



Boughton Aluph & Eastwell PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on **Wednesday 10 September 2025** at Perry Court Tea Room, Canterbury Road, Ashford, TN25 4ES

Present:

Cllr Steven Bartholemew
Cllr Peter Burrows
Cllr Adrian Coles
Cllr Jessica Fermor-Fox
Cllr Spencer Phillips
Cllr Doreen Titmuss

Absent:

Cllr Paul Curry
Cllr Chelsea Pearce

In attendance:

Kent County Councillor Jeremy Eustace
PC Aaron Hopkins, (Ashford Rural North)
Parish Clerk Mrs Rachel Girt

85/25. Apologies were noted from Councillors Curry and Pearce.

86/25. Disclosures of Interests, Dispensations, Predetermination or Lobbying

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

None declared

87/25 Opportunity for Members of the Public to Address the Meeting

Cllr Eustace briefed the council on the latest updates regarding Local Government Reorganisation. He also mentioned that the Parish Council may be interested in funding project support from his member's grant

PC Aaron Hopkins, Ashford Rural North area updated the council on his recent work and listened to concerns.

88/25. Minutes

Resolved: The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 9 July 2025 were agreed as an accurate record by the Council and signed by the Chairman.

89/25. Finance

- i. **Resolved:** to note income & expenditure account for the period ended 31/8/25.
- ii. **Resolved:** to agree payments schedule and note credit card and other payments made.

Councillors Titmuss & Coles to authorise online payments.

- iii. **Resolved:** to note the [Local Government services pay agreement](#) 2025/2026 (cost of living) pay settlement which was reached in July and will be applied to the Clerk's salary, as per contract with effect from April 2025.

90/25. i. The Ashford Local Plan 2042 consultation process Reg.18 (first stage of consultation) has started with a comment deadline of 13/10.

The Parish council has been advised by local plan team that the Local Green Spaces in the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) are by virtue of being in the NP, already part of the Ashford local plan. These should not be re-submitted via the plan process (there is a submission form for local green spaces).

- ii. Resolved: to commission Tony Fullwood MRTPI for professional advice to assist the Parish Council in considering its detailed response to the consultation. This will be a policy-based response, at a maximum likely cost of £3600. £3000 has been provided for in the 2025/2026 budget. Any spend in excess of this will come from the resilience budget, (now not required).

- iii. Comments were noted, and councillors encouraged to advise the Clerk of any further comments that may need to be noted by Tony Fullwood.

91/25. Age related repairs to two benches on the Green are required. It was considered that these can be carried out by councillors which would extend their use temporarily.

92/74. The report on Chatty Cafe (Perry Court) was noted. It was resolved to extend supportive funding from the trial period for a further six-month period until the end of March 2026, with parish-based, very local promotion to be undertaken.

93/74. The Clerk is booked to attend (virtual) briefings on the new digital compliance assertion in the Accountability and Governance Review and the revised NPPF (planning) and the annual Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC) Finance Conference.

Councillors (a maximum of two to vote) are invited to attend the annual KALC AGM, and proposals for motions are currently being accepted.

Delays had been reported by Community Heartbeat Trust in the (international) shipping of the unit on order for Goat Lees.

94/25. Correspondence had been received from Boughton & Eastwell Cricket Club. They are awaiting an upgraded junction box to be installed, and security is being updated.

The Chairman of the Sandyacres Trust advised that they were now looking at installing a padel court, rather than tennis and that Ashford Borough Council would be pruning nearby trees in preparation.

The Clerk had been following up and encouraging potential community grant applicants and community project proposals.

95/25 i. **Planning Applications**

The Parish Council is a consultee of Ashford Borough Council, the Local Planning Authority. The Parish Council is not the Planning Authority.

Case Reference: PA/2025/1590
Location: 3 Hillside Cottages, Faversham Road, Boughton Aluph, TN25 4HU
Proposal: Single-storey rear extension.
View Files: [Click Here](#)

Support

The meeting closed at 8.30pm

Appendix 1

To pay:

Gross	VAT	Supplier
£ 108.00	18.00	RP Wood
£ 20.00		Perry Court Tearoom (meeting space)
£ 450.00		Perry Court Tearoom (Chatty Cafe)
£ 108.00	18.00	RP Wood
£ 18.00	3.00	KALC
£ 84.00	14.00	KALC
£ 18.00	3.00	Mulberry LAS
£ 2.00		Mrs R Girt (reimburse)

Credit Card July & August (each):

Card fee	3.00
RWG mobile	3.50
Bilting Self Storage	46.00