



Boughton Aluph & Eastwell PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7.15pm on Wednesday 8 July 2026 at
Sandyacres Sports & Social Club, Sandyhurst Lane, Ashford, Kent

Present:

Cllr Peter Burrows
Cllr Adrian Coles
Cllr Spencer Phillips
Cllr Doreen Titmuss

Absent:

Cllr Chelsea Pearce
Cllr Jessica Fermor-Fox

In attendance:

Parish Clerk Mrs Rachel Girt, representative of Boughton & Eastwell Parish Council (until item 63/26.)

60/26. Apologies were noted from Councillor Fermor-Fox

61/26. Disclosures of Interests, Dispensations, Predetermination or Lobbying

None

62/26. A representative from Boughton & Eastwell Cricket Club updated the Parish Council on the build progress & the internal fitout. An opening event is planned for 18 July now that building control has signed off the build.

63/26. **Resolved:** to confirm as an accurate record, minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 29 June 2026.

64/26. i. **Resolved:** to note income & expenditure account for the period ended 30/6/26.

ii. **Resolved:** to agree payments schedule, note credit card and payments made in June. Councillors Coles & Titmuss to authorise online payments.

iii. **Resolved:** to note change in HMRC tax free rate of mileage reimbursement for business

mileage under 10,000 miles and approve claims at the new rate of 55p/mile for staff and councillors on eligible council business from April 2026.

iv. **Resolved:** to approve payment of the annual ICO registration fee by direct debit.

65/26. The quote from Clear Councils has been requested but not yet provided. Payment authorised to be made once quote received as this is a mandatory item for business continuity. The Council is on year two of a three-year agreement.

66/26. No members of the public were present.

67/26. The lease & licence to Boughton & Eastwell Cricket Club is being reviewed for any necessary updates by the solicitor at Surrey Hills. Clarity of text has been improved, review ongoing.

68/26. The reports of the Clerk to the Parish Council dated 17/6/26 & 8/7/26 were noted (appended). The Clerk additionally reported the launch of the Crisis & Resilience fund “Summer Heating Oil Scheme” by Ashford Borough Council. It is intended to try and offer oil households some resilience with regard to managing their fuel bills. Councillors are encouraged to let people know about the fund which is available to people in low incomes.

69/26. The Clerk had been contacted by Ashford Borough Council regarding insurance of Sandyacres.

70/26.i, **Planning Applications & Planning**

The Parish Council is a *consultee* of Ashford Borough Council, the Local Planning Authority. The Parish Council *is not* the Planning Authority (it does not make planning decisions).

Case Reference: [PA/2026/0918](#)

Location: Lenacre Hall Farm, 393 Sandyhurst Lane, Boughton Aluph, Ashford, TN25 4PF

Proposal: Listed Building Consent for the localised remedial repair works arising from Subsidence damage, to include repointing, brick replacement, rebuilding of a later infill panel, repair of selected plaster finishes and damaged floor finishes

No objection

ii. National changes to the ‘calling in’ of applications to principal authority planning committees were explained. The legislation comes into effect in October 2026 and will make planning committees used as the exception and officer decisions routine. Locally the biggest change will be that ward Councillors cannot call in any decision to committee. They may only be decided by committee where national guidelines permit.

71/26. **Resolved:** to delegate proposed response to the consultation on the Kent Downs National Landscape Management Plan to the Clerk. Intention to support proposed management plan as guided by Parish Council policies and Neighbourhood Plan. Any comment to reach the Clerk by 15 July.

72/26.i. Motion not required (no public): to exclude members of the public and the press for item 13 in accordance with section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings Act) by reason of the confidential nature of the business (legal, contractual & data protected by GDPR 2018).

ii. A minor inconsistency had been noted between the two plans of the area for the battery installation at Sandyacres. This was checked with the solicitor, both had been approved by Ashford Borough Council and were in order.

iii. **Resolved:** to approve signing deed or surrender/lease variation at Sandyacres in the Parish Council's capacity as custodian trustee subject to satisfactory amendment of name & address at head of lease.

73/26. i. Motion not required (no public): to exclude members of the public and the press for item 14ii. in accordance with section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings Act) by reason of the confidential nature of the business (employment).

ii. Overtime hours for additional work undertaken by the Clerk from April to date were approved.

The meeting closed at 7.50pm.

Appendix 1

Payments approved:	Gross	VAT
Mrs R Girt reimburse stationery	5.79	0.00
RP Wood (All Seasons Gardening) 5658	108.00	18.00

HMRC

Overtime payment as per wages schedule

Payments made:	Gross	VAT
Kent Association of Local Councils	48.00	8.00
RP Wood (All Seasons Gardening) 5615	54.00	9.00
Mulberry Local Authority Services	130.00	26.00
Mrs R Girt reimburse (Post Office Identity Service & Special Delivery of documents to solicitors)	22.70	0.00

Report of the Clerk to the Parish Council: 17/6/26

Highways Improvement Plan

- Correspondence received from Borough Councillor Michael regarding safety issues at junctions of Guernsey Way has been added to items for consideration into the next HIP.

Lease & licence to Boughton and Eastwell Cricket Club

- Identification checks were completed for the Clerk as Proper Officer on behalf of the Parish Council with the solicitors.

Sandyacres Padel Courts

- The planning application will be considered by Ashford Borough Council planning committee on 17/6/26.
- Ashford Borough Council & Sandyacres Trustees were both contacted. Both confirmed Parish Council funding to the Sandyacres Trust does not overlap with ABC funding and remains necessary.

Annual Fayre on the Green

- Boughton & Eastwell Cricket Club confirmed to the Parish Council that all safety related assessments and provisions were in place prior to the event.

Kent Downs National Landscape Draft Management Plan

- A consultation is underway on this document for 2027-2032. This is the AONB and the current plan is referenced in the Neighbourhood Plan (NP). Given the importance of it to the NP, a proposed draft response from the Parish Council will be shared ahead of the July meeting and considered at the meeting.

Councillor Vacancy

- No election was requested to fill the vacancy in Goat Lees ward. Ashford Borough Council has now advised that the position may be filled by co-option.

Report of the Clerk to the Parish Council: 8/7/26

Ashford Local Plan 2043

National Government has brought in a new local plan-making system that is intended to make Local Plans quicker, clearer and more consistent. As a result, Ashford Borough Council (ABC) has advised that it cannot continue the Ashford Local Plan 2042 through the old route and must restart under the new system.

ABC Council will now prepare a new plan, to be known as the Ashford Local Plan 2043.

They have said that earlier evidence gathering and general themes raised in response to previous plan making stages remains important background information and will help inform the new process. Planning policy means they must restart, but in an enhanced position to move swiftly forward along the new plan-making process.

Once the detail of the impact on the Neighbourhood Plan review timeframe becomes clear, the council will be updated.

Further information can be found on the [ABC website](#).

Community Warden Update

The Clerk has been working with owners of a potential base for the warden whilst in the Parish, including meeting with the warden operational manager to answer questions that had arisen. The Clerk is due to meet with the venue representatives at their next meeting later in July.