

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RIVER PARISH COUNCIL

Held at 7pm on Tuesday 13th January 2026 at River Methodist Church

PRESENT: Cllr. Dixon (in the Chair), Cllr. Atkins, Cllr. Beresford, Cllr. Jones, Cllr. Shariff, Cllr. Styles-Martin and Cllr. Taylor

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. A. Denyer (Parish Clerk), County Cllr. Thorp and two members of the public

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr. Innes

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 11th November 2025 had previously been circulated. Cllr. Beresford proposed that they represented a true record of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr. Styles-Martin and all agreed.

4. UPDATES FROM THE MINUTES (NOT OTHERWISE LISTED ON THE AGENDA)

Item 120a - Moss on Valley Road pavement: Cllr. Beresford reported that she had spoken to KCC about moss on the pavement at Valley Road who have risk assessed and decided no further action was needed. It was noted that the initial complainant did not report the incident.

5. TO RECEIVE REPORTS

a) Policing

No local report but the Clerk has received the latest newsletter from the Police and Crime Commissioner which will be circulated.

b) District and County Councillors

County Cllr. Thorp reported that the council tax increase will be 3.99%. Every effort has been made to keep the increase as low as possible. With particular regard to the current roadworks on London Road, Cllr. Thorp is concerned that too often traffic measures are in place despite little or no work being carried out. He is trying to get works carried out more efficiently. Cllr. Jones asked about drain cleaning. Cllr. Thorp advised that if there are problems such as blocked drains or potholes, as many people as possible should report the problem and this will affect the priority given to it.

c) Parish Councillors

No reports.

6. ANY QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

a) Complaint about recent tree planting in the Recreation Ground (17m)

The correspondent, who also attended the meeting, complained about the planting of three trees in the Recreation Ground near the rear fence of their property. They were concerned that they had not been made aware that the trees were to be planted. Chairman replied that the Parish Council is not required to consult or seek permission for planting of trees in the Recreation Ground. It was confirmed that the trees in question were flowering cherry trees, similar to those previously planted next to them. It was confirmed that the item had been discussed and

agreed by the Parish Council. The planting had been carried out following complaints about footballs going over into residents' gardens. The complainant was concerned that the planting had inadvertently created a set of goalposts which would encourage children to play football at the location. Chairman offered to seek permission for a fourth tree to close the gap. This was declined. The complainant wanted one of the trees moved so as not to affect the view. This was declined.

The two members of the public left the meeting at this point.

7. PLANNING MATTERS

a) Any Planning Applications with expiry dates before the next meeting

- i. DOV/25/01260 | Erection of false pitch/flat roof existing side extension and enlargement of existing rear extension | 2 Dour Side, River, Dover, Kent CT17 0UX – No comments.
- ii. DOV/25/01335 | Erection of replacement play equipment and hard surfacing | Play Area Kearsney Abbey, Alkham Road, Temple Ewell – The Parish Council supports this application.

b) Any decisions by Dover District Council

- i. DOV/25/01067 | Erection of front porch, single storey rear extension and 2 storey side extension (partial demolition of existing side extension) | 42 Beresford Road, River, Dover, Kent CT17 0QR – permission granted
- ii. DOV/25/01181 | Erection of a single storey rear extension (existing conservatory to be demolished) | 14 Mannering Close, River, CT17 0UD – permission granted
- iii. DOV/25/01187 | Replacement garage with workshop above (existing garage/outbuilding to be demolished) | 92 London Road, River, Dover, CT16 3AB – permission granted

8. RECREATION GROUND MATTERS

a) Antisocial Behaviour Incidents and attempted break-in

An email has been received regarding antisocial behaviour in the Recreation Ground and a person attempting to gain access to a neighbouring garden by climbing a tree. After discussion, it was agreed to move the two benches where people tend to congregate so that they are further from the back fence of the properties. It was also agreed to obtain a quote to extend the CCTV system to cover the area by the Crabble Lane play area.

Cllr. Styles-Martin suggested that a review be carried out into the possibility of providing a communal area where young people can congregate.

9. FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) Financial Report for November/December 2025

A full financial report for November and December 2025, including bank statements, had previously been circulated. Clerk reported on the income and expenditure for the two month period.

b) To consider budget recommendations and agree the 2026/27 Precept

A draft budget had previously been circulated and was discussed at the meeting. Cllr. Shariff requested that an amount be allocated for the development of community events.

After discussion, It was agreed that the precept be raised to £69,114 which would represent a 2.22% increase or a £1 Council Tax increase, from £45 to £46, for a Band D property.

c) To discuss cost options for CCTV Maintenance

Clerk has met with the CCTV system providers to discuss costs of maintenance. Clerk was asked to get the cost of callouts and hourly rates etc.

10. HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN – SIX MONTH INTERIM REVIEW UPDATE

The Clerk attended an online interim review with Kent Highways of the Highway Improvement Plan, also attended by County Cllr. DaFriend, which had been offered to the Parish Council as there are no current active schemes in the plan. Three possible schemes were discussed:

- i) Pavilion Meadow / Chisnall Road Double Yellow lines around the road junctions with Lower Road - turned down as Kent Highways do not do work on schemes involving private roads.
- ii) Request for additional Wildfowl Warning Signs along the stretch of Lower Road near Crabble Corn Mill. Two additional signs were approved with funding split between Kent Highways and Cllr. DaFriend's members fund.
- iii) Discussed a request from a parishioner for 'No Loading' markers along a short stretch of Lower Road near her property to avoid damage to her fence. This was turned down. These sort of restrictions are inappropriate in this location and KCC does not have any policy to protect private property.

Clerk was asked to confirm when the next update to the Highway Improvement Plan is due.

11. TO DISCUSS EVENTS IN 2026

Cllr. Atkins is already emails enquiring about the Summer Fete. There has been a suggestion received for a bonfire night with fireworks this year. There would be a need for some sponsorship to help with the costs. The manager of the Riverlea Nursing Home has suggested holding a Guinness World Record attempt for the largest group of people dressed as elves to be held during the day of the Christmas lights switch-on. An Events Committee meeting will be arranged shortly.

It was agreed to hold the 2026 Summer Fete on Sunday 12th July.

12. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED BY THE DATE OF THE MEETING

a) Dover District Resilience Plan Workshop

An invitation has been received to attend a meeting on Wednesday 18th February at Dover District Council to discuss developing or enhancing Parish Emergency Plans. Cllr. Atkins asked for details to be sent to her.

b) KALC Dover Area Committee Meeting

Next meeting of the local area committee will be on Wednesday 21st January 7pm at Guston Village Hall.

c) River Originals Tennis Club

Notification has been received from River Originals Tennis Club that they have removed all their property from the Recreation Ground and completed everything

required under the terms of the agreement and have formally left River Recreation Ground

13. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

a) KALC Community Award Deadline

It was decided that any possible nominees should be sent through to the Clerk.

b) Cllr. Styles-Martin suggested an early discussion about arrangements for the Annual General Meeting be on the agenda for the next meeting.

c) Cllr. Beresford suggested that Councillors check any nearby gritbins to make sure they are full in case of severe weather.

d) Chairman reported that the Christmas Tree has been vandalised and asked about availability to remove the remaining lights and decorations.

Meeting closed at 8.25pm

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RIVER PARISH COUNCIL

Held at 7pm on Tuesday 10th February 2026 at River Methodist Church

PRESENT: Cllr. Dixon (in the Chair), Cllr. Beresford, Cllr. Atkins, Cllr. Innes, Cllr. Styles-Martin, Cllr. Taylor (Cllr. Lamoon joined the meeting after Item 16)

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. A. Denyer (Parish Clerk), County Cllr. Thorp and one member of the public

14. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr. Jones and Cllr. Shariff

15. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr. Dixon declared an interest in Item 21a and did not take part in discussions.

16. TO RECEIVE ANY APPLICATIONS FOR THE OFFICE OF PARISH COUNCILLOR AND TO CO-OPT TO FILL EXISTING VACANCIES

Consent to Nomination Forms have been received from Natalie Lamoon and Victoria Beverton. Resumes from both candidates had been circulated to all Councillors. Cllr. Beresford proposed that both candidates be co-opted as members of the Parish Council. This was seconded by Cllr. Atkins and all agreed.

Cllr. Lamoon took her seat in the meeting at this point.

17. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) Parish Council Meeting 13.01.26

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday January 13th 2026 had previously been circulated. Cllr. Innes Proposed that they represented a true record of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr. Styles-Martin and all agreed.

b) Flint House Sub-Committee Meeting

The minutes to the Flint House Sub-committee meeting held on Friday 16th January had previously been circulated and were noted.

18. UPDATES FROM THE MINUTES (NOT OTHERWISE LISTED ON THE AGENDA)

Item 8a – Communal Youth Area: Cllr. Styles-Martin has been looking into possible options for a youth/young adult shelter which could be sited in an area away from neighbouring properties. This will hopefully alleviate problems with antisocial behaviour. It was agreed to obtain some brochures and costings. It may be possible to get some funding towards a project.

Chairman confirmed that he has spoken with the contractor about moving the benches.

Item 13d – Christmas Tree: Chairman confirmed that the tree has now been removed.

19. TO RECEIVE REPORTS

a) Policing

No report received.

b) District and County Councillors

County Cllr. Thorp reported that the roadworks scheduled for Crabble Hill have been brought forward and will start on Monday 16th February and will be carried out overnight. The works on Alkham Road will then follow-on, starting overnight

23rd February and may continue for 12 nights. There is currently no date for the resurfacing of Crabble Hill but Cllr. Thorp hopes it will be soon.

Cllr. Styles-Martin questioned a pothole report which is described online as resolved but has not been fixed. Cllr. Thorp said to keep reporting. He confirmed that potholes are measured and then done in order of potential danger or seriousness. Cllr. Atkins reported some potholes in River had been fixed but were back within days.

c) Parish Councillors

Cllr. Innes said that due to other commitments he would not be able to deal with sponsorship of the fete this year but was happy to discuss with anyone who was taking on the role. He will need to concentrate on matters connected to the River Dour project.

20. ANY QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Query received as to how many 'AirBnB' properties are in River.

21. PLANNING MATTERS

a) Any Planning Applications with expiry dates before the next meeting

DOV/26/00071 | Conversion of first floor of existing car barn and the erection of a two storey side extension to create an annexe for ancillary accommodation to the main house | Loganberry Farm, Minnis Lane, River, CT15 7DN – no comments.

b) Any decisions by Dover District Council

DOV/25/01260 | Erection of false pitch/flat roof over existing side extension and enlargement of existing rear extension | 2 Dour Side, River, Dover, Kent CT17 0UX – permission granted

22. RECREATION GROUND MATTERS

a) Tennis Courts

An estimate received for the proper maintenance of the four tennis courts, including marking out etc., is £18,720 (plus VAT). Clerk has been provided with a contact at the Lawn Tennis Association, and he will contact to see if there are any current funding schemes. It is understood that the new all-weather courts at Connaught Park were fully externally funded.

b) Simpler Recycling Regulations

Clerk is also investigating any measures required to comply with the new Simpler Recycling Regulations. Any measures required would need to be in place by April 2027.

c) Flint House Project

Chairman has been in touch with Dist. Cllr. Beaney to get information about the status of the planning application. If no satisfactory answer is received then the Parish Council will need to escalate further, possibly via the statutory complaints process.

d) Fish and Chips Van

Cllr. Atkins reported that a new fish and chips van is now visiting the Recreation Ground on a trial basis.

23. FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) Financial Report for January 2026

A full digital financial report, including bank statements, had previously been circulated to all Councillors. Clerk circulated an abridged copy at the meeting and reported on the income and expenditure for January 2026.

b) To receive costs of CCTV extension and maintenance

Clerk reported on options for CCTV maintenance these include: callout at £125 including the first hour then £80/hour or an annual maintenance contract at a cost of £576. There is currently a problem with remote access and one camera which is offline.

There are two options for a new camera to cover the area around the Crabble Lane Play Area: a camera on a high pole looking towards the Crabble Lane Play Area at £2000 or a standalone solar powered camera linked into our system at £1549.

Cllr. Styles-Martin asked if the solar option would be able to be moved should the need arise to cover a different area.

It was agreed to get the existing cameras working via a service call and then wait to see if the relocation of the benches improves the situation with antisocial behaviour. Also to investigate any other options including a metal pole rather than the wooden pole specified and whether the existing system could accommodate two new cameras. Also to ask about the cost of increasing the amount of time recorded.

c) To consider a recommendation from Flint House Sub-Committee to purchase a storage container

The Flint House Sub-Committee wishes to recommend the purchase of a storage container at a cost of £1900, including delivery. This would be used to store all Parish Council items and maximise the available space on the ground floor of Flint House. This would be funded from the monies ringfenced for the renovation of Flint House. Cllr. Beresford proposed that the container be purchased. This was seconded by Cllr. Styles-Martin and all agreed.

d) To consider renewal of the groundwork maintenance contract

The groundwork contract renewal will be £10,9995. It was noted that the current contractor has not increased his price for the last two years. Cllr. Innes proposed that the contract be renewed. This was seconded by Cllr. Taylor and all agreed.

24. To receive an update on the 2026 River Dour Project

Cllr. Innes reported correspondence regarding the pledge of funding towards the River Dour project. The funding will be used in partnership with Affinity Water to design and deliver river restoration including engagement with Riparian owners (visits, talks and workshops) and submitting relevant permissions. Some of the monies will be spent in 2026/27 and the remaining carried over till 2027/28. The current estimate is that approximately 300-400metres of the Dour within the Parish will be part of the restoration project. Preparations for some of the overall project work has already begun in Kearsney Abbey. The first workshop will be held at Kearsney Abbey on 25th February. Cllr. Innes will be unable to attend but Chairman agreed to go in his place.

Cllr. Innes passed information to the Clerk to deal with the financial aspects of the project.

25. Events Committee

a) To consider a 2026 Bonfire Night event and a quotation for a fireworks display

Clerk has received a quote of £1,666 for the display from the previous provider. It is hoped that a combination of profits from the fete, sponsorship and vendor contributions will cover a part of the costs. As much advance notification as possible should be provided to inform residents with nervous pets etc.

It was agreed that to book a display on Saturday 7th November.

b) Next Meeting

At the request of Cllr. Atkins, it was agreed to hold an Events Committee on Thursday 26th February at 5.15pm.

26. General Correspondence received by the date of the meeting

a) Letter of thanks from River Gardeners Association

A letter of thanks has been received from the River Gardeners Association following the grant

b) Dover District Council Community Governance Review

DDC are holding a review of the Parishes including size and the number of member seats.

c) Local Government Consultation

A consultation is taking place into the reorganisation of local government. This will be on the agenda for consideration at the next meeting. Clerk will send information prior to the meeting.

27. Items for Information

Nothing further.

Meeting closed at 8.15pm

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RIVER PARISH COUNCIL

Held at 7pm on Tuesday 10th March 2026 at River Methodist Church

PRESENT: Cllr. Dixon (in the Chair), Cllr. Beresford, Cllr. Atkins, Cllr. Inznes, Cllr. Lamoon, Cllr. Styles-Martin and Cllr. Beverton (joined the meeting after Item 16)

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. A. Denyer (Parish Clerk) and one member of the public

28. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr. Innes and Cllr. Taylor

29. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

30. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) Parish Council Meeting 10.02.26

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 10th February had previously been circulated. Cllr. Beresford proposed that they represented a true record of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr. Atkins and all agreed.

b) Events Committee Meeting

The minutes of the Events Committee held on Thursday 26th February were circulated at the meeting and their contents were noted.

31. UPDATES FROM THE MINUTES (NOT OTHERWISE LISTED ON THE AGENDA)

Item 8a Communal Youth Area: Cllr. Styles-Martin has information and brochures from various providers and is assessing the options.

Item 23b Maintenance/Extension of CCTV: the servicing of the CCTV is in-hand.

Item 23c Recreation Ground Storage Container: an appropriate container is being held for us.

Item 24 River Dour Workshop Meeting: Chairman attended the meeting on 24th February. Details of other projects were provided. The plan for the works on the Dour is still in progress.

Item 25a Bonfire Night Fireworks Display: there will be no fireworks this year as the Sunday clashes with Remembrance Sunday. The Events Committee has decided it will be booked for Saturday 6th November 2027 instead.

Item 20 Number of Air BnB's in River: It is believed that there are 2 or 3 in the Parish.

32. REPORTS

a) Policing

No report.

b) District and County Councillors

No report.

c) Parish Councillors

i) Cllr. Beresford reported that small 'off-road' motorbikes have begun racing around some roads again.

ii) Cllr. Shariff reported that the Cowper Road Residents Association has been placing 20mph speed restriction notices on lampposts along the road. It was not felt that this could be enforced. It was noted that Cowper Road is unadopted. Also, that she has attended a recent 'Beyond the Precept' funding workshop. Crowdfunding, giving-in-kind, surveys to find out the needs of the community,

collection of official data were all discussed. Clerk has a copy of the video if anyone wishes to view.

iii) Cllr. Atkins has attended the recent Resilience Planning Workshop and is happy to update the current plan. She circulated information at the meeting. It was suggested that this could be discussed at the annual general meeting.

33. ANY QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Comment that an up-to-date copy of the agenda had not been placed on the village hall for some months. Clerk will address this.

34. Planning Matters

a) Planning Applications with expiry dates before the next meeting

None.

b) Any decisions by Dover District Council

- i) DOV/25/01335 | Erection of replacement play equipment and hard surfacing | Play area, Kearsney Abbey, Alkham Road, Temple Ewell – permission granted
- ii) DOV/25/00591 | Erection of a single storey rear extension | 105B-107 Lower Road, River, CT17 0QY – permission granted

35. RECREATION GROUND MATTERS

a) The bases for the container and the relocated picnic tables will be done this week. Loose fencing will also be dealt with.

b) Dover Rangers have informed the Chairman that another organisation wants to run a half term football holiday club and a football tournament for 8 to 10 schools. It was agreed that a charge of £25 for each use, 4 uses for a total of £100 be made.

c) Dover Rangers have a contractor doing a verti-cut as part of their improvement of the football pitch. A disclaimer has been signed against damage pipes, cables etc. It is not believed that any underground cables are present.

d) Chairman queried the future of the tennis courts. Cllr. Atkins said she would like to ask the question at the fete to see what the local community are interested in seeing at the area.

e) A response has been received from the DDC Planning Department to the Flint House planning application. It was agreed that if no further response is received by the next meeting then the Parish Council will decide on escalation.

36. FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) Financial Report for February 2026

A full digital copy of the financial report including bank statements had previously been circulated. An abridged version was circulated at the meeting and explained by the Clerk.

37. RESPONSE TO THE CONSULTATION ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

After discussion, it was agreed that River Parish Council is of the view that whichever option is chosen, the most important issue is the fair distribution of debt, which must be based not only on population size or area of the new unitary authorities but also bearing in mind the socio-economic variation across different parts of the county. The coastal regions have generally been less well off than the West of the county and this must be taken into consideration.

38. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED BY THE DATE OF THE MEETING

a) KCC Road Safety and Active Travel Group Seminar

A road safety seminar is being held on 30th April at Betteshanger Park covering topics such as safety cameras, speedwatch, campaigns and education, and the Highway Improvement Team. Cllr. Jones expressed an interest in attending. Clerk will forward details.

b) Dover in Bloom

A 'Dover in Bloom' initiative, begun last year, is continuing this year. The Parish Council has received an email for the person collating any projects in River.

c) KCC South Kent Education - River Primary School SEND provision

A notice has been received that the specialist resource provision for pupils with speech and language needs is to be permanently removed from River Primary School.

39. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Chairman said that he will be stepping down both as Chairman and Councillor at the Annual General Meeting.

Meeting closed at 8.20pm