A Meeting of the Parish Council was held at The Memorial Hall, The Street, Frittenden on Tuesday 1st September 2026 at 7.30pm.

Present were: Cllr R Vernon
Cllr A Staples
Cllr S Murray
Cllr L Gosbee
Cllr M Viviers
Cllr J Tuke

In attendance: Mrs E Nightingale (Clerk), Cllr A Fairweather (Borough)

PUBLIC FORUM:

.
None

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr C Russell (County), Cllr A Ellison (Borough)

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (in accordance with the Members Code of Conduct Part 2)

None.

3. COUNTY & BOROUGH COUNCILLOR UPDATE

In advance of the meeting Cllr Russell provided a written report which was circulated to Council members. Cllr Russell reported that, amongst other things, she was pleased to have been able to attend the Virtual School Kent Awards night in Detling to give out awards and spend time with all of the children that have attended the virtual school and are now going on to various different exciting paths and futures. Cllr Russel had also been in discussion with various officers about the reduction of rural bus services and had been continuing to chase the Leader and Deputy Cabinet member for highways about the ongoing situation with the road narrowing at Brook Place.

Cllr Fairweather confirmed that he was also chasing the Leader of Kent County Council (KCC). He had requested an update but was awaiting a response.

Cllr Fairweather noted that the additional workload being placed on officers by the upcoming local government reorganisation and accompanying need to form a Tunbridge Wells Town Council meant that a lot of the work of Tunbridge Wells Borough Council was being scaled back. Most committees were operating on the basis that they would only meet if they had something substantive to discuss and the three advisory groups would be reduced to one.

The strategic plan under development would now only address (i) the Royal Victoria Place shopping centre; (ii) local government reorganisation and (iii) the formation of the Town Council for Tunbridge Wells. Cllr Fairweather noted that plans for the redevelopment of Royal Victoria Place would need to be funded by a large loan and this was to be debated by the Council in October.

Cllr Fairweather was pleased to report that the Fun Run organised by Cranbrook Sports Club in aid of the MND Association was a great success despite the weather, with nearly 700 runners raising c.£230,000.

4. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 7TH JULY 2026 AND THE MINUTES OF THE PLANNING MEETING ON 11TH AUGUST 2026

It was proposed by Cllr Tuke, seconded by Cllr Staples, and **RESOLVED** by all members present that the Minutes from the Council Meeting on 7th July 2026 are a true and accurate record of that meeting. It was further proposed by Cllr Gosbee, seconded by Cllr Viviers, and **RESOLVED** by all members present that the Minutes of the Council Meeting on 11th August 2026 are a true and accurate record of that meeting. That being so, Cllr Vernon will sign the said Minutes as Chair.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Misleading road closure signage
The Clerk has written to KCC's Street Works department and is awaiting a response.

Bounds Cross Crossroads
Cllr Russell has met with KCC Highways and been advised that the crossroads has been put forward for a CRM (crash remedial measures) reduction scheme which was in the process of being investigated by KCC Highway's design team. They are looking at both layout and signage. Cllr Russell has asked for a timescale on this and is awaiting a response to that enquiry.

Notice of Council Meeting in the Parish Magazine
The Editor had confirmed that the Council's regular meetings (1st Tuesday of the month save for August when there was no meeting) would be noted in the Parish Magazine in the section which recorded the dates of upcoming events at the Memorial Hall.

Headcorn Aerodrome
The Clerk confirmed that she had written to the Aerodrome as instructed and was awaiting a response.

Telephone Box
Cllr Viviers will look to raise a working party to carry out the necessary renovations of the telephone box.

6. VILLAGE CLEAN UP ON 19TH SEPTEMBER 2026

This event had been advertised on the Community Facebook page and in the Parish Magazine. The Clerk confirmed that she had submitted a request to TWBC for the removal of the rubbish collected as soon as possible after the event and had received an acknowledgment of that request.

Cllr Vernon will get some signs made up and laminated so they can be put on lamp posts and at the village gateways. Cllr Vernon is liaising with Garry Lawrence to collect the litter picking equipment he has kindly been storing. It was proposed by Cllr Vernon, seconded by Cllr Viviers and RESOLVED by all members present that Cllr Vernon will review the equipment we have and let the Clerk know what additional equipment might be needed. The Clerk will then order what is required to ensure that enough equipment is available for volunteers at the Village Clean Up.

7. PARISH FIELD HEDGE BEHIND TENNIS COURT

Cllr Vernon will approach the owner of the fence adjacent to the hedge and arrange a meeting before the hedge is removed. A fencing contractor will be asked to attend that meeting so they can inspect the fence and advise the Council on the next steps. In the meantime, the Clerk will liaise with the contractor who has been tasked with removing the hedge to ensure that work is not started before the above meeting takes place.

8. TWBC CONSERVATION AREA APPRAISAL FOR FRITTENDEN

Cllr Vernon noted that, as previously reported, the Head of Conservation at TWBC had approached Dr Phil Betts to ask if the Historical Society had any documents or material that would assist him with an upcoming appraisal of the Frittenden Conservation Area. All Conservation Areas should have a written appraisal setting out why that designation has been applied to the relevant properties / land. The Frittenden Conservation Area was established in the early 1970's and reviewed in the 1990's but no written appraisal relating to it can be found. The recent planning application relating to Bell View has shown that it would be in the community's interests for there to be a document recording the heritage value of the Conservation Area. The HOOH Working Group therefore suggested that Dr Betts ask whether the appraisal exercise now to be carried out by TWBC would be limited to appraising the buildings / land within the Conservation Area as it currently stands or whether consideration would be also given to changing the boundaries / extent of the Conservation Area. The Head of Conservation has confirmed the latter and noted that any proposed changes to the Conservation Area following the appraisal will be the subject of public consultation. Advice from members of the Working Group was that the Parish Council should take a proactive approach and seek to contribute to any reappraisal of the boundaries of the Consultation Area before TWBC had determined its proposals in that regard rather than wait for any public consultation. It was therefore proposed by Cllr Vernon, seconded by Cllr Gosbee, and **RESOLVED** by all members present that Dr Betts be invited to provide the Council with a final draft of his proposed report to the Head of Conservation and, subject to all members having no further comments to make on that draft, he be asked to submit that report and, at the same time, Cllr Vernon will notify the Head of Conservation that the Council intends to provide its own comments on any areas of the village which ought to be brought within the Conservation Area. The Council will give consideration to that and discuss any proposals members may have at the next meeting of the Council.

9. HIP UPDATE

TWBC had now confirmed that funding issues around the Rural Grant Scheme had been resolved with KCC meaning that the approved road safety measures submitted by Parish Councils would now be implemented. KCC intended to do that in three phases over the next 12 months and it remained to see when the speed mitigation measures for Frittenden would be put in place.

10. UPDATE FROM HANDS OFF OUR HERITAGE WORKING GROUP

Cllr Vernon had nothing substantive to report. He continued to liaise with the Planning Officer. It was not yet known when TWBC would be issuing its updated 5-year housing supply figures (this had previously been expected in July) and it was assumed that the developer behind the Bell View planning application was awaiting those figures before making any further updates to the proposed scheme. Once an amended scheme has been submitted to TWBC, there will be a further public consultation exercise before the planning application is determined by TWBC.

11. SPEEDWATCH

Cllr Staples reported that there had been 7 sessions of Speedwatch since the last meeting. 24 offenders had been recorded out of 225 vehicles, being a c.10.5% offending rate. 5 letters had been sent out by Kent Police. The highest speed recorded was a motorbike being ridden at 50 mph.

12. PLAYGROUND INSPECTIONS

Cllr Gosbee has emptied the small bin attached to the playground fence and filled up the dog bag dispenser. He noted that the bin appeared to be getting filled with water bottles after the field had been used by footballers on a Monday evening. Users of the field were requested to deposit larger items of waste such a water bottles in the bigger bins located each side of the vehicular access gate. The Clerk will liaise with the street cleansing contractor to ensure that all bins on the Parish Field are regularly emptied.

Cllr Gosbee has also been picking up pieces of wood, which he presumed had been brought on to the field for dogs.

Cllr Gosbee noted that the pedestrian gate next to the vehicular gate was out of alignment, which meant that it was not closing properly. This will be looked at.

The Clerk noted that renovation works to the playground were scheduled to begin on 5th October 2026. This will be advertised on the Community Facebook page as the playground could be closed off, in full or in part, for around three weeks while the works are completed.

Cllr Vernon had gone through the annual independent inspection report produced by RoSPA Playsafety and done what remedial repairs he could. The Clerk noted that some of the signs / equipment needed to be cleaned but this should be done once the above renovation works had been completed. A working party would be raised to tackle that job in due course.

13. ROAD REPORT

Cllr Gosbee noted that a bad crack in Bettenham Bridge had been filled but that a close eye needed to be kept on this with any deterioration of the crack, or the structural condition of the bridge more generally, being reported.

Buckhurst Bridge had again been struck causing 19 bricks to fall.

A lot of fly-tipping had been cleared, to include the waste dumped on Cradduck Lane.

The school crossing patrol had asked when the Paddock hedge will next be cut as it obstructs her view of the road if left too long. The Clerk will raise this with the ground maintenance contractor.

Cllr Viviers noted that the edges of Staplehurst Road were badly eroded in places. Cllr Gosbee confirmed that he had been trying to get KCC to address this but without success. He will continue to raise it with them.

14. PLANNING

New Applications

26/01873/NMAND	Pound Hill Oast, Biddenden Road, Frittenden Non-material amendment to 25/01383/FULL for additional rooflight **NOTED**

Outcome of Previous applications

- None

Planning appeals

- None

15. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

- Cllr Staples will be attending the Parish Chair's Meeting on 14th September 2026 in Cllr Vernon's absence.
- TWBC had issued an updated form for the declaration of members' pecuniary interests which had been circulated by the Clerk by email. Members were asked to complete and submit the new form (either directly or via the Clerk) to TWBC as soon as possible.
- Cllr Vernon had been notified of an intention to install commemorative plaques by the defibrillators kindly provided by the family of Annie Bull. It was noted that the Council's permission was not required for that but it whole heartedly supported the proposal.
- A resident had asked whether the Parish Council whether it could install an additional bin or bins at the Brook Place end of the village, possibly by the school and/or Memorial Hall. The Council noted that it was not able to install bins on land which it didn't own, to include the pavements adjacent to the highway. It may be that the Memorial Hall might be able to accommodate a bin in the car park or on the area in front of the hall, but that was a matter for the Memorial Hall Committee.

16. FINANCE

- It was proposed by Cllr Viviers, seconded by Cllr Gosbee, and **RESOLVED** by all members present to pay the accounts as follows:

FRITTENDEN PAYMENTS – SEPTEMBER 2026					
Cheque Number	GROSS	VAT	NET	SUPPLIER	DETAILS
BACS	£32.00	Nil	£48.00	Frittenden Memorial Hall	Room Hire (2 x meeting room sessions on 01/09 & 11/08)
BACS	£107.20	Nil	£1077.20	Mrs E Nightingale	Clerk's Expenses – Aug & Sept
BACS	£237.33	Nil	£237.33	Mrs E Nightingale	Clerk's Salary – Aug & Sept
BACS	£59.40	Nil	£59.40	HMRC	PAYE
BACS	£138.00	£23.00	£115.00	RoSPA Playsafety Ltd	Annual Playground Inspection
BACS	£56.89	£9.48	£47.41	FCC Waste Management Ltd	Litter Bins – July
BACS	£84.99	Nil	£84.99	Mr J Tuke	Reimbursement of cost of body worn camera for Speedwatch
DD	£11.99	£2.00	£9.99	Hugo Fox	Website Hosting
DD	£20.99	£3.50	£17.49	Hugo Fox	Domain & 5 x email addresses
DD	£54.92	£2.62	£52.30	NPower	Electricity for streetlighting
Total	**£803.71**	**£40.60**	**£763.11**		

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 20:30pm.

Chairman's Signature:_____
Date:_____