



**MINUTES OF THE ABOVE PARISH COUNCIL MONTHLY MEETING HELD IN RINGWOULD VILLAGE HALL
12TH MAY 2026 AT 7:00 PM.**

077/26 To record those present and accept any apologies

Present were Cllr Hogben (Chair), Cllr Wilson, Cllr Selwyn, Cllr Bremner, Cllr Hermer, Cllr Meeke, Cllr Hansom, Cllr Caplin, DDC Councillor Bates, DDC Councillor Richardson 4 members of the public and Parish Clerk. Apologies received from KCC Councillor Porter.

078/26 To Note any Declarations Pecuniary Interest (DPI), Other Significant Interests (OSI) or any Voluntary Interests.

Cllr Selwyn declared an interest in item 093/26 i)

079/26 To approve the following minutes:

- a. Ordinary Meeting 14TH April 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. Clerk to correct the minutes as KCC member Cllr Porter did not attend April meeting.

080/26 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.)

A member of the public had requested to speak about the Habitat Management Volunteers.

He would like the parish council to approve establishing a team of Habitat Management Volunteers, with regular sessions with the aim of improving the biodiversity of land owned by the parish council and he would be willing to take the lead in setting this up.

Let me start with my experience which has led to me making this proposal today.

I have participated on the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee focusing on natural environment policies, with the Chair, Sharon Hogben, and volunteered in the parish on tree planting and aftercare in Freedown Woods. Also, I have been a regular habitat management volunteer at Hawkshill Down, Walmer for 18 months. I have completed a 3 day habitat management course with Green Angels, an environmental charity, at Fort Burgoyne and regularly volunteer with White Cliffs Countryside Partnership at Walmer and Kingsdown Beach and South Foreland.

Hawkshill Down is owned and managed by Walmer Town Council, with the majority of the habitat management activity carried out by the volunteers. I see an opportunity to take a similar approach, with regular habitat management volunteer sessions, to improve the biodiversity of land owned by Rwk Parish Council. Possibly, in the future, with interest from private landowners, on other land in the parish. From discussions, I believe we could establish a group with 3-12 volunteers at each session, similar to Hawkshill Down.

I am happy to take the lead in setting up monthly working groups through the summer to work on habitat maintenance, with the volunteers providing their own tools. Initially, tasks would include watering and removal of weeds from newly planted trees, together with maintaining woodland glades. I would suggest Freedown Woods, The Lynch and Ringwould Butts as the initial locations. We would be guided by [The Lynch and Freedown Woods – 5 Year Management Plan](#) produced by Kent Wildlife Trust, I think in 2015/8. This would help confirm the availability of volunteers before requesting any expenditure by the Parish Council.



The frequency of volunteer sessions would be increased from October, outside the bird nesting season, with the increased scope for habitat management activities, particularly in woodland. The management plan would be reviewed, based on the experience over the summer and details of tools required would be submitted to the Parish Council for approval. Additional habitat surveys may be recommended and I have had initial discussions with White Cliffs Countryside Partnership on their availability to support this.

I would appreciate the Parish Council considering this request and approving the initial phase of monthly habitat maintenance volunteer sessions from June to September this year.
Clerk to check the Parish Council insurance policy.

081/26 Local Community

- a) Update on benches repairs (Nelson Seat, Kingsdown dump). These have been cleaned and repaired.
- b) Dog bin for the track to St Margarets. Location ///hoops.living.fairway Cllr Hogben is still trying to identify the ownership of the land.

082/26 Verbal Reports by District and County Councillors **DDC member Oliver Richardson reported on the following:**

LOCAL ISSUES

PLANNING APPLICATION AT RAYS BOTTOM

There is no news to report on this application at present. Consideration by Planning remains ongoing.

NEWS FROM DDC

1). REACH (Recognising Environmental and Community Heroes) AWARDS

DDC hosted a prize giving ceremony on Saturday 25 April in the Billiards Room at Kearsney Abbey, to reward some of our community's local environmental heroes. The REACH Awards recognise our district's unsung heroes who work hard to improve the appearance of the Dover District, helping to maintain our environment and unite the local community. They are supported by Veolia, DDC's waste management contractor. Split into four different categories, the scheme acknowledges those individuals and groups who work tirelessly to make a difference, as well as local businesses and schools who are putting the environment at the top of their agenda. The awards were free to enter, and candidates could nominate themselves or be nominated by others across four categories. Many worthy entries were received for the panel of judges at DDC to review, and the winners in each category were:

- Community Project of the Year Award – Branching Out, Temple Ewell
- Green Organisation of the Year Award – Sandown School, Deal
- Litter Picker of the Year (over 18 category) – Sue and Alan Smith, Dover
- Junior Litter Picker of the Year (under 18 category) – Nevaeh McKeown



2). COMMUNITY GRANT SCHEME

Local community groups looking for funding are being invited to apply to Dover District Council's Community Grants Scheme which opened on Monday, 27th April.

The popular grants scheme is set to provide £50,000 in a summer round of funding to help local community groups deliver vital projects for the area. This will be followed by another round of funding in the winter months, when a further £50,000 will be available for local groups.

Community groups that benefit the local area can apply for grants of between £100-£2,500 in this latest round of funding. The deadline for applications is 12 noon on Tuesday 26 May 2026.

The scheme encourages and supports community-led activities that result in a direct community benefit for Dover District residents. Terms and conditions can be found on the DDC website.

083/26 Finance

- a. To agree payments to be made and ratify those that are completed.

To approve the payment schedule for May 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 April	1124.29	BACS	0.00
A Nigol	March expenses	106.51	BACS	0.00
HMRC	PAYE/NIC	316.63	BACS	0.00
Ringwold Village Hall	Hall hire April	28.00	BACS	0.00
J Harrison	Mowing May invoice 1273	693.75	BACS	0.00
J Harrison	Invoice 1274	1755.72	BACS	0.00
Invicta Arboriculture	IA26/1205	1140.00	BACS	0.00
Hopkins	Ringwold defib 260416RP	2310.00	BACS	385.00
Castle Water	April water	34.43	DD	0.00
Croner	Monthly HR fee	141.73	DD	22.52

April income: Field rent: 72.00; DDC Precept 62,970

Total: 63,042



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

084/26 Review of council policies and procedures

The Clerk had circulated the policies prior to the meeting. The Council reviewed the policies and agreed to continue with the current policies. Clerk to update the policies review dates on the website.

085/26 Planning

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

CON/25/00374/A 6 Jarvist Place Kingsdown Deal Kent CT14 8AL Discharge of condition 10 (tree information), condition 11 (biodiversity enhancement) pursuant to application 25/00374 Erection of a dwelling (self-build) Condition approved. Noted.

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

26/00327 relating to Kingsdown Place, Upper Street, Kingsdown, CT14 8EU G1-3 X Holm oaks to reduce by 2m in height and spread T1 - Beech to deadwood and remove crossing branches and any branches showing signs of dysfunction. No comment.

086/26 Management of Trees & Woodland

- i) Update on tree surveyor report. Clerk had circulated the report prior to the meeting. Clerk to get tree quotes for the tree works to be carried out in Kingsdown butts. Clerk to confirm the cost for the tree surveyor's re-visit cost.

087/26 Allotments

- i) Update from Cllr Bremner. Currently one allotment plot available.

088/26 Playing Fields

- i) Update on urgent repair works on the Ringwould play areas. The contractor had sent a list of works that had been carried out. Clerk to circulate the list to the Councillors.
ii) Update on gate repair in Kingsdown. This item was deferred.

089/26 Highways Improvement Plan

- i) Update on 20mph survey in Ringwould. Cllr Hansom gave an update on the meeting with Highways Improvement team and shared the recent details of the Ringwould 20mph traffic survey.

090/26 Parcel locker update. No update, off the agenda until more information.

091/26 Ringwould Village Hall update. No update.

092/26 Neighbourhood Development Plan. This item was deferred.

093/26 Correspondence

- i) Email from a local resident regarding the fly tipping on No Name Road. Cllr Hermer agreed to visit and speak to the local resident. To go on June meeting agenda.

094/26 Annual Parish Meeting 19th May

- i) Update on speakers confirmed. So far confirmed speakers are Mr. Pinkley (Defibrillators), Ringwould Village Hall, Kingsdown Village Hall, Kingsdown Community Hub, DDC Councillors.

095/26 Matters of General Interest

Signs in Kingsdown regarding idling. Cllr Hogben to investigate and contact the landowner.

096/26 To agree date of next meeting- Annual Parish Meeting on 19th May at 7:00 PM



097/26 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