



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 2 September 2025 in the Meeting Room, Detling Village Hall

Present: Cllr Clive English, Cllr Chris Houlihan, Cllr Steve Jubb, Cllr Laura Maclaren and Cllr Stephen Thompson;
and Mrs Wendy Licence (Clerk).

Also present were County Councillor Sarah Emberson and nine members of the public.

Cllr English welcomed everyone to the meeting

Public Time

The meeting was adjourned for the Public Time

Members of the public asked about the Queensway alley; the Tudor gate; and The Larches.

The meeting was reconvened

1. Councillor Vacancy

An expression of interest had been received.

2. Apologies.

All Members were present.

3. Declaration of Interest. or Lobbying

None declared.

4. Dispensations

None.

5. Items to be taken in closed session

None identified.

6. Approval of the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 1 July 2025

a) To consider the minutes of the previous meeting and if in order sign as a true record.

Cllr Maclaren **proposed** to accept the minutes as a true record; **SECONDED** by Cllr Thompson: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

b) Matters arising from the minutes (except those issues appearing under specific headings)
There has been slow progress on the Village Hall lease.

7. Highways

Cllr Maclaren reported that there had been a meeting of the Highways and Transport Working Group which had been very constructive. The Bearsted Road/Notcutts road improvement scheme has started and the contractor is trying to limit the disruption to the traffic throughout the works. KCCllr Emberson has been supporting us on finding out when the M20/J7 roundabout improvements will be scheduled as this is critical to traffic issues in Detling and for all Detling residents. The Parish Council will contact National Highways.

KCC Highways will consider a 20mph limit excluding Hockers Lane, there will be a consultation and residents are urged to respond. The Speed Indicator device will be installed at the top of Hockers Lane and will require volunteers to install them.

Parking is important to everyone in the village, Maidstone Borough Council has carried out a parking survey and the results are due this will help give the Parish Council options to consider. A meeting will be arranged soon with the shop, village hall and other affected organisations.

The *NO THROUGH ROAD* sign has been installed but unfortunately the sign is facing the wrong direction; KCC Highways will install a second one.

Three drainage grips will be installed on the approach to Jade's Crossing between the bridge slope and the War Memorial on the south side of the Church Lane on 15-18 September; there will be temporary traffic lights.

8. Open Spaces

a) To receive report from the Open Spaces Working Group

Cllr Maclaren reported that the Open Spaces Working Group has met. Horish Woods and Monks Meadow is being well-maintained by the volunteers and thanks were expressed to Donna, Daren, Ann and John for all their continued hard work. It was decided not to proceed with a boulder as the wood chippings are working well.

b) To consider quotation for play area inspection

Cllr Maclaren **PROPOSED** to accept the quotation of £220 from TMPI Ltd for the annual inspection of the play area: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

9. Detling Community Store

Councillors considered request for permission to erect a small store at the back of the container between the tree and the fence to the playing field. It was agreed that the Community Store could proceed as long as the litter bin is emptied regularly and the run-off does not go down the footpath to the playing field. It was suggested that maybe a permeable surfacing might be an option.

10. Visitors

a) Police

Cllr Houlihan reported that the Police had held a community event in the village; PC Ben Cox said there were no issues for Detling.

b) Borough Councillor

MBCCllr Thompson reported that the Borough Council is holding a Parish Conference in the Autumn. Under the Local Government review process, Borough and County Councillors will disappear and Parish Councils will be the local point of contact. The Lynch Bank Farm Appeal came up at Planning Committee as a result of our efforts, there were some positive gains on the process. There is lack of progress on the Heathlands and Lidsing developments which are still in strategic technical control, the documents are not fit for purpose to progress. Part of the Local Plan passed in 2024 said the transport network on the A249 should be included in the supplementary planning documents.

c) County Councillor

KCCllr Emberson reported that Kent County Council has announced its highways budget with a pledge to spend £67,000,000 on roads: including £25,000,000 to construct new roads, £10,000,000 on preventative measures, £11,000,000 on quick efficient repairs, £7,000,000 on urgent repairs to keep footpaths safe, and £4,200,000 on pothole patching.

The Local Governance Review is time consuming, and a proposal will be submitted to the Government by the end of the month. The Local Governance Review will have serious implications for Council Taxpayers.

KCCllr Emberson said that she is on the stakeholder steering group for Heathlands, three members have resigned. There are lots of serious questions regarding infrastructure.

Cllr English thanked KCCllr Emberson for being a regular attendee of the Parish Council meetings.

11. Correspondence

The Clerk reported that there have been two requests for grants and these will be dealt with at the next meeting. A developer had requested to attend the meeting on 1 September; they will be arranging a public consultation.

12. Planning

Ref: 25/503355/TCA

Address: The Granary The Street Detling Kent ME14 3JU

Conservation area notification to reduce one Robina (T1) to a height of 4m and 0.5m spread.

Councillors requested the matter be referred to the Tree Officer.

13. Financial Matters:

a) Finance report

Cllr English thanked the Clerk for her work on grant applications for funding for the play area improvements.

b) Invoices for payment

Cheque no	Payee	Reason	Nett	VAT	Total
500227 <i>Paid out of meeting</i>	DCK Payroll	Payroll	31.50	6.30	£37.80
500228 <i>Paid out of meeting</i>	Paul Waring	Grounds maintenance	1805.3 0	361.0 6	£2166.3 6
500229 <i>Paid out of meeting</i>	Newington Parish Council	Share of SLCC fees	72.00		£72.00
500230 <i>Paid out of meeting</i>	Administration	Expenses			£60.65
500231-2 <i>Paid out of meeting</i>	Staff costs				
500233	DCK Payroll	Payroll	31.50	6.30	£37.80
500234	KALC	Training Courses	50.00 35.00	10.00 7.00	£102.00
500235	Mr S Betts	Updating honours board			£120.00
500236	Administration	Expenses			£95.20

500237-8	Staff costs				
500239	Detling Village Hall	Room hire			£24.00

Cllr Maclaren **PROPOSED** to make the payments; **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

c) Review of Financial Regulations

Cllr English **PROPOSED** to adopted the revised Financial Regulations: **SECONDED** by Cllr Thompson: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

14. Speedwatch

Cllr Jubb reported that Speedwatch continued throughout the summer period in Hockers Lane; a site in The Street is being considered. Between 7.30- 8.30am today, three hundred vehicles passed, two were speeding- the parked cars help to slow down traffic. There is a need for more volunteers to enable more sessions to be held.

15. Community Governance review

Cllr English said Maidstone Borough Council is carrying out a Community Governance Review. Parish boundaries have been reviewed and some changes made. The Council is now looking at two other sites, the unparished part of the town centre and the parishes around it. If a Unitary Authority is created it would be further removed from the people. The Council is reviewing the status of Grave Green and Thurnham West, there is no direct proposal for Detling. All residents in Maidstone are being consulted, the process is not aimed at the most rural parishes.

Cllr Thompson **PROPOSED** a response be finalised outside the meeting: **SECONDED** by Cllr Maclaren: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

ACTION: Cllr English to circulate a draft response to Members for consideration.

16. Communications

The Clerk reported that the Facebook page is live and attracting followers.

Cllr Thompson said Detling Parish Council Facebook page is for information only.

ACTION: Councillors to draft a list of items for the Facebook page.

17. To consider Assets of Value to the Community

Cllr English said a briefing note was circulated. The Council is looking at how it will protect sites and how, if there is development, we can improve the lives of the people of Detling.

Date of next Parish Council Meeting– Tuesday 7 October 2025

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.58pm.

Signed as a true record of the meeting:

Chairman

Date: 4 November 2025