WICKHAMBREAUX PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 20 OCTOBER 2026 AT 7.30PM AT WICKHAMBREAUX VILLAGE HALL, THE STREET, WICKHAMBREAUX, CT3 1RJ

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

CCC Cllr Lee Castle
Mr Roger Lithgow, KCC Community Warden

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 and accepted from Parish Cllr Emma Denning (Family Commitments).

2. CANDIDATES FOR CO-OPTION
The Clerk confirmed that no candidates have put themselves forward to date.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
None.

4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15 SEPTEMBER 2026
It was proposed by Cllr Barber, seconded by Cllr Rees and unanimously AGREED that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 15 September 2026 be accepted as a true record of the meeting and they were duly signed by the Chairman.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES
5(12) – Results from the 3no speed surveys on Grove Road which took place from 17 September 2026 for a period of seven days, have been received. The average speeds recorded are low, and well below 40mph. Introduction of a 40mph speed limit would require repeater signs along the route, which in KCC's opinion will probably increase speeds.

KCC has further stated that Grove Road is not feasible for a 40mph speed limit as the road environment is not suitable. On single carriageways in rural areas, 40mph should only be considered where there are many bends, junctions or accesses, substantial development, a strong environmental or landscape reason, or where there are considerable numbers of vulnerable road users. More information can be found on the government website by clicking on the following link – Setting local speed limits. The Clerk was asked to follow up to enquire whether there is any possibility a 40mph can be introduced as Grove Road does meet some of the criteria.

5(17) – The Clerk chased for an update on clearance of graffiti inside the Pill Box on 20 September 2026. CCC responded on 23 September 2026 that the Pill Box Study Group had not responded to any emails asking for advice. As the pill box is not listed, planning permission is not required for the works.

This falls outside of CCC's usual remit as the graffiti is not causing alarm or distress, and it is not clearly visible from the adjacent highway. As a gesture of goodwill, CCC arranged for the interior of the pill box to be painted using a mid-stone masonry paint on 24 September 2026,

as previously discussed with the landowner, Cllr Castle and the Conservation Society. The Parish Council wished to record thanks to CCC, Cllr Castle and the Clerk.

Please refer to Item 17 (Clerk Report) for any updates on non-agenda items since the last meeting.

6. 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

Cllr Castle was in attendance at the meeting and wished to provide a verbal update in addition to his written report. Cllr Castle advised that he has not heard back from CCC's parking team regarding potential parking restriction options in Grove Ferry and will chase for an update. Cllr Castle also advised that there is likely to be an update on Local Government Organisation by the end of this month.

Cllr Twyman asked Cllr Castle whether he has received an update on when the works to Grove Ferry Bridge will be undertaken. Cllr Castle advised that a date has not been set yet but will likely commence in 2027.

Mr Roger Lithgow was also in attendance at the meeting but had nothing further to add to his written report, except reporting attendance at various training webinars and events.

7. HIGHWAYS

Cllr Twyman reported that the next A257 Group petition obtained 1300 signatures. Unfortunately, the Group did not manage to obtain the necessary 1500 signatories to be considered by KCC Cabinet. The Group requested KCC Cabinet considered the petition so members of cabinet can be addressed directly, but they have declined. The Group is hopeful that local knowledge given at the Dover District Council Joint Transport Committee meeting, scheduled for 03 December 2026, will enable some meaningful discussion.

Cllr Twyman reported that a directional signpost at bottom of Hollybush Lane and Wickham Court Lane is still pointing in the wrong direction. Cllr Barber reported this to KCC Highways to rectify back in May 2026, reference number 962240. The Clerk agreed to liaise with Cllr Castle to chase for an update on when the works will be programmed in.

The Clerk escalated the subsidence issue outside Chapel Cottage on Grove Road with Cllr Sole, who further escalated with Peter Osborne, KCC Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport. Mr Osborne responded via letter on 12 October 2026 that he had consulted with the District Highway Manager, who has advised that the affected section of Grove Road is programmed to be investigated on 16 November 2026. The works will require an urgent five-day road closure and will seek to establish whether a collapsed chamber or tunnel is contributing to the dip in the carriageway.

The date has been agreed with the adjacent landowners to allow them to transport their harvest before the investigation takes place. In the meantime, KCC will continue to fill the dip as necessary to help maintain the road until these works can be undertaken.

Cllr Barber advised that the edge of the carriageway between New Grove House and Teedleham Farm is in poor condition. Cllr Barber agreed to report to KCC Highways for investigation.

Cllr Castle advised that he met the new KCC Highways Steward, Gary Gibbs. Mr Gibbs has requested that all correspondence come through the Clerk or city/county councillors, rather than individual parish councillors.

8. PLANNING

New Applications

None.

Decided

CA/26/00898 – 2 The Old Workhouse, The Street

CCC has granted the application for a single-storey outbuilding following demolition of shed and log store.

CA/26/01394 – The Red Lion, Stodmarsh

CCC has granted the application to crown reduce an Ash tree in the rear garden by 30%, TPO no 05/2021. This level of reduction has been undertaken previously. The Parish Council has no objections to the proposals.

9. FEEDBACK FROM JOINT MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL AND FRANK MONTGOMERY PLAYING FIELD COMMITTEE

Three representatives from the Parish Council and three representatives from the Frank Montgomery Playing Field Committee met on 16 September 2026 to discuss the legal advice received from Kingsfords Solicitors regarding the management of the playing field. The primary aim of the meeting was to reach a proposed agreement or direction of travel in consideration of the independent legal advice received. A copy of the notes from this meeting was circulated to all members prior to the meeting.

A summary of the agreed actions from the joint meeting is as follows:

1. The Clerk to produce breakdown of expenditure on playing field, both precept and CFF (Concurrent Function Funding), to assist with budgeting.
2. In April 2027, FMPFC (Frank Montgomery Playing Field Committee) to meet all costs associated with the playing field directly. WPC (Wickhambreaux Parish Council) to contribute financially towards costs as one lump sum in April, using CFF portion. Further discussions and financial modelling in the future will be required to agree the portion to be paid from WPC once CFF ceases.
3. FMPFC to make enquiries with the Charity Commission to establish current status and register if necessary.
4. FMPFC to ensure adequate trustee insurance in place.
5. FMPFC to explore whether they wish to modernise/amend the Trust Deed. If so, FMPFC to have a clear outline of the changes to be made. WPC to formally agree to fund the costs.
6. FMPFC to explore entering into a licence with the primary school.

Cllr Rees advised that all members of the FMPFC felt strongly that WPC should continue to pay a lump sum contribution once CFF ceases, primarily to cover grass cutting and regular maintenance, supplemented with fundraising from FMPFC for replacement equipment and repairs, etc. Should the FMPFC be fully financially responsible for the day-to-day running costs of the field, most if not all members would walk away/resign from the Committee.

10. TRUSTEES FOR THE FRANK MONTGOMERY PLAYING FIELD TRUST MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Frank Montgomery Playing Field Trust Management Committee met on 06 October 2026 and agreed the following trustees:

1. Caroline Rees
2. Linda Lodge
3. Elizabeth Stewart

As landowners, Cllr Collinson proposed and Cllr Matthews seconded, and all councillors voted in favour, that the above three named committee members be appointed as Trustees.

11. CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL CONSULTATION ON PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Canterbury City Council (CCC) is proposing to defer parish council elections from 2027 to 2028 to allow time to implement any changes that arise from the Community Governance Review. There are no proposed changes for Wickhambreaux. Currently, parish council elections align with CCC elections, so election costs are shared in the event of a contested election.

The Clerk contacted Electoral Services at CCC to obtain an estimate for election costs should there be a contested election separate from CCC elections. Electoral Services provided an indicative estimate in the region of £1,800.00 for a standalone election. A shared contested election with CCC in comparison is estimated to be around £750.00-£800.00.

Cllr Barber proposed and Cllr Rees seconded, and all councillors voted in favour, that elections should continue to align with CCC elections to minimise costs.

12. CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW STAGE 2 RECOMMENDATIONS

In summary, the CCC Working Group recommends a parish council is not created for the currently unparished area of Canterbury at this time; and Charter Trustees are pursued instead to preserve the civic rights and traditions and city status, with the option available in the future for a town council.

For existing parished areas, the recommendations propose targeted changes including:

- grouping Barham with Kingston
- extending and warding Blean
- creating a new Chestfield and Swalecliffe parish
- expanding and renaming Chislet as Chislet and Reculver and grouping it with Hoath
- making a minor boundary change between Fordwich and Sturry
- amending the Herne and Broomfield boundary
- increasing councillor numbers for Lower Hardres and Nackington
- removing the parish wards in Thanington.

For the currently unparished coastal towns, the report recommends creating a new Herne Bay parish served by Herne Bay Town Council, with wards reflecting the town's distinct communities. For Whitstable, it recommends a more localised structure rather than a single town council, with separate parish arrangements for Tankerton, Whitstable and Seasalter.

Stage 2 consultation runs until 17 December 2026. Final recommendations will be published and agreed by Full Council in March 2027. The Clerk and Cllr Collinson attended an online parish engagement meeting on 07 October 2026 where the Stage 2 consultation was discussed.

It was unanimously agreed to support Chestfield Parish Council in their objections to the proposals made by the working group.

13. RESIDENT SUGGESTION FOR WICKHAMBREAUX GARAGE SAFARI EVENT

The Clerk reported that no further information has been received in time for the meeting. It was unanimously agreed to defer a decision until more information is received from the resident.

14. RESIDENT SUGGESTION FOR RECYCLING BIN ON THE SMALL GREEN

The Clerk chased Canenco for a response regarding the possibility of having a recycling bin on the small green on 20 September 2026. Caneco confirmed that they do not currently empty any community recycling bins and any changes to this arrangement would need to be made by the new Unitary authority.

Canenco covered emptying the recycling bins on the coast for the summer season and on monitoring, these bins were always found to be contaminated. DEFRA (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) is working on a community recycling scheme, but this is not anticipated until 2028.

Cllr Rees spoke to The Rose, who have not noticed an issue with the current litter bin regularly overflowing. As The Rose already has dedicated large recycling bins, which they pay privately to be emptied, it is unclear whether there is a strong need for a separate smaller recycling bin on the small green. The Rose has also made it clear they will not contribute financially to an additional bin.

As no further action can be taken at this time with Canenco, it was unanimously agreed to continue to monitor the litter situation on the small green and revisit in the future if necessary. The Clerk was asked to update the resident and request they send in photos and reports when the bin becomes overflowing to assist with monitoring.

15. REPORTS

Tree

A resident reported that a tree has fallen on a footpath between Wickhambreaux and Ickham. Cllr Twyman advised the tree has been reported and is in hand.

Village Hall Committee

The most recent Village Hall Committee meeting was held on 13 October 2026. Main items of discussion included an update on obtaining quotations for internal window shutters, maintenance of the front garden, and bookings and hall activity. Dates for Social Saturdays in 2027 were confirmed as 13 February, 17 April, 12 June, 14 August, 16 October and 18 December.

Committee meeting dates for 2027 were confirmed as 09 February, 13 April, 08 June, 10 August, 12 October and 14 December.

Cllr Collinson reported that the Committee received a request from a regular user to move the portrait of His Majesty, King Charles III, as it is making group members feel uncomfortable. Councillors have no objections to the portrait being moved, providing it is re-hung elsewhere in the main hall. A potential suggestion of between the two windows to the right of the stage was made. Cllr Collinson agreed to report back to the Committee.

Cllr Collinson also reported that he has arranged for Carstairs Pianos to assess the condition of the piano in the hall. The piano was originally obtained from Carstairs. Cllr Rees also reported that she is aiming to have the Parish Council safe removed during October half term.

The next meeting will be held on 14 December October 2026 at 7.30pm.

Playing Field Committee

The most recent Playing Field Committee meeting was held on 06 October 2026. The main item of discussion was the football goal and basketball hoop. In consideration of the feedback received at the public meeting on 08 September 2026 and via email, the Committee agreed the football goal and basketball hoop will remain all year round in its current form, with some adjustment to the football goal backing net to minimise balls going into resident gardens.

It was also agreed that the cut off for ball games sign will remain in place to provide a compromise with residents. It is acknowledged that this restriction is unenforceable. The sign wording will be amended to 'polite request no ball games after 7pm' or similar wording. It was further unanimously agreed that complaints should only be encouraged/accepted should the playing field still be in use from 8.30pm.

Other items of discussion included necessary repairs to the pirate ship and picnic tables, which are scheduled to be undertaken week commencing 26 October 2026, confirmation of trustees (please see Item 10 above) location of a bicycle rack, provision of dog poo bag dispenser options, and fundraising ideas. The possibility of having a Public Space Protection Order was also discussed, however it was decided not to proceed as it would restrict use of the field by dog walkers.

The next Committee meeting was confirmed as 01 December 2026 at 5.30pm.

Village Greens
Cllr Rees reported that she has been liaising with Cllr Denning regarding replacement planter options, which will be circulated by Cllr Denning in due course.

Cllr Matthews advised that Stodmarsh green will be scarified and weed and feed applied to improve the condition. A small fee is likely payable, as agreed at the previous Parish Council meeting on 15 September 2026.

Flood Protection
Cllr Twyman reported that CCC Full Council is meeting on 22 October 2026. One item on the agenda is to discuss adopting a River Charter, initially proposed by the Great Stour River Group. There has been a lack of communication from CCC to interested parties, which Cllr Castle and Cllr Sole have raised. A representative from the Little Stour and Nailbourne River Group will be attending.

Cllr Castle advised that he understands the charter proposed is essentially the proposals put forward by the Great Stour River Group. Some amendments have been proposed by Cllr Sole and others.

A resident asked for an update on drain clearance in The Street. Cllr Castle asked the resident to contact him to follow up.

Speedwatch
The Clerk contacted the recommended supplier for the Decatur Scout II radar gun on 26 September 2026. A response was received on 29 September 2026 advising that Decatur Electrics, the manufacturers in the USA, have not fulfilled the last order and are not responding to correspondence or answering emails. The supplier is not able to advise when the Decatur will be next in stock. An alternative radar gun was proposed by the supplier, which the Clerk sent to Kent Police for comment on 01 October 2026. The Clerk is awaiting a response and agreed to chase for an update.

Footpaths
Cllr Barber reported that she will be attending the next Kent Ramblers footpath volunteer meeting on Saturday 07 November 2026 at Lenham Community Centre.

Website
Cllr Collinson reported that there are around 80 subscribers now to the Parish Council website, with a good click and open rate.

16. FINANCE

Income received

The Clerk advised that £241.02 interest was received between 01 September and 30 September 2026.

Payments

The expenditure totalling £1,160.03 was authorised, made up of:

- Wickhambreaux Parochial Church Council – Annual burial maintenance - £500.00
- Stodmarsh Parochial Church Council – Annual burial maintenance - £60.00
- Chenice Howard-Sparkes – Clerk salary October 2026
- HMRC – Employee & PAYE October 2026
- Lynn Nettleingham – Village Hall housekeeping October 2026

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

Unity Trust Bank

Cllr Matthews has been added as a signatory on the bank accounts.

17. CLERK REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

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

A. **Highways Improvement Plan (HIP) Updates**

20mph in Stodmarsh

The Clerk circulated a draft letter to be delivered to residents in Stodmarsh prior to the meeting for consideration. The wording of the draft letter was unanimously agreed at the meeting. The Clerk agreed to arrange for the letter and KCC extents plan to be printed and delivered to Cllr Matthews to distribute to residents.

B. **CCC Enforcement Update Briefing**

The Clerk and Cllr Collinson attended the virtual CCC Enforcement briefing on 12 October 2026.

C. **Clerk Training**

The Clerk has signed up to the December 2026 CiLCA course intake. The Clerk will have 12 months from this date to complete the qualification.

CORRESPONDENCE

A. **CCC Licensing Policy Consultation**

CCC is consulting on their draft Licensing Policy. CCC is the Licensing Authority under the Licensing Act 2003, responsible for granting premises licences, club premises certificates, temporary event notices and personal licences for the sale and supply of alcohol in the district. They also licence regulate entertainment and late-night refreshment. To read a copy of the draft Licensing Policy, please visit CCC's website – Draft Licensing Policy. To respond to the consultation, please visit CCC's website to complete their survey – Consultation Survey. Deadline for comments is 9am on 17 November 2026.

B. **KALC News October 2026**

Previously circulated via email.

All other correspondence was noted.

18. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Rees advised that she has been contacted by a representative from Kent Fallen, who has been undertaking research into missing names from war memorials across the country. Research has identified a number of casualties from the First World War who are not included on the Wickhambreaux memorial. There is adequate space on the existing memorial to add the missing names. Cllr Rees agreed to circulate a copy of the letter and councillors were unanimously in favour in principle for adding the names.

The meeting closed at 9.24pm.

Signed……..... (Chairman)

Date…….....

20 October 2026 Appendix – Copy of Reports
County Cllr Mike Sole – September 2026 Report
Well, the government dropped a very unexpected bombshell on Local Government Reorganisation last month by putting the whole process on pause. So, whilst we were expecting elections next year to a new East Kent Unitary Council, and for KCC and Canterbury City Council to be abolished in 2028, we don't know what will happen now. Whilst the best guess is probably a pause (rather than cancellation) and then a later announcement to push it all back a year, we just don't know.

As a result of this pause, the one thing that we do know, is that Canterbury City Council elections will now take place next year. It has all been very frustrating and this chaos and uncertainty is not helpful to anyone working in local government and delivering services to residents.

The Canterbury City Council Community Governance review is now entering stage two. This is looking at whether there should be town councils in the district and/or changes to parish councils. One proposal that residents of Kingston and Barham will be consulted on is that both parish councils could work closer together through a grouping arrangement. There is also a district wide consultation about whether, if new town or parish councils are created, elections to all parishes should be delayed by a year to enable them to be set up and keep all elections on the same date.

With over 200 public comments, and packed parish council meetings, the part retrospective planning application for residential caravans on land off Valley Road, Barham, has generated a lot of interest. The planning officer will now review these comments, including mine opposing the application, and those of consultees such as Kent Highways, The Environment Agency and CPRE before making a decision, assessing the application against national and local planning policies. I shall keep residents informed.

We are very fortunate to have rare chalk streams in our area. I attended the Little Stour River Day talk in Wickhambreaux to hear about the work that is being done to monitor the health of the local rivers.

Cllr Lee Castle and I held a councillor surgery at the Ivy Barn in Littlebourne and discussed a number of issues with residents and the KCC Community Warden.

I've been following up a number of highway issues with KCC that were reported months ago without action. With the nights drawing in it is essential that we get many of these safety critical repairs fixed.

Email: mike.sole@kcc.gov.uk

City Cllr Lee Castle – September 2026 Report
As the year seems to be flying by, please find below my update for September. It has been another busy month, with parish meetings, council meetings, surgeries and plenty of local casework across the ward.

At the beginning of the month, I attended **Littlebourne** Parish Council, where we discussed a number of local matters, including planning and planning enforcement. Councillor Mike Sole and I also held a drop-in surgery in Littlebourne, which was very well attended. Residents raised a wide range of issues, including licensing, highways and other local concerns. These surgeries are a useful opportunity to hear directly from residents, discuss problems and work out how best to take them forward.

I also attended meetings with **Adisham, Bekesbourne with Patrixbourne and Wickhambreaux** Parish Councils, as well as **Canterbury City Council** meetings, including

Full Council and the Licensing Committee. Alongside the formal meetings, I have continued dealing with individual casework raised by residents across the ward.

In **Wickhambreaux**, I have been working on issues involving boundary clearance and trees on council housing land. It was also good to see the graffiti on the pillbox dealt with by Canenco. Although this was outside their normal remit, I was pleased they were able to assist and get the problem resolved.

I have continued chasing KCC Highways regarding potholes on the List, and I have now been advised that works are programmed. I will continue to monitor this and make sure it is followed up. There were also some bin collection issues on the Street and the List earlier in the month, which were raised with the relevant contacts.

In **Ickham**, I have been dealing with casework relating to flooding, fly-tipping and anti-social behaviour on rural roads. In **Adisham,** issues around grounds maintenance and parking have continued to be raised, and I am pursuing these with the relevant organisations.

In **Littlebourne**, I have dealt with casework around planning permission rules and was pleased to resolve a couple of long-standing green bin collection issues by liaising with contacts at Canenco.

Towards the end of the month, I attended the **Little Stour River Day** talk in **Wickhambreaux**, as part of the wider district **Stour Valley Riverfest**. It was an interesting evening, although also concerning to hear again about the condition of our local chalk streams and the pressures they continue to face. These are important environmental assets, and it is vital that their condition continues to receive the attention they deserve.

Although highways are the responsibility of Kent County Council, I am always happy to help raise and chase local issues. If you have a pothole or other highway problem, please send it to me with the location, ideally using What3Words. I keep a spreadsheet of reported issues and regularly check progress. Recently, some items have been removed from the reporting system, so issues sometimes need to be reported again.

As always, if there is anything else I can assist with, please do get in touch. I will always do my best to help or put you in contact with the organisation responsible.

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

KCC Community Warden Roger Lithgow – September 2026 Report
Extensive Visible Presence across the Ward this month. Where a village has not been mentioned, that is due to nothing of note to report back.

Bekesbourne – Aerodrome Road, resident raised concerns about bonfire being lit in one of the resident's gardens. I advised they contact KFRS.

Bekesbourne – Dover residents approached in car on Aerodrome Road and asked where the clock repairer was situated in the road. I advised clock repairer on ChalkPit Farm and gave directions. I advised I would be leaving the road in 10mins, so came back if you cannot find them. I visited the farm and saw their car outside the shop.

Ickham – resident approached me about CB175 Public Right of Way, he was concerned about one of the drain covers being rusty and rusted through in place, and concerned as horses use this as a cut through and they could be harmed if drain cover gives way. I emailed KCC Public Rights of Way requesting they review specific drain cover and the other drain covers in the Bridle Way.

Littlebourne - I attended CCC Cllr Lee Castle's and KCC Cllr Mike Sole's Drop In at The Ivy Barn, Court Hill, Littlebourne, which gave me the chance to speak in local residents.

Littlebourne - Chill Out and Chat – my Community Warden Drop-In – every Thursday 2pm - 3:30pm at The Ivy Barn, Court Hill, Littlebourne.

Littlebourne – I saw a homeless male going through wheelie bins on LIttlebourne Hill. I approached him and noticed he was talking to himself. When I spoke to him and offered him support he was immediately abusive and carried on walking towards Wingham. Local Police Officer made aware.

Littlebourne – I have been supporting a vulnerable person by visiting their home, submitting multiple safeguarding referrals and liaising with safeguarding team and local police officer since June. This month I have liaised with his family and met with them at the person's home. In the meeting we discussed previous support offered by me, and what support could be offered in the future. Family are now regularly visiting and dealing with all his support needs.

Wickhambreaux – I attend the Playing Field meeting where residents wished to discuss issues with noise and balls going into neighbouring gardens. I was there for gaining an understanding of the situation and to see what was going to be said, as well as answering any questions put to me. I had made the local Police Officer aware of the meeting and gave him an update as his working shift pattern for that week, meant he was unable to attend. No criminal offences disclosed in meeting.

Nailbourne
Barham Village Shop – I received a report of an abusive male who sits outside the shop, and was being abusive towards shop visitors. Information taken.

Barham – Coffee Stop – I attended and mingled with the large group chatting to them. I advised the local PCSO who was at the event about the abusive male at the village shop, he attended and took details.

Bridge – email received requesting No cold callers, No canvassers window stickers from a lady in Dering Close, Bridge – advised they were having double glazing salespeople coming round. I attended handed out a few, to pass on to other residents. A couple of days later and saw them displayed in several residents' windows in Dering Close.

Supporting a colleague in Greenhill, Herne Bay – we both attended the road to speak to a builder who had left his van on the Green for three weeks and it hadn't moved, but when we arrived we established it had been moved the previous evening. We also noticed an abandoned vehicle which was insecure and parked across an emergency exit. My colleague is following up on this with local Police Officer.

I have attended CCC online meetings representing the Community Warden Team in Canterbury.

CW Training
The Neighbourhood Policing Team for our area (Little Stour & Adisham) have identified the following priorities:

Road safety issues, E-scooters/E-bikes and Dog fouling (issued 07 October 2026)
These are a priority for the next 3 months, identified based on feedback from local residents, crime data and ongoing concerns in the area.

An update is promised in the coming months to let us know what has been done, what progress has been made and what's next.

Linda Lodge, Neighbourhood Watch – October 2026 Report
An operation targeting the thefts of agricultural plant and machinery resulted in Kent Police officers seizing £120,000 worth of stolen property. Across three separate days in September 2026, officers from the Rural Task Force seized 2 cars, 2 caravans and a horse box that were believed to have been stolen. They also located 2 further cars that had been completely stripped for parts including a £40,000 Lexus.

Rural crime typically increases during autumn and winter as criminals take advantage of the darker evenings to sneak onto farmland and steal valuable equipment. Locally farms in Wingham and Ash suffered from thefts of equipment and a large quantity of fuel.

With the arrival the darker evenings of autumn and winter please review security in and around your home. Inexpensive lighting can be programmed to turn on at dusk or at random throughout the evening, giving the impression that the house is occupied. Store garden tools securely and invest in quality locks for sheds and garages. Alarms can be fitted quite cheaply and would easily deter the opportunist thief with their noise.

Halloween
Not everyone enjoys or wants to take part in Halloween. If you or a vulnerable neighbour would prefer not to have trick or treaters call at their door, you can download and display the 'No trick or Treat' sign. It's a simple way to let others know you're not taking part. Alternatively a 'Trick or Treaters' welcome poster is available -- with advice from this site: www.kent.police.uk/halloween