



Boughton Aluph & Eastwell PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7.15pm on Wednesday 10 December 2025 at Perry Court Tearoom, Canterbury Road, Ashford, TN25 4ES

Present:

Cllr Adrian Coles
Cllr Jessica Fermor-Fox
Cllr Spencer Phillips

Absent:

Cllr Steven Bartholemew
Cllr Peter Burrows
Cllr Paul Curry
Cllr Chelsea Pearce
Cllr Doreen Titmuss

In attendance:

Parish Clerk Mrs Rachel Girt

122/25. Apologies with reasons were approved from Councillors Pearce and Titmuss (prior commitments). Apologies were also received from Councillor Bartholemew, and subsequently to the meeting from Councillor Burrows.

123/25. Disclosures of Interests, Dispensations, Predetermination or Lobbying

Interests must be re-declared when an item is called.

Members were reminded any member with council tax unpaid for more than two months is prohibited from voting on the budget or precept by Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and must disclose at the start of the meeting that Section 106 applies to them.

124/25 Opportunity for Members of the Public to Address the Meeting
None present

125/25. Minutes

Resolved: The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 17 November 2025 were agreed as an accurate record by the Council and signed by the Chairman.

126/25. Finance

- i. **Resolved:** to note income & expenditure account for the period ended 31/10/25.
- ii. **Resolved:** to agree payments schedule and note credit card and other payments made. Councillors Pearce & Titmuss to authorise online payments.
- iii. **Resolved:** to note draft minutes of the Finance Committee held on 17 November 2025
- iv. The recommendation of the Finance Committee to open a savings account with Hinckley & Rugby Building Society was agreed. Council was advised that there had recently been a change in the level of FSCS scheme to protect funds to £120,000 so the Parish Council is unlikely to need the additional protection but may benefit from a small amount of interest, albeit with additional administration. Council to open Easy Access account.
- v. The increase in Unity Trust monthly banking fees from £6/month to £7/month was noted (effective 1 February 2026).

127/25. **Resolved:** to award a grant of £600 to the Boughton & Eastwell Cricket Club towards the purchase of a new mower

128/25. **Resolved:** to approve the Safeguarding Children & Vulnerable Adults policy.

129/25. **Resolved:** to fund a KCC community warden for one day a week, employed by KCC from April 2026 or earlier if practical. Clerk to follow up with KCC regarding the activity reporting mechanism.

- 130/25. i. The proposed budget of £81362.84 for 2026/2027 was considered and approved.
- ii. A precept request for 2026/2027 of £40881.88 was approved.

131/25. The Clerks report was received (appended). It was reported that since publication the bi-annual tree survey had taken place as had the interim internal audit (both circulated). The Parish Council had also been successful with the application for the KCC Member Grant toward Chatty Café.

132/25. 11. To note any correspondence for attention of Councillors.

Sandyacres Trust & s.106 monies

- Ashford Borough Council s.106 office advised that Sandyacres Trust may claim s.106 money themselves rather than through the PC. ABC notes that this means VAT cannot be claimed (the trust is not VAT registered).

- ABC advises that the Parish Council could reclaim the VAT, however, all advice and enquiries to date have not identified any mechanism through which VAT can be claimed for any third party. The PC has access to detailed VAT advice through KALC to the national specialist if a potential mechanism is identified. A meeting has been arranged with Sandyacres Trust Chair of Trustees.

The meeting closed at 7.45pm.

Appendix 1

	Gross	VAT
Perry Court (Chatty Cafe)	270.00	0.00
RP Wood Ltd (5429)	45.00	9.00
Invicta Arboriculture	395.00	0.00
Perry Court (Chatty Café)	120.00	0.00
Mulberry LAS	224.65	44.93

Credit Card November:

Card fee	3.00
RWG mobile	3.50
Bilting Self Storage	46.00
RBLI wreath	50.00
Amazon (refurbish board)	29.97
Zoho Workplace	311.00
Print Junction	168.00



Report of the Clerk to the Parish Council: 10/12/25

Highways Improvement Plan

- There is a meeting booked with the KCC team in January following submission of our latest plan.

Training & updates

- A recording of the virtual KCC Highways Parish Forum is available via the KALC video bank.
- The Clerk now has registered for the KCC Highways Parish Portal (mentioned during the above forum) which should allow additional information to be disseminated to Parishes. Councillors and individuals should continue to use the [online fault reporting tools](#), as this remains the system for faults. [Reporting mechanisms for other issues](#), can be found on our website.

Events

- Chatty Café Perry Court continues on Thursday mornings at 9.45am. n.b. Chatty Cafe will not be running on 25th December & 1 January 2025.

Speedwatch

- Speedwatch sessions run in November by volunteers in the Boughton Lees part of the Parish resulted in 19 reports to Police. Many thanks to the volunteers and if anyone would like to learn more, please contact the Clerk or visit the [website](#).

Benches on the Green

- Many thanks to Councillor Bartholemew for the very tidy repairs made to benches on Boughton Lees village green.

Changes to lease at Sandyacres

- No further correspondence has been received to date from Ashford Borough Council or solicitors for the Parish Council following instruction.