



DRAFT Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting

29 April 2026 at 7.30 pm, St Faith's School, 5 The Street, Ash CT3 2HH

Present:

Cllr Ian Ellery, Chairman of Ash Parish Council
Cllr Martin Porter, Dover District Council
Dr Aleksandra Fox, Ash Surgery

Sarah Rush, Clerk to Ash Parish Council
Joanna Jones, Responsible Finance Officer, Ash Parish Council

27 Members of the Public

Apologies Received From:

PC Jon Bowler, Kent Police (Report Appended)
Cllr Trevor Bartlett, Dover District Council (Report Appended)
Cllr Peter Evans, Kent County Council (Report Appended)

Cllr Ian Ellery opened the meeting, welcomed all and ran through how the meeting would run for the evening.

1	The Minutes of the Ash Annual Parish Meetings held on 18 April 2024 and 30 April 2025 were signed by Cllr Ian Ellery
2	Parish Council Chairman Cllr Ian Ellery provided a report and took questions. Finance Report The audited statement of accounts, along with the Annual Governance Audit Return, the Auditor's Certificate for the year ended 31st March 2025, are on the Ash Parish Council website, as is the budget for 2026-2027. Budget for 2025 – 2026 Receipts for the year ended 31st March 2026 - £123,124.51 Payments for the year ended 31st March 2026 - £122,217.23 Overspend of approx. £15,000 on budget set of £107,282.30 mainly due to: • £9,292 grant from DDC for allotment fencing • Higher spend on play area repairs, but matched by S106 income • Bank interest rate increase • Employment costs have risen • Repairs to Recreation Ground toilet block

1 Signed by the Chair: Date:.....

	The Parish Council were pleased to award the following Grants in 2025/26 financial year: £200 Ash Advent £229 Ash Baby & Toddler Group £500 Ash Heritage Centre £745 Ash Wildlife Friendly Village £500 Parochial Church of Ash £400 Westmarsh Village Hall Budget for 2026 – 2027 Precept £105,681.11– Band D £79.95 per year – Approx £1.54 per household per week Band D increase of £2.63 (3.4%) Total Budget agreed as £224,676 Seems much higher than previous years as it includes £115,000 for Play Area 2 An update was provided on Parish Council services and projects delivered during the past year and future projects including Play Area 2 and the proposal for a 20 MPH speed limit in the village It was noted that the Parish Council has three vacancies and those interested in joining the Council should contact the Clerk to the Parish Council regarding co-option (Report appended)
3	Louise Venny was announced as the Kent Association of Local Councils Community Award Winner for the Parish of Ash and was presented with a certificate by Cllr Ian Ellery. Louise was nominated by Parishioners for her contribution “Making a positive difference through her dedication, energy, actions and voice; Ash Wildlife Friendly Village, Advent Windows, church bell ringing, spring bulb planting, litter picking, Speedwatch, charity fundraising, and more!”
4	A report was received by Dover District Councillor, Cllr Martin Porter on behalf of himself and Cllr Trevor Bartlett (Report appended)
5	Kent County Councillor, Cllr Peter Evans, provided his apologies and supplied a written (Report appended)
6	A report was received from Parish Charities: Ian Chandler, Jack Foat’s Trust Peter Chandler, Cartwright Godfrey and Kelsey Charity and Frank Kingsland Trust
7	A report was received on Ash Surgery by GP Partner, Dr Aleksandra Fox
8	There were no resolutions for which written notice had been given

9	There was no other business concerned with Parish Affairs concluded the meeting. A report is appended from St Faith's School
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The meeting ended at 8.41pm

3 Signed by the Chair: Date:.....