

-----DRAFT TO BE APPROVED AT MEETING ON 7<sup>th</sup> JULY 2026-----

A Meeting of the Parish Council was held at The Memorial Hall, The Street, Frittenden on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2026 at 7.30pm.

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

In attendance: Mrs E Nightingale (Clerk), Cllr C Russell (County), Cllr A Fairweather & Cllr A Ellison (Borough)

**PUBLIC FORUM:**

None

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr M Viviers & Cllr N Warne (Borough)

**2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

It was proposed by Cllr Tuke and seconded by Cllr Murray and **RESOLVED** by all members present that Cllr Vernon be elected chair.

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

None.

**4. BOROUGH COUNCILLOR UPDATE**

In advance of the meeting, Cllr Russell had circulated a written report as follows:

***“Council Overview***

*The Overview and Scrutiny water short focussed inquiry has completed and I was pleased to have been part of it as the representative for our group and to further highlight the issues of water stations and their locations for our rural community along with the risk to livestock.*

*Unfortunately, some of the promises made for future outages did not again seem to have been any different in this recent outage but pressure is being applied on South East Water from all angles to keep highlighting the water scarcity that our area is facing.*

*The recent full council meeting made some alterations to the strategic plan. I spoke in the item and highlighted that the statements are not being matched with action and they have no measurable outcomes attached to them so it will be extremely difficult to determine progress or see what success would look like for the plan.*

*High fuels prices continue to add pressure to the adult social care service as many trips are made to provide care in private residences.*

*There has been another, smaller, cabinet reshuffle with a new cabinet member for adult social care.*

*The usual custom of the vice chairman ascending to the position of the chair was not followed and as such there is a new Chairman of KCC, Cllr Jeremy Eustace and a new Vice Chairman of KCC, Cllr Dodger Sian.*

Cranbrook Division

*ROAD IMPROVEMENTS FOR TWBC £25k – As far as I have been made aware all submitted schemes have been approved for spend with TWBC and will now switch back to KCC for implementation...*

*...FRITTENDEN – Cllr Fairweather and I continue to keep the pressure on with both officers and the leader of KCC and the deputy cabinet member for Highways to get some action on the build out issue”.*

Cllr Russell also confirmed that she was pressing for further information from KCC about what it intended to do to improve the safety of the Bounds Cross Crossroads in response to the concerns raised by those living adjacent to the crossroads. She was meeting with the Community Liaison officer at KCC Highways that week and would be raising this issue with them.

Cllr Fairweather noted that the review of the TWBC Local Plan for the period 2029 to 2044 had started. A call for sites exercise was underway and that would continue until 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2026. The target for house building had been increased by central government from 678 per annum to 1,098 per annum. That increase would not come into effect until 2029, but the 678 figure would be increasing in real terms prior to that date because the housing provision had to include a buffer which was being increased from 5% to 20%.

Cllr Fairweather had attended a meeting about the water supply issues impacted on the Borough. He had also been told that the Planning Department expected the right to call in a planning application (thereby requiring it to be determined by the Planning Committee and not solely by a Planning Officer exercising delegated powers) will be removed later this year.

Cllr Fairweather noted that Serco had taken over the management of the leisure centre in Cranbrook. He had met with Serco and found their engagement and commitment to be encouraging.

The early polling arrangements trialled for the recent Borough Council elections had been very poorly attended. Cllr Fairweather noted that there had been some confusion around those elections and he had therefore written an article for the Parish Magazine addressing this.

Cllr Fairweather was aware that a site meeting involving Highways Officers had taken place at the road narrowing by Brook Place. Neither Cllr Fairweather nor the Parish Council had been invited to attend. Cllr Fairweather had, however, been advised that a grant of c.£11,000 would be made by TWBC to fund highway safety measures approved by KCC to address the issue of speeding in the village.

Cllr Ellison introduced himself to the Council following his recent election to the position of Borough Councillor for the Cranbrook Sissinghurst and Frittenden Ward. He will work alongside Cllrs Fairweather and Warne, as well as liaise with Cllr Russell when input at County level is required.

**5. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PLANNING MEETING HELD ON THE 28<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2026 AND THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING ON 5<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2026**

It was proposed by Cllr Tuke, seconded by Cllr Staples, and **RESOLVED (1 abstention)** that the Minutes from the Planning Meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2026 are a true and accurate record of that

meeting. It was further proposed by Cllr Vernon, seconded by Cllr Tuke, and **RESOLVED (2 abstentions)** that the Minutes of the Council Meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2026 are a true and accurate record of that meeting. That being so, Cllr Vernon will sign the said Minutes.

## 6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

### Misleading road closure signage

This is being dealt with by the clerk.

### Hedge behind the tennis court

The clerk has now received a third quote for the cost of removing the hedge, but was yet to be provided with quotes from the neighbouring resident for the cost of replacing the fence that was alleged to have been damaged by the hedge. As no steps could be taken to remove the hedge, if that is what the Council ultimately chooses to do, until after the nesting season in September, it was agreed that this matter be put on the agenda for the meeting to take place in July and that the clerk contacts the neighbour in the meantime.

## 7. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN 2024/25

- (i) The Annual Internal Audit Report was received and noted.
- (ii) It was proposed by Cllr Vernon, seconded by Cllr Gosbee, and **RESOLVED** by all members present to approve the Council's Annual Governance Statement.
- (iii) It was proposed by Cllr Vernon, seconded by Cllr Murray, and **RESOLVED** by all members present to approve the Council's Accounting Statements.

## 8. EASTER FUN RUN

The Parish Council delegated the organisation of the Easter Fun Run to Charlotte Hunter and those who assisted her. It had been suggested by Charlotte Hunter that the Parish Council consider applying to close the route to traffic during next year's event. The clerk will look into what that would involve and how this might be achieved in practice given closure of the entire route would prevent access to or through the village centre for the duration of the event. This will be put on the agenda for a Council meeting in late 2026/early 2027.

## 9. HIP UPDATE

KCC has now provided designs for the speed mitigation measures it has agreed to carry out subject to funding being provided by TWBC under its Highway Safety Improvement Grant Scheme. The measures comprise renewing the village gateways on Cranbrook Road and Mill Lane, painting 30 mph roundels and 'SLOW' at various points on Cranbrook Road/The Street/Biddenden Road/Headcorn Road and the erection of signage notifying drivers of an advisory 20 mph speed limit on The Street between the flashing lights which warning drivers that they are approaching the school / preschool. KCC has estimated that those works will cost in the region of £11,050. The clerk has therefore formally submitted a grant application.

## 10. LARCHMERE SUMMER FETE

It was proposed by Cllr Staples, seconded by Cllr Vernon and **RESOLVED** by all members present that Larchmere House be permitted to use part of the Parish Field for its Summer Fete on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> August 2026.

## 11. UPDATE FROM HANDS OFF OUR HERITAGE WORKING GROUP

Cllr Vernon reported that the Working Group had put out an update on the HOOH WhatsApp Group. In essence, the developer had been advised by TWBC that the proposed development would be refused in its current form, but it had been given additional time to consider it wished to submit revised proposals. If revised proposals were submitted, a new consultation process would take place albeit the comments already submitted by the Parish Council and residents would be rolled forward and taken into consideration when those new proposals were considered by TWBC. In the meantime, TWBC was updating its figures on whether it could achieve a 5-year housing supply taking account of the new targets set by Central Government. The updated figures would be available in July. If TWBC could not show a 5-year housing supply, the balance would be tipped in favour of granting applications moving forward. The figures could therefore have an impact on how any revised proposals are considered by TWBC.

## 12. VILLAGE FETE 2026

No update was provided in the absence of Cllr Viviers.

## 13. SPEEDWATCH

Cllr Staples reported that there had been 5 sessions of Speedwatch since the last meeting. 32 offenders had been recorded out of 207 vehicles, being a 15.5% offending rate. 4 letters had been sent out by Kent Police and the maximum speed recorded was 45 mph. The sessions held at Chestnut Close had recorded 6 offenders out of 65 vehicles, being an offending rate of 10%. However, the maximum speeds seen were lower (in the high 30's).

Cllr Staples noted that there had been no reduction in Speedwatch's activities and that it continued to aim to complete 5 or 6 sessions a month.

Cllr Staples was also concerned to report an incident where two Speedwatch volunteers were verbally abused by a driver. That incident had been reported to the Police but they were unable to take any action without audio or video evidence. Cllr Staples noted that Sandhurst Speedwatch had purchased two body worn cameras for that reason and it was agreed that Cllr Staples will cost submit quotes for the purchase of two such cameras for consideration by the Council when it next meets.

## 14. PLAYGROUND INSPECTIONS

It was noted that the lock on the Parish Field vehicular gate was broken. Cllr Vernon will source a replacement.

The Clerk reported that she had still only received one quote for the proposed renovations of the mound/slide. The Council's financial regulations required three quotes to be obtained for expenditure at the level required. However, the Council was concerned that the mound/slide remained in an unsafe condition pending those renovations and all attempts to prevent it from being used on safety grounds had been ignored, to include notes and safety tape being removed on a number of occasions.

It was noted that the Council was satisfied that the quote received from a local manufacturer and installer of play equipment represented value for money and an appropriate use of public funds, and that there was a need to get the works completed as quickly as possible in view of the upcoming summer holiday period when usage of the playground could be expected to peak. It was therefore proposed by Cllr Vernon, seconded by Cllr Gosbee, and **RESOLVED** by all members present that due to public safety concerns works needed to be completed to the mound/slide at the earliest opportunity. It was not practicable to wait for two additional quotes to be received if that

could not be achieved within a reasonable period and the quote received should be accepted if such quotes were not available within 14 days.

## 15. ROAD REPORT

Cllr Gosbee noted that the Parish Council continued to receive little or late notice of some road closures and that road closure signage was not taken down promptly when works were completed and the road reopened to traffic.

There was a large pothole on Staplehurst Road by Paul Hope's gate. Had been reported by Cllr Gosbee, who had also put cones around it.

## 16. PLANNING

### New Applications

26/01060/FULL	Tolhurst Farm Land & Buildings, Knoxbridge, Frittenden Retention of mobile home for 3-year period <b>Proposed by Cllr Vernon, Seconded by Cllr Staples</b> <b>RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL</b>
26/01202/LBC	Old Hungerden, Green Lane, Frittenden Listed Building Consent - Internal alterations to create ensuite; external soil vent pipe <b>Proposed by Cllr Vernon, Seconded by Cllr Gosbee</b> <b>RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND CONSENT BE GRANTED</b>
26/01207/FULL	The Hollows, The Street, Frittenden Removal of conservatory; single-storey side extension. <b>Proposed by Cllr Vernon, Seconded by Cllr Tuke</b> <b>RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL</b>

### Outcome of Previous applications

- None

### Planning appeals

- None

## 17. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

- The Council has been asked to promote a community survey currently being carried out by Support Weald Schooling
- Cllr Staples noted that he had been contacted by a resident with a request regarding affordable housing. The Council noted that it was not consulted on affordable housing allocations and had no power to influence the same.

## 18. FINANCE

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

FRITTENDEN PAYMENTS – JUNE 2026					
Cheque Number	GROSS	VAT	NET	SUPPLIER	DETAILS
BACS	£46.00	Nil	£46.00	Frittenden Memorial Hall	Room Hire (1 x meeting room session, 1 x Hall)
BACS	£59.00	Nil	£59.00	Mrs E Nightingale	Clerk's Expenses - June
BACS	£233.76	Nil	£233.76	Mrs E Nightingale	Clerk's Salary - June
BACS	£58.40	Nil	£58.40	HMRC	PAYE
BACS	£50.00	NIL	£50.00	Mr B Millard	Honorarium – Internal Audit
BACS	£113.78	£18.96	£94.82	FCC Waste Management Ltd	Litter Bins – April & May
BACS	£535.00	Nil	£535.00	Mr R Steele	Reimbursement of cost of replacement Tent Team trailer
BACS	£1,122.00	£187.00	£935.00	Transport Planning Associates	Highway Consultants Fees re: Bellview
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
<b>Total</b>	<b>£2,250.92</b>	<b>£211.46</b>	<b>£2,039.46</b>		

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 20:30pm.

Chairman's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_