



**Minutes of the Ash Parish Council Ordinary Meeting
held on 5 January 2026, 7.00pm
at The Library, Ash Village Hall, Queens Road, Ash, Canterbury CT3 2BG**

Present:

Parish Councillors: Cllr Ian Ellery (Chair), Cllr Arnold Davis, Cllr Lynn Gambrell,
Cllr Andy Perriss, Cllr Martin Porter, Cllr Annette Rose,
Cllr John Tanner, Cllr Louise Venny (part)

Sarah Rush (Clerk)

5 Members of the Public (4 part)

Absent Without Apology: Cllr Milli Stenning, Cllr Ashley Stevenson

ITEM		ACTION
1.	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> None	
2.	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u> Cllr Venny declared an interest in planning application 25/01009 The Croft, Moat Lane, Ash	
3.	<u>APPROVAL AND SIGNING OF MINUTES</u> a) RESOLVED the minutes of the Parish Council Ordinary Meeting held on 1 December 2025 are duly signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting	
4.	<u>PUBLICITY OFFICER</u> Cllr Venny agreed to undertake and to provide a copy to the Clerk.	LV
5.	<u>KCC, DDC COUNCILLOR AND POLICE REPORTS</u> Cllr Trevor Bartlett and Cllr Martin Porter from Dover District Council provided a written report and Cllr Bartlett provided an update that he was continuing to press DDC Officers to resolve issues with The Street Car Park and the Molland Lane garage littering.	

	Cllr Peter Evans from Kent County Council sent his apologies and provided a written report PC Jon Bowler from Kent Police sent his apologies but did not submit a written report	
6.	<u>PUBLIC CONTRIBUTIONS AND QUESTIONS</u> A representative of the Dover District Disability Group and Deal Speaking Up Group attended to highlight the lack of response services for the disability alarm in The Street public toilets. A member of the public spoke to share their frustration that Kent County Council had not repaired the damaged surface of Burford Alley. A member of the public expressed an interest in organising a summer fete and asked to be put in touch with the Ash Carnival Association. A member of the public shared information about the serious accident on the A257 at Shatterling before Christmas.	
7.	<u>OUTSTANDING ACTIONS FROM THE LAST MEETING</u> Recreation Ground Car Park improvements – on hold until after the completion of Play Area 2 Refurbishment of the Historic Village Boards. Dover District Council are responsible for the Parish Map and St Augustine Trail historic boards, White Cliffs Countryside Partnership for the Miners Way Trail – Actions ongoing Commemoration of former resident Ray Hooker to utilise £1,000 donation received Awaiting date for the installation of Pedestrian Warning Signs on the A257 by Kent County Council – Actions ongoing Recreation Ground Welcome Signage – On hold pending budget review Redecoration of the Recreation Ground toilets to be carried out during winter closure 20mph Speed Limit within the Village of Ash - Parish Council public consultation to progress this project to be undertaken in Spring 2026 Remove deadwood from one Common Ash tree at the Recreation Ground (tree survey report) – About Trees appointed to carry out work	Clerk Clerk All Clerk Clerk Caretaker Clerk / LV Clerk
8.	<u>FINANCE MATTERS AND AUTHORISATION OF PAYMENTS</u> a) Authorisation of payments/Bank Reconciliation was resolved and payments to be actioned	JT / MP

	b) It was noted the Precept Demand Form to be returned to Dover District Council by 23 January c) It was noted the Parish Council's employee contribution to the Local Government Pension Schemes will decrease from 23.8% to 19.2% from April 2026 d) The increase in Unity Trust Bank Charges from 1st February 2026 was noted e) The RFO's Annual Membership Fee of The Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) - £90.96 – was approved f) It was noted the Charity Commission Annual Returns have been completed for Ash War Memorial – 211734, Ash Recreation Ground – 267619, Ash Recreation Ground or Playing Field – 304965 g) It was RESOLVED to agree 16 hours payment of overtime for the RFO	RFO RFO
9.	<u>PLAY AREA 2</u> a) An update was received on the public engagement undertaken for Play Area 2. Feedback was generally in favour of the development and the sociable seating areas were popular. Concerns were raised around increased car parking and construction noise. b) Updates were received on: - Grant applications – grants from Jack Foat's Trust (£20,000), Frank Kingsland Trust (£7,000) and Cartwright and Kelsey Charity (£5,000) have been approved. The Parish Council would like to extend their thanks to the charities for their support and generosity - S106 funding – Dover District Council will meet in January to approve the Parish Council's application for £52,950.57 S106 funding allocated to the Parish Council from planning application ref: 16/01049 - Land at Chequer Lane, Ash – for specific use towards "Open Space-Children's Equipped Play towards improvements to the existing local area of play at Ash recreation ground" - Planning permission – Dover District Council have confirmed that planning permission is not required for this development - Charity Commission permission – the Charity Commission has confirmed this development meets the remit of Charity number: 267619 (Ash Recreation Ground) to provide "sports ground and play area space for the recreational use of all the Parish of Ash and in particular for young people of Ash under the age of 16" c) It was noted there will be an on-site pre-start meeting with HAGS	

	d) It was agreed to write to neighbouring residential and commercial properties to advise of details of potential noise during the play area construction. Number of printed letters required to be determined by Cllr Tanner e) A discussion was had on the supply of safety harnesses for the Mirage Seats (assisted play equipment). This raised health and safety questions and it was agreed to explore the possibility of replacing the HAGS seats with an alternative inclusive seat from KOMPAN with a fixed harness f) Waste bins – it was RESOLVED to remove the cost of 2 x 60L bins from the HAGS quote at a total cost of £1,590 + VAT and replace with 2 x 110L bins from Dover District Council at a total cost of £780 + VAT (£390 + VAT each). One of these bins is a replacement to the broken bin next to foot scraper. Additional bin to be placed in the new play area. It was RESOLVED to agree the cost of emptying the new play area bin at £195 + VAT per year.	JT / Clerk Clerk Clerk Clerk
10.	<u>HIGHWAYS</u> a) It was agreed to share the A257 Group's public petition with residents when available b) Kent Highways proposal for Pound Corner (Highway Improvement Plan) was discussed and it was agreed to request the outline design and estimate from KCC for further consideration. c) Options to replace the damaged bollard at Ash War Memorial were discussed and it was agreed to bring alternative designs to the next meeting for approval. Dover District Council to be consulted on conservation area considerations	Clerk Clerk Clerk
11.	<u>RECREATION GROUND</u> a) Play and Gym Equipment weekly inspections were noted b) It was agreed to contact the Charity Commission to seek permission to resurface the existing car park / extend the existing car park at the Recreation Ground. It was noted that the Charity Commission are currently operating a 16-week response time to enquiries.	RFO
12.	<u>PAVILION</u> a) It was noted that the Parish Council's Repairing Lease for the Pavilion had been provided to the Pavilion Committee and was being reviewed by their solicitor. The Parish Council Chair, Clerk and RFO attended a meeting with members of the Pavilion Committee where it was confirmed that the Parish Council were confident that they are the legal owners of the Pavilion. b) The Pavilion Committee would like to apply for S106 funding of £13,357.05 allocated to the Pavilion for improvements and have been advised by Dover	

	District Council that their governance requires this application be made via the Parish Council as the Pavilion Committee is un-constituted. The RFO has sought advice from the Parish Council's External Auditor, Internal Auditor and Kent Association for Local Councils (KALC) on the financial implications of claiming S106 funding for a third party but they have been unable to assist It was agreed to consult KALC's recommended legal advisor Parkinsons for advice (free of charge) It was agreed that the new Repairing Lease must be signed by the Pavilion Committee and the question of ownership settled before the Parish Council makes any application for the S106 funding to Dover District Council	RFO
	Cllr Venny left the meeting at 8.08pm	
13.	<u>ALLOTMENTS</u> a) It was noted 2026 invoices and new contracts have been sent to allotment holders b) It was noted vacant plots 9B and 6B have now been filled. 9A has been offered to the waiting list. c) It was RESOLVED to agree the additional cost of £90 for Quality Fencing's installation of the allotment fence to pay for an additional post to offset the gate from the corner to allow for easier van deliveries d) Receipt of Rural Prosperity Grant payment from Dover District Council of £9,292.00 for the new allotment fence and payment of Quality Fencing invoice was noted. It was noted the grant criteria has been met.	
14.	<u>CORRESPONDENCE</u> a) The winner of the KALC 2026 Community Award Scheme was agreed from the public nominations received. The winner will be announced and receive a certificate at the Annual Parish Meeting to be held on Wednesday 29 April 2026 b) It was agreed to install the Gilton Airfield Memorial Plaque at the Ash War Memorial site. Cllr Tanner to liaise with the Caretaker to install c) It was agreed to advertise Play Area 2 in Sandwich Town Magazine – February 2026 issue (Copy Deadline: 20 Jan, Publication Date 2 Feb). Cllr Ellery to put copy together d) The offer of a tree to be donated by Ash Guides to be planted at the Recreation Ground was discussed. Cllr Tanner to liaise with the Ash Guides to explore options	JT / Caretaker IE JT

15.	<u>PARISH COUNCIL BUSINESS</u> a) It was agreed to purchase a projector screen at a cost of £159.00 (incl. VAT) from Richer Sounds for Ash Village Hall handyman to install in the Library b) Options for the Parish Council to purchase a fireproof cabinet to store archived material in Ash Heritage Centre were discussed. Cllr Ellery to liaise with the Heritage Centre to explore options c) It was agreed to purchase a portable jet washing rod for the Caretaker at a cost of £57.99 incl VAT d) It was agreed to book St Faith's School for the Annual Parish Meeting on Wednesday 29 April 2026, if available e) Meeting dates for second half of 2026 were agreed. Room bookings to be made	Clerk Clerk / IE Caretaker Clerk Clerk
16.	<u>PLANNING APPLICATIONS</u> a) 25/00353 Fleet Farm Cottages , Richborough Road, Ash Change of use of land for stationing of 9 mobile Shepherd's Huts as holiday accommodation with access, parking and landscaping together with retrospective raising of land RESOLVED: In addition to the consultee response previously submitted for this application, Councillors resolved to object to the application on the basis of: 1) Concerns around the management of sewage generated from hot tub usage 2) Concerns around the quality and composition of the materials that were used to raise the land level, as highlighted by DDC's Environmental Officer.. b) 25/01009 The Croft, Moat Lane, Ash Prune back overhanging canopy to boundary and beyond boundary in upper section to shape of one Copper Beech the subject of Tree Preservation Order No 3 of 2019 RESOLVED: No comment – subject to DDC planning decision being in line with Tree Preservation Order regulations c) 25/01327 Agricultural Land And Buildings , Nash Road, Gilton, Ash Erection of a side extension to an agricultural building and solar panels to roof RESOLVED: To support the application	
17.	<u>MATTERS FOR THE FEBRUARY MEETING</u> a) Play Area 2 - sign off the works	
18.	<u>DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS</u> Parish Council Planning Committee – Monday 19 January	

	Parish Council Finance Meeting – Monday 21 January Parish Council Ordinary Meeting – Monday 2 February	
	The meeting closed at 8.47pm	