



Minutes of the Meeting of Lenham Parish Council Held on Wednesday 4th March 2026, 7:30pm at Lenham Community Centre

PRESENT Cllr. J Britt, Chair presiding.

Cllrs. P Culver, H Dale, D Earl, D Garland, K Hammond, S Heeley, M Michaelas, A Ratcliffe, D Turner, A Walmsley.

L Westcott (Clerk & RFO), S. Newell (Deputy Clerk and RFO), A Ratcliffe (Finance & Admin Clerk),

Public Participation

2x members of the public came to talk about the allotments and their polytunnel/structure.

Cllr. A Walmsley attended the Allotment Association AGM and had concerns about setting a precedent for other allotment holders. There were questions on whether this is shading other plots.

ACTION Officers to create a structure guidance document/ set of rules. To be taken to the next F&GP meeting for approval.

ACTION Officers to ask allotment holders to vote regarding the structure as there was not one taken at the AGM.

The chair opened the meeting at 19:52.

25/180 Apologies for absence received.

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. C Wood & J Murray.

25/181 To receive declarations of interest on the agenda, declarations to changes to the Register of Interests, and to consider Requests for dispensations.

There were none.

25/182 To request notification of intention to film, photograph or record any items.

There were none.

25/183 In accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, S1, the Council is to determine which items, if any, should be taken with the public and press excluded.

There were none.

25/184 To sign as a correct record the minutes of the Lenham Parish Council Meeting on 4th February 2026

Cllr D. Garland proposed, Cllr A. Ratcliffe seconded and it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes for the meeting held on 4th February are a true record and were approved, adopted and signed by the Chair of the Parish Council.

25/185 Progress of resolutions from 4th February (for information purposes only).

There were none.

25/186 Report from Staffing Committee

- Cllr. D Earl reported lots of applications received for the Parish Caretaker role. Looking to interview 3 to 4 candidates in the next couple of weeks. With a view to start beginning of April.
- Officer A Ratcliffe will be finishing her contact this month. A big thank you to her. She will be missed!

25/187 To sign as a correct record the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes (F&GP) meeting on 23rd February 2026

Cllr K. Hammond proposed, Cllr A. Ratcliffe seconded and it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes for the meeting held on 23rd February are a true record and were approved, adopted and signed by the Chair of the Parish Council.

- a. To authorise payments for February and note income - A table of payments and income for February is included in the minutes of F & GP. Also to include EIRC Bill of £342.
Cllr. K. Hammond proposed, Cllr. A. Ratcliffe seconded and it was **RESOLVED** to make all payments. Cllr. D Garland & Cllr. A. Walmsley to authorise the payments online.
- b. Cllr. D Garland proposed and Cllr. P Culver seconded and it was **RESOLVED** to approve grant to St Marys Church PCC for 50% of request (£5000).
- c. Cllr. P Culver proposed and Cllr. K Hammond seconded and it was **RESOLVED** to approve the grant to Lenham Repair Café Group of £2500.
- d. To approve payment to Wallond for additional fence work (if required). Final costs unknown, all agreed to works up to clerk's delegated amount (£1000).
- e. To instruct Safeplay to carry out play park operational inspections for 26/27 – Cllr. K Hammond proposed and Cllr. S Heeley seconded and it was **RESOLVED** to continue with Safeplay.
- f. To approve fee increase from Paul Waring for 2026/2027 season (7% rise) – Cllr. A Ratcliffe proposed and Cllr. D Earl seconded and it was **RESOLVED** to approve increase and instruct P Waring for grounds maintenance works as per quote.
- g. To adopt the draft Investment Strategy – Cllr. C Wood has informed Cllrs that he has updated the policy. As he is absent so he will bring updated version to F & GP.

25/188 To consider purchase of LPC branded CCTV camera signs

ACTION – officers to email LOTUS to see if they provide foamcore boards to be printed on and what the costs will be.

25/189 To receive the clerks report for February 2026 (including the Financial Report)

- Cllr. D Dearl suggested comparing figures for our website and social media to previous years.
- Handyman work completed.

25/190 To sign as a correct record the minutes of the Planning and Implementation Committee meeting on 18th February 2026

Cllr K. Hammond proposed, Cllr P. Culver seconded and it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes for the meeting held on 18th February are a true record and were approved, adopted and signed by the Chair of the Parish Council.

See appendix A.

25/191 To review fees for:

- a. Ham Lane Allotments – increase in rent agreed last year for 26/27, all agreed to keep the same for 27/28.
- b. Lenham Cemetery – keep the same. To review in Autumn for a view to increase for 27/28.

25/192 Updates from meetings attended/ planned (for information purposes only)

- Cllr. S Heeley – Tourism meeting 11th Feb. Next one on the 6th March.
 - Cllr. K Hammond & Cllr. J Britt – meeting on 5th March regarding the community Centre/Doctors.
 - Cllr. D Garland & Cllr. C Wood met MoP to discuss damage to the verge on Leading Cross Green. K kerb suggested to be installed on the corner.
 - Cllr. A Walmsley has HIP meeting coming up soon. Date tbc.
 - Cllr. A Ratcliffe met with Evans & Langford regarding 2 projects (car park resurface and cemetery road).
 - Cllr. A Ratcliffe met with Tourism Group members about lock up project, will hopefully have mockup pics of design for lock up by APM.
 - Cllr. J Britt attended a meeting on Thurs 26th Feb with KALC to discuss LGR – decision outcome by October.
- ACTION** – all Cllrs to look at questionnaire/consultation.
- Cllr. A Ratcliffe is meeting about the feasibility of WPF.

25/193 Project Updates (for information purposes only)

- CCTV – x3 streetlights failed load test. 1x will be changed.
To look into plan B.
Phase 2 wobble test to go ahead. Report back to F&GP.
- Litter pick to be held on 28th March.

25/194 To report correspondence received (for information purposes only)

- Email about the Telephone box at former Marley site – location of the phone box is unknown. Panettoni can't find it either.
- Goudhurst PC lorry watch – Officer A Ratcliffe contacted them, they are talking to satnav companies.
- Precept from MBC due on the 10th April.
- Insurance form completed for WPF re gate damage for Kent Police.
- MoP raised concerns about Faversham road traffic/speed issues.
- Lenham Square temporary traffic lights – L Westcott has raised this with MBC and KCC Highways officers and Cllrs. Cllr. J Britt had raised the issue with Emily (HIP) on KCC's management. L Westcott to respond to recent email.

The meeting closed at 22:00

Signed as a true record on this day 1st April 2026.....

Chair of Lenham Parish Council

Appendix A

Application Number	Address	Application Content
25/5005507/TCA	St Mary's Church Church Square Lenham Kent ME17 2PJ	Lenham Parish Council supports this application.
26/00128 /INIT	58 Maidstone Road Lenham Kent ME17 2QJ	No comment.
26/500572/LDCEX	Mount Castle Cottage Mount Cas Lane Lenham Heath ME17 2JE	No comment.
26/500616/SUB	Land At Old Ham Lane Lenham Maidstone Kent	No Comment, we are in support of this sub application which is in conformance with the Lenham Neighbourhood Plan.
26/500617/SUB	Land At Old Ham Lane Lenham Maidstone Kent	No comment.
26/500618/SUB	Land At Old Ham Lane Lenham Maidstone Kent	No comment.

