

-----DRAFT to be approved at meeting on 5th May 2026-----

A Meeting of the Parish Council was held at The Memorial Hall, The Street, Frittenden on Tuesday 7th April 2026 at 7.30pm.

Present were: Cllr S Murray
Cllr R Vernon
Cllr A Staples
Cllr J Tuke
Cllr L Gosbee

In attendance: Mrs E Nightingale (Clerk), Cllr A Fairweather (Borough) & 2 members of the public

The meeting was chaired by Cllr Murray

PUBLIC FORUM:

A resident voiced concern about the anti-social behaviour of a group of youths on motorbikes. Another resident had seen them riding dangerously and was concerned for their safety. The Police had been informed and Cllr Murray indicated that she would raise this issue with the new Local Beat Officer for Frittenden, PC Deering, once she has been able to arrange an introductory meeting with them.

Concerns were also raised about two vehicles which had been seen regularly speeding through the village. A resident noted that both vehicles were uninsured with no MOT. One vehicle had crashed but the other continued to be seen speeding and it was suggested that those responsible were the same as those responsible for the above antisocial behaviour.

Cllr Fairweather noted that all instances of antisocial behaviour or dangerous riding/driving should be reported to the police to assist them in building up a body of evidence for the purposes of resourcing / directing efforts to tackle such problems in the local area.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr M Viviers, Cllr C Russell (County) & Cllr N Warne (Borough)

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (in accordance with the Members Code of Conduct Part 2)

None.

3. COUNTY COUNCILLOR UPDATE

In advance of the meeting, Cllr Russell (County) circulated an update which included as follows:

“At the last full meeting of Kent County Council (KCC) (held during the pre-election period for the Cliftonville by-election), Reform had tabled a motion to declare a migrant crisis. During the morning session it became clear that debate was being stifled, various members of different political parties were told to sit down and end what they were saying by the Chairman. As we approached the lunchtime break the list of things that we could not mention was untenable and extended to saying “Reform” questioning any of their decisions including budgetary ones. It would have been impossible to debate a motion of this nature fully within these “rules” and the leader of the opposition attempted to clarify the parameters following lunch. He was once again stopped by the Chairman and on that basis all opposition members including Lib Dems, Greens,

Labour, Restore and our Conservative Group left the chamber. The motion was passed by the administration without debate.

Our group remains concerned about the budget and in particular the Adult Social Care spend in light of the fuel costs rising. The service relies on carers attending people in their homes and providing care to a number of different residents throughout the day, the service is car dependent. The budget has left no margin of room for contingency in this regard.

FRITTENDEN - I am meeting various representatives on site to discuss a drainage issue. I am also attending a meeting with Cllr Fairweather and the KCC Leader and the KCC Cabinet member for Highways to discuss the build outs in more detail with the political leaders and push for action”.

Cllr Fairweather thanked the Parish Council and the organisers of the Easter Fun Run in particular for a superb event.

He confirmed that he had attended the meeting referred to by Cllr Russell above to discuss the road narrowing by Brook Place. That meeting was also attended by Cllr Vernon of the Parish Council who was to provide his report under agenda item 8 below. However, Cllr Fairweather noted that the meeting had been helpful.

Cllr Fairweather confirmed that the Bellview planning application would not be considered at the next meeting of Tunbridge Wells Borough Council’s (TWBC) Planning Committee which will take place on 15th April. The Planning Officer has completed his report and it is currently with his Line Manager for review.

4. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 6TH JANUARY 2026

It was proposed by Cllr Tuke, seconded by Cllr Vernon, and **RESOLVED** (1 abstention) that the Minutes from the Meeting on 3rd March 2026 are a true and accurate record of that meeting. That being so, Cllr Murray will sign the said Minutes as acting Chair.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Locking the Parish Field Gate

The Clerk is arranging for a sign to be made which can be hung on the gate directing those who need access via the locked gate to the Clerk or member of the Council. The combination has been provided to Lance French in his role as Community First Responder and he will update the system used by the emergency services to ensure that the lock can be opened by those services if required, particular given the Parish Field is designated as a landing site for the Air Ambulance.

Misleading road closure signage

The Clerk will raise this with Cllr Russell in the first instance and ask that she escalates the Council’s concerns to the appropriate officer at KCC.

6. PARISH FIELD

- **HOLE IN THE PERIMETER HEDGE**

The Clerk had received a quote from Nigel Sestanovic of £200 for restoring the collapsed wire fencing to close the hole. It was proposed by Cllr Gosbee, seconded by Cllr Staples, and **RESOLVED** by all members present that the quote be accepted and the Clerk instruct Mr Sestanovic to undertake the work as soon as possible.

- **HEDGE BEHIND THE TENNIS COURT**

The Clerk reported that she had met with the Council's grounds maintenance contractor to inspect the hedge behind the tennis court. Their advice was to remove the hedge because it was in a relatively poor state, having been invaded by brambles and ivy, and that would make it easier to maintain the area behind the tennis court by way of strimming. That contractor had provided a quote of £2,200 plus VAT for that work. The Clerk had obtained an alternative quote from Nigel Sestanovic of £1,850 and had asked one other contractor for a quote which was yet to be received. It was agreed that any work that might be agreed to remove the hedge should not be commenced until September when the bird nesting season was over.

The owner of an adjacent property was concerned that the hedge had grown into and caused damage to their garden fence. The Clerk had invited them to provide her with quotes for the cost of replacing the fence so the Council could consider whether it was able to assist with that, but, at the date of the meeting, no such quotes had been received. The council would need to consider whether contributing to the cost of a new fence was an appropriate use of tax payer's money.

- **PLAYGOURND REPAIRS / IMPROVEMENTS**

Cllr Gosbee noted that the tape which had been used to close off the damaged steps / slide in the playground had once again been removed, but the notices warning that this piece of equipment was closed / out of bounds remained. It was suggested that the clerk write to the School and Preschool asking that they warn parents that the steps/slide was closed for repair and should not be used. A post to that effect had already been put on the Community Facebook page by the Clerk.

The Clerk had circulated two designs for improvements to the mound, replacement of the damaged slide and rooster springer produced by Everyday Play and corresponding quotes for that work. It was agreed that option 2 should be investigated further with the clerk endeavouring to obtain two further quotes.

7. ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

Lance French had kindly agreed to speak at the upcoming Annual Parish Assembly on his role as Community First Responder and what the community could do to assist when confronted with medical emergencies. He will be bringing along dummies to allow those who are interested to learn how to give CPR.

The new Kent Police Local Beat Officer for Frittenden had been invited to attend but it was not yet known whether she would be able to.

Cllr Russell will also be attending to provide an update on her work at KCC over the past year.

8. UPDATE ON CRANBROOK ROAD NARROWING

Cllr Vernon reported that following the meeting that previously took place at KCC's offices, it had been agreed that KCC would request a further safety audit of the build out, both by day and by night. That had taken place in March and had identified three issues:

- i. Inadequate visibility splay coming out of Brook Place
- ii. The traffic island with the lamp post lacked prominence
- iii. The whole build out lacked prominence in the dark.

The general recommendation was that the whole area should be lit and that report is now with KCC who can compel Canham Homes to undertake and pay for any additional measures deemed to be required.

Cllr Vernon had also raised the fact that the ditch/hedge behind the new railings could no longer be dug or cut. KCC had agreed that the ditch/hedge should be brought within the Brook Place estate, meaning that it would be for Canham Homes or any estate management company for Brook Place to maintain those features at their own expense.

KCC officers had now met with Adrian Bone and his brothers to discuss the issues the road narrowing had caused the farm. In particular the ongoing access issues were discussed and KCC agreed to assist with that, albeit their proposals in that regard were yet to be received.

Once of the points that came out of the meeting with KCC was that the cost of any additional lighting or measures mandated by KCC might mean that Canham Homes decide to move the pavement, as that could prove to be the cheaper option, but this was yet to be seen.

9. UPDATE FROM THE HANDS OFF OUR HERITAGE WORKING GROUP

Cllr Vernon noted that Cllr Fairweather had been keeping him informed of developments as much as he could. The Working Group had reviewed the latest lot of documents submitted by the developer but didn't think they contained anything which would change the Council's position or the submissions already made. The Working Group had asked the Council's Highways Consultant to comment and those comments had been lodged on the planning portal.

10. VILLAGE FATE 2026

Prior to the meeting Cllr Viviers had provided the following update:

- The organising committee had gained volunteers, but more were needed.
- The Frittenden tent team had kindly agreed to provide the marquees for free.
- All the goods stalls had been agreed
- The organising committee would be applying for a temporary event licence.
- It was hoped that there will be fire engines and police vehicles attending
- The organising committee needed to find somewhere to store bric a brac items which were to be sold on the day. Any suggestions would be welcomed.
- A quote for portable loos.
- The organising committee would be approaching a number of local businesses to see if they were willing to donate, e.g. milk for teas etc.

11. SPEEDWATCH

Cllr Staples reported that there had been 6 sessions of Speedwatch since the last Council meeting. 26 out of 283 vehicles had been recorded at speeds of 35mph or greater, including 5 (out of 138) at the Chestnut Close location. 4 letters had been sent out and the highest speed recorded was 45mph. A vehicle had also been reported for causing a nuisance to nearby residents by sounding its horn whenever it was passing parked cars. It was noted that the driver had been spoken to about this.

12. PLAYGROUND INSPECTIONS

Cllr Gosbee had reported on the problem of the safety tape being removed from the mound steps / slide under agenda item 6 above. No other issues were reported.

13. ROAD REPORT

Cllr Gosbee noted that lots of potholes had been marked with white lines but, as yet, there was no indication as to when they would be repaired. Cllr Gosbee had asked KCC to fill the numerous holes that had formed between the white line at the side of the road and the verges but KCC insisted that they were not required to do so as that area did not amount to the highway.

The white goods that had been dumped in the woods had been removed by the landowner, but a caravan that had been dumped on Green Lane (between Bettenham Lane and Hareplain Road) had been set alight.

14. PLANNING

New Applications

26/00701/PNEXT	Castle Cottage, Frittenden Prior notification for a proposed single-storey rear extension which: A) Extends by 4.50 metres beyond the rear wall of the original dwelling; B) Has a maximum height of 3.17 metres from the natural ground level; C) Has a height of 2.98 metres at the eaves from the natural ground level. NOTED
26/00568/SUB	Sunnyview Barn, Satins Hill, Frittenden Road, Frittenden Submission of Details in relation to Condition 1 (Contamination Report) of 23/01778/PNQCLA NOTED

Outcome of Previous applications

26/00079/FULL	The Hatchin Tan, Grandshore Lane, Frittenden Variation of Condition 9, 10 & 11 of Planning Permission 25/02126/FULL - (additional time required to provide reports) PERMISSION GRANTED
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Planning appeals

- None

It was noted that there continued to be unlawful development on the site adjacent to the Hatchin Tan, to include the construction of brick walls and large gates. The Parish Council had previously been told by TWBC that they would not take any enforcement action because a planning application to regularise the development was about to be submitted. That was some months ago and, as far as the Council was aware, no such application had been submitted. Further, a member was concerned that the drainage ditch between Grandshore Lane and the above sites could have become contaminated due to inadequate sewage treatment infrastructure on those sites, as there was a foul and noxious smell coming from the ditch. The Clerk was instructed to press TWBC Enforcement for further action and report the potential contamination to the Environment Agency.

15. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

- None

16. FINANCE

- It was proposed by Cllr Viviers, seconded by Cllr Staples, and **RESOLVED** by all members present to pay the accounts as follows:

FRITTENDEN PAYMENTS – APRIL 2026					
Cheque Number	GROSS	VAT	NET	SUPPLIER	DETAILS
BACS	£15.00	Nil	£15.00	Frittenden Memorial Hall	Room Hire (1 x meeting room session)
BACS	£54.94	£9.16	£45.78	FCC Waste Management Ltd	Litterbins (March)
BACS	£55.40	Nil	£55.40	Mrs E Nightingale	Clerk's Expenses - April
BACS	£232.64	Nil	£232.64	Mrs E Nightingale	Clerk's Salary - April
BACS	£58.00	Nil	£58.00	HMRC	PAYE
BACS	£519.98	£86.66	£433.32	KALC	Membership fee – 2026/27
BACS	£450.00	£75.00	£375.00	Streetlights	Replacement of damaged & obsolete lantern with SL8 LED
BACS	£141.60	£23.60	£118.00	Bell & Jorrocks	Refund of cost of replacement defibrillator pads
BACS	£39.72	£6.62	£33.10	JRB Enterprise Ltd	Dog waste bags
DD	£11.99	£2.00	£9.99	Hugo Fox	Website Hosting
DD	£20.99	£3.50	£17.49	Hugo Fox	Domain & 5 x email addresses
DD	tbc	tbc	tbc	NPower	Electricity for streetlighting
Total	£1,560.54	£199.92	£1,360.62		

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 20:43pm.

Chairman's Signature: _____

Date: _____