



**MINUTES OF THE ABOVE PARISH COUNCIL MONTHLY MEETING HELD IN RINGWOULD VILLAGE HALL
9th FEBRUARY 2026 AT 7:00 PM.**

024/26 To record those present and accept any apologies

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

025/26 To Note any Declarations Pecuniary Interest (DPI), Other Significant Interests (OSI) or any Voluntary Interests

Cllr Wilson declared an interest in agenda item 30/26 a)

026/26 To approve the following minutes:

- a. Ordinary Meeting 12th January 2026

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

027/26 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.)

- i) Request to speak from the member of the public under the agenda item 028/26 a)

A local resident talked about a possible campaign to be run by the PC to save Dels shop, off licence and post office for the benefit of the community.

18 February a community group meeting will take place in Kingsdown Village Hall. Cllr Hansom agreed to attend the meeting and feed back to the Council.

- ii) Request to speak from the member of the public under the agenda item 028/26 b)

A local resident wanted to talk about the defibrillators in Ringwould and suggested to replace the one outside Five Bells. He had spoken to Defibrillator care contractor and they had suggested to replace the existing old one with a new one as the old one won't last very long. Cllr Wilson agreed arrange a site visit for possible new location at this end of the Parish..

The Parish Council reviewed three different price quotes for new defibrillator and agreed to spend £1,854.30 on purchasing a new defibrillator. This was proposed by Cllr Wilson seconded by Cllr Bremner and all members voted in favour. The Parish Council decided to include Defibrillator training to the Annual Parish Meeting agenda.

028/26 Local Community

- a) Asset of Community value.

This item was covered under the agenda item 028/26 a)

- b) Defibrillators.

This item was covered under the agenda item 028/26 b)

- c) Update on twinning town. This item was deferred. To go on March meeting agenda.

- d) Update on benches repairs (Nelson Seat, Ringwould dump).

The contractor has been working on the benches repairs and maintenance, however wet weather has delayed some of the works.

- e) Update on new dog bin on Ringwould Green. There is a spare bin that can be used to replace the old broken one. The Contractor to look into the installation options.



- f) Dog bin at bottom of Kingsdown Hill. Cllr Hermer agreed to speak to the person who had reported the issue about the location of the bin.

029/26 Verbal Reports by District and County Councillors
DDC member Oliver Ricardson reported on the following:

LOCAL ISSUES

1. BOAT PLOTS

The fees and charges for the forthcoming financial year were voted on and passed at Council on 28th January. We noted that the boat plots were being increased from £308 to £500 in order to bring them in line with the rest of the District and requested the responsible Portfolio Holder to stage the increase over two years but she declined to do so.

2. PLANNING APPLICATION AT RAYS BOTTOM

We are fully aware of the objections to this application particularly in the light of the probably negative impact that the increasing traffic will have on traffic going between Walmer and Kingsdown. We have been in contact with a District Councillor for Walmer, Cllr Chris Vinson, and we have agreed to work together on this issue. He has had several discussions with the planning officer and much will depend on the response from KCC Highways to the current consultation which will end this month.

3. PLANNING APPLICATION AT RINGWOULD RD

Martin has agreed to speak at Planning Committee in support of the resident's concerns over the developer's proposals. A date for its appearance at Committee is still awaited.

NEWS FROM DDC

1. DDC WEBSITE – CAR PARKING

DDC are in the process of revising the dover.gov.uk website to make it easier for to use their online services and find the information they need. This is being done in a phased way, with council tax, benefits and waste the first sections to go live at the end of last year.

DDC have now gone live with the parking pages and intend for this new section to help residents and visitors carry out tasks more easily, such as applying for permits or finding a car park. Please do take a look [Parking - Dover District Council](#)



Going forward, the project team will continue to work with each department to redesign each service's webpages, reviewing and rewriting content, and eventually the whole website will move over to the new look next year. Due to the phased approach, parts of the website will look different to others until the whole site is live. DDC have been communicating this to residents through social media, Keep Me Posted and via notices on the new and existing websites. They have also updated staff so they can reassure residents if they have any concerns about the site looking different. Please can you share any feedback you receive from the public so they can continue to improve the new site.

2. DDC BUDGET

At its meeting on 2nd February, Cabinet agreed to a proposed increase in the district council part of the Council Tax bill for a Band D property for 2026/27 of 2.98% (or £6.57 per year).

The capital programme includes a range of affordable housing developments and regeneration projects across the district. These include major projects like Dover Beacon project and Deal Leisure Centre development. The budget report also notes some budgetary pressures facing the council, including homelessness and inflationary pressures.

Following the meeting, the budget is set to be considered by Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 9 February, and to return to Cabinet on 2 March, before going to the Council Meeting on 4 March. For more details, please see the draft budget report to Cabinet on the [DDC website](#).

3. PAYMENT PARKING BOOKS

Residents can buy daily visitor permit books allowing their guests to park in designated spaces while visiting (where resident parking schemes are in place). This system helps manage parking and ensures visitors to restricted areas have a place to park.

We are changing the way you can buy daily visitor permit books. From Monday 2 February, these will be available to purchase through your online My Permit account. DDC will be keeping a small amount of paper daily visitor books to help with the transition, but these will be gradually phased out. If you have a supply of paper permits, these will still be valid.

For further information, see [visitor permits](#). If you need any help, please contact parking@dover.gov.uk

4. AFTER SCHOOL SPORTS SESSIONS



Sessions were previously held by DDC from June to October 2025, funded by the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), and proved so popular that they are returning. They will again be funded by the PCC and will run through February and March this year.

Delivered by the charity **Uprising Youth and Community** as part of its Hang10 project, the sessions will offer a range of sporting activities. These include football, swing ball, badminton and Panna football skills – and young people attending will also have a say in what they would like to do. The sessions are aimed at 11 to 16-year-olds, but all ages are welcome to join in. There's no need to book – just turn up. Activities will take place on the grassed areas at Pencester Gardens. They begin on Wednesday, 4 February, from 3:30pm to 5:30pm, and will run every Wednesday until 25 March, with an additional session on Monday 16 February during half term. A full list of dates is available at www.dover.gov.uk/pencester-sport-session

5. LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION UPDATE

Government ministers launched a consultation on 5 February about the future number of councils in Kent and Medway and the areas they should cover.

They want to hear your views on the biggest proposed shake up of local government in 50 years.

Ministers asked councils to come up with plans to create unitary councils in a process known as local government reorganisation (LGR). Under the current system Kent County Council (KCC) delivers some services such as education, social services and roads, and district or borough councils deliver others like emptying your bins and providing housing services. Under the proposed system, a much smaller number of unitary councils would deliver all council services in one area. Medway Council operates in that way today. Councils across Kent and Medway have worked together to draw up a series of options for the number of unitaries needed and what areas they should cover.

To take part in the government's consultation, visit [Proposals for local government reorganisation in Kent and Medway](#). Councils may also contact residents and other organisations to explain why they think their preferred option should be chosen by the government. Once the consultation closes, the civil servants and ministers will consider everyone's responses alongside the evidence that has been presented to them. A decision on which option ministers have chosen is likely to be announced in the summer.

The deadline for responses is 11.59pm on Thursday 26 March 2026.

6. REACH AWARDS

Dover District Council has launched the fifth year of its well-established REACH Awards scheme, celebrating the outstanding environmental and community contributions made across the district. The REACH Awards (Recognising Environmental and Community Heroes) shine a spotlight on the individuals, groups, and organisations whose ongoing efforts help enhance the appearance of the



district, protect the environment, and nurture the local community spirit. This year's programme features four award categories, each designed to highlight the wide range of work taking place locally. The scheme recognises dedicated volunteers and community projects, as well as organisations that are placing sustainability at the heart of what they do.

Award categories for 2026

- Litter Picker of the Year (over 18)
- Junior Litter Picker of the Year (under 18)
- Community Project of the Year
- Green Organisation of the Year

Entry is free, and nominations are welcome from individuals, groups, or those wishing to put someone forward.

For further information please read the [full press release](#)

Cllr Porter from KCC read her report with highlights on:

- i) KCC Draft Budget
- ii) Council Tax Increases
- iii) Kent Highways Problems
- iv) KCC Policy on Union and St George Flags

030/26 Finance

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

To	Reason	Gross amount	How paid	Vat
A Nigol	Clerks wages January	1029.04	BACS	0.00
A Nigol	January expenses	148.97	BACS	0.00
HMRC	PAYE/NIC	128.15	BACS	0.00
J Harrison	Invoice 1255	285.00	BACS	0.00
J Harrison	Invoice 1254	1370.30	BACS	0.00
Croner	HR contract	141.73	DD	22.52



L Morris	Emergency Tree works A258	5850.00	BACS	0.00
Omega Traffic Services	Traffic control management A258 2 days	1703.00	BACS	273.00
Ringwould Village Hall	Hall hire	28.00	BACS	0.00
Smith of Derby	Sr Nicholas Church Clock maintenance	357.60	BACS	0.00
D Pinkney	5 Bells defib pads	64.80	BACS	0.00
KALC	CiLCA training 2026	360.00	BACS	60.00

January income:

Field rent: 72.00

b) To note reconciliation for January. The reconciliation for January was noted.

031/26 Planning

a) Noted:

- 1) CON/25/00299/C Pumping Station At Junction With Ringwould Road Kingsdown. Discharge of condition 3 (archaeology) pursuant to application 25/00299 Change of use of agricultural land to provide an extension to the existing pumping station to include, switchgear kiosk, installation of a new nitrate removal plant, brine waste and salt saturator tanks with bund/fencing, 3m security fencing, relocation of site gate and existing access road to be widened. Condition approved.

b) To note the applications as listed, consider, and agree any comments to be sent to the District Council.

None.

032/26 Management of Trees & Woodland

- i) The next steps for the Butts in Ringwould. The intention was to pollard the trees but on starting work the tree surgeon found that the elm trees all had Dutch Elm disease and since these were all at risk of falling across the footpath or A258 the tree surgeon had a duty of care to completely fell them. There were also some completely dead ash trees that had to be removed. The Parish Council has many native trees which Parish Council can now plant to replenish the Butts. The Learning opportunities centre is keen to plant some too.



- ii) To discuss tree surveyor options. Cllr Hogben and Cllr Caplin to meet tree surveyor to have a walk around and report it back to the Council.

033/26 Allotments

- i) Update from Cllr Bremner.
One small plot available at the moment.
The Compost heap needs pushing back. Clerk to follow up with contractor.
- ii) Parking plans on Drove way. Clerk to follow up with EZ-Plan.

034/26 Playing Fields

- i) Update on urgent repair works on the Ringwould play areas. The contractor has the list of repair works and improvements that need doing. To go on March meeting agenda.
- ii) Update on gate repair in Kingsdown. This item was deferred.

035/26 Highways Improvement Plan

- i) Update from Cllr Hansom. The Highways Improvement team meeting took place. Both Clerk and Cllr Hansom attended, also KCC Councillor Porter. Two main issues were discussed: Kingsdown: Speeding issues especially in the Rise and Upper Street and at all entrances to the village. KCC to consider: 20 mph Roundels at village entrances on Glen Road and Ringwould Road and beside existing 20mph repeaters, two on Undercliffe Road and one on Oldstairs Road.
- ii) Ringwould: Speeding issues in Ringwould which is used as a shortcut if the A258 is congested. KCC to consider: 20mph speed limit for entire village with signage at all 5 entrances. It's now under review with KCC Highways.

036/26 Parcel locker update

This item was deferred.

037/26 Ringwould Village Hall update

This item was deferred.

038/26 Update on the Neighbourhood Plan

DDC had sent back their comments and there has been a few working group meetings to discuss these comments and to work through them.

038/26 Matters of General Interest

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

Next meeting Cllr Hermer would like to discuss the boat plots management.

039/26 To agree date of next meeting- 9th March 19:00 in Ringwould Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 20:45

A Nigol
Parish Clerk