

STONE-cum-EBONY PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Held on 21st January 2026 at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall

Present:

Parish Cllrs: Cllrs D Lyward (Chair), R. Beckingham, S. Lowrie, R Parrock

Borough Cllr: 0

KCC Cllr: Cllr W Chapman

Members of Public: 1

PO:

Clerk: A Beach

Minute No		ACTION
719	Apologies & Reasons for Absence Cllr Shilton – Conflicting ABC meeting	
720	Declaration by Members i. Declaration by Members of any interest, Pecuniary or Other than Pecuniary, in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct. ii. To approve or reject any application put to the meeting by the Chairman in respect of Members' seeking a dispensation under the Localism Act 2011, s.33. iii. Request that Councillors' or any other persons' present declare if they intend to record any of the proceedings using any video or audio recording device or camera.	
721	Confirm and approve the minutes of the meeting held on 19th November 2025 The minutes were approved and signed by Cllr Lyward	
722	Public Session The meeting was adjourned to allow the Residents of the village to raise any concerns or put questions to the Parish Councillors.	
723	Village Matters <u>Street Lighting</u> Cllr Lyward gave an update on the non-working lights as reported at the previous meeting; the Clerk reported both light numbers 001 and 003 which have been reported a number of times, as 003 is still not working the Clerk reported it again <u>Defibrillator in Ebony</u> Cllr Lyward updated Councillors on the current status and confirmed that he will contact Hopkins again. The following email from Hopkins was received after the previous meeting: -	DL/MB

	<i>Thanks for confirming that the quote has now been accepted. That's great news, and I'm really pleased to see this moving forward for the parish. I just wanted to touch base on next steps and timing. Once the concrete pad is in place next to the notice board, we can look to schedule installation and get everything fully set up and registered.</i> <i>I've attached a photo showing the plinth and cabinet so you can see exactly what the finished installation will look like in situ. I should add that the plinth and cabinet are included, but unfortunately Paula isn't part of the package. If you have an idea of when the concrete base might be completed, let me know and I'll work around that. If it helps, I'm also happy to speak directly with whoever is doing the groundwork to make sure everything lines up.</i> <i>Any questions at all, just shout. Best regards Ken Hopkins</i> Cllr Lyward to arrange for the concrete pad to be laid	
724	Matters Arising <u>Cricket Club Donation</u> Cllr Lyward has received confirmation that this year's insurance premium is £765.15 and requested a copy of the policy document Councillors felt this was a large sum, Cllrs agreed to pay a donation of £600 with a covering letter stating we would donate this year but ongoing we require the details. <u>Outlook on Oxney</u> Cllr Lyward is going to call them and request that the newsletter is delivered on time to ensure residents are kept up to date.	
725	Borough Councillor Report. Cllr Shilton was unable to attend the meeting due to an ABC planning meeting.	
726	County Councillor Report Cllr Chapman attended the meeting his abridged monthly report shows the points relevant for the village: - Highways Update Kenardington & Stone-cum-Ebony: rural lane inspections are scheduled for mid-January as part of the winter maintenance programme. Winter Driving & Gritting As we move through January and the winter, please take extra care on wet, icy, and untreated rural roads across the division. Conditions can change quickly, especially on shaded lanes. KCC will continue routine gritting of the main highway network throughout the winter period. Local grit bins are available for public use on untreated roads and pavements. If you notice a grit bin that is empty, damaged, or missing, please report it so it can be replenished or replaced. For live updates on roadworks, closures, and repairs: Kent County Council Highways: https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel	

	One.Network interactive map: https://one.network To report highways, street lighting, or footpath issues: Report a problem on the road or pavement: https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-or-track-a-problem-on-the-road-or-pavement Local Government Reorganisation & Devolution (LGR&D) The Government is now reviewing the Strategic Business Case submitted by Kent County Council and Medway Council in late 2025. Key points for January: • KCC continues to advocate for Option 1A – a single unitary “Kent Council.” • Engagement with parish councils will increase in spring 2026. • Work is underway to map how Community Assemblies could operate locally. • Financial modelling continues to show Option 1A as the most sustainable long-term structure. Further updates will be provided as Government feedback is received. Education Homewood School and Tenterden Schools Trust (TST) Recent correspondence between Tenterden Town Council’s representative to the TST, Councillor Jane Mills, KCC’s Director of Education Christine McInnes, and myself has highlighted the need for greater transparency and improved communication around the Tenterden Schools Trust’s proposed re-brokering process. While the County Council is not the decision-maker in academy transfers, our joint engagement has ensured that concerns from staff, parents, and the wider community have been clearly raised, resulting in a welcome period of breathing space and a revised timeline. This collaborative approach reflects our shared commitment to safeguarding the wellbeing of pupils, supporting school staff, and ensuring that any future arrangements are handled with clarity, fairness, and proper consideration for the communities we represent. I wish to thank Cllr Mills for bringing this matter to my attention. Parish / Town Council Meetings – January 2026 I intend to attend the following parish and town council meetings during January (subject to diary commitments and meeting schedules): Stone-cum-Ebony Parish Council – January 21st I will also meet informally with parish chairs and clerks throughout January. Contact Details Email: wayne.chapman@kent.gov.uk For highways, street lighting, or footpath issues, please report online via: https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-or-track-a-problem-on-the-road-or-pavement New Year Message As we step into 2026, I want to thank every resident across Appledore, Biddenden, Rolvenden, Rolvenden Layne, St Michaels, Tenterden, Wittersham,	
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	Kenardington, Newenden, High Halden, and Stone-cum-Ebony for your continued support, resilience, and community spirit. Our parishes thrive because of the dedication shown by volunteers, local groups, schools, businesses, and residents who work tirelessly to support one another. I look forward to working with you throughout 2026 as we continue building strong, vibrant, and connected communities across the Tenterden Division. Cllr Chapman updated councillors on the bus service, unfortunately, KCC are unable to offer one to Homewood	
726	Planning The following applications have been received since the last meeting. NOT/2025/2280 – Mackley Farm, Knock Hill Installation of solar panels on east facing roof slope of barn Decision – PC Accepted PA/2025/2157 – 6 Oxney Cottages, Appledore Road Part single-storey, part two-storey side extension, changes to existing fenestration, roof alterations and the erection for overspill living accommodation. Following the demolition of two existing sheds and a lean-to extension Decision – PC Accepted PA/2025/2233 – The Crown Inn, The Street Change of use, conversion and extension of a former public house to a single residential dwelling, changes to fenestration, extension and conversion of an existing annexe to provide an independent dwelling, conversion of an existing shelter to a summer house/office, creation of a new parking area together with hard and soft landscaping following demolition of sheds. (part retrospective) Decision – PC Refused Cllr Bacon raised the previous application from High House and the decision made. Cllr Lyward explained the issue and as it appears work began prior to the ABC decision on the planning application of this listed building therefore it is now in the hands of ABC	
727	Village Sign Cllr Beckingham confirmed that the sign has been reinstalled. The matter can now be removed from the agenda	DL/MB
728	Website Update Cllr Parrock is still working on the changes and to assist the Clerk has sent her details of the Hugo Fox help desk. The Clerk confirmed that a request for Gov.uk address for the clerk has been made.	RP

729	Village Caretaker Update Cllr Lyward asked for suggestions of the extra work required and Contractors to undertake it. See APPENDIX 2026-01/1 attached details the work that the caretaker will undertake on behalf of KCC, the work which ASPIRE will undertake and the previous uncontracted items. The Clerk was asked to request a quotation for emptying the dog bins from Aspire and Councillors decided to wait and see how Aspire carry out the contracted work.	DL
730	Finance <i>a. <u>Payment Authorisation</u></i> Chq No. 609 – A Beach – November & December Salary - £404.63 <i>b. <u>Receipts</u></i> Deposit Account Interest Following the transactions above the current account will have a balance of £12,369.22 and £5,317.22 in the deposit account giving a working capital of £17,686.44	
731	Correspondence <u>Previously emailed</u> KALC – Chief Executive Bulletin – December Newsletter – Training & Weekly Bulletins KALC – Ashford Branch NALC – Chief Executive Bulletins Katie Lam – December & January in The Weald Ashford BC – Draft Local Plan	
732	Date of next meeting Wednesday 18 th March 2026 at 7.30pm	
733	Items for Information Cllr Lyward have received a number of complaints regarding the dog barking in Top Road.	

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.40pm

2026-27 Meeting Dates

Held in the Memorial Hall and starting at 7.30pm

20th May 2026 – to include the Annual Parish Meeting

15th July 2026

16th September 2026

18th November 2026

20th January 2027

17th March 2027

APPENDIX 2026-01/1

Aspire will carry out the following: -

- Grass cutting around Stone Church - 12 times per year
- Grass cutting in Stone Green - 12 times per year.
- Cut the hedges in Stone Green.
- Grass cutting in Forge Meadow.

The Caretaker will carry out the following on behalf of KCC: -

- Cutting out grips
- Clearing storm gully covers
- Cleaning and repairing road signs

The uncontracted items requiring quotes for are: -

- Cutting the grass around the Church if specifically asked for a wedding.
- Weedkilling.
- Emptying the Parish owned dog bins in The Ferry Inn car park and in The Street towards Church Hill. – All other dog and litter bins should be emptied by ABC's contractors, but this is not happening.