

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BROOK PARISH COUNCIL
ON 15th JANUARY 2026 HELD IN BROOK AND HINXHILL VILLAGE HALL**

Present:

Cllr S Betty (Chair)
Cllr R Masters
Cllr Redfern

Cllr A Betty
Cllr P Penberthy
Cllr Wood

The Clerk

		To be actioned by						
1.	To receive and approve apologies for absence.							
	There were no apologies for absence 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.							
3.	To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 20th November 2025							
	The minutes were signed as a true record.							
4.	To discuss matters arising from the above minutes not covered by the agenda.							
	<p>The Clerk had reported the drain at Kent Highways and will follow this up with the County Councillor.</p> <p>The Chairman had discussed the electric connection for the Village Hall with the Chairman of the Hall. The committee will look into this.</p> <p>Cllr Betty is yet to make contact with the Honest Miller regarding re-registering the pub as an ACV.</p>							
5.	To receive the report from the Borough/County Councillor							
	<p>The Borough Councillor Ward Member report had been circulated.</p> <p>Cllr Betty went through his report and highlighted the main points.</p> <p>Cllr Masters asked when the Local Plan is expected to be published, Cllr Betty explained that this is expected by 2028.</p>							
6.	Public Session: To receive questions and comments from the public on any agenda item							
	<p>Sergeant Dan Edge visited the meeting for a short while.</p> <p>He reported that PC Hopkins is the beat Officer for Brook, Police updates can be found if you sign up to "My Community Voice." The area around Brook has few issues requiring Police assistance but, please report anything you see that looks suspicious. If people are concerned, call 999 if an emergency, 101 if not or use the report online tool.</p>							
7.	Financial matters:							
	<p>To approve the following financial documents:</p> <p>To note the Parish Council's financial position for 31st December 2025.</p> <p>The Parish Council noted it had £24,080.69 in the bank account.</p> <p>To authorise any payments</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Payee</th> <th>Amount</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Clerk</td> <td>£415.48</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Clerk</td> <td>£415.68</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Payee	Amount	Clerk	£415.48	Clerk	£415.68	
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		Bank Charges	£12.00		
		HMRC	£5.32		
8.	To consider revisiting and updating the Resilience Plan.				
	Cllr Redfern reported that he had looked at the documentation. He has made contact with a company regarding the mobile coverage.				
9.	To consider Recreation Ground Matters including the Play area.				
	Cllr Wood reported that she had received an additional £500 from the Drama Group.				
	Cllr Wood reported that she intends to contact local land owners, undertake a local door drop and a silent auction.				
10.	To receive an update on the field owned by Hatch Estate				
	Cllr Betty had contacted the PROW Officer having received a complaint about the works being undertaken in a large field known as Hudson's Field. Cllr Betty and Cllr Masters met with the land agent, Knight Frank and they have taken on board a few comments and have agreed to have a think about these, the work undertaken has been undertaken to the rules and routes registered rather than to the routes often used. Cllr Masters will follow up with the land agents.				
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				
	There were no new planning applications. Cllr S Betty noted that there was a new draft NPPF out for consultation.				
13.	To discuss a Bench request				
	The Clerk had received a request for a memorial bench for the playing field. This was discussed and it was agreed that the Clerk would respond with a link to the Open Spaces Policy but that the Open Spaces Policy needed to be amended to have details of where a plaque could be purchased from.				
14.	To receive a Parish Forum Update				
	The Cllrs Betty had both attended the Parish Forum which was a positive event with talks from the Police, NHS, one on the 10 year plan, a break out session and LGR/CGR updates.				
15.	To receive any updates on Highways/Environment.				
	Cllr Masters asked if the gritting lorry could be diverted to grit Spelders Hill as it is treacherous in the ice. The Clerk will contact Kent Highways to ask.				
	Cllr Penberthy asked about the village gateway signs, Cllr Collins has not responded as yet and this is to be reviewed in May as part of the HIP.				
16.	To receive the Caretaker Report				
	All is working fine with the Caretaker; he is now undertaking winter projects.				
17.	To receive the KALC Report				
	The KALC report had been circulated.				
18.	Any Other Business (for information purposes only):				
	The MP is holding a coffee morning at the Dog House in Smeeth on Saturday 17 th January.				

19.	Determining the time and place of ordinary meetings of the Council up to and including the next annual meeting of the Council.	
	Thursday 19 th March 2026 Thursday 21 st May 2026	

Signed:

Date: