

Luddesdown Parish Council

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**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Luddesdown Parish Council
held on Monday 9th March 2026 at 7:30pm
in Luddesdown Village Hall**



Members Present: Cllr P Crow
Cllr L Martin
Cllr J Rossouw
Cllr L Rossouw
Cllr G Mead

In Attendance: Cllr D Morton, KCC, Cllr D Dibben, GBC, Charles Amis – Clerk
& Responsible Financial Officer
7 parishioners

1. Apologies for Absence: To receive and accept apologies –

Cllr S Jassal (unconfirmed)

2. Declarations of Interest:

There were no declarations of interest.

3. To approve minutes of the previous Parish Council Budget meeting held on 19.1.2026

Cllr Martin proposed the minutes of the 19th January 2026 Parish Council Budget meeting as a true and accurate record and Cllr Crow seconded.

4.1 Public Session –

4.2 Borough Councillors and County Councillor - GBC had released a draft of the Local Plan. The most housing development was due to take place at Istead Rise, Meopham and Higham. There had been a significant number of applications for new housing developments but the developers have not included the infrastructure within their plans. GBC can request section 106 money from the developers.

There is a proposed development at Rose Farm at Istead Rise despite a flood risk at Downs Road. A cycle path has been proposed between Istead Rise and Meopham. It was said that

Luddesdown is unlikely to be affected by new housing development as it is within Kent Downs National Landscape.

GBC has not fulfilled its housing targets. The proposed development at Northfleet Harbour would include 3,500 properties. The brown fields sites are usually more expensive to develop compared with green field sites although a budget has been set aside for developers who redevelop brown field sites.

Cllr Morton is the Cabinet Member of Adult Social Services. The council tax for KCC is 3.99% which is the lowest for several years. The overspend has been reduced

from £100 million to £30million. The current County Cllr favours Kent and Medway becoming one unitary authority.

The consultation for the reorganisation of local government will finish on 26th March. The outcome will not be known until the middle of July 2026. The current council favours one council.

The patching carried out on Lockyers Hill in 2025 had already broken up. Action: Clerk to send Cllr Morton an email to ask for a site visit with KCC Highways Team.

The services and plants had been moved in preparation for the Lower Thames Crossing. A compound had been set up by Thong Lane.

4.3 Police – The local beat officers were unable to attend and sent their apologies. The Clerk read the crime report.

4.4 Off road motorbikes at Luddesdown Recreation Ground – Silverhand offered to replace the fence around the playground to prevent the off-road motorbikes. GBC own and are responsible for the playing field at Luddesdown including the playground. **Action:** Clerk to check that GBC are happy for the fence to be replaced around the playground.

5. Highways Improvement Plan – LPC have asked KCC Highways to install ATC Tubes on Luddesdown Road. The equestrian signs are still due to be installed. KCC Highways has said this is due to a change of contractor taking place from 1st April 2026. It was suggested that the parish councils in Gravesham could working together on their Highways Improvement Plan. **Action:** Cllr Morton to ask if all of the parish councils in Gravesham could be invited to the KCC Highways Offices at Aylesford.

6. Planning

6.1 Land East of Yew Trees – The owner has installed two stables on the site and has levelled off part of the land. The profile of the land was due to be reinstated. The owner had installed double gates at the entrance to their land but this should have been a pedestrian gate.

6.2 Greenacres, Lockyers Hill – The owner has withdrawn their appeal to the eviction notice that was issued by GBC. The owner is still on the site and everything should have been cleared.

6.3 Red House, Wrangling Lane – The owner has diggers working on the land. The Dog House was supposed to be removed. GBC has issued a planning enforcement notice to the owner. **Action:** Cllr Dibben to ask for a meeting with GBC Planning Department. Clerk to ask Cobham Parish Council if LPC could join their meeting. LPC could work with Meopham Parish Council regarding Culverstone Valley.

6.4 To consider any other planning application received after the agenda was circulated - None

7. Council Finance - A grant request had been submitted from Luddesdown Parish Church for £518. All of the parish councillors agreed to the grant request.

- 7.1 Schedule of Payments** – The Clerk had circulated a payment report to all of the parish councillors before the meeting. Cllr Rossouw proposed the schedule of payments and Cllr Martin seconded.
- 7.2 Bank Statement** - The Clerk had circulated the bank statements to all of the parish councillors before the meeting. The current balance is £16,340.56. All of the bank statements were approved by the parish councillors.

Parish Council Meeting 9th March 2026

Payments made since the meeting held on 19th January 2026

Date of payment	Company	Reason	Amount
22/1/2026	Clerk	Mileage	£25.74
22/1/2026	HMRC	Clerk Tax and National Insurance	£149.12
22/1/2026	Starboard Systems Ltd (Scribe Accounts)	Annual Subscription	£180
31/1/2026	Unity Trust Bank	Bank Charges	£6
9/2/2026	Hugo Fox	Website	£11.99
12/2/2026	Clerk	Skip Hire for litter picking day	£294
12/2/2026	HMRC	Clerk Tax and National Insurance	£54.60
12/2/2026	Clerk	January Salary	£317.63
12/2/2026	Fastnet International	Email Hosting	£17.98
12/2/2026	Primary Care Supplies	New pads, battery & prep kit for defibrillator	£344.40
19/2/2026	Peter Crow	Reimburse for staple gun and stapler	£24.28
19/2/2026	Peter Crow	Reimburse for laminator	£20.49
19/2/2026	Peter Crow	Reimburse for laminate pouches	£11.99
28/2/2026	Unity Trust Bank	Bank Charges	£6
3/3/2026	Fastnet International	Email Hosting	£17.98
3/3/2026	Clerk	February Salary	£317.63
12/2/2026	HMRC	Clerk Tax and National Insurance	£54.60
9/3/2026	Hugo Fox	Website	£11.99

Payments to be made after the meeting

Date of payment	Company	Reason	Amount
10/3/2026	Luddesdown PCC	Grant for parish magazine and grass around the war memorial	£518
31/3/2026	Clerk	March Salary	£317.63
31/3/2026	Unity Trust Bank	Bank Charges	£6
9/4/2026	Hugo Fox	Website	£11.99
30/4/2026	Clerk	April Salary	£317.63

- 8. London Green Belt Council Meeting** – Cllr Crow attended the meeting. There was discussion regarding the National Planning Policy Framework.
- 9. Securing the Landscape Meeting on 10th March** – Cllr Crow to attend.

10. **Road Safety & Active Travel Meeting on 21st April** – It was uncertain if anyone from LPC would be able to attend.
11. **Litter Picking Day** – LPC thanked everyone who had helped at the litter picking day. The skip was completely full. It was asked if a combined litter pick could be held with Cobham Parish Council. **Action:** Clerk to speak to Cobham Parish Council.
12. **Luddesdown May Fair Monday 4th May** – The May Fair needs more help with running the stalls. Some of the stall holders were unable to attend last year as they could not drive on to the field. **Action:** LPC to ask the members of Luddesdown Cricket Club if they could help.
13. **Items for Information: To receive reports from all councillors** – A homeless man had been living at Cutter Ridge Road but had now been found accommodation and help.
Action: Clerk to submit parish council meeting dates to Your Borough magazine.
14. **Date of Next Meeting:** Annual Council Meeting at 7.30pm followed by Full Council meeting at 8.30pm on Monday 18th May 2026.