish Council reviewed and discussed the proposed rate increase and decided to allow Clerk to work from home on work from home allowance. Clerk to inform Village Hall about the Parish Council decision. Clerk to arrange the office move, finish the contract with BT and go on a mobile phone contract.
- d. To agree purchasing on the No Name Road signs. The Parish Council reviewed two quotes and decided to go with the cheapest option, This was proposed by Cllr Hogben seconded by Cllr Wilson and all members voted in favour.



### **025//25 Co-opt to fill the Parish Councillor vacancy**

The Council have had one nomination and the information was circulated to the Councillors. Sarah Bremner to be co-opted. This was proposed by Cllr Hogben, seconded by Cllr Wilson and voted all in favour. Clerk to contact DDC Elections team and help to set up email accounts for the new councillor. The new Councillor signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office in the presence of the Parish Clerk. The Chair invited the new Councillor to join the meeting.

### **026/25 Planning**

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

None

- b) To note the applications as listed, consider, and agree any comments to be sent to the District Council.
- i) 25/00007 Beech Villa, Upper Street, Kingsdown, CT14 8BJ, Erection of single storey side extension for use as ancillary annexe, and alterations to external elevations and to first floor side windows (existing side extension, garage and workshop to be demolished). No objections.
  - ii) 25/00112 Ringwould Road , Kingsdown, CT14 8DD Erection of 70 dwellings including access, parking, landscaping, and associated infrastructure. This item was deferred as the planning application was only received some days before the meeting. Clerk had contacted DDC Planning and asked for the extension to submit the Parish Councils decision and comment on 11<sup>th</sup> March. The extension was approved. To go on March meeting agenda.
- c) Planning committee - 23/00782, 124 Wellington Parade 24/01089 - Kingsdown Garden Villa- 13<sup>th</sup> February 6PM. The Parish Council decided not to attend the Committee meeting.

### **027/25 Management of Trees & Woodland**

- a) Update on tree works. ER 23, ER 14 works are now completed and the trees opposite the Village Hall in Ringwould main road have been felled. Works will continue on ER 15 and ER 19.
- b) Logs – review the offers from local sellers of logs for burning, to buy some logs in Oxney woods. The Parish Council discussed both proposal and agreed to with the contractor who offered higher price and who had already provided a public liability insurance. Clerk to inform the contractor.
- c) Tree planting event. Update from Cllr Hogben. Cllr Hogben thanked everyone who attended. It was a successful event and around 185 trees were planted. Tree planting event will continue all weekends in February. Clerk to post an update on the website. The risk assessment was reviewed to include do not work under dead trees, also always work in pairs was added to the risk assessment.
- d) Oxney Woods- to discuss installing fresh waymarking posts and discs. Oxney woods which is parish owned, reopening footpaths that have been blocked for a while - people have made their own paths and Parish Council needs to put in fresh waymarking posts and arrows to get everyone back on track. Cllr Hogben had contacted KCC to ask for waymarking disks but had not heard back yet.
- e) To discuss and agree on purchasing compostable tree guards for saplings. The Parish Council reviewed three different quotes circulated by the Clerk and agreed to go with the cheapest option. Clerk to order 200 compostable tree guards.
- f) To review and discuss contractors offer to maintain the footpaths. The tree surgeon had offered to clear any trees fallen on footpaths free of charge if he can keep the wood. The Parish Council had no objections to this, however would like to have some parameters in place.

### **028/25 Allotments**



- a) Update from Cllr Wilson. Couple of people interested and coming to see the available plots. Contractor has been clearing some garden waste areas and some new fencing has gone up.

#### **029/25 Playing Fields**

- a) Update on inspections and remedial actions. Cllr Edwards had visited the playgrounds and reported that the hedges in Kingsdown playing ground area have still not been done. Clerk to chase the Contractor. Top cover missing from the chain link. Carousel needs checking and some equipment needs cleaning and repainting.

#### **030/25 Neighbourhood Development Plan**

- a) Update from Cllr Hogben. Policy writing workshop took place in January and next step is to start bringing together the survey, visioning workshop and all the policies. Next meeting 25<sup>th</sup> February for the steering group.

#### **031/25 Bus Shelters**

- a) To review the quotes for replacing the roof. The Parish Council had received two quotes to replace the bus shelter roof Deal bound on Five Bells side which contains asbestos. Cllr Hogben proposed that the Parish Council accepts the cheapest quote. It was seconded by Cllr Wilson and all members voted in favour. Clerk to ask for the licence and insurance before the works can start and inform Stagecoach at least 24 hours to have the replacement bus stop in place.

#### **032/25 Highways Improvement Plan**

Update on Highways Improvement Plan. Clerk had a meeting with the Highways Improvement Team (HIP) in November and shared the issues that Parish Council had discussed in October. The main issue is speeding in Kingsdown Upper Street and Cliffe Road. Last week a member of the Highways Improvement Plan team had also visited to see what improvements can be done on Cliffe Road. Clerk also shared suggestions made by HIP team including:

- The banner attached to the fencing entering Kingsdown from Ringwould is not visible and needs repositioning. They suggested to install ballets and attached the banner to it.
- Additional banner has been provided when entering from Walmer and where the 20mph zone is starting and will be installed in coming weeks.
- Extra 20mph roundels to be installed when entering 20mph zone from Walmer.
- Banners, leaflets, stickers to be provided to the pubs and accommodation providers before the tourist season starts.

Other notes:

- As the entirety of Kingsdown is already a 20mph zone, SIDS signs are not allowed. KCC will provide extra 20mph stickers.
- 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.
- HIP to be part of Neighbourhood Plan, the information was shared with Alison Eardley to see if HIP could be implemented into neighbourhood plan.

A member of the public mentioned that there isn't enough 20mph signage in the Village and has to be improved. He also offered to prepare the speed sign mapping and share it with the Parish Council.

#### **033/25 Renewal of the Grass cutting Contract**

The Parish Council reviewed two Grass cutting quotes. Cllr Wilson proposed that we go with the lowest Quote was seconded by Cllr Selwyn and all members voted in favour. Clerk to inform the Contractor

#### **034/25 Correspondence**



- a) Langdon Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan Consultation. Cllr Hogben agreed to write some comments and forward to everyone, before it can be submitted.
- b) Confirmation of The Kent County Council (Public Footpath ER306, Ringwold with Kingsdown) DMMO 2024. This was noted.

**035/25 Matters of General Interest**

(For councillors to highlight issues that do not require a decision or for items on the next agenda.) None.

**036/25 To agree date of next meeting-** 10<sup>th</sup> March 7PM in Ringwold Village Hall.

**037/25 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 21:00

A Nigol  
Parish Clerk

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