BEKESBOURNE-WITH-PATRIXBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL
November 2026 Agenda Pack

Agenda Item 1 Those Present

Agenda Item 2 Apologies for Absence

Agenda Item 3 Declarations of councillor interests relevant to this agenda

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Agenda Item 4 Public Representation

Agenda Item 5 External Reports
Agenda Item 5.1 County Councillor Reports
The following report has been received.



Councillor Mike Sole's

monthly report

Kent County Councillor : Canterbury South
Canterbury City Councillor : Nailbourne

Working for you all all year round

Well, the government dropped a very unexpected bombshell on Local Government Reorganisation last month by putting the whole process on pause. So, whilst we were expecting elections next year to a new East Kent Unitary Council, and for KCC and Canterbury City Council to be abolished in 2028, we don't know what will happen now. Whilst the best guess is probably a pause (rather than cancellation) and then a later announcement to push it all back a year, we just don't know.

As a result of this pause, the one thing that we do know, is that Canterbury City Council elections will now take place next year. It has all been very frustrating and this chaos and uncertainty is not helpful to anyone working in local government and delivering services to residents.

The Canterbury City Council Community Governance review is now entering stage two. This is looking at whether there should be town councils in the district and/or changes to parish councils. One proposal that residents of Kingston and Barham will be consulted on is that both parish councils could work closer together through a grouping arrangement. There is also a district wide consultation about whether, if new town or parish councils are created, elections to all parishes should be delayed by a year to enable them to be set up and keep all elections on the same date.

With over 200 public comments, and packed parish council meetings, the part retrospective planning application for residential caravans on land off Valley Road, Barham, has generated a lot of interest. The planning officer will now review these comments, including mine opposing the application, and those of consultees such as Kent Highways, The Environment Agency and CPRE before making a decision, assessing the application against national and local planning policies. I shall keep residents informed.

We are very fortunate to have rare chalk streams in our area. I attended the Little Stour River Day talk in Wickhambreaux to hear about the work that is being done to monitor the health of the local rivers.

Cllr Lee Castle and I held a councillor surgery at the Ivy Barn in Littlebourne and discussed a number of issues with residents and the KCC Community Warden.

I've been following up a number of highway issues with KCC that were reported months ago without action. With the nights drawing in it is essential that we get many of these safety critical repairs fixed.

(KCC) : mike.sole@kent.gov.uk

(CCC) : mike.sole@councillor.canterbury.gov.uk

Agenda Item 5.2 City Councillor Reports
The following report has been received.

Councillor Lee Castle

Little Stour & Adisham Ward - Canterbury City Council - 07875402888



September 2026

lee.castle@councillor.canterbury.gov.u

As the year seems to be flying by, please find below my update for September. It has been another busy month, with parish meetings, council meetings, surgeries and plenty of local casework across the ward.

At the beginning of the month, I attended **Littlebourne** Parish Council, where we discussed a number of local matters, including planning and planning enforcement. Councillor Mike Sole and I also held a drop-in surgery in Littlebourne, which was very well attended. Residents raised a wide range of issues, including licensing, highways and other local concerns. These surgeries are a useful opportunity to hear directly from residents, discuss problems and work out how best to take them forward.

I also attended meetings with **Adisham, Bekesbourne with Patrixbourne and Wickhambreaux** Parish Councils, as well as **Canterbury City Council** meetings, including Full Council and the Licensing Committee. Alongside the formal meetings, I have continued dealing with individual casework raised by residents across the ward.

In **Wickhambreaux**, I have been working on issues involving boundary clearance and trees on council housing land. It was also good to see the graffiti on the pillbox dealt with by Canenco. Although this was outside their normal remit, I was pleased they were able to assist and get the problem resolved.

I have continued chasing KCC Highways regarding potholes on the List, and I have now been advised that works are programmed. I will continue to monitor this and make sure it is followed up. There were also some bin collection issues on the Street and the List earlier in the month, which were raised with the relevant contacts.

In **Ickham**, I have been dealing with casework relating to flooding, fly-tipping and anti-social behaviour on rural roads. In **Adisham,** issues around grounds maintenance and parking have continued to be raised, and I am pursuing these with the relevant organisations.

In **Littlebourne**, I have dealt with casework around planning permission rules and was pleased to resolve a couple of long-standing green bin collection issues by liaising with contacts at Canenco.

Towards the end of the month, I attended the **Little Stour River Day** talk in **Wickhambreaux**, as part of the wider district **Stour Valley Riverfest**. It was an interesting evening, although also concerning to hear again about the condition of our local chalk streams and the pressures they continue to face. These are important environmental assets, and it is vital that their condition continues to receive the attention they deserve.

Although highways are the responsibility of Kent County Council, I am always happy to help raise and chase local issues. If you have a pothole or other highway problem, please send it to me with the location, ideally using What3Words. I keep a spreadsheet of reported issues and regularly check progress. Recently, some items have been removed from the reporting system, so issues sometimes need to be reported again.

As always, if there is anything else I can assist with, please do get in touch. I will always do my best to help or put you in contact with the organisation responsible.

Agenda Item 6 To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting.
Minutes have been circulated to councillors prior to this meeting; they are also available on the website.

Agenda item 7 To report any matters arising *(from the previous meeting not covered elsewhere on the agenda)*
None received.

Agenda Item 8 Any s101 Delegated Authority items to be noted by council.

Agenda Item 9 Any updates from representatives from external groups *(if any)*
A report from the Little Stour Community warden has been circulated with this Agenda pack to council.
Agenda Item 9.1 Recreation Ground Management Committee
Not yet received.
Agenda Item 9.2 Village Hall Management Committee
Not yet received.
Agenda Item 9.3 The River Group
The Parish Council has been notified that the Annual Meeting of the Little Stour & Nailbourne River Group will take place on Saturday 21 November 2026 at 9.30am.
Agenda Item 9.4 KALC
The KALC October newsletter has been circulated via email with this Agenda pack.
Agenda Item 9.5 A257 Traffic Management Group
Minutes of the A257 full traffic group meeting on Saturday 19 September 2026 have been circulated prior to this meeting.

Agenda Item 10 Staffing Matters

Agenda Item 11 Highways Matters
Agenda Item 11.1 Highways Improvement Plan

An updated copy of the HIP, showing the new priority order, has now been sent to our Community Engagement officer. It has also been uploaded to the parish council website.

Agenda Item 11.2 Any new matters to raise

None.

Agenda Item 12 Finance Matters

Agenda Item 12.1 To note the September/October 2026 payment schedule & approve any new payments.

Date	Type	Recipient	Amount
01/09/2026	BP	[redacted]	
01/09/2026	SO	V S Davidson - Work phone	£5.00
01/09/2026	BP	[redacted]	
01/09/2026	BP	[redacted]	
15/09/2026	DD	HugoFox - Website	£23.99
15/09/2026	BC	Lloyds - Service charge	£4.24
16/09/2026	DD	HugoFox - Emails	£20.99
30/09/2026	FPO	[redacted]	
30/09/2026	FPO	[redacted]	
30/09/2026	FPO	[redacted]	
07/10/2026	FPO	CS Accountancy – Payroll fee	£ 13.00
15/10/2026	DD	HugoFox - Website	£23.99
16/10/2026	DD	HugoFox – Emails	£20.99
19/10/2026	BC	Lloyds Service Charge	£4.25
30/10/2026	SO	V S Davidson – Work Phone	£5.00

Payments Due for Approval:

Recipient	Detail	Amount
V S Davidson	Clerk Expenses – Mileage and HP Instant Ink (see expenses sheet)	£44.73
Forvis Mazars	External Auditor Fee	£378.00
Bekesbourne Rec	Pavilion Hire – 4 x 2.5hrs	£100.00

Agenda Item 12.2 To approve the Q2 26/27 accounts.

Bekesbourne with Patrixbourne Parish Council

Quarter 2 Accounts 2026/27 (1st July-30th September)

Receipts

Date	Ref	RECEIPTS	£
01/09/2026	BGC	CCC - S106	£ 3,267.68
Total Receipts			**£ 3,267.68**

Payments

Date cleared	Reference:	Details	£
13/07/2026	FPO	Arthur JGallagher - Insurance	£ 1,617.80
13/07/2026	FPO	Essentially Hops	£ 18.00
15/07/2026	DD	HugoFox - Website	£ 23.99
15/07/2026	FPO	HT Willet - Pest control	£ 60.00
16/07/2026	DD	HugoFox - Emaila	£ 20.99
17/07/2026	FPO	KALC - Annual membership	£ 463.97
29/07/2026	FPO	[redacted]	
30/07/2026	SO	V S Davidson - Work phone	£ 5.00
31/07/2026	FPO	[redacted]	
31/07/2026	FPO		
03/08/2026	FPO		
13/08/2026	FPO		
13/08/2026	FPO	SafePlay - Seat Repair	£ 229.20
17/08/2026	DD	HugoFox - Emails	£ 20.99
17/08/2026	DD	HugoFox- Website	£ 23.99
18/08/2026	BC	Lloyds - Service charge	£ 4.25
20/08/2026	FPO	Safeplay -QuaterlyInspection	£ 96.00
20/08/2026	FPO	Bridge group - Church Grant	£ 800.00
26/08/2026	FPO	MTF Diamond - Pavillion 2nd payment	£ 7,648.20
01/09/2026	BP	[redacted]	
01/09/2026	SO	V S Davidson - Work phone	£ 5.00
01/09/2026	BP	[redacted]	
01/09/2026	BP		
15/09/2026	DD	HugoFox - Website	£ 23.99
15/09/2026	BC	Lloyds - Service charge	£ 4.24
16/09/2026	DD	HugoFox - Emails	£ 20.99
30/09/2026	FPO	[redacted]	
30/09/2026	FPO		
30/09/2026	FPO		
Total Payments			**£ 4,229.30**

Agenda Item 12.3 S106 Funding
The Parish Council's remaining **Section 106 funding balance of £3,267.68** is still being held in the bank account. The clerk and Rec committee will be meeting to discuss planting options.

Agenda Item 12.4 Consideration and Approval of the Budget for the Financial Year 2027/28
The draft budget for 2027/28 is attached for Council's consideration, with explanatory notes against individual budget headings.

The proposed annual running costs are £31,601.27. This reflects increased operating costs and employer obligations, including National Insurance and pension contributions.

The Council is asked to consider the proposed expenditure and agree the budget for the forthcoming financial year.

Recommendation: That the Council approves the draft budget of £31,601.27 for the financial year 2027/28, subject to any amendments agreed at the meeting.

Agenda Item 12.5 – Consideration and Approval of the Precept for 2027/28
Following consideration of the 2027/28 budget, the Council is asked to determine the precept required for the forthcoming financial year.

The precept for 2026/27 was £24,278.60. Based on the proposed 2027/28 budget of £31,601.27, three options are presented:

Option	Proposed Precept	% Inc	Implications
A – No increase	£24,278.60	0%	**Funding shortfall of £7,322.67**
B – Fully fund budget	£31,601.27	30.16%	Covers proposed running costs **without using reserves**
C – Use reserves	£30,070.13	23.85%	Uses approximately £1,531 from reserves to reduce the precept increase

Reserves
The Council currently holds £71,618.68 in earmarked reserves (planned projects), together with £4,955 in general reserves (3 months running costs minimum) and £6,021.47 in unearmarked reserves (unallocated to any projects), giving total reserves of approximately £82,595.

Option C proposes using a proportion of existing reserves to fund specified expenditure, including training, professional memberships and yearly software subscriptions. The Council's auditor has previously commented on the level of reserves held. Appropriate use of reserves for planned expenditure would help address these comments while reducing the precept increase. The relevant reserves schedules are attached for consideration.

Council Tax Implications
The percentage increases shown relate to the total precept rather than individual household Council Tax bills. The impact on individual properties will be known once Canterbury City Council confirms the Council Tax base for 2027/28.

Recommendations:
That the Council:

1. Considers the three options and resolves to set the precept for 2027/28 at the agreed amount.

2. Approves the corresponding reserves schedule for 2027/28, subject to any amendments agreed at the meeting.

Agenda Item 13 Planning
Agenda Item 13.1 To Receive Updates on previous consultee responses
Application CA/26/01018 –Bekesbourne Stables, Aerodrome Road, Bekesbourne, CT4 5EX
Planning permission has been GRANTED for the change of use of residential garden and part of the stable yard to provide holiday accommodation, including two single-storey ancillary buildings, hot/cold tubs, decking and associated parking.
Decision issued: 30 October 2026

Application CA/26/01663
Location: 1 Newport Cottages, Bekesbourne Hill, Bekesbourne, Kent, CT4 5EF.
Proposal: Single-storey rear extension, roof extension incorporating front and rear dormers, and replacement outbuilding following demolition of the existing conservatory.
Consultation Deadline: 13 November 2026.
Clerk's Note: The Clerk circulated the planning application to all Parish Councillors by email upon receipt for their consideration.

Agenda Item 13.2 To Discuss any new applications
None.

Agenda Item 14 Allotments
Agenda Item 14.1 Tenancy Agreements Yr 26/27
The Clerk has issued new allotment tenancy agreements to all plot holders, with payments due by 1 November 2026.

Plot 8 has been allocated to a new tenant. The Clerk has issued the relevant keys and tenancy agreement.

There are now 2 vacant allotment plots remaining. The clerk is in contact with potential new tenants.

Agenda Item 14.2 Any Updates
None received.
Agenda Item 14.3 Any new matters to report
None.

Agenda Item 15 Grant Applications
None received.

Agenda item 16 Correspondence

1. Correspondence has been received from a regular station user raising concerns regarding the availability of designated parking spaces at Bekesbourne Railway Station.
The resident reports that parking spaces, which have historically been readily available, are now frequently occupied. On a recent occasion, having found all marked spaces full, the resident parked outside the designated bays, paid the parking fee and subsequently received an £80 parking charge, which is currently being disputed.
The resident is concerned that increasing demand for parking may result in similar difficulties for other station users.

2. A resident has requested that the Parish Council consider purchasing and installing its own road safety warning signs throughout the village, in response to ongoing concerns about speeding and pedestrian safety.
The resident suggests that low-maintenance signage may provide a practical alternative to electronic speed indicator devices. Suggested signage includes Community Speed Watch warnings, children crossing and pedestrians in the road signs, and improved crossing signage near the Aspinall Close bus stop.

The resident has also contacted Stagecoach regarding maintenance of the Aspinall Close bus stop, including cutting back overhanging branches, clearing leaves and improving the visibility of the stop.

Agenda item 17 Kent Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation ***(any updates)***
None.

Agenda item 18 Next Meeting Date
Monday 11th January 2026
(Bekesbourne Village Hall)

End of Agenda Pack