

Cliffsend Parish Council

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Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Held on Wednesday 21st January 2026 at 7.00pm in Cliffsend Village Hall

Present - Councillors: Chapman (Chair), Davis, Harrison, Rogers, Birchall, Mole.
Alison Willoughby-Browne (Clerk), Natasha Pooley, PC Howe and 7 members of the public.

45/25-26 Welcome and apologies for absence -

Cllr Chapman welcomed those present. CCllr Shonk had conveyed his apologies.

46/25-26 Declarations of interest and co-option of new Councillor -

No interests declared. Cllrs had met with Mrs Natasha Pooley informally, unanimous approval for her co-option.

Resolved: Natasha Pooley was co-opted as a Parish Councillor, she read and signed the declaration of acceptance, countersigned by Clerk (Proper Officer).

47/25-26 Adoption of the minutes of 19th November 2025 as being a true record -

Resolved: version 3 of the amended minutes were approved and signed as a true and accurate record.

48/25-26 Matters arising from the above minutes -

Planning inspector dismissed the appeal for the building of 200 houses in Cottington Road, mainly due to the effect of development on character and appearance of the area, including its effects on the significance of a designated heritage site - St Augustine's Cross - and the landscape. Chair thanked Cllrs Rogers and Davis who attended the inquiry and spoke on behalf of Cliffsend.

Chair asked County Cllr about Richborough household waste recycling centre. Cllr Mole reported that no services being cut at the moment. Cllr Mole explained about a new initiative where unwanted furniture is stored in a warehouse for others to come and buy.

49/25-26 Reports -

County Councillor – Cllr Mole; KCC budget – 3.99% increase, 1% less than expected. Saving money by making more efficient, extra money from Govt didn't extend to adult social services, will bring services back in-house. Reviewing contracts; show at Detling where smaller companies local to Kent can find out more about working for council. Hubs are being set up to save costs. Cllr Mole had made enquiries about a lorry coming through the village - not Thanet Grab Hire or APC, may have been privately contracted. Also spoken with Police and Highways dept re' speeding. A299 Thanet Way; National Highways had been approached to adopt the road, but won't take on and repair, so limit will remain at 50mph.

District Councillor – Cllr Rogers had reported problems with Viking ship cover, TDC said water wasn't going in so nothing was done, with high winds they had another look and it has been taped. New cover intended. Reported potholes Foads Hill, Cllr Mole reminded attendees of the online reporting tool on KCC website (www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-or-track-a-problem-on-the-road-or-pavement). Extremely pleased about Cottington Road outcome, not only historical aspect but traffic and roads as well. Cllr Davis suggested a coordinated approach in village to survey each road for potholes. Please contact if you would like to get involved.

Police Officer – PC Howe discussed stats from start of January, most significant criminal offence in Cliffsend - theft from a motor vehicle. Early hours of 3rd January – two males trying car doors, four units attended and dog unit, unfortunately, lost them around St Augustine’s. Please do report any crime; if in progress telephone 999, otherwise 101. Video doorbell footage very useful and increases security, do make sure batteries are OK.

Multiple speed checks and enforcement carried out Sandwich Road/Canterbury Road West and Foads Lane, numerous traffic offence reports (TORs) issued for Sandwich Road and Canterbury Road West, which are then judged by a panel as to whether to issue a ticket. 100 vehicles checked in Foads Lane, only three exceeded 20mph – all residents – highest speed was 26mph. Stop/start situation gives perception of speed e.g. Foads Hill. Will do further checks at different times of day. Cllr Rogers raised the issue of Hengist Way and the noise of vehicles under bridge. If enough people report then traffic team will look at it, they are trained to deal with such issues and have the necessary equipment. Unfortunately, bikes get away very quickly. Cllr Davis mooted facilitating the installation of video doorbells to homes of less able residents once purchased. PC Howe thanked for his report, and support.

50/25-26 Financial Matters -

Budget Monitoring – 3rd Quarter, combined balance of bank accounts at 31st December 2025 £67,016.90. Cllrs had checked the bank statement against accounts and the current budget was compared with spend-to-date and forecast spend.

All Cllrs had checked the payment schedule with supporting paperwork (circulated electronically). Chair requested Clerk to give 2 weeks notice to Cllrs, instead of current 24 hours, to allow Cllrs proper consideration of the multiple attachments. Clerk declined & said that was not possible. Contractual payments; Clerk’s salary, bought-in services. Quarterly checks and acceptance of payment schedule proposed by Cllr Davis, seconded by Cllr Birchall.

Resolved: the following approved for payment.

Payee	Description	Invoice No	VAT	Ex VAT	Total
Cllr Chapman	Travel & Parking - Inquiries	-	-	21.18	21.18
Cllr Chapman	Travel & Parking - TAC & KALC	-	-	52.95	52.95
Clerk	Parking - Parish Forum	-	-	4.30	4.30
Clerk	Mobile Top-Up	-	-	10.00	10.00
Forvis Mazars LLP	External Audit	2633767	42.00	210.00	252.00
Total for Month			42.00	298.43	340.43

51/25-26 Planning Applications -

Focus as a council tends to be on big housing developments. Consultation on land south of Canterbury Road West for a further 400 houses. Planning application hasn’t gone in, being managed by Richborough - same company that managed application for Cottingham Road - a land promoter, task is to identify sites and secure planning. Scant details supplied, to monitor.

52/25-26 Current Topics -

Parish budget/precept for 2026-2027 - Cllrs met to discuss and agree, for formal adoption at public meeting. Chair explained how precept is calculated, Band D properties being the reference point. Draft Parish Council Tax Base for next financial year = 851.89. 9.99% increase in precept suggested, equivalent to approx. £3.20 per year increase for Band D properties. Budget and precept proposed by Cllr Davis, seconded by Cllr Rogers.

Resolved: approval of budget, and precept request of £29,750.

Marjorie Chapman meadow sign - Cllr Harrison; post has decayed and sign was on the ground, resident took to Cllr Harrison’s home for restoration. New post necessary.

Storage options - Cllr Harrison; too difficult to instal container in Marjorie Chapman meadow. Cllr Davis had discussed with TDC officers the possibility of establishing a trust to look after the Viking ship, project could involve storage facilities and visitor centre.

Purchase of poppy wreath - retrospective - no powers for Parish Council to purchase Remembrance Sunday poppy wreaths.

Resolved: to reimburse Cllr Chapman £25 (Local Government Act 1972, section 137).

Update on Sea Link Project - ongoing, decision will be made by Secretary of State. One of the

concerns within Cliffsend is the intent that National Grid have to use the hoverport site, TDC denied use so a compulsory purchase order has been bolted into the DCO (Development Consent Order). The works area has expanded, we need to be aware of the impact of 1000s of lorry movements off the depot. Also, impact on water supplies due to ground disturbance.

Devolution & Local Government Reform (LGR) - Cllr Birchall; will attend the Parish Forum held at TDC. Important to make sure a good devolution so that communities come out in a stronger position. Cllr Birchall thanked attendees for taking an interest. June time, minister decides how Kent will be structured. Need to look at means of communication to make sure community gets information that they need.

53/25-26 Clerk's Reports -

- Birchington Town Council proposal to share the recently announced Pride in Place funding.
- Asset check necessary before insurance renewal.

54/25-26 Correspondence Received -

- Resident – loud and dangerous driving Manston airfield; advised to contact TDC/RiverOak.
- Lichfields – launch of consultation website re' 400 houses south of Canterbury Road West.
- Resident – concern re' safety of Marjorie Chapman meadow exit onto Cliffsend Road, as no "pedestrian" gate. **Cllrs Chapman and Harrison to meet with resident.**
- Resident – potholes within car park by Jet garage and general untidiness; reported to TDC/KCC, parking area owned by TDC.

55/25-26 Public Questions -

- Resident congratulated Cllr Pooley on co-option. Still two remembrance statues displayed - Cllr Davis explained that waiting for a larger van to transport. Cllr Mole offered help. Cllr Harrison expressed thanks to Bakers Field resident for his help with others, and to person who had re-painted and reinforced display on Canterbury Road West.
- Resident reiterated state of car park next to Jet garage; level of car park and overgrowth, also flood defences. **Cllrs Chapman and Pooley to investigate further.** Cllr Rogers will also assist. Bus shelter light not working again, **Clerk to report.**
- Cllr Harrison asked for anyone who had received a parking fine after parking in a blue badge bay at Thanet Parkway station to contact her. Chair explained that blue badge holders are required to pay for parking at the station and the Clerk's publication on website stating otherwise was incorrect.

Version 3

Meeting concluded at 8.33pm

Date of next meeting - 7pm, Wednesday 18th March 2026