



**MINUTES OF THE ABOVE PARISH COUNCIL MONTHLY MEETING HELD IN RINGWOULD VILLAGE HALL
10TH NOVEMBER 2025 AT 7:00 PM.**

198/25 To record those present and accept any apologies

Present were Cllr Hogben (Chair), Cllr Wilson, Cllr Selwyn, Cllr Bremner, Cllr Hansom, Cllr Meeke, KCC Councillor Porter and Parish Clerk. Apologies received from DDC Councillor Richardson, DDC Councillor Bates and Cllr Hermer.

199/25 To Note any Declarations Pecuniary Interest (DPI), Other Significant Interests (OSI) or any Voluntary Interests

None.

200/25 To approve the following minutes:

- a. Ordinary Meeting 13th October 2025
- b. F&GP Meeting 23rd October 2025

Both minutes were proposed as a true record of the meeting by Cllr Hogben, seconded by Cllr Bremner and all members voted in favour.

201/25 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.)

None.

202/25 Local Community

- a) Repairs to benches (Nelson Seat, Kingsdown dump) To repair the benches was proposed by Cllr Hogben seconded by Cllr Wilson and all members voted in favour. Cllr Hogben agreed to show the contractor where the benches are located and what needs to be done.
- b) To agree on Overhanging vegetation letter for residents. The Council reviewed the letter and agreed to send it out to the residents with overhanging vegetation. This was proposed by Cllr Hogben seconded by Cllr Wilson and all members voted in favour.

203/25 Verbal Reports by District and County Councillors

DDC Councillors had sent their apologies and meeting report:

1. COUNCIL TAX CONSULTATION

Proposals to modernise and simplify the current Council Tax Support scheme are being considered by Dover District Council – and your views all residents throughout the District are sought. Council Tax Support (CTS) helps people who cannot afford to pay their Council Tax. It assists people who qualify for the scheme with a discount, mainly based on the income of the household.

Each council must devise its own Council Tax Support scheme for working-age people, (people who have not yet reached state pension age). DDC is consulting on a new scheme for working-age people for 26/27, which aims to maximise the support available to residents. It is estimated that the proposed changes would result in an additional £1m of Council Tax Support for people in Dover District.



The changes seek to bring the scheme in line with Universal Credit and would see eligible, working-age households able to claim up to 100% discount from their Council Tax payment. Under the existing scheme the maximum claim is up to 90%.

The consultation is open to all, however the council is writing directly to households in the district currently in receipt of CTS, and other key stakeholders to inform them of the proposals and to encourage them to respond. The proposals, background information and online survey are available on the DDC website. Printed copies of the survey can be made available upon request.

The deadline for comments is 28 November 2025. For more information, please see the DDC website at www.dover.gov.uk/consultations

2. DDC PARKING STRATEGY

The policy was previously returned to Cabinet by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 2nd June on the grounds that the report was incomplete and poorly drafted. The Cabinet at that time agreed to return the report to Parking Services for reconsideration. It was returned to Cabinet on Monday 3/11 and contains a report that is largely unchanged from the previous so remains poorly drafted and incomplete. The basic strategy outlined is as follows:

1.1 The Dover District Parking Strategy ("the strategy") sets out the future of parking requirements for the whole district. These will be addressed in three phases.

1.2 This report recommends adoption of the overall strategy and specific approval of the Phase 1 recommendations which focus on the points below:

(a) The charging structure in the Council's strategic car parks. The charges will generally set an hourly rate at £1.80 for the first hour and £2 per hour thereafter in strategic car parks in Deal and Sandwich, up to a cap of £13.80 for 7 hours or more.

(b) The increase in provision of disabled parking spaces. Additional disabled spaces are provided at Pencester Road Car Park, Dover and Guildhall Car Park, Sandwich.

(c) Align Maximum Stay

1.3 Align the maximum stay at specified Deal and Sandwich car parks at 3 hours.

1.4 Phases 2 and 3 of the strategy will be the subject of subsequent reports and will address, inter alia:

(a) Rural parking charges.

(b) Kearsney Abbey parking.

(c) Residents' and business permits.

(d) Victoria Road Car Park.

(e) Motorhome parking.

(f) On-street parking



This decision will be considered again at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 10th November and I (Martin) will be present at it. If you wish to make your concerns known you can either request to appear in person and speak, or you can forward me your written comments which I can read out during the course of the debate.

For further information go to: [Parking Strategy Report.pdf](#)

KCC member Bridget Porter reported on the following:

Relocation of Adult Learning Centre in Gravesend

Gravesend Adult Learning Centre has relocated to the New Beginnings Learning Centre .

This move is part of KCC's wider redesign of adult education across the county. This follows a significant cut of £521,000 to Kent's adult education budget and new national rules that limit the use of government funding to courses focused on helping people gain skills for work.

Cllr Beverley Fordham , KCC's Cabinet Member for Education and Skills said “ We remain fully committed to providing high quality adult education courses for people in Gravesend and across Kent . While the way we deliver some of our courses is changing , our focus remains the same – supporting residents to gain the skills they need for work, wellbeing, and personal growth”

For more information about the changes in Gravesend ,visit www.kentadulteducation.co.uk

Major Step Closer to International Train Services

For 30 years there has been no competition on the international rail route and Kent has felt the impact. Eurostar withdrew services from Ashford and Ebbsfleet in 2020 ,leaving communities disconnected. More that 82,000 people backed a local campaign organised by Bring Back European Trains.

The ruling on October 30th changes that, as the Office of Rail and Road announced that Virgin Trains will be granted access to Temple Mills International Depot.

The ORR's decision now has the potential to

- 1 – Unlock a huge and much needed boost for local businesses and tourism.
- 2- Enable the government to deliver on the promise made when High Speed One was built
- 3- Provide a direct route to Europe for Kent's residents and businesses, without having to leave the county to board a train that then passes back through Kent.

KCC Leader Linden Kemkaren said “ The ORR has made the right decision which I wholeheartedly welcome. Their decision paves the way for competition – competition that has made clear its ambition to serve Kent again. It is a clear message that Kent matters and that our international stations have a vital role to play in the future of cross channel rail. There is a clear economic case for stopping in Kent – we have so much to offer visitors ,and the benefits for local businesses and communities are huge.

The event we held last month was about sending a loud and clear message to government ,operators and the ORR. Kent is ready. Our voice has finally been heard . Kent's residents and businesses can be assured that we will keep on pushing to make sure Kent is front and centre in the next stage. The people of Kent deserve to be connected and today we are a step closer “



Visit to East Kent Dover College

On 30th October I was invited , along with Cllr James Defriend of Dover Town to attend this vibrant and innovative facility in Maison Dieu Rd ,Dover.

We had a tour of the workshops offering training courses for young people in car mechanics, engineering ,hairdressing and catering. I had the pleasure of seeing young students busy and enthusiastically learning lifelong skills under the tutorship of committed tutors.

The college works hard to find work experience placements for the students with local trades and businesses. If you or your residents can offer a placement to mentor a young person, please contact EKC Dover College at 01304 244332 or email doover@eastkent.ac.uk

An Open Day on Monday 24th November 4pm to 7pm is planned for students to tour the campus ,speak to industry expert tutors, and explore the facilities at a College rated ' Outstanding' by Ofsted .

204/25 Finance

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

To	Reason	Gross amount	How paid	Vat
A Nigol	Clerks wages October	1106.28	BACS	0.00
A Nigol	October expenses	97.50	BACS	0.00
HMRC	PAYE/NIC	137.40	BACS	0.00
J Harrison	Invoice 1240	1357.00	BACS	0.00
J Harrison	Invoice 1241	520.00	BACS	0.00
J Harrison	Invoice 1242 mowing contract	545.00	BACS	0.00
J Harrison	Invoice 1243	686.00	BACS	0.00
Croner	HR contract	132.44	DD	21.04
Castle Water	Allotments water	33.79	DD	0.00

October income:

Field rent: 72.00

Allotments: 737.50

First Aid course: 78.00



Woods: 100.00

Playing field: 250.00

Total: 1237.50

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

205/25 Precept/budget

- a) To discuss 2026/2027 Precept/Budget. This item was deferred.

206/25 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) 25/01147 Hillcroft, Kingsdown Hill, Kingsdown, Deal. Erection of a front porch.

No comment.

- c) DDC Consultation: Draft Archaeology of Dover Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). This was noted.

207/25 Management of Trees & Woodland

- i) Report on progress of works around Parish - more tree planting planned in Freedown, Droveway and Hangman's lane progress, ER15 clearing.
The works are nearly completed and ER15 has been cleared.
- ii) Freedown path strimming and sign replacement - update on works.
The contractor is putting up the signs and works should be completed very soon.
- iii) To agree if more canes are needed for tree planting.
Cllr Hogben agreed to check how many canes were left from last year's tree planting and if more canes are needed.

208/25 Allotments

- i) Update from Cllr Bremner.
There are two plots available now (one small and one medium size).
- ii) Parking on Droveway update.
Cllr Bremner and Cllr Wilson had a meeting with EZ-Plan representative and now waiting for the plan and quote. To go on December meeting agenda.



209/25 Playing Fields

- i) RoSPA safety report follow up. Decision on playpark repairs to be done.
Cllr Meeke and Cllr Selwyn had visited playparks and reported that repairs have to be done, especially in Ringwould. They agreed with most of the issues raised in the ROSPA report and have considered some improvements for the play parks.
The most impactful and dangerous were:
 - 1. Sharp edges in Kingsdown sports field.
 - 2. Queens rise by no 58 - surfaces and rockers.
 - 3. Queens Rise by car park - fence post and slamming gate.The others might have to wait until weather improves.
To carry out these works was proposed by Cllr Hogben seconded by Cllr Meeke and all members voted in favour.
- ii) Update on gate repair in Kingsdown. Parish Council agreed to send a letter to the person who broke the gate. Cllr Hansom agreed to prepare the letter to be sent out. Cllr Wilson to share the details.
- iii) Signage replacement update. Cllr Wilson had received the signs and will give the to the contractor to be installed.

210/25 Highways

- i) HIP- Update from Cllr Hansom.
Cllr Hansom reported on the following: Both plans created by the local residents had been sent to KCC Highways for review. Cllr Hansom suggested that we will remove one of the priorities, which was double yellow lines on upper street and replace it with 20mph in Ringwould. Once we have had a response from KCC Highways, we need to do a public consultation.
- ii) Speed sign for Ringwould. The Parish Council agreed to proceed with the Vehicle Activation Sign. Clerk to contact KCC Highways Transport Intelligence Team to discuss the options and cost. This was proposed by Cllr Hansom seconded by Cllr Bremner and all members voted in favour.

211/25 Parcel locker

Cllr Meeke had a site visit with an InPost representative and the Village Hall representative for possible Locker installation by the Village Hall. Ringwould Village Hall agreed to draw some plans and then share with Parish Council. More information is needed to move forward, but The Council would in principal be interested. To go on December meeting agenda.

212/25 Health and safety - risk assessment review and adoption

Cllr Hogben had circulated the safety – risk assessment before the meeting and proposed that Parish Council will adopt the assessment. It was seconded by Cllr Meeke and all members voted in favour

213/25 Ringwould Village Hall



- i) To discuss the handrail and a ramp, improved parking and a PC representative for their meetings. To use the sign logo and have an advert outside the hall. Ringwould Village Hall had requested to use the logo of the Ringwould metal sign. Cllr Hansom proposed that Parish Council allows Ringwould Village Hall to use the Ringwould Village logo to have the advert outside the Village hall. This was seconded by Cllr Selwyn and all members voted in favour. More information is needed about the handrail and ramp. The infrastructure improvement plan needs more clarification. More details are needed about creating more parking spaces. The Parish Council agreed to have Cllr Hansom as a representative to attend their meetings.

214/25 Correspondence

- i) Kent Police Newsletter. This was noted.

214/25 Matters of General Interest

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

- i) Cllr Wilson requested if Parish Council could purchase a salt bin at the bottom of Queens Rise in Ringwould. To go on December meeting agenda for approval.
- ii) New potential Councillor. Cllr Hogben to have a chat with him and bring it to the next meeting.
- iii) Cllr Hogben had installed bollard and chain at the Playpark. DDC signs about penalties attached to dog fouling and littering should be put up if there any hotspots.
- iv) The First Aid course was success.

215/25 To agree date of next meeting- 8th December 7PM Ringwould Village Hall.

216/25 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 21:05

A Nigol
Parish Clerk