

## **Minutes of the Littlebourne Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 18 MARCH 2026 at Littlebourne War Memorial Hall Lounge at 7pm**

### **Present**

- Parish Councillors; Cllr Peter Farrow, Cllr Mick Giles, Cllr Brian Hurlow, Cllr Cate Reid, Cllr Andrew Fraser, Cllr Melanie Moore.
- Clerk Mrs Gail Hubbard
- Community Warden Keeley Taylor
- There were 11 members of the public present.

### **1. WELCOME & APOLOGIES**

The Chairman, Cllr Farrow welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending. Apologies for absence were received from Parish and City Cllr Lee Castle and Parish Cllr Rebecca Marsh.

### **2. CHAIRMANS REPORT**

**Chairman, Cllr Farrow gave his report, as follows:**

The Chairman began by thanking the rest of the Cllrs, the Clerk and Mrs Clayson for their work over the last year. He also thanked the LPC Action Group and their work against the development on The Hill, thanks especially to Tim Bostock, Richard Andrews, Henry Fitch and Henry Boucher.

The Chairman gave an update on the Gladman appeal, which had occupied lots of time and energy over the last couple of years. At the appeal the inspector had allowed a lot of discussion and comments from third parties, which LPC and the action group were part of. The now agreed permission is outline at this stage and almost all the details will come under reserved matters (access, drainage, house styles etc).

On the positive side there will be 300 homes for people to live happily in Littlebourne. There is a promised community hub, although we don't know what form that will take yet. There will be CIL money that comes to the parish, this is based on the square footage of the properties built.

#### **Over the last year**

- 20mph zones in the village which should improve safety
- Cherry Orchard is much more readily open for residents to enjoy the activities
- GPC – General Power of Competence. Our Clerk Gail completed her CiLCA qualification which has enabled us to declare ourselves eligible for GPC. Congratulations to Gail.

#### **Coming up**

- LPC need to keep on top of the reserved matters applications as they come in
- LGR – which will start to take shape this year and over the next two years. Presently PC's remain unchanged in this reorganization, although some un-parished areas might end up with a PC.
- We need more Cllrs for Littlebourne, currently one vacancy but shortly due to have a further vacancy as Chairman is not planning to continue past May.
- LPC need to keep an eye on the potential site behind the doctors on Court Hill and any application (in the draft Local Plan).

### **3. MINUTES OF 2025 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

The 2025 minutes were proposed by Cllr Reid, seconded by Cllr Giles and AGREED. These minutes are available on the LPC website, and a paper copy is available tonight if anyone wishes to read them.

### **4. 2026 MILLENNIUM AWARD**

The Nominees for this year's award were:

Tim Bostock  
Karen Weaver, Rachel Armstrong & Chris Armstrong  
Chris & Rachel Armstrong  
Peter Fowkes and Elizabeth Jackson  
Kevin Howell

The Chairman announced this year's winner as:

**TIM BOSTOCK** – For his tireless detective work and efforts over the last few years to help understand and protect the Little Stour (and local community) from additional sewage impacts posed by the draft Local Plan and proposed Gladman development on The Hill.

Tim was presented with a cheque for £200 and his name will be added to the honors board in the hall.

Cllr Reid at this point thanked Cllr Farrow for his work as Chairman over the last seven years.

### **5. COUNTY AND CITY COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

- **Cllr Lee Castle gave his report through a video as follows:**

Good evening, everyone apologies that I cannot be there as I am attending a City Council cabinet meeting followed by the full council vote on the local plan.

It's been an interesting and busy year both in Littlebourne and across the district. I'd like to begin by offering some thanks firstly than you to Gail our parish clerk who is the glue that holds the parish council together and supports me with various case work issues across the village. I would also like to thank all the parish councillors as well as the various residents groups and all residents and volunteers and for your continued engagement. From the excellent progress in Cherry Orchard – what a turn round to the working groups in Turners Orchard, the Eco group, the Afternoon club, the singing clubs, the sports clubs, the uniformed groups and other classes in Littlebourne. We are incredibly fortunate to have such a wide range of activities and dedicated volunteers.

I would also like to thank everyone that spoke at the planning enquiry into the appeal at The Hill, in particular a very special thank you to Peter Farrow Chair of the parish council and all members of the parish council action group who worked tirelessly to challenge the developer on the site on The Hill. Without their drive and energy that developer would have pushed the scheme through a lot quicker than they have. There is still along way to go with reserved matters and as your District Cllr I will continue to work hard to ensure every detail is properly reviewed, discussed and carefully considered.

Over the past year I have been personally in a wide range of casework, I won't repeat all my monthly reports but ongoing issues have included; planning enforcement, dog fouling, bin collections and parking enforcement to name just a few. In addition I have also continued with my work within the Cabinet at the City Council, in my role for property and IT supporting commercial and residential, community and retail developments.

I hope that I have been a visible and accessible and candid Cllr and that I can help or at least signpost residents on any matter they raise regardless of whether it falls within my role as City Cllr.

Finally this summer we expect to hear from central government about planned changes to local government reorganisation, this would likely mean elections in 2027 for a new East Kent Authority, major changes for residents and the council alike. As more information becomes available, I'll ensure residents are kept fully informed about what it means for them and how the authority will begin to take shape.

I hope you have a pleasant evening and as always if I can be of any assistance please do get in touch, many thanks.

- **Cllr Mike Sole's report was read out by the Clerk:**

This is my report for Parish Council Annual Meetings.

I was delighted to be re-elected as the Kent County Councillor for Canterbury South last May, with an increased majority and vote share.

There were significant changes at KCC with control passing from the Conservatives to Reform UK, and the Liberal Democrat Group that I am in doubling in size to become the official opposition. I think that most people would acknowledge that it's been a rocky first year for the new administration, most with no previous political experience and often a lack of understanding about the powers and responsibilities of a county council. Of the 57 Reform councillors elected last year, 1 is now in prison, 7 have joined a new more right-wing Restore Britain party, 1 has joined UKIP and 1 is an independent.

Every time that there is a change it affects committee places so there has been a lot of "messaging around", and with the merger of some committees I lost my place on the growth and economic development committee, but I remain on the Kent Fire Authority and Flood Risk Management Committee.

Despite all of the media headlines and political shenanigans I have continued to work with officers to get things done. In particular this includes highway improvements, and I can't stress enough how important it is for parish councils to have a Highway Improvement Plan that is regularly updated and to request regular meetings with KCC to move it forward and check on progress.

In July we will be told by government how Kent will be split into Unitary Councils. Elections to these councils will take place in May 2027 and after a year in a shadow role, in 2028 KCC and Canterbury City Council will cease to exist. There are several possible models for a unitary council in our area, but the most likely options are either an East Kent Council comprising Canterbury, Dover & Thanet, or a larger one that would also include Ashford and Folkestone.

Finally, I do have a small grant fund available for community projects. In the last year this has funded outdoor learning and play schemes at Wincheap Primary School, a dishwasher at Ickham Village Hall, sports facility in Bridge and chairs for Kingston Barn (Village Hall). Please get in touch if I can assist with anything or you know of local community groups that would benefit.

## **6. KCC COMMUNITY WARDEN**

Keeley introduced herself and gave her report as follows:

Neighbourhood: social issues/ disputes:

- Resident reported untaxed vehicle parked in front of a gateway in the layby on Nargate Street, Littlebourne. Reported to DVLA. Vehicle has now gone.
- Resident reported Vehicle had driven onto the grass at the end of the Littlebourne Village Hall Car park. Reported to Lee Castle and the clerk.

Safety and reportable incidents:

- Whilst on patrol three broken drain covers in Littlebourne have been reported. Two have been replaced. Third one is logged to be fixed.
- Potholes in Grove, Adiaham and Bekesbourne were reported and have been filled.
- Fly tipping on Grove Road reported and removed.
- Fly tipping on Swanton Lane reported and removed.

Community engagement and signposting:

- Visits made to Bekesbourne Coffee morning- issue of missed rubbish collection reported and was collected by the end of the week.
- Regular visits made to The Parish Council office to share office space and information.

Keeley will be transferring to the Dover, Folkestone and Hythe Team from the 1st of April. KCC will not be recruiting until April. It is uncertain at this moment as to whether Roger Lithgow will be returning to cover the area while a replacement can be found.

## **7. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND LOCAL ORGANISATIONS**

- **Sloyden & Durrant Charities**

Cllr Giles annual report was read as follows:

**'Potted history' of Sloyden & Durant Charities**

**DURANT:** John Durrant of Bekesbourne in his Will dated 9 Jan 1560 left bequest of the ground rents on Malthouse Cottages, Littlebourne, to be distributed to the poor of Littlebourne.

Ground rent sold out to BBRDC in 1969 for £20. and money invested.

Charities No. 206253

**SLOYDEN:** In his Will dated 5 Jan 1568 left 7 acres of land which was to be let and the money used for the poor of Littlebourne and Wickhambreaux.

This continued until about 1965 when the land was sold to Messrs J Mount & Sons for £450. This was split into two accounts, one for Littlebourne and one for Wickhambreaux. Littlebourne money invested with Charities Commission.

Charities No. 206645.

I've just found a letter dated 6<sup>th</sup> March 1969 from the Bridge Blean Rural District Council for the ground rent on the Maltings cottages for 1968 for £1-1-6.

An old account book shows income and payments made to residents in 1961 of 3 shillings and sixpence each, increased to 4 shillings in 1962, 5 shillings and sixpence in 1963 and in 1966 £1-2 shillings each.

We rely entirely on cases of hardship to residents being brought to our attention and can assure that any payments made will be confidential, last year no such cases were brought to our attention.

As usual the current account book is available to view which of course does not contain any personal details.

The old account book I mentioned earlier can also be viewed after the meeting if anyone is interested.

- **LPC Community fund**

Cllr Giles report was read as follows:

A report by Cllr Mick Giles at the Annual Parish Meeting held in the War Memorial Hall on the 18th March 2026 to which all residents were invited.

Purpose:

To facilitate the distribution of the rent received from the Parish Council funded extension to the 4 Villages Store, by providing finance for community events and projects in the Parish of

Littlebourne through the village organizations and / or others and where funding from any other source is not available or is incomplete.

Since our last Annual Parish Meeting in 2025 we have provided the village Christmas tree as we will do annually and supported the war memorial hall with £1800,50% of the cost of new chairs.

Since the fund was set up in March 2013 we have been able to fund projects and events totalling £44527.44 leaving a current balance of Approx £ 13901.52 and last year's rental payment of approximately £3900 is due later this year.

To any village organisations and others considering running events or projects they feel would benefit the community please take advantage of this fund. Applications to the chairman Cllr Mick Giles Tel 728228 or email [crr.giles@littlebourneparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:crr.giles@littlebourneparishcouncil.gov.uk)

The committee will give all applications careful consideration.

Full details including written estimates and quotations are required as is the production of final invoices and detailed expenditure on completion of the event or project.

- **Traffic Action & Highways Group**

Cllr Hurlow read his report, notes as follows:

Cllr Hurlow reported that one of the current HIP (Highway Improvement Plan) schemes had come to fruition this year: the 20mph scheme for the side roads, time would tell how effective this has been. There are other schemes in the pipeline that will hopefully move forward over the next twelve months.

The speedwatch team of volunteers will be in action again very soon, thanks to these volunteers for being so keen to keep vehicles speed down in Littlebourne.

- **Littlebourne Horticultural Society**

Chairperson Emma Wellard read here report as follows:

Emma explained that LHS manage the allotments on behalf of LPC and are currently full (120 members) plus a couple of people on the waiting list.

It is possible that the allotments are 90 years old this year, dates need to be checked.

The reception class from Littlebourne School came to site and met the chickens and did some planting.

A free cycle station has been introduced onsite.

LHS are planning to join in with the Open Gardens planned for later this year.

Thanks to all the committee members for their work over the last twelve months.

- **Littlebourne War Memorial Hall**

Chair Sue Bull read her report as follows:

YEAR REPORT 2025/26

The Littlebourne War Memorial Hall Committee is very pleased to report that we have had another successful year. Our range of hirers is diverse and covers all age groups and many

interests. There is something for everyone and we are very proud that our hall continues to offer a wide range of possibilities.

We have had some issues with the plumbing this year and must acknowledge that some of the infrastructure in the hall is quite old and so we will need to look at replacement issues over the coming year.

The roof is in a much better condition now that the leak in the Heritage Room has been repaired and so far, we have had no other leaks, although we are always mindful that more work may need to be done in the future.

The recycling has been successful and so we feel the hall has been working in a far more sustainable manner.

A new carpet has been laid in the lounge as well as new flooring in the kitchen area. This, together with the recent redecoration, has made the lounge a cleaner and nicer area to use.

Our current project is to replace the chairs in the main hall, as the old chairs are coming to the end of their useful life. We are grateful to the Community Fund for their support with this. We are looking very carefully at replacements as we want to get this right. We have obtained a sample chair for us to have a look at as we want to focus on comfort, weight of the chair and ease of cleaning. We feel it is better to take our time over this to ensure we get the best possible purchase.

We would like to thank all those who support the Hall. The Parish Council, the 4VPO, the Community Fund and the CCC and, of course, all those who choose to hire the hall for their various functions. It is their contributions, and the work of the Committee and those who come and help, when necessary, that keeps the Hall in the position of a great asset to the village, and we hope it will continue to be so well into the future.

- **Four Village Eco Group**

Helen Howard read her report as follows:

We founded the Four Village Eco group two years ago as a way of addressing issues of sustainable living, environmental concerns and climate change at a local level within the Four Villages: Littlebourne, Wickhambreaux, Ickham and Stodmarsh.

We have a growing list of members in the group and an active Facebook page for discussion, eco tips and links. A core of about 12 of us continue to meet monthly to plan activities and discuss ideas. In addition a small sub group of us meet regularly to discuss issues around sustainable living. On 28 March we have arranged to meet up with a few groups from nearby villages such as Sustainable Adisham, Wingham Against Single Use Plastic, Ash Wildlife Friendly Village and various individuals to share ideas and plans, as we all have a different environmental focus. We are also represented at meetings of Canterbury Climate Action Network, Canterbury Biodiversity Network, and Kent Sustainable Communities Network, for similar reasons.

Our recently installed a bin for used blister packs in our Primary Care Centre in Littlebourne continues to be well used, and our members empty it and take the packs for recycling to Boots or Superdrug. It is pleasing to see the mini-library at the Ivy Barn being used as a free

book exchange by customers for both children's and adult books. We still provide monthly green tips and information in the Church & Village magazine.

The number of customers for the monthly visits of the Refillable Van is gradually increasing (third Saturday, 1.15 – 1.45, outside the primary school), which is very pleasing as it is such a good opportunity to reduce the use of plastic packaging.

A group of us learnt a great deal from our visit to Nonington Farms, a local regenerative farm last June, and late last year a group of nine members undertook an educational and eye-opening visit to the energy-from-waste incinerator at Allington, which is where all the rubbish from our "landfill" bins is taken. We continue to actively provide support to Littlebourne's valuable Cherry Orchard Nature Reserve on their Open Days and Art and Nature days for children. These events have been well supported and much appreciated by the public both from local villages and by families from as far as Canterbury, Dover and Faversham.

Our working relationship with the school is continuing this year. Last July we invited Year 6 children to a "bioblitz" in Turner's Orchard and have offered to do this again this year. The children enormously enjoyed searching for living things, and we identified and recorded at least 81 species. The school appreciated the time, effort and expertise we provided for the children so we look forward to working with them again.

We plan to offer information about renewable energy again this year but this time in September. This will include a repeat of the Electric Car Show where interested people can talk to happy electric vehicle owners and get good information on the pros and cons straight "from the horse's mouth". We will also offer visits to homes with solar panels and batteries, car charging points and both kinds of Air Source Heat Pump.

Other plans include running a Citizen Science Month, joining the Canterbury Swift Project to see if we may get swifts nesting in Littlebourne again, and arranging a visit to Monkton Nature Reserve to see the numerous species of orchids there in late spring/early summer.

*'Nature is critical national infrastructure. When we destroy it, we increase floods, heat deaths, food insecurity and economic instability. When we restore it, we reduce risk, save lives and strengthen the economy.'* Professor Nathalie Seddon, at National Emergency Briefing on climate and nature, given to MPs and other influential people in November last year.

The growing engagement in the natural world shown by people in the villages and beyond is very encouraging. The ongoing environmental crisis can feel overwhelming and it's easy to feel that it's not worth doing anything as an individual. Being part of a group like this is a great way of feeling connected and a little more powerful. Please check out our Facebook page or email Helen or Kirsty for further information. We would love to welcome more members!

*Helen Howard and Kirsty Seymour Ure*

- **The Barn**

Richard Barton read the report from Graham Duplock, Acting Chair as follows:

Our beautiful thatched barn, tucked away beside the Church, is owned by Canterbury City Council and managed by a dedicated group of local people who form the Barn Committee.

We are supported by a group of local supporters which is open to all to join. The Barn and lands were historically owned by St Augustine's Abbey and it was used for produce storage.

The committee seek to arrange heritage events and manage bookings for the Barn and Pantry, which are available for hire between 7am and 7 pm to raise funds to enhance the Barn. We have recently funded installation of new ceiling lights and a new curtain to conceal the storage at the North end of the Barn. We hold and research further archive material tracing the history of the barn and sell a number of publications on the Barn.

Each year the Barn and Pantry are open to celebrate National Heritage Weekend on the second weekend of September, with a display of the Littlebourne Art Group works, Barn Committee members are on hand and can give tours of the barn.

Our main fundraising event is the very popular Barn Christmas Craft Fayre with Santa, held at the end of November.

This year following strengthening of our committee we are holding:

- A Fresher's Fair Day inviting all village/local organisations to present themselves to the community on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May 10.00am to 2.00pm
- A Summer Fun Day /Craft Fayre on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June 10.00am to 4.00pm
- Hosting the National Heritage Weekend on 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> September
- Barn Christmas Craft Fayre on 22<sup>nd</sup> November
- Throughout the year we have various Dog Training sessions which can be booked

Our 2026 AGM will be held on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April in the Lounge, Littlebourne VH at 7.00pm and ALL are welcome.

Finally, I should like to thank the Committee and all our volunteers for their support during the past year. We would welcome recruitment any further volunteers

- **BT phone box**

Cllr Moore gave an update on the phone box adoption

Cllr Moore explained that LPC have agreed to adopt the disused red phone kiosk on the High Street, with the intention to initially refurbish it and improve its appearance. The kiosk could then be used for any number of purposes, this is yet to be decided but LPC welcome any suggestions. The plan is to initially setup a working group. Please contact [Cllr.Moore@littlebourneparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.Moore@littlebourneparishcouncil.gov.uk) if you wish to be involved or have any suggestions.

- **Cherry Orchard**

Written report provided as follows:

YEAR SUMMARY FOR PC PARISH MEETING MAR 18<sup>th</sup> 2026

Mar 25 – Our Open Morning was all about minibeasts, with a trail of minibeasts to find, made out of natural items. Activities, included building a wigwam minibeast hotel to take home. Angela and Kirsty set up an Instagram account. Helen attended a further PC meeting.

April – Easter Monday was our Spring Open Morning with the flowering of our bluebells. A trail was all about the different birds, that might use our nestboxes and their eggs. Wendy and Karen also started Art and Nature Sessions during the Easter holidays.

May – This month visitors were able to discover about identifying trees from their leaves, using a Leaf iDial, that they made. Other tree activities were also provided. Another Art and Nature Session sculpting bird models was very successful.

June – Our June Open Morning was celebrating Wildflower Meadows with activities including meadow bingo and making a collage of a meadow. Our Art and Nature Session produced some really detailed paintings. Alan Legge attended the PC meeting to speak on our behalf and the PC agreed, that they needed to visit the reserve, as most had never visited. This took place on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

July – The Open Morning was during the Big Butterfly Count, so we could take part in this annual survey. A colourful array of various butterfly crafts were produced. We trialled an Art and Nature Session for young children on the theme of a Teddy Bear's Picnic with a minibeast hunt and making crowns decorated with natural objects. Alan attended the PC meeting to present our 6M report, along with Karen and Wendy. We were asked to provide more open times. We approached the Conservation Society to ask if we could have an affiliation with them, including a section on their website.

Aug – During the school holidays we provided 2 open mornings on Thursday mornings, exploring moths with a hugely successful moth trapping the night before and then exploring the lifecycle of dragonflies and damselflies. Various crafts were on offer at both events. We also started to provide 2-hour drop-in sessions with a volunteer onsite on a mix of dates. Activities for these are self-led and provided in the nature hut.

Sept – Solitary bees were our theme for September, with a trail to collect the different lifecycle stages of mining and solitary bees. They were then able to make these into a chart to take home, along with other crafts. Kirsty put together our promotional leaflet, which was then sent to print. We continued with dates for the drop-in sessions. Wendy had asked Mick Lonergan earlier in the year, if he would carve a sculpture from a piece of the last cherry tree from original orchard, that came down in the storms of Dec 24. He came and positioned his magnificent owl up the top in the middle of the log sitting circle and Wendy provided a write up explaining all about it.

Oct – Another dry morning for our Open Morning this time titled Mad about Bats. Visitors were given a factsheet to aid them with answering bat questions hung up around the reserve and crafts included making a bat from natural items and finger puppet bats. Alan Legge kindly delivered leaflets to the entire village. We have provided drop-ins on 3 mornings a week and half-term saw 2 extra events on offer: a booking necessary art session and an open session with an autumn theme.

Nov – Our theme was on the weird & wonderful world of fungi with a trail exploring the many fungi, that we find on the reserve & also locally. Some great collages were produced of fungi with natural materials.

Dec – Natural Christmas Decorations were hugely popular & included Xmas treats for the birds, natural wreaths & log disc snowmen. We also provided hot chocolate & marshmallow toasting over the fire pit.

Jan 26 – This month saw us continuing major tree & hedge work and progressing with our winter project of increasing areas of refuge/shelter for small mammals, reptiles, amphibians minibeast etc. This also links with our work with the RSPB to attract Turtle Doves back. We

were hugely grateful for a grant award from The Kent Mammal Group, that will enable us to finish all these works. We were aided by the warden & volunteers from Stodmarsh Nature Reserve who came along for a day to help with hedge cutting. Chris Armstrong also came with his works chipper, so we were able to produce bark chip for the woodland area paths.

Feb – This open morning was all about small mammals & their secret lives, which enabled us to explain our current project. An array of pinecone mammals were crafted, including shrews, voles, weasels & also mole & hedgehog crafts. Half term saw us opening for an animal homes event, learning facts & making a variety of crafts. Most popular were a pine cone squirrel, complete in a drey & a robin in its nest.

Mar – Awesome owls were celebrated this month & despite the rain & gloom we had a good turnout. Pine cone Tanny owls & owlets were crafted in large numbers & visitors learned about the 5 species of owl found in the UK, including the Tawny owl, which visits the nature reserve.

We continue to maintain/develop the reserve & look forward to further developments over the coming year.

## **8. RESIDENTS QUESTIONS**

A resident raised a suggestion to enable pedestrians to walk off the road between The Green and the cattle grid entrance to Garrington, would there be any chance of creating a gap in the hedge to allow walkers to walk along the edge of the field just for this section. LPC to look into this possibility and speak with landowners. There was also a further comment raised with regard to the access road/link through the Gladman site.

The meeting closed at 8.22pm.

Signed..... (Chairman)

Date.....

***Please note these minutes will remain unapproved until the APM in 2027***