

**LITTLEBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING 4 MARCH 2026 HELD AT 7PM IN THE LWMH MEETING
ROOM**

Present: Parish Cllr Peter Farrow (Chairman)
Parish Cllr Mick Giles
Parish Cllr Melanie Moore
Parish Cllr Rebecca Marsh
Parish Cllr Cate Reid

Mrs Gail Hubbard, Clerk to the Council
There were no members of the public present.

142. THE CHAIRMANS OPENING REMARKS AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Castle, Cllr Hurlow and Cllr Fraser.

143. DECLARATIONS OF CLLRS INTERESTS AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

There were none.

144. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 18 FEBRUARY 2026

The minutes from the previous meeting were proposed by Cllr Moore, seconded by Cllr Giles and AGREED as a true record of the meeting. They were duly signed by the Chairman.

145. POLICING AND COMMUNITY WARDEN

The clerk advised that the Police are holding a coffee with a cop event at Mama Feelgoods in Bekesbourne on Monday 30th March at 2.30pm.

146. ADJOURNMENT

There was none.

147. COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cllr Mike Sole was not in attendance but his monthly report main items below:

- The Kent County Council budget meeting lasted eight hours. I proposed an amendment to the KCC budget to increase the expenditure of pothole repairs, but the Reform administration decided to instead spend the money of political assistants. Similar amendments to increase expenditure of speech & language therapists and reduce the cost of 16+ school transport were also not supported by the administration.
- I continue to work with parish councils and KCC on highway improvements. We had a very productive meeting discussing options to improve road safety in Lower Hardres.
- With the Nailbourne flowing I am in regular contact with the City Council engineering team who are coordinating much of the works.
- I attended a meeting of the Kent & Medway Fire Authority where the budget was agreed

148. CITY COUNCILLOR

Cllr Lee Castle was not in attendance, but his monthly report main points are below:

- This month included Full Council and the annual Budget Meeting. I'm pleased that we agreed a balanced budget that protects essential frontline services while continuing to invest in key priorities for our district. With councils across the country facing financial pressures, it remains vital that we manage resources responsibly while supporting residents and planning for the future.

- The Local Plan has also reached an important milestone. This plan outlines where development is expected to take place and provides clearer guidance for residents and parish councils. It will be considered at a special Full Council meeting in March before entering the next consultation phase. Following that, a Planning Inspector will review the full plan and all supporting evidence, a lengthy process likely to continue well into 2027.
- The decision on the Gladman appeal has now been issued. Unfortunately, the appeal has been allowed by the Planning Inspector. Although this decision was made nationally and not by the District Council, I know many residents in Littlebourne and across the wider district will be disappointed, especially after such a long process. While the outcome is not what many hoped for, I will continue to keep residents updated as the application progresses, with all reserved matters still to be determined.
- In Littlebourne, I am working with officers to push for footpath clearance and maintenance to keep routes safe and accessible.

149. PLANNING

There were no current applications this month, no Appendix 2.

APPEAL APP/J2210/W/25/3373813 – THE HILL, LITTLEBOURNE

The decision to allow the appeal and grant planning permission for an outline planning application for up to 300 residential dwellings was issued on 26th February following the three day hearing the previous week.

LPC expressed their disappointment with the outcome of this appeal, the council and action group have worked extremely hard over the past two and a half years on fighting this application. The focus going forward will need to be on the reserved matters applications when they come through and trying to ensure the protection of the existing village.

One positive to come from the development will be the CIL monies that will come to LPC to spend on infrastructure projects within the parish. There would also be more time for LPC to concentrate on other matters in the parish.

GOFUNDME DONATIONS

A total of £3629 had been raised via the LPC Gofundme page, this money had been donated to help cover any legal costs involved with fighting the appeal. In the end the council did not engage the services of a barrister as LPC chose for many reasons not to be a Rule 6 party. Experts were used in the appeal process, some offered their services without charge, so the end cost has been kept to a minimum.

Cllr Moore proposed, Cllr Marsh seconded and it was AGREED that;

1. That LPC refund all of the donations made via the Gofundme page.
2. That if the two experts we are awaiting to hear back make a charge this would be covered from the money set a side in EMR for legal costs.

Clerk to action the refund process and update the page explaining the reasons for the refund. It was also suggested that there was no reason another Gofundme page could not be setup again the in future if needed.

150. HIGHWAYS

Cllr Giles reminded Cllrs that the 20mph window and wheelie bin stickers were now available for collection from the parish office. Clerk to also bring to APM and freshers fayre for give out.

151. RIVER

Cllr Moore reported that boards had been removed by the EA to allow the alleviation channel to flow and Cllr Giles confirmed that regular tankering out of the sewer is now happening in both Nargate Street and at the Green.

152. FINANCE

AUTHORISATION OF ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

There were no receipts NOTED for the month. The expenditure list previously circulated to Cllrs as Appendix 3 totalling £881.35 and Appendix 3a totalling £3,035.44 were proposed by Cllr Moore, seconded by Cllr Marsh and AGREED by all. So it was RESOLVED that the payments set out be authorised – attached at end of minutes.

153. CLERKS REPORT CORRESPONDENCE

A. CCC Community sports facility survey

Clerk has completed this on behalf of LPC, questions on current sport pitch provision.

B. Road safety and Active Travel Group seminar

Invite to one of two in person events being held in east Kent by KCC which will include HIP/road safety items on the agenda. Clerk to attend Deal event for WPC so will feed back. Circulated to Cllrs.

C. Letter from KALC Canterbury Area Committee on dog fouling

They are launching a co-ordinated campaign to address persistent dog fouling in the district and CCC's disappointing level of support. Short survey included on dog fouling in our area included, this was completed and will be returned by the clerk.

D. Email from Martin Vye, a convenor of the Canterbury Alliance for Sustainable

Transport. He is investigating the possibility of setting up a BUG (Bus Users Group) for Canterbury District, they have one setup in Whitstable already. The first step is asking parishes for details of problems or suggestions for the bus service in our area. The following was suggested to be shared:

- Not enough capacity during morning rush hour/school rush. A single decker is currently being used at this time and is regularly full before all the village children have got on.
- Loss of evening service – down to one an hour or one very two hours at times
- Last bus home from Canterbury too early – can't go for a meal in city, have to rely on a taxi home
- Main service only serves A257, rest of village have to walk to there. Apart from bus along Nargate Street which is every two hours at best

All other correspondence was noted.

CLERK REPORT

POTHoles IN CARPARK

Have reopened up over the winter, clerk to seek some quotations for repairs.

EV CHARGE BAYS

Rubber car stoppers still awaiting repair from Connected Kerb.

LARGER LITTER BIN FOR THE LIST

This has been ordered and once delivered the clerk will arrange for it to be installed and the existing one removed and stored. Bin identical to the one purchased for the Laurels.

154. ADOPTION OF RED PHONE KIOSK ON HIGH STREET

It was proposed by Cllr Moore, seconded by Cllr Marsh and AGREED that:

- 1. LPC adopt the Listed K6 red phone kiosk outside the Old Post Office, 22 High Street, Littlebourne at a cost of £1.00. Contract to be signed and returned to BT by the clerk.
 - 2. A working party is setup, led by Cllr Moore to renovate the phone kiosk before a decision is made on possible uses for the kiosk going forward.
- Clerk to let direct neighbours know of the plans to adopt the kiosk.

155. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING ARRANGEMENTS

Final agenda will be issued by the clerk next week. Reports have been invited and several have already confirmed their attendance. Refreshments to be served after the meeting.

156. AOB FOR INFO ONLY

Cllr Marsh raised a query regarding the marking out of a rounders pitch on the recreation ground, this would not interfere with the cricket or football pitches. Cllr Giles did not see an issue with this but suggested she also checked with the Cricket and Football Clubs before moving forward.

The Chairman, Cllr Farrow mentioned that he would not be standing for Chairman again at the May meeting, he would also not be present at the April meeting. Vice Chairman, Cllr Giles would Chair the April meeting in his absence.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm.

Please note these minutes will remain unapproved until the next LPC meeting

Dates of future meetings: 18 March (APM), 1 April, 6 May, 3 June, 1 July, 2 September, 7 October, 4 November, 2 December 2026.

Signed..... (Chairman)

Date.....

(A) FINANCIAL MATTERS

(a) **RECEIVED** the bank statements for January 2026 and **RESOLVED** the signature of the Chairman thereon.

(B) RECEIPTS

None	
TOTALS	
	£0.00

(C) DIRECT DEBITS

GPC	Unity Trust	Monthly account fee March	7.00
GPC	Lloyds Bank	Monthly account fee for account March	4.25
GPC	Lloyds Bank	Monthly account fee for Community Fund account March	4.25
GPC	NEST	March pension payment	124.13
TOTALS			£139.63

(D) AUTHORISATION OF ACCOUNTS

GPC	BACS	Jacob Holy Property – toilet cleaning Jan/Feb	126.00
GPC	BACS	Expense payments (reimbursement of expenses incl MS Office)	152.88
GPC	CHQ109	Millennium Award winner 2026	200.00
GPC CIL	BACS	Glasdon – new larger litter bin for the List track	402.47
GPC	BACS	UK Office Direct – office stationary and printer ink	243.42
GPC	BACS	Salary payments March	1922.02
GPC	BACS	SMS CIS payroll – payroll services to end QTR	36.00
GPC	BACS	Bourne to Garden – contract mowing Feb	660.00
GPC	BACS	New Build Landscapes – Laurels open space maintenance contract	174.00
TOTALS			£3916.79