



HOTHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

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**Minutes of the Full Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 9th
April 2026 at 7.00 pm in the Village Hall**

Present: Cllrs Penny Sutcliffe; Georgie Fletcher, Graham Cox, Rod Williams
Cllr Clair Bell (Ashford Borough Council)

In attendance: Clerk Mrs Marie Norris

Cllr Penny Sutcliffe Acting Chairman opened meeting at 7.00 pm

26/04/1 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Ian Lloyd, Martyn Pollock, Gary Bowker, Simon Jephart

Cllr J Eustace – Kent County Council

Approval of Absence

Councilors approved absences.

Declarations of Interest

The Chairman called for Declarations of Interest:-

- a) No declarations of changes to the Register of Interests.
- b) No Requests for Dispensation.
- c) No Declarations of Lobbying

26/04/2 Public Interval

Two members of the public were in attendance to raise planning application: PA/2026/0250. The PC had previously considered this application and already submitted a response to the application via the planning portal and had requested an extension to the deadline for comment as it was unclear whether all neighbouring properties have had an opportunity to comment. Cllr Bell agreed to raise this with the planning officer and, if possible, look to arrange an onsite meeting with the planning officer.

A resident also in attendance raised the following:

- Speed measures & traffic calming
- Defibrillator

- Village events

26/04/3 Acceptance of Previous Minutes & Matters for Report

The minutes of the March meeting were agreed and accepted as a true record and were signed by the chairman.

26/04/4 Borough & County Councillors Report

Cllr Eustace was unable to attend the meeting and had sent apologies.

Cllr Bell reported on the news that Hodson Developments (Ashford) Ltd and four associated companies connected to the Chilmington Green development had gone into administration. Ashford Borough Council, in conjunction with Kent County Council, is seeking legal advice regarding the impact of administration on the developers' obligations under the Section 106 agreement. She reminded the meeting that, earlier in the year, the Planning Inspector had dismissed an appeal submitted by Hodson Developments seeking to make multiple changes to the existing Section 106 agreement. The Inspector supported ABC's position on almost all matters, including confirmation that the obligation to improve the A28 should remain in place and not be removed as it is anticipated the houses would be built and the infrastructure delivered, albeit at a slower pace than originally planned. Cllr. Bell expressed concern that Hothfield and other villages could face increased development pressure as ABC seeks to meet its housing requirements. She noted that speculative developers, such as Gladman, may seek to take advantage of such circumstances

ABC had also unveiled plans to revamp Elwick Place into a leisure and cultural destination. With a new entertainment centre. This will be combining the cinema with a games, entertainment and a work space. The current cinema will remain open whilst the work is ongoing.

26/04/5 Progress and Update of Resolutions from last meeting

- The clerk confirmed that she had received a 3rd quote for work on the floodlights at the muga.

26/04/6 Planning

Case Reference: PA/2026/0445

Location: Land West of and rear of Thanet Terrace, The Street, Hothfield

Proposal: Construction of a new 1.5 storey dwelling, detached car port with room landscaping.

View Files: [Click Here](#)

Comments deadline: before 13/04/2026

Resolution Hothfield Parish Council, considered the application the decision to object to the application was made to reject the application, primarily on the grounds of highway safety and other reasons that will be outlined in our response that can be viewed on the Ashford planning portal.

Action Clerk to update planning portal

Case Reference: PA/2026/0414

Location: 32, Hothfield Post Office, The Street, Hothfield, TN26 1ES

Proposal: Replacement of existing fixed canopy with retractable canopy - Retrospect

View Files: [Click Here](#)

Comments deadline: before 02/05/2026

The parish council considered the above application and will support the application with no further comments.

**Action Clerk to update planning portal
26/04/7 Bank Reconciliation**

Balance Per Cash Book		Balance at Bank	
Opening Balance	£55,869.21	PC Reserve Acc	17,221.91
Add Receipts Precept	£7,750.00	PC Reserve Acc (70)	1079.00
Interest NatWest	£ 0.93		
Interest NatWest Reserve Acc	£57.27	PC Current Account	100.00
		PC Youth Acc	1369.86
		Liquidity Acc	40,101.19
Total		Total	

b) Receipts Received

Natwest Interest - Business Reserve Account £0.83

Natwest Interest – Liquid Account £70.04

c) Accounts for Authorisation for April 2026

Payee	Description	£
Staff Salaries	Salary	943.26
KALC	Subscription	357.48
Publicstar	Newsletter Printing	175.56
SLCC	Subscription	116.00
	Total £1592.30	

Resolution Councilors agreed the payments listed.

Earmarked Reserves

Opening Balance 01/04/25			
	Balance	+ /- March	Balance
MUGA Maintenance	9,057.83	0	8937.83

Village Projects	2,021.05	0	2,021.05
Solar Funding	25,117.20	0	31,332.79
Youth Project	1369.86	0	1,369.86
	Total £37,565.94		Total 43,661.53

The clerk advised that a direct debit had been set up for employers PAYE for FY26/27.

26/04/8 Correspondence brought to the attention of the PC for discussion.

United Infrastructure – Telecommunications site at Land of Maidstone Road -No action required by the PC

26/04/9 Muga

A third quotation for the replacement of bulbs for the floodlights at the Muga had been received. It was agreed that the PC proceed with the quote but as the quote is dependant on the removal of our four newly planted saplings, the PC have requested that the clerk ask if the work can be completed later in the year (September) so as not to damage the saplings at this point.

Action: Clerk

26/04/10 Village Hall

The village hall committee were still awaiting news from ABC re the surveyor’s report. ABC would liaise with the village hall direct on this matter and the parish council are not required to take any further action at this point.

26/04/11 Community Projects

- **Video Doorbell- No further details as Cllr Lloyd was not present to update further**
- Defibrillator –No further details as Cllr Pollock was not present to update further.

26/04/12 External Meetings

No external meetings had been attended during this period.

26/04/13 Annual Parish Meeting

Although the PC had hoped to host an APM on a Saturday in May where guest speakers could be invited however, due to time constraints, this was not possible. The PC will look at hosting a residents’ meeting later in the year. Therefore the Annual Parish Meeting will be scheduled for Thursday 14TH May immediately prior to the Annual Parish Council Meeting. The Annual Parish meeting is an opportunity to meet with the PC and other residents and to raise and concerns or suggest any ideas for the village.

26/03/14 Any Other Business

The clerk advised that the internal auditor has been booked for 3rd June.

Date of the next meeting & Items for agenda.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 14th 2026. No items were raised for the agenda. The chairman thanked all for attending and closed the meeting

Signature

Date