

**MINUTES OF HARTLIP FULL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY 10 DECEMBER 2025 AT 19:00PM IN HARTLIP  
VILLAGE HALL, MEETING ROOM**

Present: Cllr K Fisher (Chair), Cllr S Black, Cllr D Harper  
Cllr D Wellard, Cllr J Podolsky

Officer: Mr C Henley

External Attendees:

Apologies: Cllr J Olver, Cllr G Maleed

**Minutes**

459.FCM/12/25 **To receive apologies for absence**  
Cllr J Olver submitted apologies for absence regarding a work commitment, Cllr G Maleed submitted apologies for ill health. Members **RESOLVED** to accept the apologies.

460.FCM/12/25 **To receive declarations of interests and lobbying**  
Cllr S Black declared an interest in agenda item 465.FCM/12/25.1 A property she does not own but has a future connection with.

461.FCM/12/25 **Minutes**  
To receive as correct and approve for signature the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 12 November 2025. Members **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes. The Chair signed the document.

462.FCM/12/25 **External Reports and Updates**  
Cllr R Palmer submitted an update report for the calendar year, attached.

463.FCM/12/25 **Public Participation**  
There were no members of the public present.

464.FCM/12/25 **Correspondence**  
I. Email from SBC regarding precept tax base amendment and precept request deadline in January. **NOTED**  
II. Email from SBC regarding local PC liaison forum meeting. **NOTED**.  
III. Numerous submissions in Nov / Dev towards the Highways Public Consultation. **NOTED**  
IV. Email from SBC regarding the Community Governance Review

465.FCM/12/25 **Planning – <https://pa.midkent.gov.uk/>**  
**Relevant Legislation: Town and Planning Act 1990**  
I. 25/504607/LDCEX12/11/2025 – Old Post House, The Street ME97TH Lawful Development Certificate (existing) for erection of a front porch and double glazing. Cllr Black abstained from voting. **NO OBJECTION** HPC would like SBC to take into account any comments from neighbouring properties.  
II. No additional urgent matters.

466.FCM/12/25

**Hartlip Parish Council Reporting – Agree any actions**

- I. Recreational Ground – to receive update
  - (a) Working Group Update. Members noted that the facility was in a very good state with the improvements required in the coming period being a light refurbishment of the sprung pieces in the play area and matting replacement which would require an earmarked reserve build up. Generally, the work carried out by the landscape contractor and the new equipment installation in 2025 have made significant progress.
  - (b) No progressive update was available regarding a vehicle accident in Munns Lane that resulted in damage to the recreation ground fencing. **NOTED**. Members also discussed the redesign of the entrance area to improve accessibility as well as take care of the repair work.
- II. Parkland – to receive update
  - (a) Members received a report on the facility and discussed options to improve the issues identified during the inspection that did not meet the necessary standards expected. Members **RESOLVED** to communicate an agreed text to the tenants detailing a set of actions both from HPC and the tenants.
- III. Highways Footpaths and Environment – to receive update
  - (a) Members received update following the instruction of a paid litter picker and the purchase of any PC owned signage or equipment. Members and residents had noted a significant improvement to the village and that it was notable that the new contractor was keeping on top of the discarded debris.
  - (b) Signage Working Group – there was no update. **NOTED**.
  - (c) Highways update. Members had reported a build up of leaves and debris on roads and paths around the village. The issues have been scheduled for action by the authority, some of which have already been started. **NOTED**
  - (d) Public Consultation Update. Consultation is due to be completed 31 December 2025 at which point the results will be published and HPG will discuss a course of appropriate action. Members noted that there had been a disappointing level of submissions to the consultation. Members also discussed the possible courses of action including adding the project roads to the highways improvement plan for possible funding by KCC. **NOTED**
- IV. Allotments – to receive update.
  - (a) Working Group. No update
  - (b) Vacant Plots. Plot applicants to be contacted for hand over in December. **NOTED**
  - (c) Community Chat Garden Update. Members noted that the planters had been filled, spring bulbs and flowers planted. **NOTED**
  - (d) No update was received regarding a winter community event.

467.FCM/12/25

**Finance Reporting****Relevant Legislation: Acts and Audit Reg 2015, Lcl Audit and Ac'bility Act 2014**

- I. Financial review bank statements and bank reconciliation - Councillors to view and sign. Cllr Harper & Cllr Black Checked and signed all papers.
- II. Payments received: Detailed in papers. Cllrs Harper and Black
- III. Payments for approval: Detailed in papers for member approval. Cllrs Harper and Black

Payee	Date	Method	Reference	Reason	Amount
C Henley Clerk	12/12/2025	BACS	INV-0324	Nov Service Payment + office and mileage x1, Plus hours for inspection finance	£ 673.55
Eco Gardener	12/12/2025	BACS	INV-977	Landscaping Nov	£ 296.66
Hugo Fox	14/12/2025	DD	SS-MONTHLY-GCS	Web Annual Contract Nov	£ 23.99
Cllr Maleed	12/12/2025	BACS	07899956299	Emergency Phone Oct	£ 6.88
Eco Gardener	12/12/2025	BACS	INV-968	Rec Clearing Work and Mowing	£ 190.00
Eco Gardener	12/12/2025	BACS	INV-969	Com Garden Planters	£ 480.00

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Signed by Chair:.....  Date:.....

Eco Gardener	12/12/2025	BACS	INV-971	Bulbs and Pansies	£ 78.00
C Henley – Reimburse	12/12/2025	BACS	Repaymt	Litter Picking Equipment	£ 89.25
L Balcombe	12/12/2025	BACS	HART01	Litter Picking	£ 100.80
Eco Gardener	12/12/2025	BACS	INV-976	Com Gdn Mow	£ 30.00

**468.FCM/12/25 Clerk Updates – Agree any actions**

- I. The Clerk reported on the Swale PC Forum meeting 2 Dec. **NOTED.**
- II. The Clerk reported on parish inspection 4 Dec. **NOTED.**
- III. The Clerk reported on Public Consultation detailing the early indication and comments to date. **NOTED**
- IV. Any other urgent updates. There were none. **NOTED.**

**469.FCM/12/25 Budget Preparations 2026/27**

- I. Working Group update. No further working group meeting had taken place.
- II. Members noted and considered the two versions of the 26/27 Budget that has been produced. Members **RESOLVED** to increase the item line and take account of HPC being forced to look at installing a new water supply for the allotments. The final decision to be made at the 14 January full council meeting following the completion of the highways consultation. **NOTED.**
- III. Members received information from SBC concerning the precept submission deadline of 16 January 2026.

**470.FCM/12/25 Items to be considered for inclusion on the next Full Council agenda**

Cllr Podolsky requested that communication / engagement with the residents be looked at. Cllr Black requested that a date for changing the council meeting location be resolved.

**471.FCM/12/25 Date of next meeting**

Wednesday 14 January. **NOTED.**

**472.FCM/12/25 Close of Meeting 20:40.**

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**Kent County Council Councillor Report  
2025 End of Year Update**

Sorry I cannot be at your Parish Council Meeting but as Chairman of KCC I am out and about representing KCC at public events and carol services however I don't think they will ask me again once they have heard my singing voice.

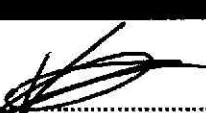
I would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

KCC faces severe financial pressures. However, the administration at KCC have reduced the debt owed by KCC, while maintaining or even improving services. Where better value can be achieved then some services are being brought back in-house and rescheduling of SEND transport is starting to provide improved transport provision while reducing costs to KCC by £2.5m, and ultimately council taxpayers.

Reform UK was elected to Kent County Council pledging to scrutinise the finances at KCC, make savings, address potholes and be a strong advocate for the County, its people and businesses. In the first six months of the Reform UK administration, its work has started to achieve those pledges and put Kent people and businesses first.

Work has continued at pace with the delivery of KCCs priorities in Adult Social Care, SEND, Children's Services and Highways and Transport, with work in environment, business support, regeneration and communities continuing. However, in addition to this 'core work', several key achievements have been made, as outlined below:

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Signed by Chair: .....  Date: .....

## Highlights

- We inherited a more-than-challenging financial position when it took control of KCC in May 2025. KCC had debts of £732 million, was paying debt interest charges of £84k each day.
- In the first six months of the new administration, the debt has been reduced by £67 million and £100 million of the savings and income target has been implemented, with an additional £40m of future savings found.
- Commenced the implementation of £67 million investment into road repairs, to include one of the biggest pothole repair programmes in the UK.
- Produced KCCs first ever Commercial Strategy (to be launched in January 2026) to get best value from every pound spent by KCC.
- Scrapped the 'climate emergency declaration of 2019', freeing KCC from expensive and unnecessary work; enabling more small Kent businesses to tender for work; encouraging a mixed economy of energy use and bringing back common sense to the climate debate in Kent.
- Reduced Member allowances (pay) and returned the savings to Community Grants for the voluntary sector.
- Led the campaign to get the Eurostar service to stop at Ashford and Ebbsfleet again.
- Lobbied central government to allow Kent some proceeds from the Dartford Crossing and the Freight Lorry Levy.
- Commenced work to produce an Energy Strategy that will encourage the construction of small nuclear reactors and prevent huge solar farms from being sited on our best agricultural land and despoiling our beautiful countryside.
- Developed a unique response to the government's Local Government Reorganisation programme, that would look after Kent's best interests, enable local community engagement, and be less expensive for Kent taxpayers. The KCC option for Kent LGR will see one local authority for Kent & Medway. This will be the least costly for taxpayers and will see saving after year one. Many Kent Councils prefer options that will take 6 – 15 years to start to see savings. KCC options will have three local assemblies.
- Produced 'Reforming Kent'; a new plan for the County, which will be launched in November 2025, and which gives the direction of travel for the County Council to achieve a better quality of life for Kent residents and businesses.

## Health and Social Care

### Strategy

- Produced the 'Get Kent and Medway Working' Plan with partners Jobcentre Plus, the NHS Kent and Medway Integrated Care Board and Medway Council, to help Kent residents back to work.
- Commenced work on a new and community-based 16 plus Pathway Strategy.
- Achieved a record high response (up 56% on the previous highest) to the community consultation on the future budget

## Highways and Transportation

- Filled 22,000 potholes, carried out 250,000 square metres of road patching (approx. 35 Wembley Stadiums in area) and resurfaced 210,000 square metres of road.
- Prepared for Winter travel with 23,000 tonnes of salt, 60 Gritter vehicles and training drivers.
- Commenced the replacement of the fault reporting system for Highways with the 'My Kent Highways' system, launched in September. This enables residents to easily report and track issues, with a map for pinpointing problem locations. Currently covers potholes, but plans are underway to expand it to street lighting, drainage and landscaping.

- Continued the School Crossing Patrol programme (lollipop men and women).
- Achieved record numbers of school children from ages 4 to 16 attending road safety and road sense courses.
- Reached 80% of Kent's population with the Summer Drink Drive campaign.

#### Economic Development and Regeneration

- Created with partners 'Brand Kent'; an in-house solution for inward investment and the visitor economy, following the demise of Locate in Kent and Visit Kent.
- Made a £6 million investment into the 'No Use Empty' Initiative, which aims to improve the physical urban environment in Kent by bringing properties back into use.

#### Communities

- Secured a contract to install new library terminals, saving £700K.
- Tracked down a record number of illegal vapes and fake goods through Trading Standards, whilst generating new income streams.
- Established a partnership with the Women's and Girls' Safety Initiative, as a response to females increasingly feeling unsafe in towns and cities in Kent.

#### Families, Fostering and Communities

- Secured funding for, and begun the establishment of, the Families First initiative to concentrate on early help and intervention. The aim is to provide strong preventative measures delivered through family hubs.
- Launched a film entitled 'Run' to highlight the impact of foster carers on looked after children being placed in a safe, loving and stable environment. The film will be used in KCCs fostering recruitment programme.
- Took swift and decisive action in partnership with Medequip to safeguard vulnerable individuals, to address the sudden cessation of the previous supplier of essential community medical equipment for children and adults.
- Purchased the first two properties as a start of a programme to provide homes for looked after children with very complex needs, whilst making future savings. This will save several million of pounds per year once they are up and running.
- Accommodated and promoted the 'Baton of Hope' Tour, as part of the UKs largest suicide prevention initiative.
- Awarded the Gold Award for KCCs Technology Enhanced Lives Service at the Social Worker of the Year Awards. The achievement was a testament to the power of co-production, collaboration and innovation, especially in partnership with PA Consulting.

#### Children and Young People

- Expanded Special Educational Needs Schools and Special Resource Units, providing enhanced local provision for children with high, complex needs.
- Launched a new Special Educational Needs podcast for parents and teachers.
- Introduced a transformational new routing and automation system for arranging speedier and better travel arrangements for Special Educational Needs pupils.
- Introduced a new GCSE Clearing Service, called the Kent GCSE Clearing Tool, which is hosted on KentChoice. This is a free online service designed to support students who didn't achieve the results they wanted, to explore available courses and training opportunities.

## Environment

- Launched Re-Use (recycling) shops at New Romney and Allington Household Waste Recycling Centres (HRWCs), reducing waste disposal costs and raising money for local charities. **Nearest to us is at Allington – Well worth a visit for a bargain.**

## Smarter Planning Delivers £2.5 Million Savings – Without Cutting Services

Introduction of a new, streamlined home-to-school transport planning system, delivering £2.5 million in savings this year while maintaining high-quality services for families across Kent

- **Modernised Planning Tools:** Advanced route optimisation and smarter scheduling to reduce the total distance travelled, make better use of vehicle capacity, and cut the number of vehicles needed

## Delivering Local SEND Provision in Kent

Under Reform UK leadership at Kent County Council, we are making major strides in improving local provision for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

### Expanding Special Educational Needs Schools

This means **244 additional special school places, reducing waiting times and long journeys for families.** Specialist Resource Provisions (SRPs) in Mainstream Schools

This approach: Keeps children closer to home, reducing costs on transport and placements  
Reduces pressure on special schools.

Promotes inclusion while meeting individual needs.

### Improving Processes

Pilot project to improve communication during the first 0–6 weeks of the Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) process, ensuring families feel informed and supported from the very start.

- Streamlined Communication:
- Clear Updates and Transparency:
- Joined-Up Working:

## Impact So Far

- Launched in August 2025, the pilot has already shown up to 50% improvement in communication efficiency, freeing up capacity to focus on getting the job done rather than costly and resource intensive administrative processes.

New Brokerage, team of 16 jointly funded with NHS people remotely working to co-ordinate discharge from our acute trusts, right person, right place.

Adult Social Care and the NHS

## SECTION 117 MH act 1983

NHS and local authorities must provide free aftercare for people detained under certain sections of the MHA.  
Services Included: Mental health treatment, social care, housing support, help with employment/education, and community integration.

Responsibility: Jointly provided by NHS (Integrated Care Boards) and local authority social services.

Duration: Continues until both agree it's no longer needed.

There is no formula but in recent years we KCC 65% and NHS paid 35 it will be 50/50 split saving Kent's council taxpayers' money.

Why the previous administration didn't take this common sense approach is beyond me.