

-----DRAFT-----To be approved at meeting on 1st September 2026-----

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

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

In attendance: Mrs E Nightingale (Clerk), Cllr A Ellison (Borough)

PUBLIC FORUM:

None

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr C Russell (County), Cllrs A Fairweather & Cllr N Warne (Borough)

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

None.

3. BOROUGH COUNCILLOR UPDATE

Cllr Ellinson reported that he had been dealing with requests relating to the provision of a bin outside Angley Woods and also Post 16 transport, the latter of which had been passed to Cllr Russell for further action. He had also been seeking to address the ongoing incidents of fly tipping in Ayleswade Lane, to include investigating whether cameras could be installed to deter such behaviour.

4. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 2ND JUNE 2026 AND THE MINUTES OF THE PLANNING MEETING ON 29TH JUNE 2026

It was proposed by Cllr Tuke, seconded by Cllr Staples, and **RESOLVED (1 abstention)** that the Minutes from the Council Meeting on 2nd June 2026 are a true and accurate record of that meeting. It was further proposed by Cllr Gosbee, seconded by Cllr Vernon, and **RESOLVED (2 abstentions)** that the Minutes of the Council Meeting on 29th June 2026 are a true and accurate record of that meeting. That being so, Cllr Vernon will sign the said Minutes.

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

Misleading road closure signage

This is being dealt with by the clerk.

Easter Fun Run

This will remain an item agenda.

Bounds Cross Crossroads

At the previous Council Meeting Cllr Russell indicated that she was attending a meeting with relevant officers at Kent County Council (KCC) to discuss whether / what safety improvements will be made to this junction. The Clerk will request an update following that meeting.

6. PARISH FIELD HEDGE BEHIND TENNIS COURT

The Clerk reported that three quotes had been received for the removal of the hedge behind the tennis court and grinding out of the stumps, the lowest being £1,095 plus VAT. It was proposed by Cllr Vernon, seconded by Cllr Viviers, and **RESOLVED** by all members present that the quote of £1,095 plus VAT be accepted on the basis that the work be completed in September once the bird nesting season was over.

The owner of the fence adjacent to the hedge has requested that the Council fund a replacement fence because it is alleged that fence panels have been damaged by the hedge. They have submitted a quote for the proposed work in the sum of £6,000. It was agreed that the fence be inspected upon removal of the hedge with further quotes being obtained as necessary. The Clerk was instructed to update the owner of the fence and put this matter on the agenda for the next meeting of the Council on 1st September 2026.

7. TWBC CONSERVATION AREA APPRAISAL FOR FRITTENDEN

There is currently no report which explains what is in the Conservation Area and why it has been designated as such. TWBC is now preparing such a report and it has approached Dr Phil Betts as Chair of the Historical Society for assistance. Dr Betts has offered to help and it was agreed that the Parish Council should support him in that because the recent Bellview planning application has shown that it would be beneficial to have a formal record of what is in the Conservation Area and why as that would give weight to any planning comments submitted by the Parish Council addressing conservation / heritage issues. Cllr Vernon will liaise with Dr Betts and invite him to provide the Parish Council with a draft of his proposed response for discussion.

8. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / COMMUNICATION WITH THE PARISH COUNCIL

Various suggestions were made at the Annual Parish Assembly as to how the Parish Council might better engage with the community. The Council now publishes on its website draft minutes for its meetings as soon as they are available subject to those minutes being formally approved and adopted at the next meeting. Cllr Murray also suggested that a monthly summary of the Council's activities could be published in the Parish Magazine and this will be trialled after the summer break.

9. HIP UPDATE

The Clerk confirmed that the Council's application for funding from TWBC for the speed reduction measures approved by KCC had been accepted in principle and that KCC had therefore been instructed to commission the works in accordance with the procedure set out by TWBC. However, a recent update from KCC's HIP Engagement Team suggested that *"KCC and TWBC continue to work closely to determine the most effective way forward for the schemes that have been investigated and developed for each parish. The combined estimated cost of these proposals exceeds £250,000 and across multiple grant applications, and both authorities are actively seeking additional funding sources"*. This is contrary to previous communications from TWBC which suggested that funding of up to £25,000 was available to each parish in the Borough, with the cost of the scheme for which funding was sought by Frittenden Parish Council being estimated at less than 50% of that sum. It was therefore unclear whether / when any works would be undertaken by KCC.

10. UPDATE FROM HANDS OFF OUR HERITAGE WORKING GROUP

Cllr Vernon reported that the Working Group had been told that TWBC would be issuing updated 5-year housing supply figures in July and that it was expecting to receive from the developer, Wallbax, an amended scheme for the proposed development of the Bellview site which sort to address the issues identified in the Planning Officer's report. The Working Group was currently awaiting updates from TWBC on both of those things.

11. VILLAGE FETE 2026

Cllr Viviers reported that despite a few stallholders pulling out at the last moment and issues which prevented the planned live music from taking place, the Village Fete had been a success. The attendance by all three emergency services, and particularly a fire engine, had been a big hit and good feedback had been received from stallholders. It was hoped that the Fete would become an annual event and any funds raised at this year's event would be ringfenced for the organisation of next year's event. Cllr Viviers was keen to ensure that the Fete remained a community focused event and various Councillors agreed that it had had a really nice community feel to it. The Council expressed its thanks to Cllr Viviers and all those who had been involved in the organisation of the Fete, together with those who had helped on and around the day. Cllr Viviers gave special mention to the Tent Team who had provided the marquees for no charge and gave up their time to set them up / struck them down.

12. SPEEDWATCH

Cllr Staples reported that there had been 5 sessions of Speedwatch since the last meeting. 23 offenders had been recorded out of 162 vehicles, resulting in 1 letter being sent out by Kent Police. The highest speed recorded was 46 mph but that was by a foreign registered vehicle so nothing could be done about it. One of the sessions focused on vehicles travelling East along Biddenden Road. That session only picked up 2 offenders, but one of those was doing 41mph as it rounded the bend by Sunnyside.

Cllr Tuke had been researching body worn cameras for the Speedwatch volunteers. Those used by Sandhurst Speedwatch were no longer available but he proposed to purchase an alternative for testing by the Frittenden Group. It was therefore proposed by Cllr Vernon, seconded by Cllr Tuke, and **RESOLVED** by all members present that Cllr Tuke be given a budget of up to £125 to purchase a body worn camera to be trialled by Speedwatch.

13. PLAYGROUND INSPECTIONS

Cllr Gosbee confirmed that the rotten steps to the slide on the mound had now been removed. The Clerk confirmed that Everyday Play had been instructed to undertake the agreed renovations and contract documentation was duly signed by Cllr Vernon. The Clerk advised that the contractor could not schedule the works until after the end of the summer holidays but it was agreed that was preferable to work being completed during the school holiday period as access to the playground would be substantially limited during the course of the works for up to 3 weeks.

14. ROAD REPORT

Cllr Gosbee noted that the fly tipping on Park Wood Lane and Dig Dog Lane had been cleared.

15. PLANNING

New Applications

- None

Outcome of Previous applications

26/01060/FULL	Tolhurst Farm Land & Buildings, Knoxbridge, Frittenden Retention of mobile home for 3 years PERMISSION GRANTED
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Planning appeals

- None

16. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

- The Clerk had received notice of a consultation about changes to the mobile post office service to Frittenden. Those changes had already been determined and were put in place on 29 June 2026 and so it was difficult to see what the purpose of the consultation was. However, it was clear that the mobile post office would now be located in the car park of the Memorial Hall every Friday from 10:50am to 11:20am only.
- The Parish Council had been asked to raise with Headcorn Aerodrome issues around the flight path and hours of operation of the plane used by GoSkyDive. This had been observed flying over the Biddenden Road area from as early as 8:15am on Sunday mornings and then continuing to fly regular circuits over a 12-hour period. The Clerk was instructed to write to the Aerodrome and GoSkyDive asking that they adhere to their own guidance as to flight paths and apply a greater degree of courtesy and care for residents when planning their hours of operation.

17. FINANCE

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

FRITTENDEN PAYMENTS – JULY 2026					
Cheque Number	GROSS	VAT	NET	SUPPLIER	DETAILS
BACS	£48.00	Nil	£48.00	Frittenden Memorial Hall	Room Hire (1 x meeting room session, 1 x Hall)
BACS	£57.20	Nil	£57.20	Mrs E Nightingale	Clerk's Expenses - July
BACS	£255.55	Nil	£255.55	Mrs E Nightingale	Clerk's Salary - July
BACS	£64.00	Nil	£64.00	HMRC	PAYE
BACS	£324.00	£54.00	£270.00	Four Jays Ltd	Portable toilet hire for Village Fete
BACS	£56.89	£9.48	£47.41	FCC Waste Management Ltd	Litter Bins – June
BACS	£40.80	£6.80	£34.00	Iden Signs	Sign for Parish Field gate
BACS	£75.00	NIL	£75.00	Mr N Sestanovic	Removal & disposal of damaged steps to playground mound/slide
BACS	£1,500.00	£250.00	£1,250.00	Groundcare & General Services Ltd	Grounds Maintenance - 5 x grass cuts (Parish Field)

BACS	£4,959.00	£826.50	£4,132.50	Everyday Play Ltd	Deposit for renovations to playground
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	£7,413.42	£1,152.28	£6,261.14		

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Staples noted that a date needed to be set for the next Village Clean Up. This will take place on Saturday 19th September. Cllr Vernon will arrange for a notice to be put in the Parish Magazine.

Cllr Staples also suggested that the Parish Magazine Editorial Team be asked to include the regular monthly Parish Council meetings in the section which recorded regular meetings / events taking place at the Memorial Hall.

Cllr Vivier indicated that he would try to get a working party together to get the telephone box painted. The cost of materials will be met by the Parish Council as previously agreed.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 20:35pm.

Chairman's Signature: _____

Date: _____