



**Birchington Parish Council
Extraordinary Meeting of the Full Council
Tuesday, 7th October 2025 at 18.30 hrs
In the Library, Alpha Road, Birchington**

Present: Cllr Nick Blankley (Chairman)
Cllr Max Houghton (Vice Chairman)
Cllr. Neville Hudson
Cllr. Jim Moore
Cllr. Bob Prebble
Cllr. Cllr John Tiley

Jane Bevan - Parish Clerk

6 x Members of the public

FC/2025/75 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Fellows, Cllr Brown, and Deputy Clerk, B. Anderson.

FC/2025/76 Declarations of Interest

None

FC/2025/77 Introduction by the Chairman and public participation.

The Chairman provided the background to the motion. He said that TDC discovered an error that they had made in the 2023 election where the election was held Birchington wide rather than being held across two wards – north and south Birchington. This error was only discovered in January 2025, when former parish chairman, Marcel Pooke, made enquiries to TDC about increasing the numbers of councillors for Birchington. Because there had been no objections submitted within 21 days of the election, it was deemed that the Parish Council and its subsequent decisions to date were legal. TDC had not formally informed the Parish Council of this error until June 2025. Following legal advice, a full council meeting of TDC was held. A vote was taken that the Parish Council could continue in its current form unless there was a resignation in which case a full election would have to be held. In September 2025, former parish chairman, Marcel Pooke, resigned from the Parish Council. The TDC Chief Executive Officer subsequently wrote to the Parish Clerk and Chairman to inform them that a meeting of the TDC Full Council would be held on 9th October 2025 with a recommendation that a full election in Birchington should take place.

The Chairman said it was felt that an election was unnecessary as the Parish Council had continued to discharge its statutory duties and had represented residents satisfactorily over the previous 6 months with 9 Councillors instead of 10 and that the

Action

next scheduled elections were only 18 months away.

Two members of the public subsequently spoke in support of the motion.

The Chairman thanked the members of public for their comments. He said

he would present the motion and then invite members for their comments.

A vote on the motion would then be taken. The Chairman then read out the motion.

FC/2025/78 Motion:

Birchington Parish Council believes that the Thanet District Council proposal for a full Parish Council election under current circumstances for the purposes of filling one councillor vacancy is disproportionate, unnecessary and not in the public interest.

The grounds are that the Parish Council has continued to operate effectively with nine members since May 2025. The business, financial and opportunity costs of a full election would far outweigh any perceived benefits - the people of Birchington would be no better off and most likely worse off than they are now.

Birchington Parish Council calls upon Thanet District Council to consider allowing the Parish Council to continue in its current form until the next round of parish elections.

Cllrs Houghton, Prebble, Hudson, Moore and Tiley all spoke in support of the motion.

A vote was then taken and was unanimous in favour of the motion. The motion was carried.

FC/2025/79 Date of next meeting

Tuesday, 25th November 2025 at 6.30pm in the Library at Birchington Library.

The meeting closed at 19.10 hrs

Signed by Parish Clerk

Jane Bevan

Dated: 22nd October 2025