



## **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 4 November 2025 in the Meeting Room, Detling Village Hall**

Present: Cllr Clive English, Cllr Chris Houlihan, Cllr Steve Jubb, Cllr Laura Maclaren and Cllr Stephen Thompson, Cllr Bianca Willmott; and Mrs Wendy Licence (Clerk).

Also present were eleven members of the public.

Cllr English welcomed everyone to the meeting

### **Public Time**

*The meeting was adjourned for the Public Time*

Members of the public asked about the Old School Playing Field and a proposed development at Hockers Farm.

*The meeting was reconvened*

### **1. Councillor Vacancy**

Councillors considered an application for co-option.

Cllr English **PROPOSED** to co-opt Bianca Willmott to the Council; **SECONDED** by Cllr Maclaren: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

Cllr Willmott signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office in the presence of the Clerk and joined the meeting.

### **2. Apologies.**

Apologies had been received from Cllr Houlihan (personal).

Apologies had also been received from County Councillor Sarah Emberson and Ward Member Vanessa Jones.

### **3. Declaration of Interest. or Lobbying**

None declared.

### **4. Dispensations**

None.

### **5. Items to be taken in closed session**

It was agreed to take item 17 in closed session.

## 6. Approval of the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 2 September 2025

a) To consider the minutes of the previous meeting and if in order sign as a true record.

Cllr English **proposed** to accept the minutes as a true record; **SECONDED** by Cllr Thompson: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**. The minutes were duly signed.

b) Matters arising from the minutes (except those issues appearing under specific headings)

All matters to be taken under agenda headings.

## 7. Highways

Cllr Maclaren reported that there are quite a few highways issues affecting the parish. When the road was closed for the Bearsted Road improvements, there were six other road closures; following a meeting with Kent Highways and County Councillor Emberson, two road closures were stopped. The closure from Eclipse Park to M20 junction 7 roundabout will be rescheduled to 2 December.

20 MPH Consultation: respondents are in favour of this; costings and design have been requested from Kent Highways. The project may need to be carried forward and included in the Highways Improvement Plan.

The area near the bus stop at Jades Crossing has been tarmacked.

Speed Indicator device: the Council is waiting for an invoice.

Drainage grips in Church Lane: these have been installed but there have been a few problems. People must report issues to Kent Highways when they arise.

Parking survey: the Parish Council has just received the results; a consultation will go out to residents in the next newsletter.

Restricted access to the village: unfortunately, this cannot be enforced at the moment. Kent Highways has offered to replace the signage in the current locations, with reduced times. They are not willing to extend the scheme or times. As this will not solve the problem, we have been exploring the option of Moving Traffic Offence enforcement at Jades Crossing. Kent Highways has indicated there could be a *NO LEFT TURN EXCEPT FOR BUSES AND EMERGENCY VEHICLES* coming down hill. They would also consider changing the priority for traffic going down to those exiting Hockers Lane. This would not prevent rat running migrating to Church Lane, and initially Kent Highways would not be willing to install Fixed Camera enforcement unless after a few months the problem at Jades Crossing persisted.

Pedestrian Warning /No footway signage at Hockers bends: The Highways & Transportation Working Group propose and seek ratification that the horse warning signs at both ends of Hockers bends be replaced with warning signs for pedestrians and no footway.

Cllr Maclaren reported that the Council must devise a Highways Improvement Plan each year and the Highways & Transportation Working Group is currently working on this. The primary matters are speed reduction; parking, restricting access; pavement extensions in the village; double yellow lines at junctions; bollards and path gates on Jades Bridge to prevent quad bikes and motorbikes on steps; junction improvements at Scragged Oak, and Church Lane. Residents can make other suggestions.

Cllr English **PROPOSED** that the signs be replaced with warning signs for pedestrians and no footway: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

Cllr English **PROPOSED** to consult on parking options: **SECONDED** by Cllr Thompson: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

Cllr English **PROPOSED** to consult on restricted access to the village in December: **SECONDED** by Cllr Thompson: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

Cllr English thanked Cllr Maclaren for her report and her impressive work on highways matters.

## 8. Open Spaces

a) To receive report from the Open Spaces Working Group

Cllr Maclaren reported that there had been no meeting of the Open Spaces Working Group. There have been a couple of issues regarding sewerage spills in Monks Meadow which was closed until it had been cleaned up.

Cllr English said the main priority is to get the pipes re-instated, the Council is waiting for CCTV footage to come back. The timescale for the reconstruction needs to be ascertained.

b) To agree process to advance playground upgrade

Cllr Maclaren reported that some grants have been received towards the play area upgrade; the Council needs to go out to tender to apply for another grant.

Cllr English **PROPOSED** that the Council tenders for the project: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

c) To consider a management plan for open spaces.

Cllr English said the management of the parish's open spaces has been working well with volunteers, if the Council were to seek formal designation for a nature reserve or wildlife site there would need to be a management plan which would include flora and fauna on the site.

Cllr Thompson said there is a Making Space for Nature in Kent and Medway initiative, part of the national initiative, which is mapping the biodiversity of the county. The Nature Recovery Strategy is another initiative. A management plan is necessary to find out what we have. Boxley Parish Council has been through the process and brought in an expert from Kent Wildlife Trust to make an assessment. In Detling, local volunteers have been active in managing the areas but nothing has been documented. The Council should invite a Kent Wildlife Trust expert as Boxley Parish Council has done.

Cllr English **PROPOSED** that the Open Space Working Group will discuss at their next meeting: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

## **9. Visitors**

a) Police

Cllr Thompson reported that Inspector Steve Kent and PC Ben Cox had attended the Cluster Meeting, waste crime and fly tipping was discussed. My Community Voice was also discussed and people are encouraged to register.

b) Borough Councillor

MBCllr Thompson reported that he had been contacted by a resident regarding Gypsy and Traveller enforcement issues.

The Kent Downs Management Plan Review is live and looks at the impact of strategic roadways on the Downs and also the impact of HGVs.

I will meet with colleagues regarding a two-year environmental plan looking at air quality, farming activities and bonfires.

The Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Development Plan Document will go out for consultation on 27 November.

Maidstone Borough Council will submit its proposal regarding the Local Government Reorganisation by the end of the month.

Stage 1 of the Community Governance review has been completed, the Council is now at Stage 2; a Maidstone Town Council should be supported to give Maidstone a strong local identity.

The Lidsing Supplementary Planning Document consultation is now live; the issue for Detling is the connection through White Hill Road and Cox Street to the A249

## **11. Correspondence**

Request for litter bin at Jades Crossing: There would need to be a Highways permit to install a bin.

Request for dog waste bin: Clerk to ascertain location from resident.

Concern raised regarding secondary school admissions: This is a matter for KCC and will be raised with the County Councillor.

Anniversary of tragedy on A249: there is a permanent memorial at the site.

Cllr English reported that he had received a message regarding water supply to a property on Detling Hill and will respond.

## 12. Planning

Ref: 25/504025/LBC Cockhill Farm Cox Street Detling Kent ME14 3HG

Listed Building Consent for total demolition of fire damaged remains of the cottage.

Councillors considered the application and had no objections.

Cllr English said the Council will respond to the Lidsing Supplementary Planning Document consultation.

Hockers Farm- item for December agenda

## 13. Financial Matters:

### a) Finance report

Noted.

### b) Invoices for payment

Cheque no	Payee	Reason	Nett	VAT	Total
500240 <i>Paid out of meeting</i>	DCK Payroll	Payroll	31.50	6.30	<b>£37.80</b>
500241 <i>Paid out of meeting</i>	Detling Village Hall	Room hire			<b>£24.00</b>
500242 <i>Paid out of meeting</i>	Newington Parish Council	Share Clerks Conference fee			<b>£14.00</b>
500243 <i>Paid out of meeting</i>	Administration	Expenses	75.33	0.42	<b>£75.75</b>
50024-5 <i>Paid out of meeting</i>	Staff costs				
500246	DCK Payroll	Payroll	31.50	6.30	<b>£37.80</b>
500247	TMPI Ltd	Play area inspection	220.00	44.00	<b>£264.00</b>
500248	Paul Waring	Grounds maintenance	1151.70	230.34	<b>£1382.04</b>
500249	KALC	Advanced Planning training	50.00	10.00	<b>£60.00</b>
500250	Greenbarnes Ltd	Post	185.45	37.09	<b>£222.54</b>
500251	Detling Village Hall	Room hire			<b>£24.00</b>
500252	Administration	Expenses Poppy wreath <b>Total</b>	68.64 40.00	0.42	<b>£109.06</b>
500253- 4	Staff costs				

Cllr English **PROPOSED** to make the payments; **SECONDED** by Cllr Maclaren: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

c) To consider request from the Air Ambulance Charity Kent Surrey Sussex for a grant  
Councillors considered the request and agreed to give priority to organisations in Detling; so would not to make a donation this year.

d) To consider request from Detling Cricket Club for a grant  
Councillors considered the request and **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to make a grant of £500 towards the legal cost of renewing and updating the Deed of Trust.

e) To consider request from Detling Church for a grant  
Councillors considered the request and **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to vire £250 to the grants budget and make a grant of £250 towards the cost of a deep clean of the church.

f) To consider request from Heart of Kent Hospice for a grant  
Councillors considered the request and agreed not to make a donation this year.

#### **14. Speedwatch**

Cllr Jubb reported that three new volunteers have come forward and are being trained. There is a need for further volunteers to enable more sessions to be held.

#### **15. Community Resilience**

Cllr Maclaren reported that she had attended an online Digital Friends seminar which was very useful and would benefit residents. It would be worthwhile to champion this in the village.

*ACTION: Item for January agenda.*

#### **16. Communications**

The Clerk reported that details of road closures and consultations are on Facebook and the website.

#### **17. Staffing Matters**

Cllr English reported that he had met with the Clerk for her annual appraisal; objectives have been met and updated.

#### **Date of next Parish Council Meeting– Tuesday 2 December 2025**

#### **18. To consider Assets of Value to the Community**

Cllr English **PROPOSED** that Pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 and because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and press were excluded from the meeting during the consideration of Assets of Value to the Community: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

Councillors considered assets within the parish.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.55pm.

Signed as a true record of the meeting:

Chairman

Date: 2 December 2025