



# Hoo and Chattenden Parish Council Community Connections

## Welcome to the Hoo and Chattenden Parish Council Newsletter

### How is the Parish Council Funded?

Hoo St Werburgh and Chattenden Parish Council is primarily funded through a precept, which is collected as part of your Council Tax by Medway Council. Each year, the Parish Council is required to prepare a detailed budget setting out its expected income and expenditure for the forthcoming financial year. This process determines the level of precept required to continue delivering services, maintaining parish assets and meeting statutory obligations.

Historically, Hoo St Werburgh and Chattenden Parish Council has set one of the lowest parish precepts on the Hoo Peninsula, and the Council has worked hard over many years to keep increases to an absolute minimum.

For example:

- 2022/23 – £30.01 per annum per Band D household
- 2023/24 – Precept frozen at £30.01
- 2024/25 – Increased to £31.28
- 2025/26 – Increased to £36.13

For 2026/27, the Parish Council has approved a precept of £184,200, resulting in a Band D charge of £41.57.

While any increase in local taxation is never welcome, the Council would like to explain clearly why this decision was necessary and what it means for residents.

The approved increase equates to:

£5.44 per year for a Band D household

This is approximately 45 pence per month

Even with this increase, the Parish Council's precept remains one of the lowest on the Peninsula, and the monthly cost represents less than the price of a newspaper or a cup of coffee.

### Why is the Precept Increasing?

The need for this increase is driven by several key factors which include:

#### 1. Protecting Essential Services and Assets

The Parish Council is responsible for a growing number of assets and facilities, including recreation grounds, play areas, the Memorial Garden, allotments, and the new community centre.

#### 2. Specialist Planning Advice

The parish council anticipates the need for **professional planning advice** to respond to major planning applications submitted to Medway Council and in regard to the Local Plan.

### Looking Ahead

The Parish Council remains committed to:

- Keeping future increases as low as possible
- Maintaining one of the lowest parish precepts on the Peninsula
- Delivering value for money and transparent financial management
- Protecting and improving community facilities

If you would like more information about the budget, the precept or the Council's projects, please contact the Parish Clerk or attend one of our council meetings.

**The Parish Councils would like to thank you for your continued support as we work to serve the residents of Hoo St Werburgh and Chattenden.**

# PARISH COUNCIL UPDATES

## 2026 Events

### Exciting Events Coming to Hoo & Chattenden in 2026

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Our first event will be **Dinosaur Day – The Dinosaurs Are Coming to Hoo!** on **Saturday 9th May from 12.30pm at Pottery Road Recreation Ground.**

The day will include live shows, dinosaur walkabouts, baby dinosaurs, photo opportunities, burgers, ice creams, a tea room, bouncy castle, roundabout and more.

Stalls are available at **£15 per stall** (payable in advance).

To request a booking form, please email [elaine.cutting@hoopc.org](mailto:elaine.cutting@hoopc.org).

A **free bus service** will operate around the Parish, with the timetable published on our Facebook page.

Please also save the dates:

- **Saturday 10th October** – Harvest Tea, Village Hall
- **Saturday 28th November** – Christmas on the Green, Hoo

Santa will arrive just before 5pm with mascots, music and free gifts.

For updates, follow **Hoo & Chattenden Parish Council Events** on Facebook.

## Memorial Garden Update

The Parish Council is pleased to confirm that the **Memorial Garden on Vicarage Lane is now nearing completion.** The memorial stone, installed last year, now forms a central feature of the garden. Internal fencing has created designated areas for the interment of ashes, including pet ashes. Access has been improved, new pathways laid and the area will shortly be seeded.

The Council is now progressing with signage and operational policies in preparation for memorial benches, plaques, and the interment and scattering of ashes. Further information will be published shortly.

Residents are kindly asked to respect this quiet area and clear up after their dogs. **Litter bins are available just outside the Memorial Garden.**

The Parish Council looks forward to formally opening the Memorial Garden later this year.

## New Chairman

The Parish Council is pleased to announce that long-standing Parish Councillor **Jean Fray** was elected as Chairman at the Council meeting held in **December 2025.**

Jean brings a wealth of experience to the role, having served the Parish Council for many years and worked actively within the Neighbourhood Plan Group. Her knowledge of the community, together with her commitment to local issues, will ensure strong leadership for the Parish Council in the coming year.

The Parish Council looks forward to working with Jean in her new role as Chairman and wishes her every success.

## PACT Meeting – Partners and Community Together

Residents are invited to attend a **PACT (Partners and Community Together) meeting** on **Tuesday 7th April** at the **Jubilee Hall, Pottery Road, Hoo.**

This meeting provides an opportunity for residents to meet with **local Police officers, Parish Councillors and representatives from Medway Council** to discuss local issues, raise concerns and hear updates on community safety and neighbourhood matters.

## Meeting Dates 2026

Parish Council meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month, with the exception of August when no meeting takes place.

Meetings alternate between Hoo Village Hall and Chattenden Community Centre and are open to the public.

The remaining meeting dates for 2026 are as follows:

- Thursday 5th February - Hoo Village Hall
- Thursday 5th March - Chattenden Community Centre
- Thursday 2nd April - Hoo Village Hall
- Thursday 7th May - Hoo Village Hall
- Thursday 4th June - Chattenden Community Centre
- Thursday 2nd July - Hoo Village Hall
- Thursday 3rd September - Hoo Village Hall
- Thursday 1st October - Chattenden Community Centre
- Thursday 5th November - Hoo Village Hall
- Thursday 3rd December - Hoo Village Hall

Residents are very welcome to attend and observe meetings. Agendas and minutes are published on the Parish Council website and noticeboards.