



ACOL PARISH COUNCIL

The Village Hall
The Street
Acol
Kent CT7 0JA
e-mail: clerk@acol-pc.gov.uk

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 18th June 2026 at 7.30pm, Acol Village Hall

Present: Parish Councillors Richard Steel – Chairman [RS], Sarah Corby [SC], Gavin Winpenny [GW]

In Attendance: Sara Archer – Clerk, KCC Cllr Luke Evans, Community Warden Gary Groombridge plus 3 members of the public.

16/26-27 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from District Cllrs Abi Smith and Peter Evans, Cllr Wendy Winpenny and PC Owen Crush.

17/26-27 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared.

18/26-27 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 16th April 2026.

These were proposed by Cllr Corby, seconded by Cllr G Winpenny, all were in agreement and therefore signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

19/26-27 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman advised progress was being made with regard to the draft Neighbourhood Plan. He and the Clerk had met with the Chair and Clerk of Birchington Parish Council for advice and to discuss the way forward with the process. Councillors agreed to move ahead with the new draft and next stages of the Plan.

20/26-27 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk confirmed the Pride in Place grant application had been completed and submitted. A decision from TDC was expected in the beginning of July.

The Clerk had spoken to Adrain Verrall at TDC with regard to the Neighbourhood Plan. He had offered to meet with the Chair and Clerk to discuss the Plan and ensure it links in with the TDC Local Plan and advise on the process.

The annual audit had been finalised and published on the website as required.

TDC Local Plan consultation – hard copy available for inspection, Clerk to be contacted to make arrangements as appropriate.

The new gate at the Recreation Ground had been installed and the annual RoSPA inspection had been arranged for July.

21/26-27 COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

Cllr Gavin Winpenny was unable to attend the latest TAC meeting, however, he would be attending the next meeting on 6th July and report back the Parish Council. Cllr Winpenny advised that he had the tools to adjust the tension on the new pedestrian gate and would carry out adjustments as necessary.

Cllr Sarah Corby expressed thanks to the group of residents who were actively maintaining the planters at the Village Hall and Nursery Fields. The last bites and banter afternoon was very successful with approx. 25 attendees. Cllr Corby advised the date for the next bites and banter afternoon would run alongside with the Craft Fair on– 4th July, in the Village Hall. Any funds received through donations would be used to support the Group.

Additional planting at the Village Gates was discussed to enhance the appearance of the Village. Enquiries would be made for appropriate bulbs and low flowering plants to be placed in these locations.

22/26-27 INDIVIDUAL OFFICER REPORTS

a) **County Councillor Luke Evans** reported as follows:

Kent County Council is to set up a Kent Water Resilience Partnership Chaired by the council leader Linden Kamkaren to bring together the water companies, local authorities, regulators and stakeholders, with a view to working together to solve the current water supply and sewerage problems. Thanet had several water outages towards the end of May and there was even a sewage discharge into the sea even though we had no rain so it is about time that somebody has taken leadership on this very important issue that is affecting all of us.

Next month there will be a Fly Tipping Conference. This will bring together Councils, Enforcement Bodies, Police, Local Land Owners and Farmers. In Kent 2.5 thousand tons of rubbish are fly tipped each year at a cost of £345,000 to Councils and Land Owners to clean up. Birchington and Rural is particularly badly effected by fly tipping so I am hoping to attend this conference to lobby for better protections for our residents.

A new library has opened in Folkestone. This is the first new library to open in Kent for 14 years and has marked a turnaround in the decline of libraries under the last administration. This commitment is the start of a county wide refurbishment of our library's and was high on the list of what people said they wanted when asked. We have already refurbished and reopened 4 libraries this year including Cliftonville which had its official reopening today (2nd June). When we took over KCC in 2025 37 libraries were earmarked for closure under the previous administration. We haven't closed a single library, have refurbished old ones and opened a completely new one.

The start of repairs to the A299 are to start the first week in June. This work is to try to solve the geological problems that have plagued this main artery into Thanet in recent years. As I have been lobbying for this stretch of road to be repaired for months now, including a question to the Cabinet Holder in Full Council, I will be attending the works to see the full extent of the damage/disrepair for myself.

I have saved the best to last! The council voted in favour in May to recite the Lords Prayer at the start of all Full Council meetings and to sing the National Anthem at the end of every Full Council Meeting. The intention of this is one of inclusion and all are welcome to participate should they want to. For me, this was something that I felt very strongly about delivering on as I am a Christian and feel that our Christian values have been somewhat diluted in recent years in the UK. Christian values are apart of British Values so I very much look forward to putting it front and centre at KCC from now onwards.

Discussion took place regarding the KCC commercial strategy and public service procurement. The necessity for tenders to be transparent and inclusive and to meet appropriate legal requirements was agreed. The current tenders awarded by KCC ensured £55m was awarded to County based companies.

Cllr Evans advised he was in the process of raising a petition against the increase in parking charges in Birchington. Acol were asked to support the campaign and publish the petition details on their website and social media pages.

b) **District Councillor Peter Evans** was not in attendance, however, he submitted a report which is appended to the minutes.

District Councillor Abi Smith offered her apologies, no report available.

c) **PC Owen Crush** offered his apologies, no report available.

d) **Community Warden Gary Groombridge** reported as follows:

- Saturday 30th May attended the Community afternoon cake and drinks at the Village Hall here. My wife and my mother-in-law came along. Everybody sang happy birthday to her.
- Visual presence around the village
- No phone calls from the community or referrals have come through to me.
- No phone calls from residents.
- PC Owen Crush is away until mid-July.
- 4th July Acol event in Acol Village Hall craft fair.

23/26-27 HIGHWAYS

a) Street Cleansing, litter, fly-tipping

Cllr Steel advised the volunteer completing his Duke of Edinburgh Award had done a good job with the litter picking. His help had been appreciated.

b) Highways Improvement Plan – 20mph scheme

No date had been confirmed for the works to start, however, TDC had been approached regarding the road closure.

c) Lorry Watch

Awaiting receipt of the necessary equipment. The lead volunteer was away, commencement of the scheme upon her return.

d) North Thanet Link Road update

Plans for the scheme were available online, published on the website and social media pages. Cllr Steel had also mentioned the project in his monthly newsletter article and would be writing a letter of support on behalf of the Parish Council.

It was noted that the give way sign at Margate Hill had been replaced.

The dog waste bins had been collected after being missed again for a couple of weeks.

The potholes adjacent to the speed humps and Margate Hill had been reported. Additionally, residents were encouraged to report direct.

The drain at Nursery Fields was blocked and required clearing. It was noted that it overflowed with heavy rainfall. The Clerk would report as appropriate.

24/26-27 FINANCE

a) The Clerk presented the monthly payment schedule which included the following payments:

Hugofox - Website hosting fee	£11.99
Neil - Repairs to roundabout/grass	£571.00
Zurich Insurance	£389.31
T. Kilbee - Internal Auditor	£100.00
Hughes & Son - Grounds maintenance	£204.00
S. Archer - Clerk's salary & expenses	
KALC - Membership fees	£205.43
lonos - email hosting fee	£7.20
Unity Trust - Service charge	£7.00
Hugofox - Clerk email address	£2.99
Hugofox - Website hosting fee	£11.99
lonos - email hosting fee	£7.20
Unity Trust - Service charge	£7.00

Receipts:

TDC Precept	£5,822.00
HMRC - VAT reclaim	£994.72

RESOLVED: To approve payment of invoices included in the monthly payment schedule for June.
(Proposed: Cllr Corby, Seconded: Cllr G Winpenny).

b) The Clerk presented the monthly bank reconciliation between the cash book and bank accounts.

RESOLVED: To approve the monthly bank reconciliation for April & May
(Proposed: Cllr Corby, seconded Cllr G Winpenny).

c) The Clerk advised the paperwork and supporting financial documents had been submitted to TDC for consideration. A decision regarding the funding was expected at the beginning of July.

25/26-27 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

- A query was made regarding an update on the cycling/walking routes consultation. Cllr Steel would make enquiries and report back at the next meeting.
- Thanks were extended to Cllr W Winpenny for mowing the grass at the Recreation Ground.
- The overgrown hedges at the Recreation Ground were to be addressed by Hughes & Son.

26/26-27 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 20th August 2026, 7:30pm, Acol Village Hall

The meeting was closed by the chairman at 20:33hrs

APPENDIX

District Cllr Peter Evans

June 2026 TDC Monthly Report:-

Beach management

Ahead of the late May bank holiday with a heatwave expected, a number of preparations were put in place to reflect the anticipated increase in beach-goers. Despite those efforts the weekend was extremely challenging for our frontline staff. There were issues with litter, unauthorised events, inconsiderate parking and we were stretched to the limit.

For context, crews collected 49 tonnes of rubbish over the weekend, and as well as standard litter, they had to clear up various beach accessories. Everything from floats and broken parasols to children's buggies were effectively fly-tipped and shouldn't have been put into beach bins.

We know local residents and visitors expect better and our goal is to provide the level of service that's needed across the Island. While the headlines and social media chatter haven't been positive, I do want to thank the teams that worked hard in boiling weather to try and get the job done.

Teenage Market back in Broadstairs

The next Teenage Market is on Sunday 14 June, at The Pavilion, Broadstairs from 10am to 5pm.

Around 30 stalls are expected, with performances from local young musicians throughout the day. And, of course, we hope to see many of you there on the day to support Thanet's younger residents.

Active Neighbourhood Scan

We are working with community partners on the Thanet Active Environments neighbourhood scan as part of the Sport England Thanet Place Partnership Programme. This is a community-led assessment of our streets, parks, seafronts, community spaces and recreation grounds.

The aim is to identify potential improvements that could be made to our places and spaces that could help residents become more active, more often.

The first pilot scan happened in Ramsgate on Wednesday 27 May, starting at Newington Community Centre. Further scans are planned across the district, with provisional dates and locations as follows:

- Jackey Bakers: Thursday 11 June, 3.30pm
- Margate: Thursday 23 July, 5pm - 6.30pm
- Broadstairs: Monday 3 August, 10am - 12pm
- Broadstairs: Friday 7 August, 10am - 12pm

Southern Water

We're keeping a close eye on the current issues with water supply in Whitstable, Herne Bay and other parts of Kent. Southern Water is providing regular updates and has confirmed that there are currently no issues with supply in Thanet.

They have delivered bottled water to people on their Priority Services Register and have plans in place to open two bottled water stations, if needed. Customers are advised to check their [website](#) for the latest updates.

If you know any older or vulnerable people who should be on the priority register but aren't, please encourage them to contact Southern Water.

Knife Bins

Thanet District Council, in partnership with Kent Police, operates 17 secure knife amnesty bins across the district to allow residents to safely and anonymously dispose of blades without fear of prosecution.

Known Amnesty Locations

- Margate: Kings Steps (Marine Drive), Buenos Ayres (at Station Road junction), Margate High Street, Elham Close, and Tomlin Drive.
- Ramsgate: Ramsgate Train Station, Albion Hill, and Boundary Park.
- Cliftonville: Edgar Road.

How They Work

- **Anonymity:** You can drop off knives, blades, or other sharp objects "no questions asked".
- **Safety Rules:** While carrying a blade in public is generally an offence, it is legally permitted if you are securely wrapping it and taking it directly to a knife bin.
- **Maintenance:** The bins are emptied and cleaned on a quarterly basis by community safety teams

Walpole Bay Bathing Pool

The council are pleased to announce that Walpole Bay Bathing pool has now re-opened following repairs that taken longer than expected.

Blue Flag Awards

Environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy has today (Tuesday 16 May 2023) announced the winners of the prestigious Blue Flag and Seaside Awards for summer 2023. Thanet has met the high standard required, and has been awarded six Blue Flags and four Seaside Awards.

- Blue Flags have been awarded for Minnis Bay; St. Mildred's Bay; Margate Main Sands; Botany Bay; Joss Bay and Stone Bay.
- Seaside Awards have been awarded for West Bay; Westbrook Bay; Viking Bay and Ramsgate Main Sands.

Among the criteria beaches are assessed against are:

- Safety and services, such as first aid, lifeguards where necessary
- Environmental information including displaying details about local eco systems
- Water quality – Blue Flag beaches must meet the 'excellent' water quality standard as set out in the EU bathing water directive and Seaside Award winners must meet the 'sufficient' standard.
- Environmental management, including litter and waste.

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