



KINGSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council Held on 13th April 2026

Present: Cllr Paul Chatley (Chair); Cllr Davina Martin (Vice-Chair); Cllr Jerry Cook; Cllr Laura Spencer; Cllr Andrew Johnson; four members of the public.

1. Chairman opening remarks, apologies, and approval of absences: Cllr Chatley welcomed everyone present and thanked them for attending the meeting. Emily Arnold had given her apologies, Cllr Spencer agreed to be Clerk for the duration of the meeting.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting: The minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 2nd March 2026 were approved as a true record, proposed Cllr Cook, seconded Cllr Johnson and were then signed as a true record.

3. Declarations of Interest: None.

4. Co-option: None.

5. Public Forum: A member of the public asked about CB553 and when it would be opened. Cllr Chatley reported that the Clerk had contacted KCC and it was still awaiting the next step from the Secretary of state but that they had a huge backlog.

Another resident raised a question about cows being sited in that area. Cllr Chatley reported that he had been contacted by a resident about that but that he directed him to Mike Sole who he is meeting on Friday and if KPC need to be involved Mike Sole will let us know.

The Parish Council was updated on a recent incident in the barn and field due to extensive criminal damage. The police are involved but some councillors felt the damage deposit was too low and perhaps non Kingston residents should pay more. A resident asked whether the PC was going to contribute to the damage caused to the barn and field on Friday night. Cllr Chatley said that he had spoken to the KVHT Treasurer and told him that if required KVHT can apply to the PC via a grant application. One of the bins on the field was damaged, Clerk to report it to CCC.

6. Reports from Kent Police, County and City Council members: Cllr Sole's report is on the council website and Facebook.

7. Matters arising (if not already on the agenda): Cllr Chatley reported that a resident had contacted the council regarding their son doing some litter picking as part of his Duke of Edinburgh award. The Clerk is investigating whether this is possible due to insurance concerns, NB it should be noted that currently litter picking in the village is undertaken on an informal basis and at the individuals own risk.

A planning application CA/26/00337 for a 2m crown reduction had come in with a response date before tonight's meeting. It was circulated by the Clerk and there were no objections.

HIP had been circulated with the section on PROW removed as it is not a highway issue.

8. Finance:

a. Payments and Receipts: Bank Balance as of 31st March 2026 was Current Account £1407.06 and Saving (Instant) Account £12,497.29 – **Total;** £13904.35 (which includes a £11,000 reserve and £583.31 Village Society).

Payments made in March: Expenses to the Clerk £125.67, Unity Bank charge £6 – Proposed Cllr Cook, seconded Cllr Johnson - Approved

b. Payment to Hythe Tree Care £390 (VAT £65) - Approved

c. £1,000 transfer from Savings to Current Account – Agreed.

d. Diane Mummery agreed to be our internal auditor.

e. Report on the Councils reserves at the end of 2025/26 financial year had been circulated as was agreed.

9. Planning:

For noting – 92 The Street, Kingston – Single Story front porch extension - **Granted**

CA/24/02217 – Erection of single story holiday accommodation – **Allowed with conditions**

CA/26/00234 – The Peak, Covet Lane, Kingston CT4 6HU – **Awaiting decision**

10. Miscellaneous Parish Council Matters:

- a. Kingston Brooch: To contact owners of field to arrange a date to inspect.
- c. Grounds Maintenance Contract: Quotes requested from 5 companies but only Andrew Sage responded so 3 yr contract awarded to him.

11. Highways, Footpaths and Trees:

- a. Embankment: Missed tree has been cut down. Quotes being obtained for works (Adders). Only 1 quote so far for £4890. Clerk to seek further quotes and apply for grants.
- b. Bushes – Black Robin PH: Clerk continuing to contact landowner with concerns over fence.
- c. Queens Tree: Tree guard has been purchased and installed. Clerk to sort out new plaque.
- d. Trees at Greenacres: CCC application has been granted. Clerk to obtain quotes for the Accacia trees.
- e. Salt Bin – Marley Lane: It has been put back into its normal place.

12. Matters for future discussions: Annual Village meeting. Cllr Chatley to produce poster for notice board, Facebook and Village magazine. Clerk to contact local groups for their yearly reports.

13. Date of next meeting: 18th May 2026 (Annual) at 7.30pm in The Barn, Kingston.

Meeting finished 8.20pm

Signed: _____ Chairman

Date: _____

Future meeting dates:

8th June 6th Jul, 7th Sept, 5th Oct, 2nd Nov and 7th Dec 2026 7.30pm in The Barn, Kingston

27th May (village) 7pm in The Barn, Kingston