**WICKHAMBREAUX PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 15 SEPTEMBER 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 Caroline Rees
Parish Cllr Susan Matthews

CCC Cllr Lee Castle

Mrs Chenice Howard-Sparkes, Clerk to the Council

2 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 and accepted from Parish Cllr Emma Denning (Holiday).

**2. CANDIDATES FOR CO-OPTION**

The Clerk confirmed that no candidates have put themselves forward to date.

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

The Clerk advised that an update to the Localism Act 2011 (s65 of the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Act 2026) provides that parish councillor home addresses must not be included in the public register of interests, unless the member requests that it is published.

Any councillors that would like their home address to be published need to advise Canterbury City Council (CCC). From 14 August 2026, CCC will start to add the DPI Forms (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) back to the website with the home address withheld. Going forward, the home address information is still required for the completion of all new DPIs as CCC is required to hold a full, complete DPI, and a redacted version will be published on the website.

**4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21 JULY 2026**

It was proposed by Cllr Rees, seconded by Cllr Barber and unanimously AGREED that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 21 July 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(10) – The Clerk reported overgrown vegetation on the junction of Wickham Road and Wickham Lane, reference number 975993. KCC has marked this as completed.
5(12) – The 3no speed surveys on Grove Road are scheduled to take place from 17 September 2026 for a period of seven days.
5(17) – Cllr Twyman and Cllr Castle reported there is no further update on the pill box graffiti. Cllr Castle and the Clerk agreed to chase.

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

**7. HIGHWAYS**

Cllr Twyman reported that the next A257 meeting is due to take place on 03 October 2026. The petition for improvements along the A257 has been extended until 30 September 2026.

Cllr Twyman also reported that a number of issues were raised with Cllr Peter Osborne, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport at KCC, in particular complaints regarding the standard of roadwork signage. Cllr Osborne advised that current legislation does not require road signs to specify the exact location of a road closure, therefore KCC cannot insist on it.

Cllr Twyman reported that the subsidence issue outside Chapel Cottage remains ongoing. KCC Highways attended approximately two weeks ago to partially fill with a thin layer of tarmac, which is not sufficient. The Clerk was asked to escalate again with KCC Cllr Sole.

Cllr Twyman reported that KCC Highways has been undertaking various repairs around the local area, in particular from Preston to Grove and Grove Ferry.

Grove Road is due be closed from 25 September 2026, with estimated completion by 28 September 2026, from the vicinity of Sandpit Cottages to Newborn Farm. The closure is required by Openreach to enable pole and cabling works to be undertaken.

A further road closure is scheduled for 06 October 2026 on Grove Ferry Road at the junction with Grove Road, between the hours of 9.30am and 3.30pm, to enable Openreach to undertake pole testing works.

Cllr Twyman reported that there is significant water leak between Littlebourne and Grove. Despite regular visits from Southern Water, the source of the leak has not yet been identified. Cllr Castle advised that leak detection is being undertaken in the local area between 10pm and 4am.

**8. PLANNING**

**New Applications**

**CA/26/01289 – The Mill Yard, 2 The Green, Wickham Road**

An application has been received for double doors to the North and West elevations, roof light to North elevation, together with removal of chimney. The Parish Council has no objections to the proposals.

**CA/25/02291 – Elm Tree Farm, Grove Road**

A revised application has been received for side and rear first floor extensions and rear balcony, together with alternations to fenestrations. The Parish Council has no objections to the proposals.

**CA/26/01394 – The Red Lion, Stodmarsh**

An application has been received for 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.

**City Councillor Call-In Rights**

Cllr Castle advised the ability for city councillors to call-in planning applications will be reduced from 31 October 2026. Previously, as long as there was a planning reason for calling in an application to be decided by CCC Planning Committee, that was sufficient. Under the new changes, the National Scheme of Delegation will create two categories for decision making:

1. Schedule 1 Applications – must be decided by Officers under delegated authority.
   These include householder applications (extensions, outbuildings, dormers, etc), housing developments of up to nine dwellings, and reserved matters applications for development that is not phased.

2. Schedule 2 Applications – will be delegated to Officers to decide unless the Nominated Officer and Member decide (in accordance with the Government guidance) that the application should be decided by CCC Planning Committee.
   These are applications that are not Schedule 1 applications and include major applications (e.g. over 10 dwellings or 1000sqm commercial floor area), applications for Listed Building Consent, retrospective planning applications, and applications to vary/remove existing conditions.

**9. CONCLUSION OF ANNUAL RETURN FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2025-2026**

The Clerk reported that the audited Annual Return 2025-2026 has been received. External Auditors Mazars LLP signed off the Annual Return as being in accordance with proper practices with no other matters coming to their attention giving cause for concern. There were no additional comments to note. The Parish Council considered the response and agreed that no action was required at this time above and beyond the current implemented practices. The Parish Council wished to record its thanks to the Clerk. A copy of the Conclusion of Audit and relevant documentation has been posted on the website and in the noticeboard on 19 August 2026.

**10. ADOPTION OF POLICIES/PROCEDURES**

The Clerk advised that the Data (Use and Access) Act 2025 introduces a new requirement to have a data protection complaints process. This requirement came into force on 19 June 2026. Councils must have a process for handling data protection complaints, separate from the normal complaints procedure.

Councillors unanimously adopted the following policies/procedures:

- Comments, Complaints and Compliments
- Data Protection Complaints

**11. CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW STAGE 2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

Canterbury City Council (CCC) has released its report following the Stage 1 consultation, outlining all the recommendations made by the cross-party working group. These recommendations will be discussed by the General Purposes Committee on 16 September 2026 and, if endorsed, will be used for the purposes of Stage 2 consultation. A copy of the committee report with supporting information can be found by clicking on the following link – General Purposes Committee CGR Report. There are no proposed changes to Wickhambreaux parish.

In summary, it 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.

If approved, these draft recommendations will form the basis of the next round of public consultation before final recommendations are brought back to General Purposes Committee and Full Council.

Stage 2 consultation is scheduled to commence on 24 September 2026 and run until December 2026. Final recommendations will be published in March 2027.

There is an online parish engagement meeting scheduled for 07 October 2026 at 6pm to discuss CGR. The link to join the virtual meeting has been circulated to councillors.

**12. KENT COUNTY COUNCIL SAFER ROAD USER TEAM REQUEST FOR HALL HIRE COSTS**

The Clerk reported that a request has been received from the Kent County Council (KCC) Safer Road User Team wishing to run a Mature Drivers and Passenger Course in Wickhambreaux in 2027.

This free course is designed to support older road users in maintaining confidence, safety, and independence on the roads; whether as drivers or passengers. The course covers topics such as health, vision, alcohol, and hazard awareness. The session lasts approximately 1.5 hours, and during this time KCC look to provide refreshments and give attendees an opportunity to answer any questions they may have.

KCC has asked that the Parish Council fund the hall hire costs, which amount to £30.00. Cllr Collinson proposed and Cllr Rees seconded, and all councillors voted in favour, to meet the hall hire costs for the course. The Clerk agreed to make the necessary arrangements.

**13. RESIDENT SUGGESTION FOR WICKHAMBREAUX GARAGE SAFARI EVENT**

The Clerk reported that a suggestion has been received from a resident to hold a Wickhambreaux Garage Safari fundraising event, similar to the popular Faversham Safari. Residents wishing to take part would pay, say, £10.00 to be included on the village map, and set up outside their house and keep anything they make from their sales. All proceeds from the entry fee could be split equally between the primary school, village hall, playing field and St Andrew's Church.

To keep traffic and organisation manageable, the resident suggests people with driveways or suitable space outside their homes set up there, while anyone who wants to take part but doesn't have appropriate space could have a pitch on the village green. The resident has volunteered to take on the publicity and put together a map of participating houses/pitches.

It was unanimously agreed to defer a decision until more information is received from the resident. Councillors were supportive in principle but need more information on who would take the lead in organising and running the event, and how the event will be run in principle.

**14. RESIDENT SUGGESTION FOR RECYCLING BIN ON THE SMALL GREEN**

The Clerk reported a resident has suggested a recycling bin on the small green, opposite The Rose Public House, in recognition of patrons of The Rose as well as passing walkers, etc, using the litter bin for all litter. The Clerk has contacted Canenco to ascertain whether they would be amenable to adding an additional bin onto their emptying schedule and, if so, whether there would be any costs associated with this. The Clerk has not received a reply to date. It was therefore unanimously agreed to defer this item until a response has been received.

## 15. REPORTS

**Tree**

Cllr Matthews agreed to take the lead responsibility for trees on the Parish Council.

**KALC**

The most recent KALC Canterbury Area Committee meeting was held on 11 September 2026. Cllr Alan Baldock, leader of CCC, was guest speaker. Items for discussion included the Community Governance Review, dog fouling, bus focus group and KALC Area Committees post unitary authority changes. A copy of the draft minutes was circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting.

**Village Hall Committee**

The most recent Village Hall Committee meeting was held on 11 August 2026. Main items of discussion included maintenance of the front garden, update on redecoration works, and the grateful receipt of £700.00 from the Four Villages Post Office and Shop fund towards the cost of redecoration works. The Parish Council wished to record its congratulations to the Committee for the successful redecoration works.

As the windows appear to be in good condition, it was also agreed to explore installing internal shutters in the main hall as an alternative to replacement to minimise heat loss. Two events have also been arranged for next year; cheese and wine tasting event on 29 January 2027 and a Christmas craft fare on 20 November 2027. The next meeting will be held on 13 October 2026 at 7.30pm.

The Clerk advised that the hall cleaner has given in their notice, with their last day being 30 September 2026. The Committee has advertised the role locally and there has been some interest.

**Playing Field Committee**

Cllr Rees reported that a public meeting was held on 08 September 2026 to discuss the feedback received and outcome of the summer 2025 and 2026 monitoring since the football goal and basketball hoop were installed. The Playing Field Committee was pleased by the level of engagement and the breadth of comments and suggestions received. To allow members of the committee time to consider all the feedback and views raised, it was agreed to defer a decision until the next meeting on 06 October 2026, which will be a closed meeting.

The Clerk and Cllr Rees have been chasing Peak Playgrounds by email and phone for updates on replacing the zip wire seat and hanging chain, as well as assessing the condition of the pirate ship and multi-play (toddler) unit to undertake the necessary repairs. The condition of the picnic benches is also deteriorating and needs addressing in the near future. A quotation has been received, which will be discussed by the Playing Field Committee

Cllr Rees advised that a resident bordering the playing field has requested a meeting, which has been scheduled for tomorrow (16 September 2026). Cllr Collinson will be in attendance.

Cllr Rees reported that unfortunately one side of the willow dome in the nature area has been dismantled by persons unknown. Cllr Rees is in correspondence with Majestic Garden Care, who manage the area, to establish the best time of year to re-weave the dome.

Cllr Rees also reported that she has made contact with the adjacent landowner to request they cut back the brambles overhanging the boundary, which is restricting use of the benches. The landowner has agreed to have these cut back.

Cllr Rees reported that the backboard of the basketball hoop has been cleaned. Comments received to date suggest the board would look better less shiny. Ivy stickers were purchased but unfortunately they do not fit the board dimensions exactly. Green paint has therefore been ordered instead.

**Village Greens**
Cllr Twyman and Cllr Rees reported that one of the wooden planters on the bridge installed by the Parish Council was hit by a vehicle in a hit and run. A replacement planter is required. Cllr Rees agreed to liaise with Cllr Denning to explore replacement options.

Cllr Matthews advised that some top soil may be required to level areas of the village green in Stodmarsh. A resident present at the meeting offered top soil free of charge, which was gratefully accepted. The Parish Council unanimously agreed to fund any additional top soil as required.

**Speedwatch**
The Clerk reported that the Four Villages Post Office and Shop (4VPO) funding of £250.00 has been received. Ickham Parish Council has confirmed they will meet the remaining shortfall of £915.00 plus VAT 50/50 with Wickhambreaux Parish Council, amounting to £457.50 per council.

**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.

**16. FINANCE**

**Income received**
The Clerk advised that £12,600.00 was received between 01 July and 31 July 2026, consisting of £6,400.00 Concurrent Function Funding and £6,200.00 CCC Capital Grant towards village hall redecoration works. The Clerk also advised that £2,801.92 was received between 01 August and 31 August 2026, consisting of £2,551.92 payment made from the Village Hall Committee in error (which has been paid back) and £250.00 funding from the 4VPO towards new speedwatch equipment.

**Payments**
The expenditure totalling £1,044.71 was authorised, made up of:

- Air Ambulance Charity Kent Surrey Sussex – donation towards running costs in recognition of benefit to the local community - £250.00 (agreed at previous meeting)
- Chenice Howard-Sparkes – Reimbursement for annual Microsoft 365 subscription - £84.99
- Chenice Howard-Sparkes – Reimbursement for ink cartridges - £40.82
- Chenice Howard-Sparkes – Clerk salary September 2026
- HMRC – Employee & PAYE September 2026
- Verdi Stevens-Greenwood – Village Hall cleaning September 2026

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

The following payments totalling £2,393.18 were authorised in the interim period:

- Kent County Council – 3no speed surveys on Grove Road - £315.00
- Wickhambreaux Village Hall - Grant agreed towards redecoration works agreed at June 2026 Parish Council Meeting - £1,500
- DM Payroll Services - Administration of payroll from April - September 2026 - £86.40
- Chenice Howard-Sparkes – Clerk salary August 2026
- HMRC – Employee & PAYE August 2026
- Verdi Stevens-Greenwood – Village Hall cleaning August 2026

**Clerk Pay Increase**
The Clerk advised that the National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) has agreed new national salary payscales to be implemented from 01 April 2026. The Clerk is currently on spinal point 8 which results in an hourly rate increase from £13.90 to £14.36.

**Unity Trust Bank**
The application form to add Cllr Matthews as a signatory on the bank accounts was signed at the meeting.

**17. CLERK REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE**

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

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

20mph in Stodmarsh

KCC has sent the extents plan, which can be used as part of the consultation with residents in Stodmarsh. The Clerk is drafting a consultation and covering letter to be sent to all households in Stodmarsh

B. **Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) for Frank Montgomey Playing Field**

The Clerk has been in contact with CCC to enquire about the potential benefits of having a PSPO applied to the Frank Montgomery Playing Field with regards to dogs. This follows concerns raised at the increase in dog waste being left in the field. There are two options for a PSPO; that dogs can use the field on a lead for a maximum of 2m, or complete exclusion.

There is already a dog control order across the Canterbury district requiring dog owners pick up after their dogs, which includes the playing field. Enforcement is the responsibility of CCC's enforcement team. Any specific times and days would be useful to ensure smart use of enforcement officer time in visiting the area if the playing field is considered a hotspot.

C. **Clerk Training**

The Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments Ltd (SAAA) will be introducing a new Digital AGAR Portal, designed to make the submission and management of Annual Governance and Accountability Returns (AGARs) simpler, more secure and more efficient. The portal is expected to be available for the 2027 AGAR submissions. The Clerk has booked to attend an online briefing on the Digital AGAR on 04 December 2026.

D. **Clerk Document Retention/Filing**

The Clerk completed two of the allocated 12 hours sorting through documents in her home office (not including the village green application documents).

**CORRESPONDENCE**

A. **CCC Local Elections Update**

CCC has requested permission from the Secretary of State to postpone parish council elections by a year from May 2027 to May 2028 in line with the new unitary authority being established. Despite the government's decision to 'pause' Local Government Reorganisation, it is likely that elections will still be postponed to align with any implemented CGR changes.

B. **KCC Kent Minerals and Waste Site Plan 2026 Consultation**

KCC invited comments on the soundness and legal compliance of the Pre-Submission Draft Kent Mineral Sites Plan 2026. Deadline for comments was 10 September 2026. The Parish Council did not submit a comment.

C. **CCC Proposal to Introduce PSPO designed to reduce the risk of wildfires**

Following a request from central government and a number of wildfires across the district, CCC is seeking views on their proposal to introduce a PSPO designed to reduce the risk of them breaking out in the future.

CCC is considering a PSPO that could prohibit or restrict activities such as:

- lighting barbecues in designated public spaces
- lighting open fires
- using portable stoves or fire pits
- discarding lit cigarettes or other smoking materials
- any activity that creates an unnecessary fire risk during periods of heightened wildfire risk

The precise details and locations covered by any future PSPO have not yet been determined. Deadline for comments was 11 September 2026. The Parish Council did not submit a comment.

D. **CCC Capital Grant Applications 2027-2028**

CCC is now accepting Parish Capital Grant applications for 2027-2028. Only one application may be submitted per parish council for a grant up to £5,000, for a project which must be delivered between 01 April 2027 and 31 March 2028. Deadline for applications is midday on 03 December 2026. An online workshop has been arranged for 29 October 2026 for anybody wishing to seek further guidance.

E. **Canterbury Housing Advice Centre Presentation**

Canterbury Housing Advice Centre has invited councillors to attend a presentation on the work they do in preventing homelessness on 07 October 2026.

F. **Resident suggestion for Additional Bins**

A resident contacted the Clerk to suggest dog waste bins on the small green opposite The Rose and the Playing Field. The resident felt it a 'health hazard' for people to put litter into overflowing bins with dog poo bags hanging out. The Clerk advised that CCC do not support the installation of new dedicated dog waste bins due to their small capacity. The Clerk also provided the online link to report overflowing public bins to CCC.

The resident also suggesedt a receptacle for recycling outside The Rose Public House on the small green, which has been discussed separately as Item 14 above.

G. **KALC News August and September 2026**

Previously circulated via email.

All other correspondence was noted.

**18. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Cllr Twyman advised that this year's Harvest Festival is on 27 September 2026 at 11am in St Andrew's Church. Refreshments will be provided. The tractor and trailer will be circulating the village for donations, as per previous years.

The Little Stour River Day is being held 26 September 2026. A water quality talk will be held in the village hall from 11am to 12pm, followed by riverside demonstrations from 12.30pm to 2.30pm, then river dipping for families from 3pm to 4pm. The Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership, who are running the event, have suggested families use the village green for picnics. The Parish Council had no objections to this.

The meeting closed at 9.16pm.

Signed……..... (Chairman)

Date…….....

**15 September 2026 Appendix – Copy of Reports**
**County Cllr Mike Sole – August 2026 Report**
August is always a quiet month with very few council meetings, although I did attend the only parish council meeting that took place, Womenswold. I've certainly enjoyed meeting lots of people at many different community events in the month.

With the schools now returning it can be a stressful time for those starting new schools, and it is never helped by issues around school transport, particularly bus capacity. Please let me know about any issues and I will work with KCC and Stagecoach to get things resolved. I also continue to work with families on KCC transport appeals.

I continue to discuss planning enforcement issues in Barham with the City Council and update residents when I can, with information that I am able to share.

It can often take a long time for 20mph limits to be agreed and installed. I was very surprised to learn from KCC that a 20mph limit was agreed in the Homersham area of Wincheap when the houses were completed 22 years ago, but despite all the required legal orders being made, there was an oversight and the signs were never installed! This will now be rectified. Better late than never.

The junction of Rose Lane, Bishopbourne, with Bonny Bush Hill has very poor visibility, but thanks to the landowner and parish council, it has been significantly improved with the cutting back of vegetation. KCC have agreed to improve things further with SLOW painted on the road near the junction. National Highways have also confirmed that the missing NO ENTRY signs will be replaced soon at the end of the slip road opposite.

I'm pleased that KCC have performed a u-turn when it comes to repairing the kerb stones and white lines alongside the Little Stour in Nargate Street between Littlebourne & Wickhambreaux. They had initially refused to take action, but after I asked that they reconsider, they visited and have agreed that the work is safety critical and will be done once they have permission from the Environment Agency to work near the river.

Cllr Lee Castle and I are holding a surgery at the Ivy Barn, Littlebourne 10:00 – 11:30 on Thursday 03 September 2026.

Email: mike.sole@kcc.gov.uk

**City Cllr Lee Castle – August 2026 Report and Updates Given at Parish Council Meeting**
At the start of Summer further information was received regarding the proposed new council arrangements as part of the ongoing local government reorganisation. Under the current proposals, Canterbury district will join with Dover and Thanet to form a new East Kent unitary authority. Cllr Castle advised at the Parish Council meeting that the government has paused Local Government Reorganisation, which is likely to delay the implementation of the new unitary authority by a year until 2029, assuming the process will recommence.

Residents are encouraged to get in touch if they have any questions about the proposed changes. Further information and literature will be sent out by your Liberal Democrats councillor Team over the coming weeks and months, and I will continue to share updates as more details become available.

Across the villages, casework has continued on a range of local issues. In **Wickhambreaux,** remediation works are being pursued following graffiti damage to one of the local pillboxes. In **Ickham**, a significant water leak opposite The Duke William pub was raised with a contact at Southern Water, with a request that the company also liaise directly with parish councils where appropriate. Further water leaks have also been followed up in **Littlebourne** and elsewhere in the district, including **Seaton.** Residents are encouraged to continue reporting

issues through the relevant water company reporting systems and to share details of any unresolved problems so they can be followed up where necessary.

In **Bramling**, new incidents of fly-tipping have been reported and followed up, with requests made for additional signage and further support for residents. In **Littlebourne**, damage to the Elders play park has left some equipment beyond repair. The play park team is currently reviewing the available options and costs for a practical solution to allow the space to reopen for residents. Casework has also continued in **Bekesbourne** on planning, parking and speeding matters, while in **Adisham** this has included housing matters and planning issues relating to new development. In **Ickham**, a resident experiencing persistent bin collection problems has also been supported, with the matter being followed up through the appropriate channels.

Speedwatch sessions have continued across the villages, with additional roads in Littlebourne now added to the system. Groups in **Littlebourne, Ickham, Wickhambreaux** remain active and are continuing to recruit volunteers. If you would like to get involved and help monitor speeding in your village, please do get in touch.

Highways defects remain a concern, with a number of reported faults still awaiting repair by Kent County Council. Residents are encouraged to continue reporting issues and to share details with me so that they can be pursued with KCC where appropriate.

Concerns have also been raised regarding parking at Grove Ferry, which falls within **Wickhambreaux** Parish. I will continue to liaise with the parish council and ask Canterbury City Council to consider whether there are options that can better support drivers while avoiding unnecessary impacts on local businesses. Parking has also been raised in **Littlebourne Ickham and Adisham** and I will liaise with the parish councils to discuss any new ideas or communications.

Residents should also be aware that the operator of the number 11 bus service has changed, with Regent Coaches now taking over the delivery of the subsidised rural service. I will continue to monitor any feedback on the service and raise any issues that arise. Stagecoach is also revising one of the two an hour 43 buses to be numbered the 44 and this will now connect to Thanet. But two services and hour will remain.

Looking ahead to September, I plan to attend parish meetings in **Littlebourne, Wickhambreaux and Ickham**, as well as a full Council meeting and various other pop-ins and residents' meetings.

Councillor Sole and I will also be holding a residents' surgery at the Ivy Barn in Littlebourne on Thursday 3 September 2026, from 10am until 11.30am. Residents are very welcome to come along and discuss any local concerns or casework.

As always, please do get in touch if there is anything I can assist with or if you would like a local issue followed up. I am always happy to raise matters with the relevant council, organisation or service where I can.

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

**KCC Community Warden Roger Lithgow – August 2026 Report**
During August I have conducted extensive Visible Presence across my two Ward areas of Sturry, Little Stour and Adisham -- including one day a week in Nailbourne until a new Community Warden is recruited.

**Little Stour Ward**
Bekesbourne – I spoke to a Dr who wanted to build stronger working connections with KCC's Community Warden Service in her medical practice – I forwarded details for her to discuss further with NHS.

Bekesbourne Coffee Morning (once a month) – I attended and spoke to the organisers and residents about my role and attended to build stronger working relationships.

Adisham - I visited an elderly couple in the village to give them a No Cold Callers door sticker, which they were happy to receive as they had previously had a workman do some work for them and then repeatedly came back to see if he could do other work. He had been seen for a while, but the door sticker was given as an discouragement should he return.

Adisham – I noticed a lady in a car with engine running while I was walking by, but when I returned 10-15 mins later, she was still there, which raised a concern in my mind. I approached and established through gestering -- her baby was asleep in the car, and she didn't want to disturb it. She appreciated me checking on them.

Ickham – while in village a resident advised there has been a facebook update asking if anyone owned a green bin which was opposite the church. No one replied in two weeks, so mentioned it to me and I contacted CCC who said they would collect it.

Ickham – Preparation for having a Community Warden Display/stall at the Summer Fayre, but sadly event was cancelled.

Community Event – Preparation completed for:- Chill Out and Chat – Community Warden Drop-In – starts from Thursday 03rd September 2026 between 2pm – 3:30pm and runs every Thursday 2pm-3:30pm in The Ivy Barn, Court Hill, Littlebourne – An opportunity for residents in Little Stour to raise concerns or to have general chats about anything. The aim is to build community cohesion, community resilience and hopefully friendships. It's an opportunity to help reduce isolation and loneliness and signpost residents to get support and connect with public services. Occasionally there maybe times when I cannot attend at short notice due to KCC Community Warden Service priorities and commitments.

**Nailbourne Ward**
I have been involved in obtaining the second year of funding for the Chair Yoga event, which runs every other Thursday at Barham Village Hall. I needed to liaise with funding organisation, as this was initially arranged through the former Nailbourne KCC Community Warden. I needed to gain a report of the previous year and how it was progressing and to establish who is the project leader and the continuation of the funding for the second year. I regularly attend Coffee Stop at Barham Village Hall on Tuesday mornings to establish if there are any local issues of concern to deal with.

**Canterbury**
Referral received to check on a homeless person in Canterbury – House to house enquires made and advice given to residents. I also established person was wanted by police for failing to attend court. I liaised with Kent Police regarding the matter, provided more information, and established police had dealt with the person the night before.

**Swalecliffe (Whitstable)** – I was asked to do a joint KCC Community Warden visit, with the Swalecliffe Community Warden, as there were concerns raised about a vulnerable adult possibly being cuckoo'd. Outcome: Indepth conversation was had with resident and we established he wasn't being cuckoo'd by criminals, and he had care support in place throughout the week, with enough people keeping an eye on him.

**Other commitments**
Funeral – I attended a Hoath resident's funeral, for someone I knew as their former Community Warden, and I had been keeping in contact with. I was there out of respect and to represent Kent County Council's Community Warden Service. My presence was appreciated by family and the residents of Hoath.

Email: roger.lithgow@kent.gov.uk

**Linda Lodge, Neighbourhood Watch – September 2026 Report**
A rural crime series involving the alleged theft of high-value farming navigation systems has been swiftly tackled by Kent Police.

Two men suspected of conspiring to steal from nine victims across the county are currently in custody ahead of their first appearance at Canterbury Crown court on Monday September 14 2026.

It is alleged they were involved in the theft of GPs equipment from tractors and other agricultural machinery at an estimated cost of over £170,000.

These offences were identified as a crime series by officers from Kent Police's Rural Task Force ahead of what is expected to be another busy autumn tackling crimes that have a disproportionate impact on farming communities. These include thefts of plant and vehicles as well as wildlife offences like poaching and hare coursing.

**Locally the most commonly reported crimes during July 2026 (Little Stour and Adisham):**
Violence and sexual offences –15
Anti-social behaviour – 7
Criminal damage and arson – 5
Other theft – 2

This is a rise of 13 crimes reported in June 2026

**Anti-social Behaviour (ASB)**
Anti-social behaviour is any action that causes or is likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to people who do not live in your home.

Members of NHW agree that ASB is consistently one of their biggest concerns.

ASB is a term that covers a range of behaviours. Because the definition is so broad, recognising what ASB is, can be difficult. Reporting it can also be confusing. The challenge with ASB is that what one person may consider to be antisocial behaviour, another person may not.

- **Noise nuisance** including loud music, banging, DIY at unsocial hours, loud parties and frequent visitors at unsocial hours.
- **Household disputes** including shouting, swearing and fighting.
- **Harassment and intimidation** including intimidation through threats or actual violence, abusive behaviour aimed at causing distress or fear to certain people e.g. elderly or disabled people, and verbal abuse.
- **Environmental antisocial behaviour** including dumping rubbish, animal nuisance, including dog fouling and dogs barking, vandalism, property damage and graffiti, antisocial drinking, driving in an inconsiderate or careless way, for example, drivers congregating in an area for racing/car cruising, and arson.

For more information go to www.ourwatch.org.uk