

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

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RIVER PARISH COUNCIL

Held at 7pm on Tuesday 14th April 2026 at River Methodist Church

PRESENT: Cllr. Dixon (in the Chair), Cllr. Beresford, Cllr. Atkins, Cllr. Beverton, Cllr. Innes, Cllr. Lamoon, Cllr. Styles-Martin and Cllr. Taylor

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

40. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr. Shariff and Cllr. Jones

41. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr. Dixon declared an interest in Item 46 and did not take part in discussions.

42. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) Parish Council Meeting 10.03.26

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 10th March 2026 had previously been circulated. Cllr. Atkins proposed that they represented a true record of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr. Beresford and all agreed.

b) Events Committee Meeting 09.04.26

The minutes of the Events Committee held on Thursday 9th April were circulated at the meeting and their contents were noted.

43. UPDATES FROM THE MINUTES

Item 8a - Communal Youth Area: Cllr. Styles-Martin has brochures and the prices for a variety of options starting at £2,000.

Item 23b CCTV Servicing – this is in hand and a date to be agreed.

Item 25a November Fireworks Display: Clerk confirmed that a firework display has been booked for Saturday 6th November 2027.

44. REPORTS

a) Policing

A report has been received by the Clerk that the police have carried out raids on seven town centre shops regarding sale of illegal vapes.

b) District and County Councillors

County Cllr. Thorp reported that reorganisation of contracts etc. has reduced the level of debt at KCC by £114million. A new contract for highway resurfacing has been agreed with a company using different techniques which are hoped will improve both quality and longevity of work. Cllr. Thorp said that central government only funds migrants up to the age of 25 and they are seeking a change so that the full cost is not borne by Kent council taxpayers and also to disperse people to other counties.

c) Parish Councillors

Cllr. Beverton has received questions from the public about the fish and chip van and the pothole in front of the Co-op. Cllr. Thorp recommended that the pothole be reported by as many people as possible on the KCC website.

45. ANY QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Query as to whether the daffodils in Chilton Way could be de-headed. Chairman will look into this.

46. PLANNING MATTERS

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

DOV/26/00276 | 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 objections.

b) Any decisions by Dover District Council

i) 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 – permission refused

ii) DOV/25/01326 | Application for Prior Approval: the erection of a first-floor extension | 3 River Drive, River, CT17 0LT – Refused extension GPD

47. RECREATION GROUND MATTERS

a) The bowls club have requested permission to have a sign by the pedestrian gate into the Recreation Ground. This was agreed.

b) Reports have been received of children climbing on the new storage container. It was agreed to put up warning signs.

c) The lock on the disabled toilet has had a problem with jamming. The lock will be replaced.

d) DDC Planning department are to reconsult Sport England over their objection to the Flint House refurbishment scheme which should lead to planning permission being granted.

e) Question over provision of lighting in the Recreation Ground in the evenings. There is some portable lighting which is available for events.

48. FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) Financial Report for March 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.

b) End of Year Financial Report for 2025/26

A report for year ended March 2026 was provided at the meeting. It will now go to internal audit. A presentation will also be given at the Annual Parish Meeting.

c) Renewal of KALC Membership

It was agreed to renew the subscription to the Kent Association of Local Councils at a cost of £1,359.

d) Kent Air Ambulance – Request for Donation

A request for a donation has been received from the Kent and Sussex Air Ambulance. It was agreed to donate £500 to the charity.

e) Bank Account Signatories

Additional signatories on the bank accounts were discussed. Cllr. Lamoon offered to be a signatory and this was agreed.

Cllr. Atkins asked if the bank provided cards so that the Clerk would not need to use his own in circumstances such as where dual signatory direct debits cannot be setup. Clerk will investigate.

48. UPDATE ON THE RIVER DOUR PROJECT

Cllr. Innes reported that tree felling and surveying is currently taking place. Mapping and physical work on the two sections part of the project within the Parish boundary will not take place until around May next year. WCCP have requested a meeting with Cllr. Innes and the Clerk to discuss the project. A public consultation will need to take place this summer. It is likely that White Cliffs Countryside Partnership will ask for fifty percent payment this year as there are costs for preparations and consultations.

49. ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting and Annual Parish Meeting. It was agreed that the AGM will only include the election of officers before moving on to the annual parish meeting. The meeting will take place in the foyer rather than in the main church as it has previously. The Resilience Plan can be a topic for the meeting along with the financial presentation. The meeting should be promoted on the website and social media.

50. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

a) KALC Dover Area Committee Meeting

Notification has been received for the KALC Dover Area Committee Meeting AGM to be held on 22nd April at Guston Village Hall.

51. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Nothing further.

Meeting closed at 7.55pm

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF RIVER PARISH COUNCIL

Held on Tuesday 12th May 2026 at River Methodist Church

PRESENT: Cllr. Dixon (in the Chair), Cllr. Atkins, Cllr. Beverton, Cllr. Innes, Cllr. Jones, Cllr. Lamoon, Cllr. Shariff and Cllr. Taylor

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

52. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

53. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN AND DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

Cllr. Dixon said that he did not wish to stand as Chairman.

Cllr. Atkins nominated Cllr. Styles-Martin as Chairman. This was seconded by Cllr. Shariff. There being no other nominations, Cllr. Styles-Martin was duly elected as Chairman of River Parish Council.

Cllr. Styles-Martin took the Chair at this point.

54. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Cllr. Beresford had previously stated that she did not wish to stand as Vice-Chair. Chairman nominated Cllr. Atkins as Vice-Chair. This was seconded by Cllr. Taylor. There being no other nominations, Cllr. Atkins was duly elected as Vice-Chair of River Parish Council.

Meeting concluded, followed immediately by the:

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

55. REPORT ON THE PREVIOUS YEAR

Flint House

The major ongoing project is the refurbishment of the ground floor of Flint House in the Recreation Ground to provide a Clubroom for Dover Rangers and a venue for community meetings and training. There have been difficulties in the planning process which now seem to be resolved and it is hoped that planning permission will be granted shortly.

Tennis Courts

The River Originals Tennis Club have given notice and left the tennis courts at the Recreation Ground. The cost of maintaining the playing surface is now too high for the Parish Council to consider having them available for general public use. The funding stream which paid for the new courts at Connaught Park in Dover is no longer available. The only funding which the Lawn Tennis Association could provide are loans. The Parish Council are looking into possible options and will consult at the Fete this year to see what the local community would like to see the space used for.

Local Government Reorganisation

Although not directly involved in the process, the Parish Council have been kept up to date with Local Government Reorganisation through the Kent Association of Local Councils and the District Council. A decision is expected by central Government before the summer recess which will see the county divided into a number of unitary authorities with a mayor of Kent.

Lewisham Road Bus Shelter

The Parish Council have been seeking a replacement Bus Shelter in Lewisham Road since the damaged one was removed two years ago.

Data Protection

Changes in the data protection regulations (GDPR) relating to Parish Councils have taken up a lot of the Clerk's time in the past year. The main item which will be visible to the public will be changes in the website to improve accessibility.

River Dour Project

The Parish Council are part of a River Dour Project, led by the White Cliffs Countryside Partnership, which will see two areas of the Dour improved as it passes through the village.

56. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR 2024/25

The Clerk provided the statement of accounts for the year ended March 2025

57. RESILIENCE PLANNING AND THE PARISH EMERGENCY PLAN

Following the gas outage at Christmas it was decided that the Parish Emergency Plan needs to be updated. Although the problem was dealt with there were some glitches and a current resilience plan would have been useful. Cllr. Atkins has attended a workshop on resilience and information provided at that workshop by the Kent Resilience Forum was distributed. Chairman said that the Parish Council should assist elderly and vulnerable residents to sign up to the Priority Services Register and this could take place at Summer Fete.

Meeting ended at 7.40pm

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RIVER PARISH COUNCIL

Held at 7pm on Tuesday 9th June 2026 at River Methodist Church

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. A. Denyer (Parish Clerk) and County Cllr. Thorp. No members of the public

58. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr. Shariff and Cllr. Innes

59. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

60. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) Parish Council Meeting 14.04.2026

Cllr. Atkins proposed that the minutes represented a true record of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr. Taylor and all agreed.

b) AGM / Annual Parish Meeting 12.05.2026

Agreed.

c) Events Committee Meeting 28.05.2026

Pending.

61. UPDATES FROM THE MINUTES

Item 47a – Signs: Warning signs have been put on the storage container.

Item 47c – Lock on Disabled Toilet Door: It is believed this has been fixed.

Item 47d – Sport England Reconsultation: No update.

62. REPORTS

a) District and County Councillors

County Cllr. Thorp reported that Kent County Council are working with the water companies to deal with problems through preventative measures rather than reactively. County Cllr. DaFriend has been dealing with local drainage problems. Cllr. Taylor asked Cllr. Thorp to investigate a large piece of unsupported masonry by the entrance to Kearsney Railway Station which appears unsafe.

b) Parish Councillors

Cllr. Jones reported that he has informed KCC of a blocked drain, which has been cleared but there are another three. It was noted that a work order only applies to the job on the list so all relevant items must listed be on any reporting.

c) Policing

Neighbourhood Task Officers have been patrolling in River following reports of nuisance vehicles. As a result, a quad bike was seized on The Meadway. There is a government consultation running on proposals to merge some police forces. The next police surgery will be at 10.30am 27th August at Costa Coffee NEXT in St.James Shopping Centre.

63. ANY QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

No questions.

64. PLANNING MATTERS

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

- I. DOV/26/00312 | Erection of a single-storey rear extension and creation of a dormer to front roofslope | 35 Crabble Lane, River, CT17 0LS – No comments.
- II. DOV/26/00440 | Removal of existing and replacement with new floor covering to Billiards Room, including alterations to existing suspended floor supporting structure | Kearsney Café, Alkham Road, Temple Ewell, CT16 3DZ – Supports.

b) Gorse Hill works

Clerk has received several emails expressing concerns over the clearance work taking place at Gorse Hill at the top of Crabble Lane and also complaining about the number of lorries removing the material. A temporary stop notice has been issued by Dover District Council Planning Enforcement while the works are being investigated.

c) Any decisions made by Dover District Council

- I. CON/25/00209/B | Discharge of condition 5 (Programme of archaeological works) pursuant to application 25/00209 Erection of 2 storey extension with attached garden wall & single storey building to west elevation. Erection of single storey extension to east elevation. Internal works to include: demolition of existing, erection of new partition walls to all floors; introduction of sun tunnels to roof; installation of staircase from ground to 1st floor; installation of staircase from ground to basement; insulated lining of external walls; introduction of glazed doors to porch & replacement door & window to south elevation | St Radigunds Abbey Farm, Abbey Road, Dover, Kent CT15 7DL – condition part approved
- II. CON/25/01335/A | Discharge of condition 3 (LEMP) pursuant to application 25/01335 Erection of replacement play equipment and hard surfacing | Play Area, Kearsney Abbey, Alkham Road, Temple Ewell, Kent – condition approved
- III. DOV/26/00230 | Insertion of a new servery hatch to include a designated fire escape | Kearsney Café, Alkham Road, Temple Ewell, CT16 3DZ – permission granted
- IV. CON/25/00591/A | Discharge of condition 4 (biodiversity enhancement plan) pursuant to application 25/00591 – Erection of a single storey rear extension | 105B-107 Lower Road, River, Dover, Kent CT17 0QY – condition approved
- V. DOV/26/00271 | Certificate of Lawfulness (proposed) for the siting of a caravan for ancillary accommodation | 63 Valley Road, River, CT17 0QW – Certificate Proposed Granted

65. FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) To receive and approve the annual internal audit report

Approved.

b) To receive and approve the Annual Governance Statement 2025/26

Clerk had previously circulated a document explaining the responses to the statement. Clerk was unable to agree to Assertion 10 due to certain outstanding tasks requiring completion relating to GDPR and full compliance with website

accessibility standards. An accompanying letter will be included with the Annual Return to outline the tasks outstanding and the timescale for completion.

Approved.

c) To receive and approve the Accounting Statement 2025/26

The figures on the accounting statement are the same as those provided to the Parish Council at the April 2026 meeting, reformatted to suit the Annual Return.

Approved.

d) Financial Report for April/May 2026

A full digital copy with bank statements has been circulated by email. An abridged version was circulated at the meeting and reviewed by the Clerk.

e) To consider a Long-Term Agreement for the insurance policy

The insurance policy has been renewed with a premium £118 cheaper than last year. The broker has offered a three year long term agreement which would limit any increases in cost. After consideration, it was agreed not to take out a long-term agreement for the insurance policy to allow a broader range of quotes to be sought next year especially with changes that may take place with Flint House next year which may require changes in cover.

f) To receive quotations for skip hire

Three quotes were circulated for a three yard skip to allow clearance of rubbish from Flint House. Cheapest one.

g) To receive quotations for Play Area maintenance

Following the last safety inspection, resetting of the bases of the play area fence and repair to a tear on the carpet of the aerial runway were recommended. It was agreed to seek alternative quotations for carpet and the fence repairs.

66. RECREATION GROUND MATTERS

a) To discuss renewal of the Flint House office lease

The five-year lease for the Flint House office is due for renewal. The company have asked for windows to be replaced and for a new heating system. It was agreed to seek legal advice on the renewal. Also to have the electrical costs to hand for the next meeting.

b) Planning application for Recreation Ground storage containers

Clerk has spoken to DDC Planning Department and planning permission will be needed for the storage containers.

c) Bowls Club Retaining Wall

An email has been received from River Bowls Club expressing concern about the condition of the retaining wall between the Bowls Club and the car park. Clerk will check on the ownership of the wall with Dover District Council.

d) Height clearance of Trees

Kent County Council have said that the height clearance of trees alongside Lewisham Road does not meet regulations. Also, it was agreed that an updated survey of all trees is to be commissioned.

67. PROPOSAL FOR A MONTHLY EMAIL SUBSCRIPTION NEWSLETTER

It was proposed to start a monthly email newsletter. This was agreed.

68 REPORT FROM THE EVENTS COMMITTEE

a) use of colour Parish Council logo

An updated colour version of the Parish logo, based on the colours used on the Chairman's badge, was displayed. Alternative swan colour suggestion which will then be circulated.

b) Fairground

Cllr. Atkins has received a few dates from the Fairground company offering to do a session and are interested in having a regular spot throughout the year. She has been liaising with Dover Rangers who are happy as long as pitches are not affected. Cllr. Atkins will continue to speak to them. Bookings for the Fete are continuing to come in.

69. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

a) Community Governance Review – Stage 2

Results have been received from the stage one consultation on parish boundaries and number of Councillors. One response was received which suggested a reduction in the number of seats. The recommendation from DDC is that the number of Parish Councillors remain the same. It was agreed that the Parish Council is happy with the current situation.

b) Road Safety & Active Travel Group Virtual Seminar

A further virtual seminar covering the same content as the previous in-person seminars is being arranged for those unable to previously attend. Thursday 9th July at 9.30am.

c) Kent Downs Management Plan Consultation

A consultation is open on the new five-year plan for the management of the Kent Downs landscape. All residents are invited to respond.

d) Dover in Bloom

A portfolio is to be submitted by organisers Future Foundry for judging in the Britain in Bloom competition showcasing local initiatives.

e) KALC – current training courses

The latest list of training courses has been received which will be circulated.

70. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

River Gardeners have replanted the planters with summer flowering plants.

Meeting closed at 9.10pm

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RIVER PARISH COUNCIL

Held at 7pm on Tuesday 14th July 2026 at River Methodist Church

PRESENT: Cllr. Styles-Martin (in the Chair), Cllr. Atkins, Cllr. Beverton, Cllr. Innes, Cllr. Jones, Cllr. Lamoon, Cllr. Shariff and Cllr. Taylor

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

71. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

All present.

72. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

73. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) Parish Council Meeting 09.06.2026

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 9th June 2026 had previously been circulated. Cllr. Beverton proposed that they represented a true record of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr. Atkins and all agreed.

b) Events Committee Meeting June and July 2026

Events minutes are completed but yet to be circulated.

74. UPDATES FROM THE MINUTES (NOT OTHERWISE ON THE AGENDA)

Item 64b – Gorse Hill: No further information. The Planning Enforcement Stop Notice is still in place.

Item 66a – Flint House First Floor Office Lease: An appointment with solicitors has been made for Monday 20th July. Chairman and Clerk to attend.

Item 66c – Bowls Club Retaining Wall: Pending.

Item 66d – Height Clearance of Trees: Pending.

75. REPORTS

a) District and County Councillors

County Cllr. Thorp reported that he has forwarded photos of the of the unsupported masonry near Kearsney Railway Station and is awaiting a response. KCC are catching up with pothole repairs (new contractors are in place) and drainage clearances. Request for more reports of any problems to be made as this increases the priority of any works. He has complained to the Dover Joint Transportation Board about the confusing nature of the speed signage on the A258 during road works. He will be attending a full County Council meeting this week.

Chairman asked if he was aware of any upcoming schemes to replace the missing bus stop at Lewisham Road also any news regarding the incomplete resurfacing works on Lyndhurst Road. Cllr. Thorp asked for any references to be sent through and he will pursue these matters.

b) Parish Councillors

i) Cllr. Taylor asked for his personal compliments to Cllr. Atkins for her hard work on the summer fete to be minuted.

ii) Cllr. Shariff reported that several local people had come forward with suggestions for use of the old tennis courts. It was suggested offering the courts to the local community for activities as a testing ground to try out different ideas and that this should be publicised.

c) Policing

Nothing to report.

76. ANY QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

a) A parishioner reported workers from SGN had visited five times to remove water from the gas pipes. This problem goes back to the gas outage on Boxing Day 2025. County Cllr. Thorp was asked to investigate this as an infrastructure matter. It was agreed that the Parish Council will contact the Dover MP and that anyone affected should also contact him. Also, contact the gas provider.

b) People have been seen accessing the empty property at Meadow Dean and the property has been vandalised.

Clerk has emailed the local police officer and also the Dover Planning Department asking them to contact the owner. It was suggested that this should also be reported to the District Council as an abandoned building. Also contact the agent to the owners asking them to secure the building.

c) Suggestion received for an additional defibrillator somewhere in River. Cllr. Atkins will message Defibs for Dover to see if they can offer help and advice.

77. PLANNING MATTERS

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

- I. DOV/26/00549 | Erection of a single storey rear/side extension, garage conversion to home office to include alterations to windows/doors, and erection of a shed/workshop | 1 Mannering Close, River, CT17 0UD – No comments.
- II. DOV/26/00519 | Change of use to extend camp site and the erection of two holiday let pods and one accommodation pod for on-site security staff | Holmstone Wood, Crabble Lane, River – the Parish Council supports this application and the conservation works being carried out, provided there is no permanent occupation of the site. (44)

b) Any decisions made by Dover District Council

DOV/26/00406 | Erection of a single storey rear extension and creation of a dormer to front roofslope | 35 Crabble Lane, River, CT17 0LS – permission granted

Discharge of condition 5 (archaeology) pursuant to application 25/00209 Erection of 2 storey extension with attached garden wall & single storey building to west elevation. Erection of single storey extension to east elevation. Internal works to include: demolition of existing erection of new partition walls to all floors; introduction of sun tunnels to roof; installation of staircase from ground to 1st floor; installation of staircase from ground to basement; insulated lining of external walls; introduction of glazed doors to porch & replacement door & window to south elevation | St.Radigund's Abbey Farm, Abbey Road, Dover, Kent CT15 7DL – condition approved

78. FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) Financial Report

An abridged version of the report was circulated at the meeting. The full report including bank statements will be emailed after the meeting.

b) Quote for additional groundwork

Pending

79. RECREATION GROUND MATTERS

a) Flint House

No update from planning. Clerk is to contact.

An analysis of the electricity costs was circulated and discussed.

Following the meeting with solicitors, the discussion over lease renewal will need to take place.

The ground floor is currently being cleared out.

b) Dover District Council Car Park

Clerk has had a site meeting with the Dover District Council Parking Services Manager at the Recreation Ground car park. DDC has no plans for any change but wanted to check if the facilities were meeting the needs of the local community. Also, that large scale funding for major repairs would probably not be available and external funding would need to be sought.

Problems at River School were also discussed along with possible future problems with on-street parking near the former Meadow Dean if the proposed conversion to apartments takes place.

c) To discuss email from Robin Eyre-Jackson

The Parish Handyman has raised concerns about issues within the Recreation Ground which were discussed point by point. Clerk will reply on behalf of the Parish Council.

80. FUTURE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARISH COUNCILLORS

The future roles of Parish Councillors were discussed with the aim of sharing the various jobs and responsibilities.

Recreation Ground

Cllr. Taylor suggested all Councillors to be involved with different aspects of the managing the grounds. After discussion, it was agreed that items be brought to the Parish Council meetings for discussion and agreement.

Cllr. Shariff suggested periodic users' meetings during the year to deal with any issues that arise.

Flint House

Cllr. Styles-Martin also chairs the sub-committee dealing with the Flint House project.

Events

Cllr. Atkins leads on events.

Planning

Cllr. Taylor offered to lead and help other Councillors to increase their knowledge. Cllrs Beverton and Lamoon will assist. Contact details need to be shared.

Community engagement

Cllr. Innes. Noted that small expenditure will be required to improve the available media.

Fundraising

Cllr. Shariff to lead on applications for funding working with other Councillors.

Speedwatch

It was agreed to ask for the equipment back and arrange more training.

River Dour

Cllr. Innes. Most work on the River Dour Project will be the following year.

81. REPORT FROM THE EVENTS COMMITTEE

Cllr. Atkins reported that feedback from the fete had been good. She has been liaising with the fairground providers over possible visits over the summer. This would be the same size as the fairground provided at the fete.

Also liaising with The Hybrid Barn over the proposed health and fitness festival to be held on the old tennis courts during the summer.

Cllr. Beverton has received feedback from Dover Community Radio saying that they would like details two months before the event for publicity.

Cllr. Innes has received feedback from Snap Fitness asking if any future raffle prizes provided could be given greater prominence than they were in 2025. Cllr. Innes suggested that, as lead sponsor, they be given another event as part of their package.

82. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

a) Martha Noakes, White Cliffs Countryside Partnership

WCCP are looking to hold two or three local public consultation events for the forthcoming River Dour Project both for Riparian owners and the general public.

Clerk to ask the Methodist Church for availability during August for booking between 4pm and 7/8pm.

b) Dover Area KALC Committee

The next local area committee meeting is on 22nd July 2026 at Guston Village Hall with Local Government Reorganisation as the main topic. Clerk to circulate details.

83. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Nothing further.

Meeting closed at 9.10pm

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RIVER PARISH COUNCIL

Held at 7pm on Tuesday 11th August 2026 at River Methodist Church

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. A. Denyer (Parish Clerk)

84. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr. Innes, Cllr. Lamoon and Cllr. Shariff

85. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none

86. TO DISCUSS THE RENEWAL OF THE OFFICE LEASE FOR THE FIRST FLOOR OF FLINT HOUSE

Chairman explained the terms of the current lease and its terms for renewal. The lease has an automatic renewal clause subject to a formal request from the company. No such formal request has been received.

During an informal conversation with the Chairman in April, the company expressed a desire to remain but subject to improvements/replacement of the windows, roof insulation and the heating system.

Legal advice received has said that the Parish Council could negotiate a new lease as the renewal terms have expired. A second option would be a rolling 30 day lease. The solicitor expressed concern about the lack of planning permission for change of use.

Clerk was requested to explain the current position regarding planning. There is no active planning application for change of use. The application was withdrawn on the advice of the Planning Department as it would have had to be refused due to the unexpected objection from Sport England despite assurances previously given by DDC Planning that there would be no problem with change of use. There is currently no agreed path towards the removal of Sport England's objection for the first floor change of use for commercial office use.

Legal advice is that there is a high risk, with a long term 5 year lease, that in the event of the planning permission not able to be granted that the Parish Council would be liable and may have to buy the company out of the lease.

There are also concerns that the office have said they do not want any works on the Ground Floor to take place during weekday working hours. Also, that any activities in a refurbished ground floor Community Space would need to have noise restrictions.

It was noted that the specification of any replacement windows would be higher in view of the building being in a conservation area.

It was noted that the original lease was drawn up without the knowledge that the first floor did not have change of use planning permission.

Advice from the solicitor was that the Parish Council could issue a Section 25 notice to either negotiate a new lease or ask them to leave the property.

As the Parish Council have been unable to achieve change of use planning permission and the liability that may arise, it was agreed that the Parish Council ask the solicitors to issue a Section 25 notice to end the tenancy with six month's notice.

87. ANY ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

The Clerk was asked to provide updated information on the former Meadow Dean Nursing Home. Clerk has been told that DDC Planning are still waiting for certain information to be submitted before a decision can be made.

Following an email from the Parish Council, the DDC Community Safety Unit have been able to contact the owner who has now boarded up the broken windows. Clerk has already reported the building to Dover District Council as a dangerous structure. The local Police Constable has also been informed. There is little else that the Parish Council can do at this stage.

Meeting closed at 8.05pm