DETLING
PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Detling Parish Council held at the Village Hall Pilgrims Way Detling at 7 pm on Tuesday 1st September 2026.

Present: Councillors Clive English (in the chair) Laura Maclaren, Steve Jubb, Stephen Thompson, and Bianca Wilmott and 10 members of the public.

1) Appointment of Chairman. In the absence of the Chairman, Councillor English was appointed to Chair the meeting.

2) Councillor Vacancy. No nominations had been received.

The meeting was adjourned for questions from the Public.

There were again questions raised about Queensway Footpath. It was reiterated that the Public Rights of Way section at KCC was pursuing it. A number of other issues were raised but are included under the agenda items below.

The meeting was reconvened.

3) Apologies: Apologies were received from Councillor Chris Houlihan, Borough Councillor Vanessa Jones Co and County Councillor Sarah Emberson.

4) Declarations of Interest or Lobbying. There were none.

5) Requests for Dispensations. There were none.

6) Items to be taken in closed session. After some discussion, it was agreed to take items 19 to 22 in closed session, having applied the public interest test.

7) Minutes of the meeting of 4th August. The minutes were agreed unanimously and duly signed as a correct record

8) Matters arising. It was noted that the Minutes were not on the website yet and suggested a second admin was needed for the website.

8) Appointment of Working Groups. Councillor Thompson was nominated for the Vision Working Group and Councillor Houlihan would be approached. Several members of the public had indicated interest. Councillor English was nominated for the Comms Working Group and Councillor Wilmott is considering joining. It was noted all Councillors can attend meetings of Working Groups.

9) Highways Report. Councillor Maclaren updated the meeting on the last Highways Working Group Meeting, including the latest situation with the 20-mph scheme, Hockers

Bends Safety improvements, which are due to start on 14th September and the M20 junction 7 improvements. DPC has written to Helen Whateley to ask her to press for a higher priority.

The HWG is awaiting the baseline traffic survey data and is continuing to push for a safe footpath out of the village, and the damage to the Jade Crossing steps, and the general volume of rat-running traffic. KCC Deputy Cabinet Member Spencer Dixon had been invited to a meeting to discuss detailed issues. The HWG continues to press KCC on the issue of achieving southbound restricted access on the A249 and remains concerned about the lack of enforcement for matters such as the restricted access signs. A meeting is being arranged with KCC officers and the County Member to pursue a number of issues. The Group continues to press South East Water on the issue of tanker traffic in Hockers Lane. The pothole in Hockers Lane has now been fixed but a number of faults remain including the steps to Jades crossing. Residents are urged to keep reporting faults. The issue of the X3 bus service was being pursued.

10) Open Spaces Working Group. It was noted that no parking signs had been placed by the Land Sheriffs at the Hornish Wood entrance to secure emergency access. Maintenance here and at Monks Meadow was proceeding well and there was a management plan in place running until 2031. The Group had supported the designation of both sites as Local Nature Reserves and the Council agreed to support this and to inform MBC accordingly.

A tree and bulb planting event will take place later this year and the outcome of the playground grant application is awaited. Sadly, the playground has suffered some vandalism, which has now been repaired. Regular inspections continue. It was agreed to put a piece asking for volunteers to create a bulb area by the Cock House and consider minor repairs to the War Memorial and Bus Shelter.

11) Water Supplies and Sewage Network. Councillor Maclaren updated the meeting with her discussions with South East Water relating to the Tanker traffic in Hockers Lane. The company had now finally erected the restricted turning signs and promised to try to police their own drivers but had little control over private vehicles using the site. The Council agreed to submit a motion relating to Water supply and Sewage disposal issues to the KALC County AGM in October to be put forward to the National Association seeking Government Action on key issues. Councillor English would circulate a draft for comment prior to submission.

12) KALC. It was noted that the Annual Parish conference with MBC would be on 19th September.

13) Correspondence. There was none.

14) Planning.

A) Land at Hockers Farm Reference 26/500485/FULL. Amended plans and additional information. It was agreed to submit additional comments if required. It was further noted that the date for the Planning Committee discussion was still unconfirmed.

B) Cobham Manor Thurnham Reference 26/500529/FULL. It was agreed to continue to object on traffic and highway grounds.

C) Update on Enforcement Matters. There was no update.

15 Financial Matters.

A) Finance Report. This was adjourned until the next meeting

B) Payment of Invoices. The list of submitted invoices was agreed.

Cheque no	Payee	Reason	Nett	VAT	Total
500303 *Paid out of meeting*	DCK Payroll	Payroll	31.50	6.30	**£37.80**
500304 *Paid out of meeting*	Hopkins	AED aftercare	207.90	41.58	**£249.48**
500305-6 *Paid out of meeting*	Staff costs				
500307 *Paid out of meeting*	Mrs W Licence	Expenses	64.98	1.55	**£66.53**
500308	Mrs L Maclaren	Land registry fees			**£14.00**
500309	Paul Waring	Grounds maintenance	1,482.70	296.54	**£1,779.24**
500310	DCK Payroll	Payroll	31.50	6.30	**£37.80**
500311	Citisense Ltd	Traffic surveys	1,595.00	319.00	**£1914.00**
500312	Mrs W Licence	Expenses			**£54.98**
500313-4	Staff costs				

C) Consideration of a Grant from Detling Cricket Club. This was deferred until the confidential session.

15) Village Vision. The terms of reference of the Working Group were agreed.

16) Speedwatch Councillor Jubb updated the meeting on Speedwatch which was operating well but needed more volunteers. Consideration was being given to working with Bearsted.

17) Communications strategy. The terms of reference for the Comms Group were agreed.

18) Digital Friends. Digital Champions Network. Councillor Wilmott reported KCC had finally responded and a meeting had been arranged to discuss options for future work.

At this point, the meeting entered confidential session. The next meeting will be on Tuesday October 6th.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.00 pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting:

Chairman

Date: 6 October 2026