



Boughton Aluph & Eastwell

PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7.15pm on Wednesday 15 April 2026 at Perry Court Tea Room

Present:

Cllr Steven Bartholemew
Cllr Peter Burrows
Cllr Jessica Fermor-Fox (from item 31/26)
Cllr Chelsea Pearce
Cllr Spencer Phillips
Cllr Doreen Titmuss

Absent:

Cllr Adrian Coles

In attendance:

Parish Clerk Mrs Rachel Girt

25/26. Apologies with reasons were accepted from Councillor Coles (meeting of a professional body.)

26/26. **Disclosures of Interests, Dispensations, Predetermination or Lobbying**
None

27/26 Opportunity for Members of the Public to Address the Meeting
None present

28/26. **Minutes**

Resolved: The minutes of the Parish Council Meetings held on 18 March 2026 & 9 April 2026 were agreed as an accurate record by the Council and signed by the Chairman.

29/26. **Finance**

- i. **Resolved:** to note bank reconciliation, income & expenditure account and expenditure against budget for the period ended 31/3/26.
- ii. **Resolved:** to agree payments schedule (appendix 1) and note credit card and other payments made. Councillors Titmuss & Pearce to authorise online payments.

iii. Resolved: to agree to offer travel expenses (mileage or public transport) to any Boughton Aluph Speedwatch volunteers who wish to attend the Speedwatch conference (to be held in Rochester, May 2026).

30/26. Resolved: to approve the Parish Council making an offer to increase the weekly refreshment provision for attendees to Chatty Café Perry Court (from the billed £30 to £60). Its success and growth has led to sustained weekly numbers of 25, and sometimes up to 30. Provision of refreshments is made for inclusion purposes.

Funding (approx. £1400 from May to March) to be allocated from £1680 underspend in the additional community project budget line for 2025/2026.

Councillor Fermor-Fox arrived during the following agenda item.

31/26. Noted: updated information received from Ashford Borough Council regarding timelines and spend on the padel court (in response to letter sent to the Sandyacres Trust, March 2026 minute ref. 15/26) Further clarification has been sought regarding the ABC funding made available.

Clerk wrote to Trust Chairman as per PC request. Subsequently:

- ABC assistant director of finance has advised a loan has been made available to the Trust.
- Environmental Contracts & Operations Manager at ABC supporting s106 fund application
- Noted correspondence from Trust to ABC regarding intent to make a planning application, architect appointed

Councillor Fermor-Fox declared an interest and took no part in the following agenda item.

32/26. Resolved: to host the Annual Parish Meeting, preceded by a social event for residents at Perry Court Tea Room. The Annual Parish Council meeting will follow immediately afterwards.

Councillor Fermor-Fox re-joined the discussion.

33/26. The Clerk's report was received (appended).

34/26. **Planning Applications**

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).

None received.

35/26.i. Motion not passed (no public in attendance): to exclude members of the public and the press for the following item in accordance with section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings Act) by reason of the confidential nature of the business (contract for a KCC community warden).

ii. Resolved: to approve contract with KCC for appointment of community warden.

The meeting closed at 7.40 pm.

Appendix 1

Gross	VAT		
1200.62	200.10	509750927	Kent Association of Local Councils
486.00	81.00		Community Heartbeat Trust
54.00	9.00	280023834	RP Wood

Credit Card March:

Card fee	3.00
RWG mobile	3.50
Bilting Self Storage	46.00

Report of the Clerk to the Parish Council: 15/4/26

Highways Improvement Plan

- The Highways Group will be meeting after the Parish Council meeting to consider KCC feedback and next steps regarding the A251.
- The Clerk is to attend of the Road Safety and Active Travel Group Seminar (run by KCC) in April on behalf of the HIP group, reflecting a key concern of residents.

Changes to lease at Sandyacres

- No current outstanding actions for the PC until further correspondence is received.

Defibrillator Cases

- Both of the 2 new lockable defibrillator cases have been delivered. The case for the defibrillator on the outside of the cricket pavilion has been installed and the machine is back in service and logged with The Circuit and therefore the ambulance service. Thanks to Martin Clarke (electrician) for installing the unit & certification free of charge. The other case will be installed at Sandyacres soon (no interruption in service as it replaces an existing unit).

Community Warden Visit

- The Clerk met with a warden and team manager to tour areas of the Parish. The contract with KCC is ready and the Clerk is assessing a suitable 'base' where rest break & quiet area facilities may be provided.

Tree branch pruning on the Green

- Many thanks to Matt Hall, tree surgeon who carried out the safety work free of charge on the lower boughs of an oak (as required by the arborist's report) situated on the green. This work had received planning permission.

Local Government Re-organisation

- The working group met with the Clerk to consider the merits of each option presented as part of the central government consultation, and submitted a response on behalf of the Parish Council. The consultation is technical consultation based on the best fit of each proposal to the government specified criteria. Consideration was carefully given to geographical coherence, democratic representation and economic practicality considering where the parish and Ashford sits in relation to its neighbours.