



HORTON KIRBY AND SOUTH DARENTH PARISH COUNCIL
Parish Office, Village Hall, Horton Road, South Darenth DA4 9AZ

4th June 2026

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 1st June 2026 in the
Village Hall, South Darenth at 7.30pm**

Present: Cllr I Blackamore Chair, A White Vice-Chair, , N Gurr, D Hollands, D Mitchell,
T Moyle C Page, D Wakefield

District Cllr L Ball,

Members of the Public: 3 including M Dunn from DRiPS

In Attendance: L Johnson Parish Clerk

24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

26 MINUTES

The Minutes of the last meeting held 11th May 2026 were signed to confirm they are a true and accurate record of the meeting's proceedings.

27 CLERKS REPORT

Clerks Report – *Appendix 1*

Millen Court Management Company – Wier maintenance. Acknowledgement received
01/06/26

Purchase of strip of land from South Darenth Management Company. SDMC Agreed half of
costs to cut back branches.

Community Speedwatch – Clerk to start mid to end of June

28 POLICE MATTERS

Cllr White passed on PC Joey Wetheralls apologies as he had been unable to attend.

29 REPORTS FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr Ball had nothing to report for this Parish.

Cllr White - *Appendix 2*

Including Public Spaces Protection Order, Upcoming road closures for continuation of SGN
gas works, Poor road signage and fly-tipping.

30 REPORT FROM KENT COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Appendix 3

31 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC AND CORRESPONDENCE

There were no questions.

Malcolm Dunn, DRiPS representative, reiterated that the flooding of the public right of way leading to Westminster fields was due to the mis-management of the weir in Millen Court and breach of the river bank further upstream.

Clerk has received acknowledgement from the management company of Millen Court who will be looking into this problem.

Correspondence was received from the resident in Horton Kirby who tends to the wildflower verge at the bottom of School Lane. They were disappointed to see that the verge had been strimmed 1.5m from the road instead of 1m.

Clerk had been contacted from concerned residents that 7.5 tonne lorries had been seen driving along Eglantine Lane, Lombard Street and Forge Lane to access the Solar Farm in Stack Road and avoid the traffic lights on the A225.

Action: Clerk to make enquiries to the management company and request photographic evidence from residents.

Thames Water were seeking feedback on their 'Draft Drought Plan 2027 – Public Consultation'.

Action: Cllr Gurr volunteered to read through and report findings.

32 WEBSITE ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT

The Parish Council's Website Accessibility Statement was received in order to comply with Assertion 10 'Digital and Data Compliance' of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR). Clerk advised that checks on a small portion of the website were still to be carried out. Cllr Wakefield proposed, Cllr White seconded and all were in favour and

Resolved: That upon completion of checks, the statement would be adopted by the Parish Council.

33 INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT FOR APRIL 2025 – MARCH 2026

Councillors had received Mulberry Local Authority Services end of year report and Annual Internal Audit Report page for submission to the external auditor. There were no questions. In summary

"We are pleased to report that overall, the systems and procedures currently in place are appropriate and effective. While this report may include recommendations for improvement, these should not be viewed as indicators of significant deficiencies. Rather, they are intended to support the continued development of what is, in our view, a well-managed and robust governance framework".

34 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Section 1 of the Annual Governance Statement, ending 31st March 2026 was received and approved.

Clerk stated that the Parish Council's website was compliant with the new WCAG2.2AA accessibility standards. However, as the statement had not been approved and posted to the website, Mulberry Auditors must tick the 'no' box, number 10.

35 ACCOUNTANCY STATEMENTS

Section two of the AGAR for the year ending 31st March 2026 was received, approved and signed by the Clerk and Chair.

36 EXERCISE OF PUBLIC RIGHTS

The proposed dates for the Exercise of Public Rights commencing Friday 5th June 2026 to Thursday 16th July 2026 inclusive as advised by Mulberry LAS auditor in conjunction with

the Council's Responsible Financial Officer. Inspection notice to be issued and displayed Thursday 4th June 2026.

37 FINANCIAL MATTERS

Schedule of Payments *Appendix 5*

Clerk advised that in addition to the payments list sent to Councillors Friday 29th May, three more payments had been received. The total amount payable for May was £24,418.47 and was approved for authorisation. There were no questions. Cllrs Mitchell and White to authorise.

38 FIXED ASSET REGISTER

For 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026 was received by full council. The only additions had been village hall blinds and new monitor with cage.

Clerk confirmed to Cllr Gurr that all green spaces, even with a peppercorn price were included.

39 PARISH COUNCIL RISK ASSESSMENT

An updated Risk Assessment had been received by all Councillors with no questions.

40 PLANNING

26/00841/HOUSE

Mulberry Lodge
Holmesdale Road
South Darenth
Kent, DA4 9JP

Demolition of existing garage. Erection of outbuilding comprising of garage at ground floor and ancillary home office at first floor level with roof lights.

Action: No objections, no comment.

41 NEWSLETTER/EVENTS/SOCIAL MEDIA

Social Media – Quad bikes on private property HK reported to Kent Police.

Newsletter – Cllr Mitchell said that she was still willing to compile future Newsletters

Events – Cllr Mitchell requested to re-join the events working group.

The Chair then moved the following motion:

Under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 s1(2), press and public will be excluded as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted; to consider commercial interest of parish council owned property.

42 ROS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation from the ROS committee was received and discussed. It was agreed that the future use of Parish Council owned building should be explored further, including advise from professional bodies in order to be legally compliant and transparent.

43 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 6th July 2026

The meeting concluded at 8.25pm

Chair: _____

Date: _____