



**Minutes of the Ash Parish Council Ordinary Meeting
held on 7 May 2026, 7.50pm
at Ash Village Hall, Queens Road, Ash, Canterbury CT3 2BG**

Present:

Parish Councillors: Cllr John Tanner (Chair), Cllr Arnold Davis, Cllr Martin Porter,
Cllr Annette Rose, Cllr John Tanner, Cllr Louise Venny

Sarah Rush (Clerk)

8 Members of the Public (6 part)

Absent without Apology: Cllr Ashley Stevenson

ITEM		ACTION
1.	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> Cllr Lynn Gambrell (personal)	
2.	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u> Cllr Venny declared an interest as a Trustee of Ash Village Hall Committee, member of Ash Wildlife Friendly Village and Ash Advent Cllr Davis declared an interest as a Friend of St Nicholas Church	
4.	<u>APPROVAL AND SIGNING OF MINUTES</u> a) RESOLVED the minutes of the Parish Council Ordinary Meeting held on 13 April 2026 are duly signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting b) RESOLVED the minutes of the Parish Council Planning Committee held on 20 April 2026 are duly signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting	
5.	<u>PUBLICITY OFFICER</u> Cllr Venny agreed to undertake and to provide a copy to the Clerk.	LV
6.	<u>KCC, DDC COUNCILLOR AND POLICE REPORTS</u> PC Jon Bowler from Kent Police sent his apologies and provided a written report.	

	Cllr Martin Porter from Dover District Council provided a written report and offered to follow up on the broken streetlights and garages, which are the responsibility of DDC. Cllr Trevor Bartlett provided his apologies. Cllr Peter Evans from Kent County Council did not send his apologies or a written report.																																				
7.	<u>PUBLIC CONTRIBUTIONS AND QUESTIONS</u> A member of the public spoke about anti-social behaviour at Pound Corner and The Street bus shelter. A member of the public spoke about organising a Junior Sports Day on the Recreation Ground and was invited to contact the Clerk to obtain the necessary paperwork. A member of the public spoke to raise concerns about a rumour heard that further works would be undertaken on the Gilton sink hole and problems with Royal Mail deliveries.																																				
8.	<u>OUTSTANDING ACTIONS FROM THE LAST MEETING</u> Recreation Ground Car Park improvements – on hold until after the completion of Play Area 2 Recreation Ground Welcome Signage – on hold pending budget Installation of Pedestrian Warning Signs on the A257 by Kent County Council – Actions ongoing Share the A257 Group’s public petition with residents when received 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 Ash Guides tree planting – Actions ongoing	Clerk Clerk RFO																																			
9.	<u>FINANCE MATTERS AND AUTHORISATION OF PAYMENTS</u> a) Authorisation of payments/bank reconciliation - To approve the monthly payments/reconciliation <table><tr><th>Payee</th><th>Description</th><th>Amount</th><th>VAT</th><th>Total</th></tr><tr><td>Employment Costs</td><td>Salaries and Expenses</td><td>£ 3,171.46</td><td>£ -</td><td>£ 3,171.46</td></tr><tr><td>KCC Pension Fund</td><td>Pension (April)</td><td>£ 898.73</td><td>£ -</td><td>£ 898.73</td></tr><tr><td>C&W Groundcare Ltd</td><td>Grounds Maintenance (April)</td><td>£ 521.65</td><td>£ 104.33</td><td>£ 625.98</td></tr><tr><td>EDF</td><td>Energy for toilets - March</td><td>£ 74.24</td><td>£ 3.71</td><td>£ 77.95</td></tr><tr><td>Unity Trust</td><td>Bank charges - March</td><td>£ 9.85</td><td>£ -</td><td>£ 9.85</td></tr><tr><td>Castles</td><td>Document Storage</td><td>£ 31.20</td><td>£ 6.24</td><td>£ 37.44</td></tr></table>	Payee	Description	Amount	VAT	Total	Employment Costs	Salaries and Expenses	£ 3,171.46	£ -	£ 3,171.46	KCC Pension Fund	Pension (April)	£ 898.73	£ -	£ 898.73	C&W Groundcare Ltd	Grounds Maintenance (April)	£ 521.65	£ 104.33	£ 625.98	EDF	Energy for toilets - March	£ 74.24	£ 3.71	£ 77.95	Unity Trust	Bank charges - March	£ 9.85	£ -	£ 9.85	Castles	Document Storage	£ 31.20	£ 6.24	£ 37.44	MP/JT
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Royal British Veterans Enterprise	Play Area Sign	£ 109.44	£ 21.89	£ 131.33	
KCC	Monthly Back-up Fee April Inv	£ 19.72	£ 3.94	£ 23.66	
Dover District Council	DDC Toilets Qtr 1	£ 3,101.30		£ 3,101.30	
Wingham Country Market	Pound Corner - plants	£ 6.50		£ 6.50	
Hutchings	Pound Corner - plaque materials	£ 46.34	£ 9.27	£ 55.61	
Hutchings	Pound Corner - plaque materials	£ 34.70	£ 6.94	£ 41.64	
Lloyds	credit card chgs -	£ 3.00		£ 3.00	
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GiffGaff	Telephone - mobile charges	£ 5.00	£ 1.00	£ 6.00	
Amazon	Stationery - Ink cartridge	£ 18.40		£ 18.40	
Engraved Tags	Repairs & Renewals - Numbered Tags	£ 224.00	£ 44.80	£ 268.80	
Cut Direct Ltd	Noticeboard materials	£ 35.22	£ 7.04	£ 42.26	
		£ 11,485.21	£ 209.16	£ 11,694.37	

9.	<u>GRANTS</u> a) It was RESOLVED to award the following grants following discussion on the applications received: £218 Ash Village Hall £750 Parochial Church of Ash £750 Ash Heritage Group £300 Ash Wildlife Friendly Village £275.80 Ash Advent £200 Ash Carnival Association After discussion it was agreed that the grant application received from Ash Bowling Club would be declined. It was agreed Clerk write to grant applicants to advise the above decisions.	Clerk
10.	<u>RECREATION GROUND</u> a) The event documentation supplied by Ash Carnival Association for the Ash Carnival Association Summer Fayre was reviewed. Councillors raised questions around traffic management / car parking and waste removal for an event of 1,500 people. It was noted that the Parish Council expects litter to be recycled where possible. Clerk will put the event organisers in touch with the Rugby Club for car parking and Dover District Council's waste team.	Clerk

	It was agreed that Councillors were supportive of the event going ahead subject to the event organisers updating the final event documentation satisfactorily for review at the next Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council on 11 June. b) Play and Gym Equipment weekly inspections were noted c) Quarterly Play and Gym Equipment inspection from Safeplay Playground Services Ltd was noted d) It was RESOLVED that Eastry Ravens may use the football pitch next season with the same arrangements as the previous season e) It was agreed that no other football clubs (outside the Parish) may use the pitch f) It was RESOLVED to approve £267.00 + VAT for Safeplay Playground Services Ltd to carry out repairs to the Junior Swing g) It was RESOLVED to approve £210.00 + VAT for HAGS to produce and install 3 playground operator signs to the gates of the existing play area in line with BS EN 1176 signage guidance (as identified in the Quarterly Play Inspection Report) h) It was agreed to claim £477.00 in S106 funding from Dover District Council, in respect of planning application 16/01247, for repair of swing by Safeplay Playground Services Ltd and provision of signage by HAGS i) It was noted the Tennis Club are replacing the roof of their hut j) It was agreed for Caretaker to purchase shrubs for the central planting raised bed at an approx. cost of £100 k) Cllr Davis and Cllr Gambrell were thanked for their visit to the Recreation Ground to review maintenance priorities and these were discussed with the following actions: It was agreed to pay £240 + VAT to Dover District Council to replace the dangerous dog waste bin It was agreed to clean the benches and play equipment It was agreed to contact Kent County Council about the damaged surface of Burford Alley	Clerk Clerk Clerk RFO Caretaker Clerk Caretaker Clerk
11.	<u>PLAY AREA 2</u> a) It was noted that installation of Play Area 2 would begin around 25 May and will take approx. 4 weeks to complete b) The HAGS signage for new play area and 3 gates of existing play area was approved c) The change of location of path in existing play area was noted d) It was agreed Cllr Tanner and Cllr Venny would monitor progress of works, reporting any issues to the Clerk and provide progress photos for website/Facebook e) It was noted the charities providing grants will be invoiced when installation commences	Clerk Clerk JT / LV RFO

12.	<u>ALLOTMENTS</u> a) An update was received that plot 3A had been offered to the waiting list b) It was agreed that the next Allotment Inspection, together with Annual Recreation Ground Inspection, would take place on Wednesday 24 June at 10.00	Clerk / JT / AD / MP
13.	<u>PAVILION</u> a) An update was received on the Pavilion Lease agreement. The Parish Council are waiting for the Pavilion Committee to formally recognise the Parish Council's legal ownership of the Pavilion and review the new lease. It was noted the Pavilion Committee had now appointed a solicitor. Councillors noted their frustration that the Pavilion Committee were not prioritising completing this task as the new lease would allow the Parish Council to assist with claiming S106 funding from Dover District Council to carry out refurbishments to the changing facilities at the Pavilion b) It was noted the Pavilion Committee have reinsured the Pavilion buildings and contents and provided the Parish Council with a copy of the policy documents	
12.	<u>HIGHWAYS</u> a) It was noted that Kent County Council had agreed to progress the proposed 20 MPH speed limit in the village, with the next stage being Kent County Council will publish the Traffic Regulation Order public consultation. Should this require referral to the Joint Transportation Board, Ash Parish Council will be required to pay a fee of £800 and it was RESOLVED that this payment would be made. b) The proposal for a Keep Clear road marking to tackle traffic congestion at Pound Corner was discussed and it was decided to put this project on hold until the next review of the Highway Improvement Plan in the Autumn	Clerk Clerk
15.	<u>PLANNING</u> a) It was RESOLVED to approve response to Planning Inspectorate for Appeal Ref: 6006287 Goshall Valley, East Street, Ash – to oppose the construction of a solar farm with associated access and infrastructure	Clerk
16.	<u>PARISH COUNCIL BUSINESS</u> a) The issues with confirming the land ownership at Hills Court Nature Path were discussed and would be investigated further with regard to obtaining permission to place a bench to commemorate former resident Ray Hooker (utilising £1,000 donation provided to the Parish Council for this purpose) b) The issues of alcohol consumption / anti-social behaviour in the village centre were discussed, and it was agreed that residents should be encouraged to report their concerns directly to Kent Police. The Parish Council have been advised that Kent Police have currently received very few complaints and therefore this issue was not seen as a priority for them c) It was noted that the Parish Council had received a letter from Dover District Council offering The Street public toilets ahead of local government reorganisation. A meeting	Clerk / JT

	will be attended to obtain further information so that Councillors may make an informed decision Potential costs to the Parish Council for owning these toilets to be investigated	Clerk RFO
17.	<u>MATTERS FOR THE MAY MEETING</u> Ash Carnival Association Summer Fayre Ownership of The Street Toilets	
18.	<u>DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS</u> Parish Council Planning Committee – Monday 18 May Parish Council Ordinary Meeting – Thursday 11 June	
	The meeting closed at 9.36pm	