



**Full Council Meeting of
Birchington Parish Council
Tuesday 3rd March 2026 at 18.30 hrs
at the Library, Birchington**

Present:

Cllr. Max Houghton Vice-Chairman
Cllr. Bob Prebble
Cllr. John Tiley
Cllr. Colin Brown
Cllr. Phil Fellows
Cllr. Neville Hudson
Cllr. Jim Moore
Cllr. Linda Wright

Jane Bevan Clerk to the Council

TDC Cllr. Emma Dawson
TDC Cllr. George Kup

5 x Members of the public

FC/2025/114: Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. Nick Blankley, KCC Cllr Luke Evans, TDC Cllr Reece Pugh, Deputy Parish Clerk Bill Anderson, Ward Police Officer PC Steve England, and Community Warden Jason Gordon.

FC/2025/115 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Hudson declared an interest in agenda item 9, Birchington Library Tenancy Agreement.

FC/2025/116 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th January 2026 were presented and were **Agreed** as a true record.

FC/2025/117 Vice-Chairman's Report and Public Participation

A member of the public referred to Speedwatch, access to the dip at Minnis Bay and the library tenancy. With reference to the library tenancy, they said the Heritage Trust and the Parish Council had been shoddily treated by KCC. .

Cllr Hudson said that Birchington historian Jennie Burgess had passed away the previous evening at the age of 92. She had been instrumental in setting up the Heritage Trust and had been awarded the Freedom of Birchington. Cllr Hudson requested a minute's silence was held in her honour. The Vice-Chairman agreed.

The Vice-Chairman said Roger Latchford had also recently passed away. Roger had been a former Parish Councillor and County Councillor, a former Chairman of the Royal British Legion and had been awarded the OBE for his services to British Overseas Trade.

For his report, the Vice-Chairman said he had recently attended the Town and Parish Council forum and gave an update on issues that were discussed.

FC/2025/118 Committee Reports. Report from the Chairman of Finance Committee. Cllr Prebble confirmed that the precept had been agreed and submitted. He said Rossetti Gardens and the Library Tenancy were on the agenda. He said that tendering for the refurbishment of the Parish office would commence in due course. Report from the Chairman of Environment Committee Cllr Tiley provided an update. The Memorial Recreational Ground continued to be used by football teams and the annual work on the shelters would recommence once the weather improved. Report from the Chairman of Planning & Highways Committee Cllr Prebble provided an update and referred to two planning applications on Cliff Road that the Parish Council had objected to and had subsequently been called in by TDC. He referred to 1600 new homes and said this would be covered in the agenda item. Report from the Chairman of General Purposes Committee Cllr Fellows said there was nothing further to report at this stage as the previous standing committee meeting had been cancelled. Cllr Fellows agreed that should he be re-elected he would lead the council’s response to the LGR survey. Council noted the agreed minutes of the following standing committee meetings: Planning 16th December 2025 and 27th January 2026: Environment 1st December 2025. FC/2025/119 AGAR Assertion 10 - Digital and Data Compliance (Clerk). The Clerk said that as part of the AGAR Assertion 10, the Parish Council had to have an agreed IT policy in place. The Clerk said she had circulated a draft policy document. Cllr Fellows requested an amendment that any lost Parish Council devices would be the responsibility of the Councillor who had lost the device – Agreed. A vote was taken on adopting the policy subject to the amendment being included. Cllrs Houghton, Hudson, Brown, Fellows, Prebble, Tiley and Wright supported the policy; Cllr Moore abstained. The vote was carried and the policy Agreed. FC/2025/120 Motion(Cllr Blankley) In his absence, Cllr Hudson moved Cllr Blankley’s motion: ‘To consider and adopt the standing committees review report and recommendations’. The motion was unanimously Agreed. FC/2025/121 Rossetti Gardens (Clerk) The Clerk said she had written to TDC requesting more time to consider options and submitted an application to request Rossetti gardens be placed on the TDC register of Assets of Community Value. Cllr Prebble said a local qualified surveyor had proposed to undertake a free evaluation of the gardens for comparison with TDC’s evaluation. Following discussion it was unanimously agreed to accept the proposal. FC/2025/122 BPC Birchington Library Tenancy Agreement (Cllr Prebble). Cllr Hudson left the meeting as he had declared an interest. Cllr Prebble confirmed that the Parish Council had formally written to KCC to end the lease agreement. He said a letter would also be sent to the Heritage Trust to give them notice that they would have to leave the Burley Gallery. The Clerk said she would arrange a meeting between the Parish Council, KCC Councillors and the Heritage Trust. FC/2025/123 OL/TH/20/1755 - 1,600 New Homes in Birchington (Cllr Houghton). The Vice Chairman said that following legal advice the Parish Council decided against seeking	Cllr Fellows Clerk Clerk Clerk Clerk
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a judicial review. However, the Thanet Trust Association had sought a judicial review of the TDC planning process. The Vice Chairman said there would be a full update published in the next edition of the parish magazine.

FC/2025/124 Pride in Place Impact Fund

The Vice Chairman said the Parish Council had submitted a proposal to TDC for the funds to be shared on a per capita basis. He said the Parish Council were informed by TDC that a decision on the funding would be taken after their April cabinet meeting. However it had since transpired that funds had already been allocated and the Parish Councils in Thanet would have to bid on a share of the remaining £100,000.

FC/2025/125 Committees Review

This was covered under minute reference no: FC/2025/120

FC/2025/127 Reports from District Councillors.

Cllr Dawson provided an update on the Joint Transportation Board and also raised concerns at the variable speed limits at Westwood Cross.

Cllr Kup said he and Cllr Pugh had met with TDC Cllr Bright to discuss various issues at Minnis Road car park following complaints from residents. Also discussed was a proposal for the installation of a zebra crossing near the car park. He also provided an update on the reinstatement of bus shelters at Minnis Bay.

Cllr Fellows provided an update on the new TDC parking strategy which would make it easier for residents to request restrictions. He said he was also continuing work on the Parish Charter which would improve communications between town and parish councils and the district council. This would also be in place with a future unitary authority. He had also been dealing with both TDC and KCC regarding the approach road to Alpha Road car park. Cllr Fellows said that Cllr Linda Wright had been appointed as shadow cabinet member for Communities.

FC/2025/128 Reports from KCC Councillors.

There were no reports submitted.

FC/2025/129 Ward Police Officer and Community Warden Reports.

There were no reports submitted.

FC/2025/130 To receive the Monthly Bank reconciliations with payments for December 2025 and January 2026.

The monthly bank reconciliations for December 2025 and January 2026 were presented, approved and signed.

FC/2025/131 Clerks Correspondence.

The Clerk said she had circulated to members a consultation document on the re-opening of Manston Airport. The Clerk reminded members that the Annual Assembly would be held on 14th April 2026 and a representative from Network Rail would be making a presentation on proposals for a new rail crossing. The Clerk said she had circulated a note to members on a Southern Water drop-in event in Cliftonville on 11th March 2026

Prior to the close of the public meeting and in advance of the forthcoming parish council election, The Vice-Chairman thanked all Councillors for their work over the past 3 years, the Clerk and Deputy Clerk, Dave Wall our maintenance operative and Brian Faulkner for the continued work at the MRG, our volunteers and also members of the public who had attended committee meetings.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC The Committee is requested to pass a resolution to exclude the Press and Public from the remainder of the meeting pursuant to section 1(2) of

Clerk

the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings Act) 1960, because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

FC/2025/132 Local Council Consultancy (LCC) Staffing Review

Cllr Hudson referred to the Staffing Committee meeting held on 30th January 2026 which recommended that the Clerk be transferred to the LGPS pension scheme at the earliest opportunity, that correct employer contributions be made and that any historic contributions shortfalls be met from the 2025/26 council underspend.

Following discussion the following were **Agreed**:

That Birchington Parish Council wished to be a participating employer in the Local Government Pension Scheme (i.e. the Kent Pension Fund administered by Kent County Council), as permitted under the LGPS 2013 Regulations Schedule 2, Part 2 Number 2 and:

- The current Parish Council Clerk, Jane Bevan is designated as having an entitlement to be a member of the LGPS from 01.04.2026 as stated in the contract of employment.
- Birchington Parish Council resolved to request KCC to instruct the Fund actuary to certify the contribution rate. KCC had advised that the cost of this would be approximately £1,200.
- In making this resolution Birchington Parish Council understood it was resolving to be bound by the statutory provisions of the LGPS and all of the obligations under such, including early retirement strain costs and exit liabilities.

The meeting closed at 20.10 hours

Signed by the Chairman

Nick Blankley

Dated: 16th March 2026