



**Minutes of the Ash Parish Council Ordinary Meeting
held on 2 March 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 Ashley
Stevenson (part), Cllr John Tanner (part), Cllr Louise Venny

Sarah Rush (Clerk)

Cllr Peter Evans, Kent County Council (part)

Cllr Trevor Bartlett, Dover District Council (part)

2 Members of the Public (2 part)

Absent Without Apology: Cllr Milli Stenning

ITEM		ACTION
1.	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> None	
2.	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u> None	
3.	<u>APPROVAL AND SIGNING OF MINUTES</u> a) RESOLVED the minutes of the Parish Council Ordinary Meeting held on 2 February 2026 are duly signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting b) RESOLVED the minutes of the Parish Council Finance Meeting held on 4 February 2026 are duly signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting c) RESOLVED the minutes of the Parish Council Planning Committee held on 16 February 2026 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 highlighted the upcoming launch of DDC's Community Grant Scheme, the Reach Awards and the Great British Spring Clean to be held in Ash on Saturday 14 March, 13.00-15.00 from the Village Hall. DDC's Community Roots Van will also be in attendance. Cllr Peter Evans from Kent County Council advised that KCC were currently only able to repair emergency potholes but when their new contractor starts on 1 April they aim to repair all potholes on the roads. He is also looking at possible safety improvements to the A257. Cllr Evans agreed to attend the Annual Parish Meeting on 29 April. PC Jon Bowler from Kent Police did not send apologies or a written report.	
6.	<u>PUBLIC CONTRIBUTIONS AND QUESTIONS</u> A member of the public raised concerns about the sinkhole at Gilton (responsibility of Kent County Council) and interest in refurbishing Ash Scout Hut in commemoration of a resident. Cllr Porter agreed to take this up with Dover District Council who own the building.	
7.	<u>OUTSTANDING ACTIONS FROM THE LAST MEETING</u> Recreation Ground Car Park improvements – on hold until after the completion of Play Area 2 Installation of Pedestrian Warning Signs on the A257 by Kent County Council – Actions ongoing (KCC report a scheduled date of 31 March) Recreation Ground Welcome Signage – On hold pending budget review Redecoration of the Recreation Ground toilets to be carried out during March before reopening on 1 April Play Area 2 - Order 2 new bins from DDC when play area installation dates confirmed and ensure HAGS write to neighbouring properties to advise of potential noise during installation Share the A257 Group's public petition with residents when available Kent Highways proposal for Pound Corner (Highway Improvement Plan) – waiting for outline plan and cost estimate from KCC 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 – Awaiting response Consult KALC's recommended legal advisor Parkinsons for advice (free of charge) on financial implications of making a S106 claim for Pavilion improvements – Awaiting response Ash Guides have been contacted to explore options for their offer of a donated tree to be planted at the Recreation Ground with a budget of £105. It was agreed that a mature tree	Caretaker Clerk Clerk Clerk / LV JT

	should be planted in November/December. Ash Guides to be invited to suggest a location for the tree at the Recreation Ground Options for the Parish Council to purchase a fireproof cabinet to store archived material in Ash Heritage Centre Basketball hoop safety sign to be sourced Installation of the Gilton Airfield Memorial at Pound Corner – actions ongoing	JT	Clerk	Caretaker																																						
8.	<u>FINANCE MATTERS AND AUTHORISATION OF PAYMENTS</u> a) It was noted the Precept Demand Form has been returned to Dover District Council b) It was noted that elected Members could claim the £560 Chairman / £280 Councillor Basic Allowance and it was agreed to review at the next meeting c) It was RESOLVED to submit the re-declaration of compliance with the Pensions Regulator d) It was agreed to open grant applications for 2026/2027 financial year with a total fund of £3,000. Applications to be reviewed at the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council to be held on Thursday 7 May e) It was RESOLVED to cancel membership of the Open Spaces Society at a cost of £45 per year f) It was RESOLVED to agree Clerk increase by one spinal point to SCP28 and RFO increase by one spinal point to SCP24, subject to satisfactory performance from 1 April g) The 2026/27 Risk Assessment Schedule was reviewed and approved h) It was noted that the Financial Services Compensation Scheme limit has increased to £120,000 i) It was RESOLVED to agree the annual insurance renewal at a total cost of £1,660.72 with Clear Councils for 2026/2027 j) Authorisation of payments/Bank Reconciliation were RESOLVED and payments to be actioned <table><tr><th>Payee</th><th>Description</th><th>Amount</th><th>VAT</th><th>Total</th></tr><tr><td>Employment Costs</td><td>RFO Salary (Feb)</td><td>£ 4,164.06</td><td>£ -</td><td>£ 4,164.06</td></tr><tr><td>C&W Groundcare Ltd</td><td>Grounds Maintenance (Feb)</td><td>£ 393.41</td><td>£ 78.68</td><td>£ 472.09</td></tr><tr><td>EDF</td><td>Energy for toilets Jan</td><td>£ 74.24</td><td>£ 3.71</td><td>£ 77.95</td></tr><tr><td>Unity Trust</td><td>Bank charges - Jan</td><td>£ 9.60</td><td>£ -</td><td>£ 9.60</td></tr><tr><td>Jewson</td><td>Path/parking repair</td><td>£ 43.65</td><td>£ 8.73</td><td>£ 52.38</td></tr><tr><td>Jewson</td><td>Path/parking repair</td><td>£ 43.65</td><td>£ 8.73</td><td>£ 52.38</td></tr></table>	Payee	Description	Amount	VAT	Total	Employment Costs	RFO Salary (Feb)	£ 4,164.06	£ -	£ 4,164.06	C&W Groundcare Ltd	Grounds Maintenance (Feb)	£ 393.41	£ 78.68	£ 472.09	EDF	Energy for toilets Jan	£ 74.24	£ 3.71	£ 77.95	Unity Trust	Bank charges - Jan	£ 9.60	£ -	£ 9.60	Jewson	Path/parking repair	£ 43.65	£ 8.73	£ 52.38	Jewson	Path/parking repair	£ 43.65	£ 8.73	£ 52.38	RFO	Clerk	RFO	RFO	RFO	MP/JT
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	Home Bargains	Mould preventer & cloths	£ 3.73	£ 0.75	£ 4.48	
	B&M	Jeyes Outdoor Disinfectant	£ 5.83	£ 1.16	£ 6.99	
	Lloyds Bank	Credit card Fee - Feb DW card	£ 3.00	£ -	£ 3.00	
	Amazon	Amazon - Stationery	£ 9.80	£ -	£ 9.80	
	GiffGaff	Clerk's mobile - February	£ 5.00	£ 1.00	£ 6.00	
	Lloyds Bank	Credit card Fee - Feb JJ card	£ 3.00	£ -	£ 3.00	
	KCC	Monthly Back-up Fee Feb Inv	£ 9.06	£ 1.81	£ 10.87	
	SWE Media Ltd	Consultation leaflets	£ 940.00	£ 188.00	£ 1,128.00	
	DDC	Chequer Lane bin emptying	£ 195.00	£ -	£ 195.00	
	Barriers Direct	War Memorials - bollards	£ 1,523.96	£ 304.79	£ 1,828.75	
	Ash Village Hall	Village Hall Hire Meetings February	£ 50.00	£ -	£ 50.00	
	Clear Council	Clear Council - Insurance Renewal	£ 1,660.72	£ -	£ 1,660.72	
	Dover District Council	Toilets - The Street	£ 2,951.36	£ -	£ 2,951.36	
	Unity Trust Transfer	UT Deposit A/c to UT Current A/c	£ 10,000.00	£ -	£ 10,000.00	
9.	<u>PLAY AREA 2</u> a) It was RESOLVED to approve Clerk to sign off HAGS building agreement for the installation of Play Area 2 at the total cost of £105,000 + VAT to be funded by: £ 20,000.00 Grant Funding from Jack Foat's Trust £ 7,000.00 Grant Funding from Frank Kingsland Trust £ 5,000.00 Grant Funding from Cartwright Godfrey and Kelsey Charity £ 52,950.57 S106 funding from planning application ref: 16/01049 - Land at Chequer Lane, Ash £ 20,049.43 Ash Parish Council Ear Marked Reserves b) It was noted works are scheduled to commence on 20 April for planned completion on 8 June 2026. Clerk to post announcement on website and Facebook					Clerk Clerk
10.	<u>HIGHWAYS</u> a) It was noted the two existing bollards at Ash War Memorial could be removed and replaced with 'Three Ringed Bollards' at Ash War Memorial now payment has been made					Clerk

	b) It was noted the consultation for the 20mph limit (Highway Improvement Plan) is live with door-dropped leaflets and online response form. Closing date for responses is 31 March and over 111 responses have been received to date. It was noted that concerns had been raised about potholes on roads in the Parish. These are the responsibility of Kent Highways to repair. The Parish Council do not have the legal power to use the budget earmarked for the 20mph limit scheme to repair potholes on the public highway.	
11.	<u>RECREATION GROUND</u> a) Play and Gym Equipment weekly inspections were noted b) It was RESOLVED to agree Safeplay carry out 3 x quarterly and 1 x annual inspection of all play and adult gym equipment at the Recreation Ground at an annual cost of £676 + VAT c) It was RESOLVED to agree an inflationary increase in the grounds maintenance contract of 4% with C&W Groundcare Ltd to now include 2 x hedge cutting Queens Road, Tennis Courts and Allotments/Burford Alley at a total cost of £6259.74 + VAT per year (12 equal monthly payments of £521.54 + VAT) d) It was noted two potholes have been repaired on the driveway at the Recreation Ground e) The Event Notification Form from Ash Carnival Association was reviewed and it was agreed to feedback comments regarding the suitability of the date, projected attendee numbers, insurance cover for any damage to the Recreation Ground and vehicle management. The event organiser to be invited to the next Parish Council Ordinary Meeting to discuss plans in more detail	Clerk RFO Clerk
12.	<u>PAVILION</u> a) An update was received on the Pavilion Lease agreement b) The Minutes from the December 2025 meeting of the Pavilion Committee were noted	
13.	<u>ALLOTMENTS</u> a) To note allotment holders have been notified of the next inspection on Wednesday 25 March at 11am and Councillors have agreed to attend b) It was noted plot 1A has been merged with plot 1B and has been changed to a third sized plot c) It was noted plot 1B has been let and no further plots are currently available, with 18 residents on the waiting list d) It was RESOLVED to agree the cost for plot number tags of £212.80 + VAT to be ordered from Engraved Tags	JT/ MP / LG / Clerk Clerk

	It was noted the Finance Meeting scheduled for 18 March was not now required and had been cancelled	
16.	<u>MATTERS FOR THE APRIL MEETING</u> Review of 20mph consultation responses	
17.	<u>DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS</u> Parish Council Planning Committee – Monday 16 March Parish Council Ordinary Meeting – Monday 13 April (final meeting in The Library)	
	The meeting closed at 9.18pm	