

SHOREHAM PARISH

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COUNCIL

MINUTES of a MEETING of SHOREHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Shoreham Village Hall, Shoreham on 1 April 2026 at 7:30pm

Present: Cllrs R Blamey, J Histed (Chair), B Jeffery, N Powell, and M Sheward

Also Present: 10 members of the public (in part), Cllr Irene Roy (District) (in part), Amanda Barlow (Clerk)

Apologies: Cllr Thorpe, Cllr Marc Logen (County), Cllr Edwards-Winser (District)

1. To receive any apologies for absence.

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Thorpe, Cllr Marc Logen (County) and Cllr Edwards-Winser (District)

2. To receive any disclosures of interest from members in respect of items of business included on the agenda for the meeting.

Cllr Histed advised that he is trustee of the Walnut Trust.

3. Public Forum

There were no comments.

4. County/District Councillor Reports

Cllr Irene Roy gave her report and a copy is attached at Appendix A.

Cllr Marc Logen (County) sent his apologies and his report is attached at Appendix B.

5. To consider, and approve if appropriate, which agenda items are sufficiently confidential as to warrant exclusion of members of the press and public under the provisions of The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960

There were no items to be discussed in confidence.

Members agreed to take Agenda items in the following order:

10. Correspondence

- 10.4 Sevenoaks District Council – Refuse Freighter

Cllr Roy advised that Sevenoaks District Council could not operate the refuse system as there are not enough staff.

8. Highways and Footpaths

8.1 Highways Improvement Plan (HIP)

Cllr Jeffery advised that there is no further progress with the HIP.

He reported, as previously, that the following has been agreed:

- 20mph zone has been approved but no costings received.
- Highways have no objection to the kerb way in front of Copt Hall but Highways will not pay for that. No costings received.
- Traffic Island – A225 the road is too fast and too narrow.

Cllr Roy advised that items can be brought to the Joint Transport Board and it was agreed that she would look at that possibility with Cllr Jeffery.

8.2 Station Road steps

There was no further update.

10. Correspondence

10.3 Allotment bonfires

Residents were very concerned about the bonfires at the allotments and the noise from electrical equipment.

Members agreed to discuss the situation with the Allotment Association to look at alternative ways to deal with bonfires and to review the use of power tools. It was agreed to look at the agreement with the Allotment Association.

9. Shoreham Recreation Ground (including boundaries with residents, Walnut Tree Trust and Shoreham Village Hall)

9.1 To receive an update regarding the tree work clearance work at Shoreham Recreation Ground

Members agreed that the resident should submit a quote to the Clerk for the repair to her summerhouse.

Peter Kasch (Shoreham Village Hall) advised that Down to Earth are attending the recreation ground to go over the work they are scheduled to do as some of the work has already been done.

He reported that the CCTV cable is now on the land and it needs to be buried properly.

9.2 Fencing between the recreation ground and the Walnut Tree Trust

Peter Kasch (Walnut Tree Trust) advised that there are some trees that need to be taken down and it was agreed that Down to Earth should be asked to quote to remove the trees.

Peter Kasch had received some quotes from the various companies but it has been very difficult to get like for like quotations.

Members agreed that Peter Kasch should ask Tonbridge Tate to quote for concrete boards.

9.3 To note the playground inspection report

The Clerk reported and Members noted that there were no high risk items reported and any moderate risk items would be looked at further.

6. To receive and authorise for signature by the Chairman, the Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 4 March 2026

Members resolved to agree the minutes of the meeting held on 4 March 2026.

7. Matters arising from the minutes not covered by Agenda items

Cllr Neil Powell suggested Members considered adding some areas to the Local List. The Local List, which celebrates buildings and structures of local architectural and historic interest that make a valuable contribution to the distinctiveness of our District.

The Local List is an important part of planning policy, ensuring that the special interest of listed assets is considered in future planning decisions.

It was agreed that the Clerk and Cllr Powell would look at submitting a form

10. Correspondence

10.1 Government Consultation on Local Government Reorganisation
This item was covered under Cllr Irene Roy's report.

10.2 Kent County Council – Highways & Transport Newsletter
Noted.

11. Finance & Personnel and Governance

11.1 To agree the items received, paid and payable

Members resolved to agree the items received, paid and payable at Appendix C.

11.2 To consider a grant request from the PCC of St Peter & St Paul towards the mowing of the churchyard

Members resolved to award a grant to PCC of St Peter & St Paul for £1,000.00.

11.3 To consider a grant request from DRiPS for a new Darent Action Plan

Members resolved to award a grant to DRiPS of £500.

Members asked the Clerk to provide some data on grants from previous years and set a budget for this year.

12. Next meetings (all starting at 7:30pm in Shoreham Village Hall unless otherwise stated)

a. Annual Parish Meeting at 7pm – Wednesday 29 April 2026

It was agreed to change the format of the Annual Parish meeting, there will be a short meeting with the Chairman and Cllrs Logen (County) and Cllr Roy (District) giving updates followed by refreshments.

b. Planning Committee Meeting (if required) at 6.30pm – Wednesday 29 April 2026

c. Full Council Meeting and Planning Committee Meeting (if required) – Wednesday 6 May 2026

Appendix A

Appendix B**Sevenoaks North & Darent Valley**

Marc Logen | County Councillor | Reform UK
 March 2026 Report

KCC Budget 2026-27

The KCC budget for 2026-27 was approved at Full Council on 12th February. The council tax increase is 3.99% - below the 5% anticipated when Reform took office in May 2025. For a Band D household, this is approximately £67.47 per year.

Since May 2025, KCC has delivered £100 million in savings and efficiencies. The breakdown by department is as follows.

Adult Social Care & Health - £41.7m

- Increased client income from annual uplifted contributions
- Greater use of tech-enabled care and equipment-based solutions
- Efficiencies in enablement, supported living, and community-based services
- Successful care package reviews for older people and younger adults

Children, Young People & Education - £21.2m

- Reduced home-to-school transport spend through re-procurement and route optimisation
- Early Help funded via the Children & Families Prevention Grant instead of core budget
- Holding vacancies in social work and support roles
- Lower legal services use
- Increased uptake of Personal Transport Budgets reducing hired transport demand

Growth, Environment & Transport - £17.9m

- Stronger income from Libraries, Registration & Archives
- Waste savings from higher recycling rates and reduced disposal tonnage
- Additional income from Highways fees, permits, and enforcement
- Smaller operational efficiencies across waste and environment services

Chief Executive's Department - £6m

- Property rationalisation
- Reductions in legacy pension liabilities
- Reduced discretionary spend across support services

Deputy Chief Executive's Department - £9m

- Reduced temporary posts and held vacancies
- Lower Member travel, allowances and appeals spend
- Closure of an underperforming Gateway site
- Higher uptake of salary-sacrifice schemes reducing employer NI costs
- Capital receipts used to fund eligible transformation costs

Non-Attributable & Corporate Budgets - £3.8m

- Lower debt repayment costs following loan restructuring
- Increased Commercial Services dividend
- Reduced agency staffing across the organisation

KCC has also reduced debt by £67 million from a starting position of over £700 million, with interest costs falling accordingly.

Full budget details: <https://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/finance-and-budget/our-budget>

Drainage: Gullies and Ditches - Who Is Responsible?

A blocked drain near Styant's Bottom/Watery Lane in Seal (ref: 953274) has prompted a question that affects residents across the division: what is the difference between a gully and a ditch, and who is responsible for clearing each?

A gully is the drain with a grid on top that sits within the road surface and collects water from the carriageway. Gullies are KCC's responsibility. They are cleaned on a cyclical programme - typically every two years - and can be reported for reactive maintenance at kent.gov.uk/highwayfaults.

A ditch is a long, narrow trench usually running adjacent to the road. Most ditches are the responsibility of the adjacent landowner - known as riparian ownership. KCC owns and maintains a small number of ditches in Kent, but in most cases, if a ditch is blocked, it is the neighbouring landowner who is legally obliged to clear it.

The distinction matters because residents often report what they believe to be a KCC drainage issue, only to find that responsibility lies with a private landowner. If in doubt, please report to KCC at kent.gov.uk/highwayfaults, and they will identify ownership.

Illegal Migration Emergency Declared for Kent

At the Full Council meeting on 19th March, KCC passed a motion - the first of its kind by any county council - declaring an Illegal Migration Emergency in Kent.

Kent is the frontier county for small boat arrivals. Between 2018 and 2025, 194,000 people arrived via this route. In 2025 alone, 41,500 crossings were detected - a 13% increase on the previous year. In the first three months of 2026, 3,400 people have already arrived. The vast majority cross from France, a safe country, and most are unvetted adult males.

The financial cost is not abstract. Based on KCC's estimates of £7 billion per year in illegal migration costs nationally, Kent residents' share is approximately £151 million per year - around £368 annually for a Kent family of four. When migrant welfare costs of £10 billion per year nationally are added on a pro-rata basis, the total cost to Kent households is approaching £600 per household per year. These are conservative estimates; the real figures are likely higher given Kent's tax base.

The pressure on KCC directly is significant. KCC has a statutory duty to house and care for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. Government funding covers costs up to age 18, reduces between 18 and 21, and stops entirely for 21 to 25 year olds - leaving KCC statutorily obliged to fund housing, food, clothing and care for that age group from its own budget (taxpayer funded). Ten centres have been established across the county at a combined market value of approximately £20 million.

The declaration calls on the Leader of KCC to demand the Government stops small boat arrivals immediately; to secure full government funding for the costs to KCC and partner agencies; and to ensure Kent's emergency services and resilience structures are properly funded to deal with the ongoing crisis.

This declaration is a first step. It puts Kent's specific needs on record, increases pressure on central government, and provides a foundation for further action. The current situation is unsustainable and the cost is being borne disproportionately by Kent residents and taxpayers.

The full motion is available here: <https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/documents/s136152/1.%20Reform%20UK%20Group%20-%20Illegal%20Migration%20Emergency.pdf>

Questions & How to Get in Touch?

I represent 9 communities and produce this monthly update for all parishes/associations in the ward. If you have issues where county-level involvement could help - highways, planning, drainage, funding, or anything else that touches KCC - please get in touch. The more I know about what is happening on the ground, the more effectively I can act.

I also receive many requests for help directly from local residents. Where the matter is relevant to the parish, I will keep the clerk informed.

Email and Teams: marc.logen@kent.gov.uk - or arrange a Microsoft Teams call for anything that needs more discussion. If something is urgent, email directly rather than waiting for a meeting.

Parish meeting attendance: I plan to attend each parish in person at least once per quarter. If you would like me at a specific meeting, email me directly.

Marc Logen

County Councillor for Sevenoaks North & Darent Valley

Kent County Council | Reform UK

marc.logen@kent.gov.uk

Appendix C

31 March 2026 (2025-2026)

PAYMENTS LIST - 4 March to 31 March 2026

Code	Date	Description				Total
Hall/Emergency Room Hire	05/03/2026	Hall hire	Shoreham Village Hall	X	64.00	64.00
Grasscutting Shoreham	05/03/2026	Hedge Cutting	GF Garden Maintenance	X	300.00	300.00
Grasscutting Shoreham	05/03/2026	Hedge Cutting and Centenary Wood	GF Garden Maintenance	X	1,210.00	1,210.00
Grant	05/03/2026	Grant for Churchyard grass cutting	St Peter & St Paul Church	X	1,000.00	1,000.00
Grant	05/03/2026	Grant	Sevenoaks Volunteer Transport Group	X	150.00	150.00
Clerk's mileage	06/03/2026	Mileage	Mrs A C Barlow	X	18.36	18.36
Hall/Emergency Room Hire	31/03/2026	Hall hire	Shoreham Village Hall	X	32.00	32.00
Playground inspection	31/03/2026	Playground Equipment Inspection	The Play Inspection Company	S	159.00	31.80 190.80
Recreation Ground	31/03/2026	Clearance of ivy and maintenance at the Recreation Ground	GF Garden Maintenance	X	3,100.00	3,100.00

PAYMENTS LIST Payments to be made - 1 April 2026

Code	Date	Payment Ref.	Description			Total
Clerk's mileage	01/04/2026	Mileage	Mrs A C Barlow	X	18.36	18.36
Office Rent/Storage	01/04/2026	Office Allowance	Mrs A C Barlow	X	30.00	30.00
Office telephone	01/04/2026	Office telephone	O2	S	15.22	3.04 18.26
Broadband	01/04/2026	Broadband	Mrs A C Barlow	X	10.00	10.00
Subscriptions - KALC/SLCC/Other	01/04/2026	KALC Subscription	KALC	S	706.86	141.37 848.23
Grant	01/04/2026	Grant to Domestic Abuse Volunteer Support Services	Domestic Abuse Volunteer Support Services	X	200.00	200.00
Grant	01/04/2026	Grant to Sevenoaks's Men's Shed	Sevenoaks Men's Shed	X	200.00	200.00
				Total	1,180.44	144.41 1,324.85

