WICKHAMBREAUX PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 17 MARCH 2026 AT 7.30PM AT WICKHAMBREAUX VILLAGE HALL, THE STREET, WICKHAMBREAUX, CT3 1RJ

Present: Parish Cllr Peter Collinson (Chairman)
Parish Cllr Philippa Barber
Parish Cllr Martin Twyman
Parish Cllr Emma Denning

Mrs Chenice Howard-Sparkes, Clerk to the Council

1 Member 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 Susan Matthews (Holiday), Parish Cllr Caroline Rees (Illness) and City Cllr Lee Castle.

Cllr Collinson reported that Mark Wrightson has resigned from the Parish Council. Canterbury City Council (CCC) issued the required Notice of Vacancy, which has been displayed in the noticeboard. If by 25 March 2026 a request for an election to fill said vacancy is made in writing to the Returning Officer by 10 electors, an election will be held to fill the vacancy, otherwise it will be filled by co-option. The Parish Council wished to record thanks to Mr Wrightson for all his hard work and efforts on the council.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17 FEBRUARY 2026

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

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

3 – A representative from CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England) was unable to attend this evening's meeting due to unexpected circumstances. An invitation has been extended to attend the next Parish Council meeting on 21 April 2026.
8 – The Parish Council is waiting on feedback from the feasibility assessment undertaken by KCC before wider consultation can commence on potential speed reduction to 20mph in Stodmarsh.
9 – Investigations are ongoing to establish whether the land on the corner of Wickham Road and Wickham Lane is unregistered.
10 – The Clerk with Linda Lodge attended a virtual 30 minute pro bono meeting with Girlings Solicitors on 06 March 2026. It is Girlings Solicitors opinion that the Trust Deed needs to be rewritten to tighten up on roles and responsibilities. A full breakdown of the advice with quotation will be circulated to councillors once received. In the meantime, the Clerk was asked to contact Zurich to get advice on who should be responsible for insuring the playing field based on the current Trust Deed wording.
12 – Cllr Collinson attended the KALC Chairman Conference on 26 February 2026, which included a briefing on Local Government Reorganisation.

5. REPORTS

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

6. HIGHWAYS

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

Cllr Twyman also reported that he is actively chasing for the outstanding potholes around the parish to be addressed. Cllr Twyman encouraged all councillors to keep reporting potholes to KCC directly.

Cllr Twyman reported that Grove Road is currently closed to address the continuing water leak issues, which includes replacement section of piping.

7. PLANNING

New Applications

CA/25/01971 – 1 The White House, The Street

The Parish Council has no objections to the retrospective application for Listed Building Consent for external alterations including installation of chimney flue to side elevation.

CA/25/01972 – 2 The White House, The Street

The Parish Council has no objections to the retrospective application for Listed Building Consent for external alterations including installation of chimney flue to rear elevation.

Determined

CA/24/02288 – Land Adjoining Nether Quaives, Grove Road

CCC has granted the application for a two-storey detached dwelling.

CA/23/00484 – Land at The Hill, Bekesbourne

Following the Planning Inquiry held 17-19 February 2026, the Planning Inspector has allowed the appeal for up to 300 dwellings. A copy of the appeal notice can be found on CCC's website.

8. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Parish Meeting (APM) is being held on 12 May 2026. It was decided not to have a guest speaker this year and to ask all community groups to limit their summary for the year to three minutes to keep the meeting more streamlined. Full reports from the community groups will be included in the minutes.

9. REVIEW OF POLICIES

The Clerk advised there has been no amendment to the NALC (National Association of Local Councils) model templates for the Standing Orders or Financial Regulations since the last review. Councillors reviewed the following policies and unanimously agreed to adopt for another year with no changes.

- Standing Orders
- Financial Regulations
- Finance Risk Assessment
- Statement of Internal Control (for 2026-2027)

10. REPORTS

Playing Field

The Clerk reported that the replacement safety surfacing around the basket swing and bay swings was undertaken by KOMPAN on 04 March 2026. Cllr Rees was the site contact on the day and inspected the repair once completed. The KOMPAN engineer also inspected the Multi-Play unit to identify areas which require repair and a quotation will be submitted for consideration in due course.

Cllr Collinson reported that Linda Lodge will be sealing any holes in the pirate ship to prevent any bumblebees from nesting in it this year.

Village Greens
Cllr Denning reported that Inside Out Services, the grass cutting contractor, has reported that a number of chains around the greens are broken. Mr Wrightson prior to his resignation requested the contractor repair the chains, which will be undertaken in due course.

Flood Protection
Cllr Twyman reported that tankering continues once a day in Littlebourne, Bridge, Patrixbourne and Bekesbourne. This is likely to continue for the next couple of months but going forward may not be required every day. The relief channels continue to flow and there is no serious flooding reported.

Cllr Twyman attended the Broad Oak Reservoir stakeholder preview event on 25 February 2026. South East Water has explained they aim to fill 80% of the reservoir from the Little Stour, which Cllr Twyman expressed concern at due to water flows. South East Water does not want to take water from the Great Stour due to contamination from sea water and sewage. Cllr Twyman suggested they take water directly from Canterbury instead, prior to the sewage works to ensure water quality.

Speedwatch
Cllr Denning reported that two sessions have been undertaken since the last meeting: one in Bramling and one in Wickhambreaux.

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 reported that Cllr Mike Sole has kindly agreed to provide funding of £500.00 towards the cost of the speed gun from his members fund. The form to claim the funding will be available in April 2026 at the start of the next financial year. Cllr Barber agreed to complete the form on the Parish Council's behalf. The remaining cost will need to be met jointly by Wickhambreaux and Ickham Parish Councils. This will be added to the next meeting agenda for further consideration.

11. FINANCE

Income received
No income received between 01 February and 28 February 2026.

Payments
The expenditure totalling £1,754.97 was authorised, made up of:

- Open Spaces Society – Annual Subscription - £45.00
- Wickhambreaux Parochial Church Council – Annual burial maintenance - £500.00
- Stodmarsh Parochial Church Council – Annual burial maintenance - £60.00
- KOMPAN – Repairs to safety surfacing under basket swing and flat swing - £558.19
- Cllr Martin Twyman – Reimbursement for Inside Out Services clearing vegetation from layby on Wickham Court Lane - £100.00
- Chenice Howard-Sparkes – Clerk salary March 2026
- HMRC – Employee & PAYE March 2026
- Verdi Stevens-Greenwood – Village Hall cleaning March 2026

The above payments were proposed by Cllr Barber seconded by Cllr Denning and AGREED thus authorised for payment.

The following payment totalling £60.00 was authorised in the interim period:

- Cloud Next Limited - .gov.uk domain renewal - £60.00

12. CLERK REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

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

None.

CORRESPONDENCE

A. **Road Safety and Active Travel Group Seminar**

The Road Safety and Active Travel Group (RSATG), within the Transportation department at Kent County Council (KCC), is hosting its first dedicated RSATG Seminar over two dates on 21 April 2026 and 30 April 2026. The Parish Council is able to send up to two representatives to either of the dates. Cllrs Barber and Denning agreed to attend the session on 30 April 2026, subject to spaces still being available.

B. **Canterbury Alliance for Sustainable Transport**

The Canterbury Alliance for Sustainable Transport was set up in 2019 to work out a better arrangement for transport in the City of Canterbury. One of the issues they have been working on has been how to improve and expand bus services. They have been approached by a Bus Users' Group in Whitstable with a request for setting up a Bus Users' Group for the Canterbury District. They will see whether Herne Bay has a similar organisation and invite them to a meeting at the end of March. Rural areas will also be invited to have a voice. Representatives from Stagecoach and Cllr Alex Ricketts, cabinet member for transport at CCC, will be invited to the meeting. The Canterbury Alliance is seeking details on any problems or suggestions for bus services in rural areas. The Clerk agreed to send details regarding the No11 bus service.

C. **South East Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP)**

South East Water's Resources Management Plan (WRMP) sets out how they intend to provide customers with safe, reliable water supplies and at the same time protect and enhance the environment over the next 50 years from 2025-2075. They have a statutory duty to produce this plan every five years and have started working towards their next WRMP, which will be finalised in 2029 and will replace the current plan published in 2024. They have contacted stakeholders to seek early option ideas to feed into the process and to invite representatives to a forthcoming webinar, hosted by Water Resources South East (WRSE) on Thursday 26 March 2026.

D. **Canterbury District Biodiversity Network**

On 23 April 2026 there will be a talk by two members of the award-winning Marden Wildlife Initiative about the group's inspiring work to record and protect wildlife at the parish level. Representatives from parish councils are welcome to attend.

E. **Manston Airport**

RiverOak Strategic Partners Limited (RSP) is working to redevelop and reopen Manston Airport as an air freight hub. RSP's Stage 3 airspace change consultation is now live and will run until Monday 22 June 2026. The consultation provides residents, communities and wider stakeholders with details of proposed changes to flight paths and airspace structure. Further information can be found on their website – Manston Airport Stage 3 Consultation. It was agreed to publish a news item on the website.

F. **KALC News March 2026**

Circulated to all Cllrs.

G. **Stagecoach South East Community Newsletter**

Circulated to all Cllrs.

All other correspondence was noted.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Following some recent tree work being undertaken in the parish, a member of the public suggested a news item on the website to advise that any works to trees within a Conservation Area requires permission. The Clerk agreed to post a news item.

14. CONFIDENTIAL ITEM

A resident suggested that the Parish Council consider reacquiring land to the rear of the village hall, which was historically acquired by a local neighbour, for potential parking. Councillors considered the suggestion and felt there would be too much disruption to enable access for a limited amount of parking, which would require the porch having to be demolished. Councillors considered the suggestion unviable and agreed not to proceed with making further enquiries.

The meeting closed at 9.02pm.

Signed……..... (Chairman)

Date…….....

17 MARCH 2026 Appendix – Copy of Reports
County Cllr Mike Sole – February 2026 Report
Canterbury City Council have now published the final draft of the Local Plan so that it can be approved before it passes into what is known as regulation 19 when it is assessed for soundness and compliance by the Planning Inspectorate. This Local Plan is so very different from the first draft put forward three years ago when the Conservatives ran the council which included plans for a new town in Adisham and the very unpopular scheme to restrict traffic movements in Canterbury by creating zones - both ideas now completely removed from the plan.

Most significantly, following on from many months of consultations and reviews, sites at the University of Kent, Hollow Lane and Rattington Street have been removed and there is a significant increase in amount of brownfield development.

As the Cabinet member for Finance on the City Council, I was please to bring forward the budget for next year that was agreed without any amendments being proposed by the opposition parties. In order to tackle fly-tipping I announced a significant reduction in the costs of bulky was collections, with now up to 3 items being taken for £50 and then just £10 for additional items. It was previously £25 an item so we hope that this will encourage the use of this service rather than unlicensed waste carriers that can lead to fly-tipping.

This was all very different to the Kent County Council budget meeting that lasted eight hours. I proposed an amendment to the KCC budget to increase the expenditure of pothole repairs, but the Reform administration decided to instead spend the money of political assistants. Similar amendments to increase expenditure of speech & language therapists and reduce the cost of 16+ school transport were also not supported by the administration
.
I continue to work with parish councils and KCC on highway improvements. We had a very productive meeting discussing options to improve road safety in Lower Hardres.

With the Nailbourne flowing I am in regular contact with the City Council engineering team who are coordinating much of the works.

I attended a meeting of the Kent & Medway Fire Authority where the budget was agreed. I have also had regular briefing from the city council about the fire at The Odean Cinema.

Email: mike.sole@kcc.gov.uk

City Cllr Lee Castle – February 2026 Report
February has been another productive month, marked by significant council activity and a steady stream of casework across the ward.

This month included Full Council and the annual Budget Meeting. I'm pleased that we agreed a balanced budget that protects essential frontline services while continuing to invest in key priorities for our district. With councils across the country facing financial pressures, it remains vital that we manage resources responsibly while supporting residents and planning for the future.

The Local Plan has also reached an important milestone. This plan outlines where development is expected to take place and provides clearer guidance for residents and parish councils. It will be considered at a special Full Council meeting in March before entering the next consultation phase. Following that, a Planning Inspector will review the full plan and all supporting evidence, a lengthy process likely to continue well into 2027.
The decision on the Gladman appeal has now been issued. Unfortunately, the appeal has been allowed by the Planning Inspector. Although this decision was made nationally and not by the District Council, I know many residents in Littlebourne and across the wider district will be disappointed, especially after such a long process. While the outcome is not what many

hoped for, I will continue to keep residents updated as the application progresses, with all reserved matters still to be determined.

Casework has remained steady throughout the month.

- In Ickham, I have followed up on faulty streetlights, overgrown trees impacting pavements, and planning-related questions.
- In Bramling, I have raised issues around missed bin collections and helped clarify collection days.
- In the Grove area, I have been responding to queries about planning proposals, footpaths, and signage.
- In Littlebourne, I am working with officers to push for footpath clearance and maintenance to keep routes safe and accessible.
- In Wickhambreaux, I have been engaged in conversations about road signage, speeding concerns, and local environmental matters.
- In Stodmarsh, I have continued supporting residents on planning and environmental issues to ensure concerns are properly addressed.

I'm also pleased that the traffic order introducing a new 20mph limit in Adisham has now been formally published—an important step toward improving road safety following long-standing community concerns. Similarly, in Bekesbourne with Patrixbourne, the consultation phase on the proposed 20mph limit is now underway.

Alongside these focuses, I have continued to deal with day-to-day enquiries relating to housing, planning, environmental matters, and general community support.

As we move into March, I will remain committed to working closely with residents on casework and attending council and parish meetings to ensure local voices are heard and represented.

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

Linda Lodge, Neighbourhood Watch – March 2026 Report

As I reported in February's NHW report, there was an opportunity for police liaison for residents of Little Stour and Adisham wards on Sunday 22 February 2026 with PC Kevin Beatty at Littlebourne village hall. I did attend and as there was only one other resident leaving and no other attendees, was able to spend over almost an hour chatting and raising different issues such as fly tipping, hare coursing etc. There may be an opportunity to have the police visit Wickhambreaux in the future but hopefully we can muster more support.

Following on from this I have had to complete an online assessment of the police liaison and been invited to 'Coffee with a Cop' at Mama Feelgoods café on 30 March 2026. Any issues needed to be addressed please let me know.

Kent Police's Rural Task Force have secured a two-year national Criminal Behaviour Order (CBO) against a local man found guilty of hare coursing in Birchington. Following a court trial, Gavin Chapman, 48, of Preston, was found guilty of being equipped for searching or pursuing hares with dogs. Under the CBO, Chapman must not, anywhere within England or Wales own or be in control of a dog on private land without the landowner's permission or walk a dog in public off the lead unless the dog is muzzled.

In addition to the CBO, he received an 18-month conditional discharge and was ordered to pay a fine.

Police sergeant Darren Walshaw said:
'This is a positive outcome for the rural community…Hare coursing is illegal across the UK….It is not a harmless pastime; it is a deliberate and cruel act, inflicted on a protected species.'

Kent Fraud Alert System
Phone Scams-Victims voices cloned.

A new wave of AI-assisted frauds targets people and clones their voices. Criminals are using AI technology to clone people's voices and set up unauthorised direct debits over the phone. According to new evidence from National Trading Standards.

This advanced voice cloning is part of an organised criminal operation that harvests people's personal data to target victims with a wave of scam and nuisance calls. For more information on this go to: Friends Against Scams-New AI voice cloning to look out for.