WICKHAMBREAUX PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 21 APRIL 2026 AT 7.30PM AT WICKHAMBREAUX VILLAGE HALL, THE STREET, WICKHAMBREAUX, CT3 1RJ

Present: Parish Cllr Peter Collinson (Chairman)
Parish Cllr Martin Twyman
Parish Cllr Caroline Rees
Parish Cllr Susan Matthews

Mrs Chenice Howard-Sparkes, Clerk to the Council

8 Members of the Public

1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from Parish Cllr Philippa Barber (Holiday), Parish Cllr Emma Denning (Holiday) and City Cllr Lee Castle.

Cllr Collinson reported that CCC has confirmed the Parish Council has permission to fill the current vacancy via co-option.

Standing Orders were suspended at this point to enable residents to speak on the following two matters:

Playing Field

A complaint was received from a resident bordering the playing field following an incident where young people appeared to be kicking a football into their garden deliberately, entering the garden to retrieve their football and leaving the gate open. When confronted, the young people were aggressive. The incident has been reported to the Police. Linda Lodge from the Playing Field Committee met with the resident to discuss the incident.

Cllr Rees confirmed she received a phone call from the resident on the day it happened and advised this be reported to the Police. The incident appears to be a one-off, with the only other complaint received this year on 13 March 2026 that basketball was being played after hours.

As per the trial of balls being left in the playing field, all the balls were removed from the playing field on 25 March 2026. Two families have since contacted Cllr Rees to express their disappointment at the balls missing.

A Playing Field Committee meeting will be called to discuss the recent incident, which will be open to residents to attend.

Tree Application

A resident wished to speak regarding an application submitted to CCC to fell a Holm Oak tree at Cherry Lodge in Stodmarsh, application number CA/26/00498. The tree has been inspected by an arboriculturalist and has been found to be in poor condition and diseased. Cllr Matthews reported she has spoken to residents in Stodmarsh, including the neighbours, who have no objections.

Standing orders were resumed at 7.53pm

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17 MARCH 2026

It was proposed by Cllr Collinson, seconded by Cllr Twyman and AGREED that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 17 March 2026 be accepted as a true record of the meeting and they were duly signed by the Chairman.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None not included elsewhere on the agenda. Please refer to Item 11 (Clerk Report) for any updates on non-agenda items since the last meeting.

5. REPORTS

The following full reports can be found in the Appendix at the end of the minutes:
Cllr Mike Sole
Cllr Lee Castle
KCC Community Warden – Roger Lithgow
Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) – Linda Lodge

The Parish Council wished to record thanks to Linda Lodge for producing the monthly neighbourhood watch report.

6. HIGHWAYS

Cllr Twyman reported that he attended the A257 meeting on 21 March 2026. The main item for discussion was improvements in Shatterling and elsewhere along the A257, which will form part of the planned petition in due course.

Cllr Twyman reported that KCC's road maintenance contract changed from Amey to Ringway from 01 May 2026. There will be a bedding in period as the contract changes hands for the next few months, so non-urgent requests are likely to have delays. Cllr Twyman reported that potholes filled since Ringway has taken over have been undertaken to a high standard.

Grove Road will be closed on 05 May 2026 for one day to enable pole testing to be undertaken by Openreach.

7. PLANNING

CCC Canterbury District Local Plan Regulation 19 Consultation

CCC has published the Canterbury District Local Plan for consultation, in accordance with Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, which can be found on their website – Canterbury District Local Plan. The Habitats Regulations Assessment, Sustainability Appraisal of the draft Local Plan and the Sustainability Appraisal of the Strategic Land Availability Assessment have also been published as part of this consultation. At Regulation 19 stage, the Local Plan is published for representations on its soundness and legal compliance. Deadline for comments is 18 May 2026. Guidance notes on how to respond to the consultation can be found on CCC's website – Guidance Notes.

New Applications

CA/26/00455 – Hook Farm, Grove Road

The Parish Council has no objections to the erection of single storey outbuilding following demolition of existing outbuilding.

8. PURCHASE OF COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH EQUIPMENT

The Speedwatch Group is looking to purchase a radar speed gun as it is more efficient than the large sign currently on loan from Kent Police. Kent Police recommend the Decatur Scout 2 radar speed gun, at a cost of £1665.00 plus VAT.

Cllr Barber with the assistance of the Clerk submitted a grant for £500.00 towards the cost from Cllr Mike Sole's members fund. The remaining cost will need to be met jointly by Wickhambreaux and Ickham Parish Councils or by further grants.

It was unanimously agreed to explore submitting a match funding application to the Four Villages Post Office and Shop Fund (4VPO). Cllr Rees proposed and Cllr Twyman seconded that the Parish Council fund any shortfall in funding 50/50 with Ickham Parish Council.

9. REPORTS

Village Hall

The most recent meeting was held on 14 April 2026. Main items of discussion included bookings activity, grant applications, maintenance and events. The next meeting, which will be the Annual General Meeting, will be held on 09 June 2026 at 7.30pm.

Village Greens

Cllr Matthews reported that a resident in Stodmarsh has volunteered to mow the village green. The idea behind this suggestion is to mow the green more regularly as and when it needs doing, rather than on a contractor's schedule.

Remuneration was discussed. The Clerk advised that the resident could only be paid if they have their own insurance or added to the Parish Council's payroll, which would need further investigation. Volunteers undertaking work on behalf of the Parish Council would be covered under the Parish Council's insurance. Previously, a volunteer kindly mowed the village greens in Wickhambreaux, and a donation was provided towards the cost of fuel for the mower.

Cllr Matthews advised the resident is willing to volunteer rather than be paid and with a donation towards fuel costs, as per the previous volunteer in Wickhambreaux. Cllr Matthews proposed and Cllr Rees seconded, and all councillors voted in favour, that the Parish Council accept the resident's offer and provide a donation towards fuel costs for the mower. Cllr Twyman agreed to speak to the current contractor to advise them of the change.

Flood Protection

Cllr Twyman reported that tankering has stopped in Nargate Street, the river levels have dropped but the aquifer levels remain high. The little spring across Drill Lane is still flowing and likely to continue for the next few weeks.

Footpaths

Cllr Barber has begun the spring review of footpaths through the parish. She has checked and renewed the numbers on the paths in Wickhambreaux and requested on the KCC PROW site for a footpath post and fingerpost sign for CB 143B (through the gap in the churchyard heading along the road to Littlebourne). Part of Grove has also been checked, with the remaining footpaths in Grove up to Grove Ferry and Preston and Stodmarsh to be completed shortly.

Events

- Cheese Tasting and Talk Event in the Village Hall – 24 April 2026
- St Andrew's Churchyard clearance – 25 April 2026
- Rosé and Rose Fundraiser for St Andrew's Church in The Rose – 07 June 2026
- Community Safety Unit: Police Engagement Van at Wickhambreaux Village Hall – 18 June 2026 from 10am to 11am

10. FINANCE

Income received

£158.72 deposit interest was received between 01 March and 31 March 2026.

Payments

The expenditure totalling £1,318.42 was authorised, made up of:

- KALC – Annual Subscription - £343.24
- Eyelid Productions – Annual website support - £100.00

- Majestic Garden Care – Playing Field Grass Cutting March 2026 and maintenance of willow dome in nature area - £312.00
- The Sustainable Printworks – Printing APM invitations - £25.20
- Chenice Howard-Sparkes – Clerk salary April 2026
- HMRC – Employee & PAYE April 2026
- Verdi Stevens-Greenwood – Village Hall cleaning April 2026

The above payments were proposed by Cllr Rees seconded by Cllr Collinson and AGREED thus authorised for payment.

The following payments totalling £207.98 was authorised in the interim period:
- SLCC – FILCA Training Course for Clerk - £168.00
- Chenice Howard-Sparkes – Reimbursement for ink cartridges - £39.98

11. CLERK REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

CLERK REPORT (for items not included elsewhere on the agenda)

A. **Land on the corner of Wickham Road and Wickham Lane**

An online enquiry was submitted to KCC to check their responsibilities, reference number 954507. The enquiry has since been 'closed' and the Clerk provided an email address for the Estates Team to follow up further, which the Clerk will do after the meeting. Cllr Castle has also followed up with CCC, who have confirmed their property map does not show ownership.

B. **Frank Montgomery Playing Field Trust Deed Legal Advice**

The Clerk has received correspondence from Girlings Solicitors outlining their recommendations and costings, which will be circulated to all councillors. Councillors will discuss the proposed scope via email prior to obtaining comparison quotations as required for further consideration at a future parish council meeting.

With regards to insurance, Zurich has confirmed that "as the Parish Council is the legal owner of the land, the liability for the playing field ultimately remains with the Council. Public Liability Insurance must therefore remain in the name of the legal entity that holds the insurance interest."

C. **Wickhambreaux Primary School Updated Hire Agreement**

The Clerk confirmed that both the Primary School and Deal Education Alliance for Learning Trust (DEALT) have approved the proposed changes to the hire agreement. The Clerk will issue an updated hire agreement for signing in due course.

D. **Stodmarsh 20mph Feasibility Assessment**

The Parish Council is still waiting on feedback from the feasibility assessment to be undertaken by KCC before wider consultation can commence on potential speed reduction to 20mph in Stodmarsh. The Clerk agreed to chase for an update.

E. **Canterbury Alliance Bus Service**

The Clerk responded to the Canterbury Alliance Bus Service's email with information regarding Stagecoach's intention to axe the local service in 2022 and their subsequent agreement to keep a scaled back service.

F. **Code of Conduct Training**

KALC is unable to 'bulk book' the Nimble Standards in Public Life (Code of Conduct) training. The Clerk will therefore need to individually book each councillor onto the course, which can be undertaken online in their own time. It was agreed not to book the training until after the vacancy is filled.

CORRESPONDENCE

A. **CCC Parish Engagement Meeting**

The next CCC Parish Engagement meeting is due to be held on 19 May 2026 at 6pm in The Guildhall. The Parish Council is able to send up to three representatives. The Clerk agreed to attend and asked councillors to check their availability.

B. **Road Safety and Active Travel Group Newsletter**

Issue 08 of the Road Safety and Active Travel Group Newsletter was received and circulated to all councillors.

C. **Pill Box Graffiti**

A resident reported graffiti inside Wickhambreaux Pill Box to Cllr Castle, who has reported to CCC on their behalf and requested updates once a date has been scheduled for cleaning. Cllr Twyman reported that two officials from CCC attended on 17 April 2026 to inspect the graffiti. The Clerk was asked to report again to CCC.

D. **CCC Revocation Statement**

Following the decision of CCC's Cabinet on 18 March 2026 and the draft Canterbury District Local Plan, CCC has published its Revocation Statement in line with Regulation 15 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (As Amended).

The Revocation Statement sets out the Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) which have been formally revoked as they are considered to be out of date and no longer consistent with government legislation, policy or guidance, or the relevant site has already been developed. These predominantly include village design statements, action plans and design guidelines.

E. **Kent Speedwatch Conference**

The annual Kent Speedwatch Conference will be held on Saturday 16 May 2026 from 9am to 3pm at Rochester Fire Station. This is open to all volunteers as part of the Speedwatch scheme.

All other correspondence was noted.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Twyman advised that the Four Villages Post Office and Shop is due to be closed for 10-14 days from 24 April 2026 to enable refurbishment works to be undertaken.

Cllr Twyman reported that he attended the Stourmouth Annual General Meeting yesterday (20 April 2026) as South East Water were giving a presentation on the Broad Oak Reservoir. Approximately 30-40 people were in attendance. Cllr Twyman reiterated concerns that filling 80% of the reservoir from the Little Stour is not suitable due to water flows. Cllr Twyman proposed that the Parish Council organise a talk from South East Water next year to update local residents on the reservoir plans, which was unanimously agreed.

Cllr Rees reported that the funeral of local resident Anne Moorhouse was well attended by the local community and the primary school. The family were very appreciative of the high turnout from the parish.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm.

Signed……..... (Chairman)

Date…….....

21 APRIL 2026 Appendix – Copy of Reports
County Cllr Mike Sole – March 2026 Report
It's been a busy month in Canterbury. The meningitis outbreak has been heartbreaking for those affected. Thankfully there have not been any new cases recently but it has been awful for those impacted and the City Council has been working with other agencies during this difficult time.

There was understandably a reduction in the number of visitors to Canterbury, but things recovered with the arrival of the new Archbishop of Canterbury, and I was pleased to be among those who welcomed her to Canterbury after her pilgrimage a few days before the official installation.

Over the Easter period from 2 – 19 April Park & Ride will cost just £1 (or 80p for those signed up for the resident discount). This is great value and I hope that it will encourage more people to visit Canterbury and see how convenient the Park & Ride service is.

I've had a few small victories with KCC this month involving drainage issues. Some long-standing problems in Pett Bottom are being addressed, some French Drains will be installed between Barham and Breach where it regularly floods, and the cabinet member for highways has agreed to look an issues in Bridge during a site visit with drainage engineers in April.

At the Joint Transportation Board, I spoke against the introduction of a 20-minute parking restriction in Bridge. There had been record opposition from residents to this proposed change, so I am pleased that things are staying as they are.

The full council meeting at KCC hit the headlines for several reasons. I'll let you draw your own conclusions, but whilst the chaos continues, I'll continue to work to get things done at a local level.

I met up with residents in Barham and then had a meeting with KCC and Barham Parish Council to see what else can be done to stop HGVs driving along The Street and Church Lane, only to get stuck because they have ignored signs.

Other issues that I have been dealing with in March include, school places appeal, potholes, hedge trimming, streetlights, public rights of way, fly-tipping and parking enforcement.

Email: mike.sole@kcc.gov.uk

City Cllr Lee Castle – March 2026 Report
March proved to be a challenging and distressing month due to the meningitis outbreak affecting our communities across Canterbury. I would like to begin by expressing my condolences to the families who tragically lost loved ones, and to extend my thoughts to those who remain in hospital or are continuing their recovery. The impact of this outbreak has been felt widely across the district. However, I am pleased to report that, thanks to the swift rollout of a vaccination programme and an effective public awareness campaign, the situation has now stabilised, and life has returned to normal across the city and surrounding areas.

It was therefore particularly timely to help reassure residents and visitors that the city remains open and welcoming. I was honoured to attend the conclusion of the pilgrimage marking the installation of the new first female Archbishop, an important and uplifting event for the city which brought people together at a much-needed moment.

During March, I attended Full Council, where significant progress was made on the Local Plan, which has now advanced to Regulation 19, the next formal stage of public consultation. This is a key milestone, and I would encourage residents to engage with the consultation as it is now open.

I also attended an open day at the Sidney Cooper Gallery, which provided an excellent opportunity to meet prospective users and operators. It was encouraging to see such strong interest ahead of the Expression of Interest (EOI) process, highlighting the value placed on cultural and community spaces within our district.

In my Cabinet role, I can report that the former “Net Store” site at the Crab and Winkle has been returned to the market. Additionally, progress continues on the proposed glamping site at Reculver, and works to finalise the stabilisation of the Herne Bay bandstand have now gone out to tender. I have followed up on multiple instances of fly-tipping in Adisham and other locations across the ward. Parking issues, particularly vehicles stopping on double yellow lines, have also been raised by residents and are being actively addressed. Dog fouling continues to be a concern, and I am working alongside local parish councils and the City Council enforcement team to explore measures to reduce incidents and improve outcomes.

The consultation process for the development proposals for the reopening of Manston Airport has now begun, and I would encourage residents to take part and make their views known.

I would also like to remind residents that the park and ride service remains available at a reduced rate of £1 (or 80p for resident permit holders) until the end of the Easter holidays, offering an affordable and convenient transport option.

Locally, I have been liaising closely with the planning department in preparation for future reserved matters applications relating to the large development at Littlebourne. This is a long-term project that will evolve over many months and years, and I will continue to work with the parish council to ensure local concerns are addressed.

Following earlier concerns, I am pleased to note that river levels have now receded to more typical levels. I have also been assisting residents in Patrixbourne and Bekesbourne who experienced issues with bin access, raising these matters with Canenco. Residents are reminded to report missed collections via the council’s online portal.

Finally, I have continued to support residents across the ward, including in Adisham, Wickhambreaux, and Ickham, dealing with casework relating to housing, parking, trees, anti-social behaviour, planning matters, and a range of other local issues.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance.

Email: lee.castle@councillor.canterbury.gov.uk.

KCC Community Warden Roger Lithgow – April 2026 Report
I am extremely pleased to be back working among you, after being an Acting Team Leader in another Community Warden Team for nearly four months, dealing with complex community issues requiring multi-agency approaches to support vulnerable residents and more…

I am covering the same Council Wards as before: Sturry and Little Stour including Adisham
Sturry Ward – Mondays and Wednesdays and alternate Fridays
Sturry Ward Base: Sturry Library
Little Stour – Tuesdays and Thursdays and alternate Fridays
Little Stour (inc Adisham) Base: Littlebourne Parish Council Office
Nailbourne – temporarily covering as their warden has recently switched teams to work closer to home

What do Community Wardens do?
Community Wardens help make communities stronger and safer

- Improve community resilience
- Support the elderly and vulnerable

- Foster community cohesion and wellbeing
- Assist with navigating community services

KCC's Positive Wellbeing Service: self-referral or resident or organisation referrals is available online – where the aim is to reconnect isolated and lonely residents with their communities through community groups.

Wardens also do talks to community groups, about the KCC community warden role, or host joint KCC Community Warden Service and Kent Trading Standards Scam awareness talks within the warden's wards.

If you wish to contact me to discuss a personal concern or community issues, or to be signposted to the appropriate organisation, please call me on 07812 089485 (voicemail available) or email.

If you live outside my ward area, please go online and search for Kent County Council Community Wardens - use the webpage's postcode checker to find if you have a KCC Community Warden covering where you live. I am also happy to take a call to give advice where appropriate to someone who doesn't live in my area and there is no warden covering them.

Email: roger.lithgow@kent.gov.uk

Linda Lodge, Neighbourhood Watch – April 2026 Report
Plant machinery and farm vehicles worth around £200,000 have been recovered in Dover following an operation led by Kent Police's Rural Task Force.

Working with Port of Dover Police, the National Vehicle Crime Intelligence and the National Construction and Agricultural Theft Team, officers seized the goods and made three arrests over a two-day period at the end of February 2026.

In February's Report, I reported that fly tipping, road safety issues and fraud were Kent Police's priorities. An update at the end of March for our area on action taken is follows:

Fly tipping
There have been no reports of fly tipping to Kent Police in the last three months. Any incidents that are reported are passed to Canterbury City Council, who are responsible for removing the waste and taking action against those responsible. (I think that farmers and landowners have lost faith in reporting fly tipping to the police who lack the manpower to manage this issue.)
Road safety issues
The local Speedwatch coordinator has carried out speed checks in the area, letters of advice have been sent to drivers identified as speeding. Further speed enforcement checks are planned in the coming months to continue addressing concerns.

Fraud
Reports of fraud and rogue traders have been received by Kent Police. Enquiries have been carried out to try to identify those responsible. Crime prevention and safeguarding advice has also been shared through My Community Voice to help people spot the warning signs and reduce the risk of becoming a victim.

A date for your diary:
Community Safety Unit: Police Engagement Van will be parked at Wickhambreaux Village Hall, 10.00am- 11.00am Thursday 18th June 2026.