



**MINUTES OF THE ABOVE PARISH COUNCIL MONTHLY MEETING HELD IN RINGWOULD VILLAGE HALL  
14<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2026 AT 7:00 PM.**

**057/26 To record those present and accept any apologies**

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

**058/26 To Note any Declarations Pecuniary Interest (DPI), Other Significant Interests (OSI) or any Voluntary Interests**

Cllr Wilson declared an interest in agenda item 063/26 a) Finance.

**059/26 To approve the following minutes:**

- a. Ordinary Meeting 9<sup>TH</sup> March 2026  
The minutes were proposed as a true record of the meeting by Cllr Hogben seconded by Cllr Bremner and all members voted in favour.

**060/26 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.)

None.

**061/26 Local Community**

- a) Defibrillators update. The contractor had installed new defibrillator in Kingsdown. A new defibrillator opposite the Five Bells will be installed in coming days.
- b) Update on benches repairs (Nelson Seat, Kingsdown dump).  
Cllr Wilson agreed to clean Nelson Seat in Ringwoud and the contractor is fixing the bench near Kingsdown dump.
- c) Update on new dog bin on Ringwoud Green. A new dog bin has been replaced by normal waste bin by DDC.
- d) Dog bin at bottom of Kingsdown Hill. Cllr Hogben contacted one of the landowners who doesn't want a dog bin to be installed on their land. There is a land nearby, owned by some one else. Cllr Hogben agreed to make more enquiries.
- e) The Boat plots management. This item was deferred.
- f) Overgrown footpath by the Lychgate in Ringwoud. A member of the public had reported overgrown footpath by the Lychgate in Ringwoud. Clerk to inform KCC PROW.

**062/26 Verbal Reports by District and County Councillors**  
**DDC member Oliver Richardson reported on the following:**

**LOCAL ISSUES**

Minutes 14.04.2026



## 1. PLANNING APPLICATION AT RAYS BOTTOM

A memo on the website from KCC Highways seems to indicate they are far from satisfied and have requested more information. DDC Planning are waiting on the applicant's response to the latest KCC letter. Cllr Vinson, the ward member for Walmer, is due to meet with the case officer and the Planning, Policy and Projects Manager in the next couple of weeks to discuss wider policy compliance considerations around the major junctions.

## 2. PLANNING APPLICATION AT RINGWOULD RD

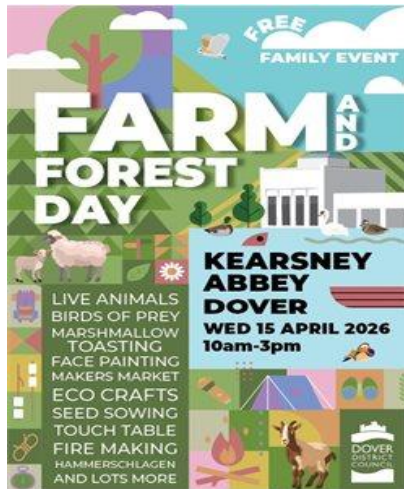
The application went ahead at Planning Committee on 26<sup>th</sup> March and we were unfortunate in not having it turned down. We tried our best and I am sorry that we were unsuccessful.

## NEWS FROM DDC

### 1. PRIDE IN PLACE PROGRAMME

The Pride in Place Programme is the Government's flagship communities' initiative, designed to empower local people to shape the future of their neighbourhoods. Backed by up to £5 billion over 10 years, it represents a long-term commitment to strengthening the foundations of communities across the country. Buckland and St Radigunds have been selected to receive up to £20 million over the next decade. The programme places residents at the heart of decision-making, ensuring investment is directed towards the projects and priorities that matter most locally. Decisions will be made by a Neighbourhood Board in consultation with the community, supported by DDC, Dover MP Mike Tapp and central government. Pride in Place will provide long-term investment, strengthen local connections and shared spaces, and give communities a stronger voice in shaping their future.

### 2. FAMILY DAY AT KEARSNEY ABBEY ON 15<sup>TH</sup> APRIL



A free fun-packed day for all the family is on the way at Kearsney Abbey - with a Farm and Forest Day at the park from 10am-3pm on Wednesday 15 April.

The event includes the chance to see farm animals, watch birds of prey flying displays, enjoy a variety of eco crafts, and take part in a whole range of environmentally themed activities. There will also be the chance to meet and find out more about DDC community services and a range of community partners.



There will be a free park and ride set up for the day, with parking at Athletic Ground, and a free shuttle bus service running between Dover Club and Kearsney Abbey.

FARM & FOREST DAY	
FREE SHUTTLE BUS	
TIMETABLE	
Dover Rugby Club Departures	Kearsney Abbey Departures
10:00	10:00
10:20	10:30
10:40	10:50
11:00	
Driver break at Kearsney	
11:40	11:55
12:00	12:10
12:20	12:30
12:40	12:50
13:00	-
Driver break at Kearsney	
-	13:40
13:45	13:50
14:00	14:00
14:20	14:30
14:40	15:00

Crabble Rugby

### 3. MAISON DIEU AWARDS

The Maison Dieu (Dover Town Hall) has been awarded a 2026 Civic Trust Award and an Architects Accredited in Building Conservation (AABC) Conservation Award.

The building was one of six south east finalists among 77 nationwide for the Civic Trust Award. The award recognises projects 'that make an outstanding contribution to the quality and appearance of the built environment, and demonstrate excellence in architecture or design, whilst being sustainable, accessible and provide a positive civic contribution.' The Maison Dieu was also one of three south east finalists for the AABC Conservation Awards. Established in 2014, these awards celebrate projects that demonstrate the highest standards of historic building conservation.

The Judges' comment described the Maison Dieu as: "The most wonderful renovation of an ancient building. At every level, this is a hugely successful project."





## 4. PLANNING COMMITTEE REFORM

### What is This About?

The Government has launched a 4-week statutory consultation on proposed changes to how planning committees work across England. It was published on 26 March 2026 and closes at 11:59pm on 23 April 2026.

The consultation follows the Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025 and sets out draft regulations and guidance. It covers two main areas: which planning applications must be delegated to officers and which can go to a planning committee, and the maximum size of planning committees.

Mandatory training for committee members was consulted on earlier in 2025. The Government will bring forward further detail on that once the delegation and committee size reforms are in place. The target is for the new regulations to be in force by the end of September 2026.

### Consultation Documents and Online Survey

The full consultation document is on GOV.UK:

[Planning Committee Reform: Statutory Consultation on Draft Regulations and Guidance](#)

You can respond online - the Government's preferred route - here:

[Complete the Online Survey](#)

Or email your response to: [planningcommittees@communities.gov.uk](mailto:planningcommittees@communities.gov.uk)

Written responses should be addressed to: Planning Development Management, Fry Building, 2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 4DF

### Key Changes Proposed

#### 1. A National Scheme of Delegation

At present, each council decides locally which planning applications go to committee and which are handled by officers. The Government is replacing this with a single national system applying to all councils in England. It is split into two tiers - Schedule 1 (always delegated to officers) and Schedule 2 (can go to committee subject to a gateway test).

#### Schedule 1 (Tier A) - Always Dealt with by Officers

These are routine or minor applications which must in all circumstances be handled by planning officers and cannot go to committee. They include:

- Household extensions and alterations
- Minor residential developments and minor commercial development
- Reserved matters applications (except for phased outline permissions - see below)
- Prior approvals and Lawful Development Certificates



- Discharge of planning conditions
- Non-material amendments

### **Schedule 2 (Tier B) - Officer Decision Unless the Gateway Test is Passed**

Larger or more significant applications sit in Schedule 2. They are dealt with by officers by default. They can only go to committee if the nominated planning officer and the nominated committee member both agree that the application raises one or more of the following:

- Issues of economic, social or environmental significance to the local area
- A significant planning matter having regard to the development plan and any other material consideration

Importantly, applications in accordance with site allocations in a local plan should not normally be referred to committee - the principle of that development has already been established through the plan. The volume of objections received is no longer a valid reason to send a case to committee.

Schedule 2 applications include:

- Major residential and commercial applications not in Schedule 1
- Reserved matters applications on phased outline permissions (see below)
- Variations of existing permissions (Section 73 applications)
- Listed building consents and Tree Preservation Order consents
- Applications made by the council itself, or by councillors or officers
- Mineral and waste applications (relevant to Kent County Council)

### **A Note on Phased Reserved Matters Applications**

One change from the original 2025 consultation is how reserved matters applications on large phased developments are treated. Previously the proposal was that all reserved matters would always be delegated to officers.

The Government now proposes that where a development is carried out in phases over many years, the reserved matters applications for individual phases could in some circumstances justify committee scrutiny, given the scale and long-term impact involved. These applications therefore sit in Schedule 2, meaning they would normally be delegated but could go to committee if the gateway test is met.

The consultation asks whether this approach is right, or whether there should be a size threshold to determine which phased reserved matters applications can be considered by committee.

## **2. Size of Planning Committees**

The regulations propose that a planning committee discharging Schedule 2 functions is capped at 13 members. This is slightly higher than the maximum of 11 discussed in earlier proposals, with the change reflecting practical concerns raised about councils with a wide range of political representation.

The consultation asks for views on the drafting and whether this approach will work effectively in practice.

## **3. Mandatory Training - Coming Later**

Mandatory training and certification for planning committee members was part of the 2025 consultation. The Government received a range of views and will continue to develop this following the implementation of the delegation and committee size reforms. It is not part of this current consultation.



### How Parish Councils Can Get Involved

Parish Councils have a voice in this process. If your council has views on how planning decisions should be made locally, this is the opportunity to set them out. The closing date is 23 April 2026.

The Government strongly encourages online responses, particularly from organisations and public bodies.

Respond online: <https://consult.communities.gov.uk/planning/planning-committee-reforms-statutory-consultation/>

Or email: [planningcommittees@communities.gov.uk](mailto:planningcommittees@communities.gov.uk)

If your Parish Council would like to discuss this further before responding, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me directly.

### Cllr Porter from KCC read her report with highlights on:

Kent's East Coast Marmot Region Leader of KCC, Linden Kemkaren announced the UK's first Marmot Coastal Region where young people, not in education or training will be supported, as a landmark programme to end the postcode lottery affecting health and life chances for East Kent Coastal communities. KCC aims in the Marmot Coastal Region to support 200 more young people not in education or training into jobs. Help 100 residents with additional disadvantages, including care leavers, carers and people with mental ill health into employment. Enable 150 more people on probation to access education and work by 2028.

Marmot Places bring together government, councils, charities and community groups Kent's Marmot Coastal Region stretches from Swale to Folkestone and Hythe and includes Canterbury, Thanet, Dover and Ashford. Director of Public Health at KCC, Anjan Ghosh said "Reports, including from the chief Medical Officer, have highlighted the severe impact of health inequalities on coastal communities. Life expectancy in coastal areas, on average is 2.1 years lower, with even larger gaps in places such as central Margate, where men live seven years less than those in Tunbridge Wells" Higher rates of lung cancer, chronic respiratory disease and liver disease are main drivers in the life expectancy gap. Higher pupil absence, lower GCSE attainment is 9% below inland areas and 50% more unemployment benefit claims than inland areas.

Kent Food Waste Recycling Food waste recycling is skyrocketing across Kent saving £75,000 in disposal costs in just 1 month. Food waste produces high quality fertiliser for Kent farms and helps generate energy that powers homes. Redirecting this material from the county's Energy from Waste plant which turns nonrecyclable waste into energy helps to reduce costs. Food is the largest component of household rubbish in Kent, making up 28% of everything thrown away. Separating food waste often makes avoidable waste more visible helping to reduce unnecessary purchases and saving money.

Proposed Changes to Public Rights of Way Statement of Priority KCC is inviting residents and other stakeholders to share their views on proposed changes to its statement of Priorities, which sets out how the Council prioritises Section 53 applications to Public Rights of Way. The Definitive Map and Statement (DMS) is the legal recording of Public Rights of Way Section 53 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and places a legal duty on KCC, as the Surveying Authority to keep the DMS under continuous review. Under Section 53 anyone can apply to KCC to amend the DMS. KCC has a duty to investigate and determine every application it receives in accordance with its Statement of Priorities. Over recent years KCC has seen a substantial rise in applications, particularly those based on historic documentary evidence. This has resulted in a significant increase in the backlog for allocating applications. To address this KCC is proposing to prioritise user based applications (those based on proof that a path has been used for at least 20 years) This means taking them out of submission order so that every historic based application allocated, one user based application would be allocated.



## 063/26 Finance

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

To	Reason	Gross amount	How paid	Vat
A Nigol	Clerks wages March	1048.25	BACS	0.00
A Nigol	March expenses	106.00	BACS	0.00
HMRC	PAYE/NIC	134.68	BACS	0.00
S Wilson	Cllr expenses (mileage and parking)	19.90	BACS	0.00
The National Allotment Society	Annual membership	84.00	BACS	14.00
Rialtas	Alpha accounting software annual fee	252.00	BACS	42.00
Ringwold Village Hall	Hall hire February	28.00	BACS	0.00
Ringwold Village Hall	Hall Hire March	28.00	BACS	0.00
J Harrison	Mowing April invoice 1264	693.75	BACS	0.00
J Harrison	Invoice 1265 defib base Ringwold	210.00	BACS	0.00
J Harrison	Invoice 1264 Wellington parade, No Name rd.	1020.00	BACS	0.00
J Harrison	Invoice 1267	936.00	BACS	0.00
SLCC	Qualification fee (CILCA England)	495.00	BACS	0.00
KALC	Annual subscription	1291.73	BACS	215.29
Forvis Mazars	2025 audit fee	378.00	BACS	63.00
Croner	Monthly HR fee	141.73	DD	22.52

March income: Field rent: 90.00; Allotments: 145.41; Logs: 100.00; HMRC VAT return 3401.41;

UK Power Networks: 108.42 Total: 3845.24



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

#### **064/26 Review of council policies and procedures**

This item was deferred. To go on May meeting agenda.

#### **065/26 Planning**

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

26/00124 Trafalgar Cottage North Road Kingsdown Deal CT14 8AG

Erection of single storey rear/side extensions and bike store, replacement doors, widen vehicular access and paint boundary wall white. Planning permission granted. Noted.

25/01274 New House Front Street Ringwould CT14 8HP Erection of 2 dwellings with associated access and parking (existing dwelling and garage demolished) Planning permission granted. Noted

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

26/00220 Ringwould House, Church Lane, Ringwould, Deal. Structural repairs to central lantern roof structure including the introduction of new steel supports internally. Repairs and part replacement of internal lantern first floor ceiling including introduction of cornice detailing. No comments.

- c) Planning – to discuss possible complaint against DDC for the way our comments were made too abridged and meaningless in the planning officers report re 25/00112 - Woodhill Farm development.

The Parish Council agreed to send a letter to DDC Planning. Cllr Hogben agreed to prepare a draft letter and circulate it to the Councillors.

#### **066/26 Management of Trees & Woodland**

- i) The next steps for the Butts in Ringwould.  
The newly planted saplings need watering.
- ii) Update on tree surveyor. Tree Surveyor starts Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April. Cllr Wilson agreed to assist during the survey on Hangmans Lane.

#### **067/26 Allotments**

- i) Update from Cllr Bremner. There were no significant updates.
- ii) Parking plans on Droveaway. The Parish Council had reached out to a potential contractor, however due to a busy work load the contractor couldn't take this project on.



#### **068/26 Playing Fields**

- i) Update on urgent repair works on the Ringwold play areas. The contractor has been working and fixing the items that were vandalised. Clerk had reported to police about the recent antisocial behaviours and asked for possible extra patrols.
- ii) Update on gate repair in Kingsdown. This item was deferred.

#### **069/26 Highways Improvement Plan**

- i) Update on 20mph survey in Ringwold.  
It was agreed that the survey starts w/c 13<sup>th</sup> April. There will be door to door survey taking place in Ringwold and it was agreed that residents can drop their survey to Five Bells. Cllr Bremner agreed to post information about the survey on social media. Cllr Hansom agreed to write a report after the survey is completed, which then will be presented to KCC Highways.

#### **070/26 Parcel locker update**

The Parcel locker original location will now not be suitable and will have to be installed on the other side of the hall where the car park is.

#### **071/26 Ringwold Village Hall update**

There were no significant updates from the Village Hall.

#### **072/26 Neighbourhood Development Plan**

- i) To review and approve a letter to landowners regarding Local Green Spaces. To review and approve the NDP "to do" list – aspirational but much of it involves the Parish Council

Cllr Hogben had circulated the NDP "to do list" and a draft letter to be sent to the landowners regarding the green open spaces. To approve the letter and "to do list" was proposed by Cllr Hogben seconded by Cllr Meeke and all members voted in favour.

#### **073/26 Correspondence**

- i) Planning Document for Parishes in Dover North. Noted.
- ii) Police newsletter from PC Bramble. Noted.

#### **074/26 Annual Parish Meeting**

- i) Agree date for Annual Parish Meeting (Tues 19th or 26th May) and update on speakers confirmed. The date has been confirmed 19th May 7:00pm-9:00pm in Ringwold Village Hall. Speakers confirmed DDC Councillors, KCC Councillor, a member of the public to talk about defibrillators.
- ii) Agree spend of up to £75 on refreshments for Annual Parish Meeting. To spend up to £75 on refreshments for Annual Parish Meeting was proposed by Cllr Hogben seconded by Cllr Selwyn and all members voted on favour.

#### **075/26 Matters of General Interest**



A member of the public had contacted the Parish Council with the request if the Parish Council would consider the installation of signs at Oldstairs alerting drivers that engine idling is illegal and polluting. The Parish Council to investigate with KCC Highways if such installation could be possible.

**076/26 To agree date of next meeting-** Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 12th May with starts at 6:45PM followed by the monthly meeting at 7.00 pm in Ringwould Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 21:00

A Nigol  
Parish Clerk