

Luddesdown Parish Council

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Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting of Luddesdown Parish Council
held on Monday 18th May 2026 at 7:30pm
in Luddesdown Village Hall



Members Present:

Cllr P Crow
Cllr L Martin
Cllr J Rossouw
Cllr L Rossouw

In Attendance:

Cllr D Dibben, GBC, Charles Amis – Clerk & Responsible
Financial Officer
7 Parishioners

1. **Election of Chairman** - It was asked at the meeting if any other parish councillor wanted to stand as the Chair. Cllr Peter Crow agreed to stand as the Chair and was proposed by Cllr Rossouw and seconded by Cllr Martin.
2. **Election of Vice Chairman** - It was asked at the meeting if any other parish councillor wanted to stand as the Vice Chair. Cllr Laraine Martin agreed to stand as the Vice Chair and was proposed by Cllr Rossouw and seconded by Cllr Crow.
3. **Apologies for Absence: To receive and accept apologies –**

Cllr G Mead (family), Cllr D Morton (KCC) (Meeting), Cllr S Jassal (GBC) (unconfirmed)
4. **Declarations of Interest:** There were no declarations of interest.
5. **Public Session & External Reports**
 - 6.1 **Public Session** – A Parishioner reported a spate of fly tipping at the beginning of April. It was noted that there is much less fly tipping than in previous years.
 - 5.2 **County Councillor & Borough Councillors** – The County Councillor and Borough Councillor did not attend the meeting.
 - 5.3 **Crime Report** – Several garden sheds and a van had been broken into. A driver was caught joy riding. A blue car had been speeding around the parish.
 - 5.4 **Silverhand** – The Kitchen Garden had been opened as part of the National Garden Scheme and over 120 visitors had attended. The vegetables are being grown for the Lion PH.

The refurbishment works of the Lion PH should finish by August and the Lion PH should be open by then. A new chef will be starting soon.

Silverhand has planted new vines on the hillside. The footpath through the vineyard has been reinstated. Sheep will be left in the vineyard all year round. There are 650 sheep including 250 new born lambs. The cold weather has affected the vines and the frost has damaged the yield.

Silverhand had set up bug hotels and invited local schools to get involved.

There are no planning applications until the work on the patio doors has been completed.

On Saturday 23rd May there will be a Run for Wine with 5km and 10km routes. There will be a vintage car event on 21st June at the pop-up pub car park and a charity cricket match will take place between Silverhand and Luddesdown residents.

The May Fair had been fairly successful for Silverhand. Luddesdown Cricket Club had waived their fee.

6.1 Highways Improvement Plan –

KCC had not installed the equestrian signs as promised at the previous Highways Improvement Meeting. KCC Highways had said that the problem was caused by the switch to a new contractor on 1st April 2026.

KCC would need to set up a consultation before setting up a Traffic Restriction Order for a 7.5 tonne weight restriction. The hedges along Gold Street and Henley Street have been damaged by HGVs. It was asked if signs could be installed to warn HGV drivers that Gold Street and Henley Street are not suitable for HGVs. It was noted that foreign HGV drivers may not be able to understand the signs.

The installation of the ATC tubes at Luddesdown Road were discussed at the recent Highways Improvement Plan and will be installed after the works at the Lion PH have been completed.

The potholes in Lockyers Hill had been patched within the past two years but the road surface needs to be completely replaced.

7.1 Meeting Schedule – It was agreed that the meeting schedule for 2026-27 will be Monday 20th July, Monday 21st September, Monday 17th November (Budget Meeting), Monday 18th January and Monday 15th March (Annual Parish Assembly)

7.2 Subscriptions – It was agreed to carry on the subscription for the Kent Association of Local Councils.

7.3 Banking Arrangements - Action: Set up Cllr L Rossouw as a signatory for the parish council bank account.

8 Financial Matters

8.1 Schedule of Payments – The schedule of payments was circulated amongst the parish councillors. All of the parish councillors approved the schedule of payments. Cllr Martin proposed and Cllr Crow seconded the Schedule of Payments.

8.2 Receipts and Payments Report – The Receipts and Payments Report was circulated among the parish councillors.

8.3 Bank Statements - The Bank Statements was circulated among the parish councillors. The bank balance is £23335.12. All of the bank statements were approved by the parish councillors.

9 Planning Applications

9.1 Response to the Gravesham Local Plan – LPC would like to see the response that Cobham Parish Council has sent.

9.2 Land East of Yew Trees – The owner had installed a stable block on the site. GBC Planning Department has confirmed is a temporary structure. Heavy machinery had been moved on to the field.

9.3 20250272 - Red House, Wrangling Lane – GBC Planning Department has not approved the large outdoor building that was installed by the owner. The landowner has appealed GBC's decision which is with the Planning Inspectorate.

9.4 Cobham House Vineyard, Gold Street – The local residents are waiting for the date for the case to go to the High Court.

9.5 Land at Greenacres – GBC Planning Department has issued an enforcement notice to the owner. The landowner has not cleared the motor homes and cars from the land.

9.6 GBC Planning Department were not prepared to meet with the parish councillors to discuss the ongoing planning applications and Cobham Parish Council did not want to share their meetings with the Planning Department.

10.1 Setting up Clerk's pension – All of the parish councillors present agreed for the setting up of a Nest Pension for the Clerk.

10.2 Items from Councillors –

A local resident kindly agreed to look after the defibrillator at Luddesdown Village Hall.

Hadlow College had brought birds of prey to the Luddesdown May Fair which were a big attraction. Luddesdown Cricket Club allowed their pavilion to be used at the May Fair.

It was asked what could make more residents attend the parish council meetings. It was also asked if a letter should be sent to new residents.