

SHOREHAM PARISH

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COUNCIL

MINUTES of a MEETING of SHOREHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Shoreham Village Hall, Shoreham on 4 March 2026 at 7:30pm

Present: Cllrs R Blamey, J Histed (Chair), B Jeffery, N Powell, and J Thorpe

Also Present: 7 members of the public (in part), Cllr Marc Logen (County) (in part), Amanda Barlow (Clerk),

Apologies: Cllrs G Owen and Sheward, Cllr Irene Roy (District), Cllr Edwards-Winser (District)

1. To receive any apologies for absence.

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs G Owen and M Sheward and Cllrs Irene Roy (District) and Edwards-Winser (District).

2. To receive any disclosures of interest from members in respect of items of business included on the agenda for the meeting.

None.

3. Public Forum

A resident asked about the flooding in the village and Cllr Logen agreed to look into the issues with the drains. Cllr Logen advised there is an additional £5.5 million going into preventing floods/drainage.

4. County/District Councillor Reports

Cllr Marc Logen (County) gave his report and a copy is attached at Appendix A.

Members discussed with Cllr Logen the issues over the HIP and the lack of response. Members also highlighted the contradicting comments over the placing on a safe haven on the A225. Members asked Cllr Logen to see if he can help progress the HIP.

Sarah Andrews had written about the trees along the river pathway and asked Cllr Logen to address the issue with the Public Rights of Way Officer. She also advised that there have been some issues with rubbish bins.

A resident stated that the lights are not working the car park.

Cllr Logen left the meeting.

5. To consider, and approve if appropriate, which agenda items are sufficiently confidential as to warrant exclusion of members of the press and public under the provisions of The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960

Members resolved to discuss the formal complaint from a resident in confidence.

6. To receive and authorise for signature by the Chairman, the Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 4 February 2026

Members resolved to agree the minutes of the meeting held on 4 February 2026.

7. Matters arising from the minutes not covered by Agenda items

None.

8. Highways and Footpaths

8.1 Highways Improvement Plan

There was no further update from the February meeting:

- KCC have advised that the A225 road is too fast for a traffic island and the island would be too small. If they put any road island in the road, KCC would want to make sure it is safe.
- 20mph speed limit through Shoreham Village has been approved.
- KCC has said they would not fund the kerb steps as there was no evidence of accidents but would be happy for them to be installed if the Parish Council paid for them and they were installed at KCC's specifications.

Cllr Marc Logen agreed to pursue a response on the Council's behalf.

8.2 Station Road steps

The Clerk is awaiting a response from the owners of the land.

9. Shoreham Recreation Ground/boundaries with Shoreman Village Hall/Walnut Tree Trust property

- 9.1 To agree, if appropriate, the work around the recreation ground
9.1.1 Ivy clearance

Members resolved to agree the quote of £3,100 subject to confirming all the exact requirements with Cllrs Jeffery and Blamey.

- 9.1.2 Replacement of fence

Members resolved to agree the replacement fence at a cost of £650.00.

Peter Kasch advised that he has getting 4 quotes for the boundary fence between the recreation ground and the Walnut Tree properties.

- 9.2 Tree work

Members noted that the tree work will take place on 8 May 2026 and Peter Kasch has organised to meet with Down to Earth to confirm the exact requirements

- 9.3 Family Fun Day

The Clerk confirmed that she has booked the Family Fun Day run by Sevenoaks District Council for the 20 August 2026. It was very popular with the younger residents last year.

10. Correspondence

- 10.1 Government Consultation on Local Government Reorganisation
- 10.2 Sevenoaks District Council - Here for you leaflet - March 2026
- 10.3 Sevenoaks District Council - Big step forward for Bradbourne Lakes
- 10.4 Kent County Council - Road Safety & Active Travel Group (RSATG) Seminar
- 10.5 Sevenoaks District Council - Views needed on anti-social behaviour across the District
- 10.6 Hospice of Hope - Lunch & Horticultural Talk with David Hurrion

Members noted all the above correspondence, details of which are in the supporting papers.

11. Finance & Personnel and Governance

11.1 To agree the items received, paid and payable

Members resolved to agree the items received, paid and payable as at Appendix B.

11.2 To agree, if appropriate, the grounds maintenance contract for 2026

Members resolved to agree the grounds maintenance contract for 2026 as quoted.

11.3 To consider a grant application from Sevenoaks Men's Shed

Members resolved to agree a grant of £200 to the Sevenoaks's Men's Shed and to advise them of the possibility of vacant property owned by the Walnut Tree Trust.

11.4 To consider a grant application from Domestic Abuse Volunteer Support Services

Members resolved to agree a grant of £200 towards Domestic Abuse Volunteer Support Services.

11.5 To agree date and arrangements for the Annual Parish Meeting 2026

Members agreed that the date of the Annual Parish Meeting as 29 April 2026. It was agreed to invite speakers from the Darent River Trust and Kent Wildlife and provide refreshments.

11.6 To agree policies in preparation for the 25-26 Internal Audit

Members resolved to agree the Statement of Internal Control and the Asset Register.

12. Next meetings (all starting at 7:30pm in Shoreham Village Hall unless otherwise stated)

a. Planning Committee Meeting (if required) – Wednesday 18 March 2026 at 7.30pm

b. Full Council Meeting and Planning Committee Meeting (if required) – Wednesday 1 April 2026 at 7.30pm

Appendix A

County Councillor's Monthly Update

Shoreham Parish Council

Marc Logen | County Councillor for Sevenoaks North & Darent Valley | Reform UK

March 2026

1. Local Issues

Kings Arms Flooding - Shoreham High Street

A resident reported that the gully opposite the Kings Arms pub is set higher than the surrounding road surface, preventing water from draining until it reaches the gully lip. The drain is also blocked. Fault reference 945423 was raised with KCC.

I contacted KCC Drainage on 25th February and have followed up for a timeline on inspection and clearance. I am awaiting a response and will update the parish as soon as I have one.

Potholes - High Street and Filston Lane

Residents reported serious potholes on Shoreham High Street and on Filston Lane, where one resident had a tyre destroyed. Works were planned, signs were put out, but the contractor did not attend on the scheduled date and no communication was issued to residents. This is not acceptable.

I raised this with KCC Highways on 11th February. KCC subsequently confirmed the following: the original repair order (covering defects between Shacklands Road and Church Street) was closed as completed by the contractor on 15th December, but failed a post-Christmas audit. The contractor was directed to return at their own cost. Two attempts to revisit - on 29th January and 9th February - were abandoned when the crew were diverted to emergencies on both occasions. The works were reprogrammed for 25th February.

I will confirm with KCC whether repairs were completed as scheduled and update the parish accordingly.

2. KCC Updates

KCC Budget 2026-27

The KCC budget for 2026-27 was approved at Full Council on 12th February. The council tax increase is 3.99%, down from the 5% anticipated when Reform took office in May 2025. For a Band D household, this is approximately £67.47 per year. Since taking office, KCC is on track to deliver £100 million of savings and income, has reprofiled nearly £40 million of future spending, and reduced debt by £67 million - from a starting position of over £700 million in debt with £84,000 per day in interest payments.

Full details are at <https://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/finance-and-budget/our-budget>

Potholes and Winter Road Damage

Every winter brings a worsening pothole situation, primarily due to decades of underinvestment in Kent's roads. Fluctuating temperatures, ice, and water cause significant damage to road surfaces. Salt, while essential for keeping the network safe and open, accelerates this - it lowers the freezing point of water, so moisture stays liquid at lower temperatures and penetrates surface cracks. When temperatures drop further, that water freezes, expands, and breaks the road apart.

Permanent repairs use hot asphalt laid at 120-160°C. In cold weather, the material cools too quickly, cannot bond to the cold surrounding surface, and moisture trapped underneath then freezes and breaks the patch - sometimes within weeks. Many winter repairs are therefore temporary until conditions improve.

The new 2026-27 budget begins on 1st April, and a new road maintenance contractor, Ringway, starts in May. The 2026-27 capital programme includes £8 million for the most urgent safety-critical highway repairs.

Residents should continue to report potholes at <https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-or-track-a-problem-on-the-road-or-pavement> and I will press for timely repairs across the area.

Flooding and Drainage

The prolonged wet weather this winter has placed significant pressure on KCC's drainage services across the county. KCC is responsible for maintaining over 250,000 highway drains and gullies across Kent. Strategic and main roads are cleansed annually, known flood hotspots every six months, and minor roads on a three-year cycle. During prolonged wet weather, saturated ground stops absorbing water, increasing surface run-off and overloading drainage that would cope in normal conditions. At the same time, drainage teams are pulled towards emergency and reactive work - clearing flooded roads and responding to safety-critical incidents - which delays the planned cleansing programme. Land drainage from adjacent fields and properties also feeds into the highway system, adding volumes the network was never designed to carry.

KCC's own budget risk register for 2026-27 rates the risk of insufficient drainage funding in adverse weather conditions at 4 out of 5 for likelihood, stating that current revenue and capital budgets are insufficient to meet both reactive and proactive demands. The 2026-27 capital programme includes £5.5 million for flood risk management and climate adaptation infrastructure across Kent. I am working with KCC Drainage on specific local issues across the division and will continue to press for prioritisation of sites in the area.

3. Communication Protocol

I represent nine parishes across Sevenoaks North & Darent Valley. To ensure I can respond effectively to local issues and provide regular updates, I would like to propose the following communication arrangement.

Monthly written updates: I will provide a written update to the parish each month covering local issues raised to me and relevant KCC business. This can be circulated to councillors and, where appropriate, included in meeting papers.

Email and Teams: I am always available on email (Marc.Logen@kent.gov.uk) and happy to arrange Microsoft Teams calls to discuss specific issues. If something is urgent, please do not wait for a meeting - email me directly.

Parish meeting attendance: My evening availability is currently limited, but I aim to attend in person where possible and will resume more regular attendance from July onwards. Where I cannot attend, these written updates will ensure continuity.

Two-way communication: I would ask that the parish keeps me informed of emerging issues, resident concerns, and decisions that may require county-level support. The more I know, the more effectively I can act on your behalf.

I welcome any feedback on this arrangement and am happy to adjust it to suit the parish's needs.

Marc Logen

County Councillor for Sevenoaks North & Darent Valley

Kent County Council | Reform UK

marc.logen@kent.gov.uk

Appendix B

PAYMENTS 4 FEBRUARY TO 4 MARCH 2026

	Date	Description	Supplier				Total
Computer/Printer Consumables	04/02/2026	Website	Hugo Fox	S	29.99	6.00	35.99
Clerk's mileage	04/02/2026	Mileage	Mrs A C Barlow	X	55.08		55.08
Office Rent/Storage	04/02/2026	Office Allowance	Mrs A C Barlow	X	30.00		30.00
Broadband	04/02/2026	Broadband	Mrs A C Barlow	X	10.00		10.00
Toilets	04/02/2026	Electricity	EDF Energy	L	147.62	7.38	155.00
Audit fees	05/02/2026	External Audit fee	Forvis Mazars LLP	S	315.00	63.00	378.00
Office telephone	05/02/2026	Office telephone	O2	S	15.22	3.04	18.26
Hall/Emergency Room Hire	05/02/2026	Hall hire	Shoreham Village Hall	X	64.00		64.00
Village Hall Maintenance	05/02/2026	Village Hall roofing	GR Regan Roofing	S	1,075.00	215.00	1,290.00
Office Rent/Storage	03/03/2026	Office Allowance	Mrs A C Barlow	X	30.00		30.00
Broadband	03/03/2026	Broadband	Mrs A C Barlow	X	10.00		10.00
Computer/Printer Consumables	03/03/2026	Website	Hugo Fox	S	29.99	6.00	35.99
Hall/Emergency Room Hire	03/03/2026	Hall hire	Shoreham Village Hall	X	64.00		64.00
Car Park	03/03/2026	Business Rates	Sevenoaks District Council	X	84.00		84.00

PAYMENTS - Items to be paid at 5 March 2026

Code	Date	Description	Supplier				Total
Hall/Emergency Room Hire	05/03/2026	Hall hire	Shoreham Village Hall	X	64.00		64.00
Grant	05/03/2026	Grant for Churchyard grass cutting	St Peter & St Paul Church	X	1,000.00		1,000.00
Grant	05/03/2026	Grant	Sevenoaks Volunteer Transport Group	X	150.00		150.00
Grasscutting Shoreham	05/03/2026	Hedge Cutting	GF Garden Maintenance	X	300.00		300.00
Grasscutting Shoreham	05/03/2026	Hedge Cutting and Centenary Wood	GF Garden Maintenance	X	1,210.00		1,210.00
			Total		2,724.00		2,724.00