



# Rolvenden Parish Council

**Minutes of a meeting of Rolvenden Parish Council held in Rolvenden Village Hall on Thursday 18 June 2026 at 7.30pm.**

Present: Cllr. S. Bryant (Chairman for this meeting), Cllr. C. Balch, Cllr. M. Geerts, Cllr. G. Hodge and Cllr. L. Walker  
In attendance: Louise Goldsmith, Parish Clerk and 2 members of the public

Louise Goldsmith Parish Clerk  
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*Cllr. Bryant opened the meeting as the most senior member of the Parish Council and called for nominations for a Vice Chairman.*

**1480. Election of Vice Chairman and to receive a signed Declaration of Acceptance of Office**

Cllr Bryant was proposed by Cllr. Walker and seconded by Cllr. Balch. Cllr. Bryant accepted the nomination and there were no other nominations.

**Resolved: Cllr. Bryant was elected as Chairman following a unanimous vote. Cllr. Bryant read out and signed a declaration of acceptance of office**

**1481. Administration:**

Fire Exits, Fire Meeting Point, Mobile Phones.

**1482. Apologies for Absence:**

An apology for absence was received from County Councillor Wayne Chapman and Councillors Hinge and Gilchrist and the reasons for absence were accepted.

**1483. Resignation of Councillor Jacob Green**

The Clerk reported that a resignation letter was received from Jacob Green on the 2 June 2026. The resignation letter was forwarded to ABC and an official Notice for the resignation has been issued. The Clerk has placed this Notice on the noticeboards and website. If an election is not called by ten or more electors by the 25 June 2026 the Parish Council can co-opt to fill the vacancy for Strete..

**1484. Intention to record the Meeting:**

There were no intentions to record the meeting.

**1485. Declarations of interest:**

Cllr Bryant noted an interest in the War Memorial Trust.

**1486. Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on the 21 May 2026**

**Resolved: That the minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on the 21 May 2026 be approved and confirmed as a true record.**

**1487. Ward Member**

There was no report.

**1488. County Councillor Report:**

A report from County Councillor Wayne Chapman was noted and will be placed on the website.

**1489. Chairman's Report**

Cllr. Bryant expressed his disappointment that an ABC property in Sparkeswood still remains empty. Cllr. Bryant thanked Terry Moore for all his hard work as a voluntary litter picker in the village. Cllr. Bryant expressed his gratitude that the historic Rolvenden windmill is to be refurbished by the Barham Family.

Chairmans signature.....

**1490. Clerk's report:**

Annual Leave: The Clerk will be on annual leave from 22 June to the 1 July 2026.

Exercise of Public Rights: The period for the Exercise of Public Rights commenced on the 3 June 2026 and ends on the 14 July 2026.

Allotments: Cllr. Hinge and the Clerk attended the annual inspection of the allotments on Monday 15 June 2025. along with members of the Allotment Committee.

**1491. Open Session:**

A member of the public asked if the Parish Council could consider at the next meeting a request to host a screening of the 'People's Emergency Briefing' film.

**1492. Planning:**

a) **To consider any planning applications received prior to the meeting**

**PA/2026/0524: 9 Maytham Road, Rolvenden**

Proposed garden building following removal of the existing garden shed and conservatory

**Resolved: Support**

**PA/2026/0917: Redundant farm building north west of Halden Place Cottage, Halden Lane**

Conversion and part demolition of a redundant rural building to form a residential dwelling together with the complete demolition of a further barn and the creation of associated parking and garden area.

**Resolved: Support. We do not believe the building is suitable for its original purpose. We are not normally minded to approve the conversion of a building outside the village confines but in line with policy RNP5 in the Neighbourhood Development Plan, which states that there is to be no development on the periphery of Rolvenden Layne built-up confines unless it involves the reuse of a disused or redundant building, we support this proposal.**

b) **To consider any approvals:** None to consider.

c) **To consider any refusals:** None to consider.

d) **Withdrawn:** None to consider.

**1493. Parish Matters.**

a) **Local Government Reorganisation**

The Clerk reported that the Government is still expected to announce its decision on the number of Unitary Authorities for Kent on or before the 16 July 2026), with elections for the new shadow Unitary Authorities taking place in May 2027. The Unitary Authorities are expected to take over the provision of services in April 2028.

b) **Neighbourhood Watch/Kent Police Update**

*Sian Reeves, Rolvenden Neighbourhood Watch, gave the following report.*

Sian Reeves will be reporting the fact that flytipping in Mounts Lane near a 5 bar field gate seems to be a regular occurrence. Sian Reeves will also be reporting the presence of people with drugs at a layby in Pixes Lane. There was an incident involving knives in Tenterden last month and the culprit has been arrested. Sian Reeves will be attending the Ashford Neighbourhood Watch meeting tomorrow evening and knife crime is a topic on the agenda. Cllr. Walker reported that a stolen motorcycle was being driven in an intimidating manner down the High Street and in Sparkeswood on the 16 June 2026. Cllr. Walker confirmed that the incident has been reported to Kent Police. Sian Reeves agreed to mention this incident at the Neighbourhood Watch Meeting. Sian Reeves also reported that a rogue trader has been arrested in Tenterden for quoting for roof repairs that are not needed. Kent Police recently attended all local shops in the area to carry out some licensing checks and discovered some minor breaches. A survey has been released on My Community Voice about a proposal to merge police forces in England and Wales.

**Ongoing and new Fraud/Scams to be aware of:**

Information in my monthly Rolvenden Parish magazine article and sent to Rolvenden Neighbourhood Watch members.

Impersonating family members scam; Fake Barclays account scam; mis-sold car finance scam; social media scam; employment scam; Romance fraud; fake Vodafone scam; fake Nationwide scam; increase in courier fraud; distraction fraud at the cash point;

The next Police Surgery will be held on Monday 13 July at 6pm in the Calvero Lounge in Tenterden.

c) **Parish Council Meeting August 2026**

**Resolved: To not hold a meeting in August 2026.**

**1494. HIGHWAYS/PROW**

a) **Highways Improvement Plan**

It was noted that a virtual meeting with the Community Engagement Office to discuss any priorities will take place on Friday 17 July at 11am.

b) **Faults**

**Request for Hatching**

KCC have advised that a request for hatching at the junction of Regents Street and the High Street can be discussed at the next Highways Improvement Plan meeting.

**A28 Benenden Road Finger Post**

It was agreed that the Clerk will ask Tompsetts to carry out any necessary repairs to the finger post.

**1495. Finances**

a) **To receive the accounts as at the 31 May 2026**

The accounts as at the 31 May 2026 prepared and circulated by the Clerk were received.

b) **To receive the bank reconciliation as at the 31 May 2026**

c) The bank reconciliation as at the 31 May 2026 was noted. The reconciliation was checked and signed by Cllr. Balch in accordance with the financial regulations.

d) **To receive a list of payments for approval**

Cllr. Bryant checked the invoices against the payment schedule, (appended to the minutes), and it was **resolved** for Cllrs. Balch and Hinge to authorise the payments online. The authorised schedule was initialled immediately below the last item by Cllr. Bryant in accordance with the financial regulations.

**1496. External Meetings**

a) **Thoburn Trust Meeting:**

It was noted that the Clerk and Cllr. Hinge met with three contractors on Friday 29 May 2026 to obtain quotes for all the works in the capital works plan prepared by CLM. Members will be considering the quotes at a meeting to be held this evening. The Clerk and Cllr. Hinge attended the annual allotment inspection on the 15 June 2026. A couple of plots are currently vacant and one plot has not been tendered to the required standard. The Clerk has contacted the tenant concerned.

b) **Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group**

There has been no meeting.

c) **Rolvenden Village Hall:**

Cllr. Hodge advised Members that a Management Committee meeting was held Thursday 4 June 2026. Cllr. Hodge reported that the pre-school is in the process of recruiting for a new manager. A recently formed committee is investigating setting up new bank accounts and is developing a new website. Cllr. Hodge reported that the Farmers Market is now run by the Village Hall Committee who are actively trying to increase the number of stalls. Cllr. Hodge reassured Members that the Village Hall Committee is very keen to ensure that the Farmers Market continues recognising that is also an invaluable community hub.

d) **KALC Ashford Area Committee:**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 27 May 2026 have been circulated.

**1497. Items for the next meeting:**

1 Sparkewood Avenue, empty property.

To consider hosting a screening of the 'People's Emergency Briefing' film.

**1498. Correspondence/Consultations**

a) Publishing of home addresses of co-opted Members

The Clerk advised that from the 29 June 2026, Councils in England will no longer be required to publish the home addresses of Councillors or Co-opted Members in public registers of interests, following changes introduced through the English Devolution Act. Authorities will still retain address details for monitoring and conflict-of-interest purposes. Public registers will indicate where an address has been withheld. The change is intended to strengthen Councillor safety and support participation in public office.

**1499. Confidential Item:** There were none.

**1500. Date of the next Parish Council Meeting:**

Parish Council Meeting: Thursday 16 July 2026 at 7.30pm

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.22pm

Signed: ..... Date: .....

Chairmans signature.....

## BACS Payments for Approval June 2026

| Reference | Payee            | Invoice      | Description of Transaction         | Gross          |
|-----------|------------------|--------------|------------------------------------|----------------|
| 13/26     | Louise Goldsmith |              | Expenses May                       | 111.18         |
| 14/26     | M I Payroll      | 4124         | Payroll Services June              | 25.00          |
| 15/26     | Louise Goldsmith |              | Reimburse Norton Subscription      | 89.99          |
| 16/26     | Ina Hemsley      |              | Garden Waste Maintenance           | 64.00          |
| 17/26     | Tompsetts        | 3808         |                                    | 1988.02        |
| DD        | Unity Trust      |              | Monthly Charge                     | 7.00           |
| DD        | Hugo Fox         |              | Website                            | 11.99          |
| DD        | Hugo Fox         |              | Email Accounts                     | 20.99          |
| DD        | HMRC             |              | Clerks Tax and NI (paid quarterly) | 340.58         |
| SO        | Louise Goldsmith |              | Salary June                        | 440.05         |
|           |                  | <b>Total</b> |                                    | <b>3098.80</b> |

**Receipts:** None

### Bank Reconciliation as at 31 May 2026

|                 |                          |
|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Opening balance | £18,365.92               |
| add receipts    | £21,500.00               |
|                 | <u>£39,865.92</u>        |
| less payments   | £10,317.35               |
| Balance         | <u><b>£29,548.57</b></u> |

Chairmans signature.....