

Eastling Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Churchfields
on 13 January 2026

Present: Cllr Annie Adams, Caroline Gilbert, Cllr Barrie Neaves and Cllr John Payne;
and Mrs Wendy Licence (Clerk).

Cllr Adams **PROPOSED** that Cllr Payne Chair the meeting; **SECONDED** by Cllr Neaves:
AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.

Cllr Payne welcomed everyone to the meeting

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Cllr Julia Bailey (unwell); apology accepted.

2. Declarations of interest

None were declared.

3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held on 11 November 2025

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on
11 November 2025 as a true record. The minutes were duly signed by Cllr Payne.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Cllr Payne reported that Mr Swatland had been paid £210.00 for grounds maintenance.

Councillors agreed that a contractor would be sought to maintain the memorial garden by the
village sign on a regular basis.

Cllr Gilbert reported that Mr Willson has approached the Council to take on responsibility for
the defibrillator. This is approx. twelve years old and it will need to be checked to ensure that
it fulfils the British Heart Foundation guidance and the cabinet will also need to be checked.

Councillors expressed their gratitude to Mr Willson for his maintenance of the defibrillator.

Cllr Gilbert said consideration needs to be given to relocating the defibrillator, there is one at
the school but this is only available during school hours; there would need to be a guardian
appointed; and if the defibrillator needs to be replaced, whether to purchase a new one or
lease one.

Councillors **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** that the Council should replace the defibrillator if
necessary.

5. Public Time

No members of the public were present.

6. Chairman's Report

None

7. Planning Matters

There were none.

8. Finance

i. Finance Report

Cllr Payne reported that there is £15,456 in the bank.

ii. To consider invoices and cheques raised

None.

iii. To consider insurance renewal

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Zurich £241 in respect of insurance renewal, not increase from previous year.

iv. Statement of Internal Control

Having been satisfied that sound protocols were in place, Councillors **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the Statement of Internal Control.

v. To consider budget and set precept for 2026-27

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to set a budget of £5402.

Cllr Neaves **PROPOSED** to set a precept of £5398 and to take the balance from reserves, to keep the precept for Band D property the same at £35: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

vi. To consider grant request from Marie Curie

Councillors considered the request for a grant and agreed that while this was a worthy charity, it did not fulfil the Council's criteria for grants.

9. Highways

Cllr Adams informed Members that she had reported the flooding on the S bends; FixMyStreet would not work as this is a maintenance issue.

Cllr Neaves said a gully needs to be installed.

ACTION: Item for Highways Improvement Plan. Cllr Neaves to meet with Jennie Watson, Kent Highways Community Engagement Team Leader.

Cllr Neaves informed members that he had reported the flytipping at Mill Lane through FixMy Street, no action has been taken and the rubbish has been there for over two months.

ACTION: Clerk to contact SBCllr Thompson.

10. The Carpenters Arms Asset of Community Value

Cllr Adams reported that she had submitted the nomination form; it is a repeat nomination from 2020. Swale Borough Council is requesting evidence of usage and community benefit.

ACTION: Clerk to forward previous submission to Cllr Adams.

11. Correspondence

1. 14.11.25- Swale Borough Council: policy round up
2. 15.11.25- Kent Ramblers: invitation to footpaths volunteers meeting
3. 17.11.25- Swale Borough Council: draft Voluntary and Community Sector Lettings Policy consultation
4. 17.11.25- Swale Borough Council: policy round up
5. 20.11.25- NALC CEO bulletin
6. 27.11.25- NALC CEO bulletin
7. 28.11.25- Swale Borough Council: Joint Transportation Board agenda
8. 28.11.25- KCC Highways: fact sheets
9. 01.12.25- Swale Community and Voluntary Services: Loneliness in Swale: Resident Survey 2025 Report
10. 04.12.25- NALC CEO bulletin

11. 09.12.25- KALC Newsletter
12. 09.12.25- Swale Borough Council: Proposed Traffic Regulation Order consultation- parking tariffs
13. 09.12.25- Swale Borough Council: policy round up
14. 09.12.25- Swale Borough Council: minutes and presentation from Parish Council Liaison Forum
15. 11.12.25- Swale Borough Council: Planning Policy newsletter
16. 11.12.25- NALC CEO bulletin
17. 15.12.25- Swale Borough Council: policy round up
18. 15.12.25- Kent and Medway Resilience Forum project update
19. 18.12.25- NALC CEO bulletin
20. 18.12.25- Swale Borough Council: Community Governance Review consultation
21. 19.12.25- request for voluntary service opportunity
22. 19.12.25- Kent Highways: Road Safety and Active Travel Newsletter
23. 19.12.25- Swale Borough Council: policy round up
24. 05.01.26- Swale Borough Council - bitesize Planning training opportunities for Councillors
25. 06.01.26- Swale Borough Council: policy round up
26. 06.01.26- NALC: letter from Chairman

Cllr Neaves reported that he had attended the Swale Borough Council presentation on community governance review, there was nothing to impact on Eastling.

12. KALC Community Award

Councillors agreed the citation for the certificate.

ACTION: Clerk to submit.

13. Any Other Business

Cllr Adams said the Council has documents stored at the village hall.

ACTION: Clerk to circulate retention details. Cllr Payne and Cllr Adams to review all Parish Council documents with a view to keeping only those that are necessary to keep.

Date of next Meeting: Tuesday 10 March 2026

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.35pm.

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chairman

Date: 10 March 2026