

## PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, 18 March 2026 at 1930hrs

Shepherdswell Village Hall

### MINUTES

In the absence of the Chair, Cllr Stauffer-Kruse (Vice-Chair) opened the meeting.

There were no reports from the County and District Councillors, Community Warden, Community Beat Officer or Shepherdswell Green Spaces Group. Public questions and comments on agenda and non-agenda items (this section will be limited to 15 minutes or otherwise at the discretion of the Chair). **None**

#### 23/2026 IN ATTENDANCE & APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

**Present:** Cllrs Bradley Stauffer-Kruse (Vice Chair – acting as Chair for this meeting), Keith Roberts, Sue Taber, John Bulaitis, Marien Elgar, Terry Hunt, Sindy Denyer, Aidan Softley and Barry Crush

01 Members of the public

**Clerk:** Jan Hancock

**Apologies:** Cllrs Mark Watson (Chair) and Carole White

#### 24/2026 MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON THE 18 FEBRUARY 2026

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 February 2026 were **AGREED** to be a true and accurate record, **PROPOSED** by Cllr Crush seconded by Cllr Roberts. **AGREED** with two abstentions.

#### 25/2026 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Roberts declared an OSI on agenda item 34.01 and Cllr Softley declared an OSI on agenda item 35.01.

#### 26/2026 CO-OPTION OF A PARISH COUNCILLOR

Due to a possible alleged misunderstanding over the number of applicants **Cllr Crush PROPOSED that the current Co-Option procedure is withdrawn and restarted, seconded by Cllr Softley.** With 4 voting in favour and 4 against and 1 abstention Cllr Stauffer-Kruse used his casting vote to support Cllr Crush.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

Cllr Roberts would like to recorded that he is concerned that the Parish Council may have interrupted democratic process in making this decision. Clerk to email Dover District Council Elections to seek their advice.

1948hrs Cllr Taber left the meeting following the conclusion of the vote.

#### 27/2026 PARISH CLERK'S REPORT

Nothing to report.

#### 28/2026 FINANCE

28-01 SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

<b>Balances as 11 March 2026</b>	<b>£</b>
Current A/C	2695.33

Business A/C	121799.34
<b>INCOME</b>	
Cemetery – headstone engraving	150.00
Premises rent (06-03-26)	300.00
<b>EXPENDITURE TO RATIFY</b>	
Hugo Fox – Website	23.99
Clerk’s Wages (March)	1163.23
Service Charge	6.00
NEST – Clerk Pension	65.55
Krystal Hosting – Emails	13.20
<b>EXPENDITURE TO APPROVE</b>	
Small Works Contractor (inv 340)	677.04
Clerk’s Expenses	-35.68
Harmers (inv 26515)	819.79
Village Hall Fees – February	92.50
HMRC	180.94
Playdale	899.89
Mazars	378.00
	<b>3012.48</b>

**Cllr Roberts proposed that the schedule of payments be APPROVED, seconded by Cllr Hunt. All AGREED**

**29/2026 PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Ref: 26/00135

**Location:** Carlingcot Moon Hill Shepherdsweil Dover Kent CT15 7LL

**Application:** Prune back the overhanging crown by 2-2.5metres of two Yew trees (G1) the subject of Tree Preservation Order No 13 of 2023

**Cllr Roberts PROPOSED that Shepherdsweil with Coldred Parish Council SUPPORT this application, provided that the works are restricted to the removal of overhanging branches only. This was seconded by Cllr Hunt and unanimously AGREED.**

**30/2026 INFRASTRUCTURE DELIVERY PLAN UPDATE**

Following discussion the response to the survey was agreed. Clerk to contact DDC to seek clarification that current allocated funding may be used for wider recreation facilities, not just changing facilities as stated on the current system.

**31/2026 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION**

**Cllr Roberts PROPOSED that Shepherdsweil with Coldred Parish council SUPPORT the ‘Three Unitary Councils’ model for local government reorganisation (Option 3a). Seconded by Cllr Crush. AGREED with 1 against and 1 abstention.**

**32/2026 COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW**

Following discussion **Cllr Bulaitis PROPOSED that the Parish Council strongly OPPOSE any reduction in the number of Councillors** arguing that the current number of 12 councillors is a good reflection of community

activity and ensures proper representation. **Seconded by Cllr Hunt, AGREED with 1 against and 1 abstention.**

### **33/2026 WORKING GROUP REPORTS**

33-01 **Carbon Footprint Working Group** – Cllr Roberts reported that we are still waiting for the EV Charging Points to go live. Village Hall - a rough idea of sizes has been sent off to determine possibilities for making the building "greener". The group has been unable to put out the new bins because the area by the fence first needs to be cleared.

33-02 **Highway Improvement Plan Working Group** – Cllr Roberts reported that following a recent meeting the group decided to restart the process for identifying highway improvement priorities. A questionnaire will be included in the May edition of the parish magazine for residents to indicate which of five potential projects they support most. A QR code will be included in the magazine to allow residents to complete the questionnaire online.

33-03 **Communications Working Group** – No Report.

### **34/2026 COMMUNITY**

#### **34-01 Shepherdswell & Coldred News**

Cllr Roberts left the meeting for this item. A report has been circulated to all members. Following discussion **Cllr Hunt PROPOSED that the funding request for £650 towards production costs of the magazine is APPROVED, subject to receiving a copy of their financial accounts for review. Seconded by Cllr Crush. AGREED**

#### **34-02 Coldred Forum**

**Cllr Hunt PROPOSED that the Parish Council APPROVE use of Coldred Village Green by Coldred Forum for various village events, seconded by Cllr Roberts. All AGREED**

**35/2026 To RESOLVE that, in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item(s) of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of confidential information. Proposed by Cllr Elgar, seconded by Cllr Robers. All AGREED**

35-01 To **CONSIDER** recent correspondence received from a resident and **DISCUSS** any procedural, governance or legal implications for the Parish Council and to **AGREE** any actions.

**Following discussion Cllr Roberts PROPOSED that a formal response is sent to the resident stating that Councillors have "considered the correspondence at its meeting on 18 March 2026 and has noted its contents", seconded by Cllr Hunt. A recorded vote was requested by Cllr Denyer. For: Cllrs Roberts, Hunt, Bulaitis, Elgar & Stauffer-Kruse. Against: Cllrs Denyer, Crush & Softley. MOTION CARRIED.**

### **36/2026 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held at 1930hrs on Wednesday 15 April 2026 at Shepherdswell Village Hall.