MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BROOK PARISH COUNCIL
ON 19th NOVEMBER 2026 HELD IN BROOK AND HINXHILL VILLAGE HALL

Present: Cllr S Betty (Chair), Cllr A Betty, Cllr R Masters, Cllr P Penberthy, Cllr V Redfern, Cllr A Wood

The Clerk

		To be actioned by
1.	**To receive and approve apologies for absence.**	
	No apologies for absence had been received.	
2.	**To receive declarations of interest (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Other Significant Interests). The nature as well as the existence of any such interest must be declared.**	
	There were no declarations of interest received.	
3.	**To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 17th September 2026**	
	The minutes were signed as a true record.	
4.	**To discuss matters arising from the above minutes not covered by the agenda.**	
	Cllr Betty tried to add additional signatories but there was a glitch in the bank's online system. Cllr Betty has to try and add them again. The accessible parking bay has been painted and there is some positive feedback. The sign and noticeboard are now re-installed.	
5.	**To receive the report from the Borough/County Councillor.**	
	The Borough Councillor Ward Member report had been circulated. The new Loop opens at Elwick Place on 27th November 2026.	
6.	**Public Session: To receive questions and comments from the public on any agenda item.**	
	There were no public in attendance.	
7.	**To consider Recreation Ground Matters including the Play area and parking.**	
	Although it had been resolved that the Clerk would obtain costs for the removal of the slide, this had proved difficult as it would not be cost effective. The Parish Council, therefore, agreed to continue to monitor the situation. Cllr Redfern has applied for a National Lottery grant for £20,000 towards the play area replacement. Cllr Wood gave a brief update on the situation with the fundraising. Fundraising continues. Thanks were expressed for those involved in re-installation of the noticeboard and the sign. Cllr Redfern is still looking for a joiner to repair the doors on the noticeboard. An article was circulated to be placed in the Wye/Brook magazine, it was suggested that we should introduce photographs into this. The Chair will purchase gifts for Mike West and Ian Wools. There was a discussion regarding fly-tipping.	
8.	**To receive a KALC report.**	
	The KALC report had been circulated. Cllr Masters asked what the issues were at Conningbrook Lakes. This was due to children swimming and getting into difficulty.	
9.	**To discuss communications via Social Media platforms.**	
	Cllr Betty discussed the communications formats. There was a discussion regarding the publishing of planning applications, the noticeboard was suggested as a suitable location for publishing this. **RESOLVED: The planning list will be produced by Cllr Betty who will provide it for Cllr Masters.**	
10.	**Financial matters:**	
	To approve the following financial documents:	

To note the Parish Council's financial position for 31st October 2026:
The Parish Council noted it had £15,284.98 in the bank account.

To authorise any payments:

Payee	Amount
Clerk	432.12
Clerk	432.12
Bank charges	£14.00
Website costs	143.88
Village Caretaker Account	£2,356.80
Playsafely	£118.80

To agree the budget for 2027/28
The Parish Council considered the proposed budget and agreed the draft.
There was a discussion regarding the play area costs.

To agree the precept for 2027/28
The Parish Council agreed to precept for £16,000 for 2027/28.

11. To consider any changes to the Risk Assessment.

There were no changes to be made to the Risk Assessment.

12. Planning matters: to authorise a response to any application(s) and to note any recent planning decisions by Ashford Borough Council or any correspondence on planning matters

The plans have changed for the latest application: PA/2026/1657.

A number of applications have been approved of late.

The Brabourne BESS Planning Inquiry is being held on 1st December.

13. To receive any updates on Highways/Environment.

Cllr Masters attended a meeting at Hudsons Field. There was a discussion regarding fencing and amending the path route, there was a good civilised discussion.

Kent Highways have marked many of the potholes in Brook with white marker paint.

The water leak at the top of the road is a concern. The Clerk will report the issue of water on the road.

14. To receive a Caretaker Report.

The Caretaker is on his winter timetable. All is well with him.

15. Any Other Business (for information purposes only):

Cllr Masters asked Cllr S Betty *what he thought of the initiative of "Age Friendly" ambassadors? Does it give you access to anything?* Cllr Betty said that he wasn't aware of anything in particular but more information can be found by following the link on the Borough Councillors report for September 2026.

Christmas lights – To be put up on 1st December 2026.

Village Hall AGM is on 24th November 2026, Cllr Betty will attend.

16. Date of next meetings:

21st January 2027 18th March 2027 20th May 2027

The meeting closed at 18:45.

Signed: ……

Date: ……..