

## ASH-CUM-RIDLEY PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 16 April 2026 at Milestone Academy, Ash Road, New Ash Green, DA3 8JZ commencing at 7.45pm.**

Present: Cllr S Fishenden  
Cllr R Brammer  
Cllr C Clark  
Cllr J Clucas  
Cllr F Cottee  
Cllr S Glover (arrived 7.52pm)  
Cllr S Hobbs  
Cllr M Manley  
Cllr J Scott

In Attendance: Alison de Jager – Parish Clerk  
Karen Law – Deputy Clerk/Finance Officer  
Cllr M Lindop – Sevenoaks District Council  
Cllr Penny Cole – Sevenoaks District Council  
Cllr Perry Cole – Sevenoaks District Council

### **9090/26 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr M Aspinall (work), Cllr C Gorton (family), Cllr A Jauch (prior commitment), Cllr P Kirtley (holiday) and Cllr V Ngwenya (holiday). Cllr M Manley PROPOSED that the apologies and reasons for absence were accepted.

SECONDED: Cllr C Clark AGREED.

County Councillor M Fothergill sent her apologies.

### **9091/26 Declarations of Members Interests and Dispensations**

None

### **9092/26 Michael Brown**

Cllr R Brammer PROPOSED That the amount of £100 is donated to Amnesty International along with flowers for the funeral, to commemorate Mike Brown. Cllr S Fishenden advised that as Mike Brown was not in favour of any unnecessary expenditure of public money he PROPOSED that the hall in the Children Centre is named The Mike Brown Hall.

SECONDED: Cllr J Clucas and UNANIMOUSLY AGREED. Cllr J Clucas PROPOSED that in addition, a trophy or prize, in memory of Mike is given to the school to be presented to a child each year. SECONDED: Cllr S Hobbs and UNANIMOUSLY AGREED.

### **9093/26 Minutes**

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 19 March 2026 be signed and approved with the following corrections: 9089/26 a. To amend the proposer from Cllr S Fishenden to Cllr S Glover, and Item 9089/ 26 b. to amend the increase in the Public Works Loan Board figure from £440,000 to £470,000. PROPOSED: Cllr M Aspinall SECONDED: Cllr J Clucas and AGREED.

### **9094/26 Public Session and External Reports**

District Councillors – Cllr M Lindop Advised that the rollout of the food waste caddies was on track and hoped that all residents were aware of the new system. Public toilets - still

waiting to hear back from Emily at KMP. Sevenoaks District Council's auditors, Grant Thornton have given the Council a good overall report.

Cllr Perry Cole reported that White Oak Leisure Centre has just celebrated its fourth anniversary and received its two millionth visitor. Food Caddies, if there are any problems with the food caddies themselves, residents can contact SDC customer solutions. One roll of compostable bags is supplied with the food caddies and then residents will have to purchase their own compostable bags. There have been a lot of discussions at Sevenoaks District Council regarding the collection of caddies from New Ash Green in particular and a default position has been agreed with the first collection on the 28 April 2026.

#### **9095/26 Clerk's Report**

- a. The Clerk's Report was RECEIVED and NOTED

#### **9096/26 Finance and Governance**

- a. **Current Financial Position:** The Finance Officer reported that we are currently holding £186,416 at year end before reconciliations and checks, with a surplus of approximately £39,000. Members were taken through the reports and advised of variances in budget and actual expenditure.

- b. **Approval of Payments:** Cllr S Fishenden PROPOSED that the payments made since the last meeting up to 10 April 2026 are APPROVED. SECONDED: Cllr R Brammer and AGREED.

- c. **New Ash Green Clinic and Children Centre:**

It was noted that the Parish Council's offer of £360,000 to purchase the new Ash Green Clinic and Children Centre from the NHS has been formally accepted. Arrangements are being made for a pre-acquisition building survey to be carried out in the week commencing the 20th of April 2026. The updated information following the resolutions of the Parish Council in March 2026, have been submitted to the Public Works Loan Board.

- d. **Kent Association of Local Councils –** Cllr R Brammer PROPOSED that the KALC subscription for the year 2026/27 in the amount of £2,000 plus VAT is authorised. SECONDED: Cllr J Clucas and AGREED.

- e. **Policies**

1. **Pensions Discretionary Policy –** the Pensions Discretionary Policy was reviewed with the following addition to 3.2: the council will consider applications for flexible retirement under regulation 30 (6) only in line with the criteria set out below and approval will be at the discretion of the parish council PROPOSED: Cllr J Clucas SECONDED: Cllr M Manley and AGREED.

2. **CIL Policy and Application Form Guidance -** The CIL Policy and Funding Application Form Guide for Applicants was reviewed with the following amendment to the final paragraph under Ash-cum-Ridley Parish Council's CIL Policy: Ash-cum-Ridley Parish Council will publish an annual CIL report in accordance with **Regulation 62 A of the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010.** PROPOSED: Cllr S Fishenden. SECONDED: Cllr C Clark and AGREED.

3. **Work Experience Policy -** The Work Experience Policy was adopted without amendment. PROPOSED: Cllr F Cottey SECONDED: Cllr J Clucas and AGREED.

#### **9097/26 Planning**

- a. **Applications:**

**26/00227/MMA: Goose Farm, Hodsoil Street, TN15 7LB.** The amendments to the rear landscaping were NOTED.

- b. The notes of the Planning Applications Working Group meeting of 07 April 2026 were NOTED.

#### **9098/26 Ash Green Sports Centre**

- a. **Current Financial Position** – the current balance of the Sports Centre stands at £15,793 at year end, with a surplus of £5,435 compared to the original budget which reflected a loss of £10,326. It was noted that none of the authorised Parish Council grant has been paid to the Sports Centre. Members were taken through the reports.
- b. **Approval of Payments** – Cllr M Manley PROPOSED that the payments made since the last meeting to 12 March 2026 are APPROVED. SECONDED: Cllr C Clark and AGREED.

#### **9099/26 Community and Environment**

- a. **Speed Indicator Device** – The reports received from Hartley Parish Council were received and noted. It was noted that the Village Association has been asked if the Greenland Team could move the speed indicator device between Hartley and New Ash Green.
- b. **Asset of Community Value** – Cllr S Fishenden PROPOSED that Ash Green Sports Centre is listed as an Asset of Community Value under the **Localism Act 2011**. SECONDED: Cllr R Brammer and UNANIMOUSLY AGREED.
- c. **Afternoon Tea** – It was NOTED that Hartley Parish Council will contribute £250 towards the afternoon tea for the socially isolated. It was agreed to move the tea towards the end of November.
- d. **Easter Youth Activities** – The uptake of the Easter Trail and Colouring Competition was lower than anticipated. The £1 racket offer has been very popular.
- e. **Dog waste bin.** - Cllr S Fishenden PROPOSED that up to £600 is authorised to purchase and install a dog waste bin at Ash Church in consultation with the churchwarden. SECONDED Cllr M Manley and AGREED.
- f. **Lances Alms House Charity** - Cllr J Clucas PROPOSED that Edna Nicholson is nominated to represent the Parish Council on the committee of the charity. SECONDED Cllr R Brammer and AGREED.

#### **9100/26 Items for Information**

- Cllr F Cottee advised that the deadline for the submission of bids for the Green Man Bids was earlier this week and the Green Man Recovery Group is the preferred bid at the moment. The decision will be taken this weekend.
- Cllr J Clucas commented on the renovations to the shopping centre. The tower has been painted and the appearance is much better than the plain chip board that was there before. HiKent has received funding from the Parish Council to supply residents with new batteries and tubes for their hearing aids, but have said that they cannot assist residents who obtained their hearing aids from Borough Green. Enquiries will be made with both Borough Green and HiKent in this regard.
- Cllr S Glover reported that there have been problems on local farms with the death of sheep. Some dead sheep were found in a shed where the hay in the manger had been set alight. Ridley Farm had also had a caravan set alight and a gas cannister ad exploded.
- Cllr S Fishenden reminded members that the Annual Parish Council Meeting will be held on 22 April 2026 preceded by a Market Place at 7.30pm. The Youth Provision will commence at the beginning of May with Young Lives Foundation and the Children's Policing Team publicising the provision and inviting referrals. The Meet the Representatives event in Hodsoll Street will be held on 12 May 2026 at 7.30pm.

The next Coffee with a Cop event will be held on 22 May 2026 from 2pm – 4pm outside the primary school.

**9101/26 Progress Tracker**

The Progress Tracker was NOTED.

The meeting closed at 8.52pm

Signed: .....  
Chairman

Date: .....

## **ASH-CUM-RIDLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

Agenda Item: **6 – Full Council 16 April 2026**

Report Title: **Clerk's Report**

---

**24/03422/FUL:** Proposed development of a photovoltaic solar array farm with associated ancillary infrastructure, cable route and grid connection and new access track, alongside localised land re-grading works. A response has been received from Kent Highways advising that they are unable to offer further assistance with regard to our request for KCC Highways to re-examine the Traffic Management Plan with specific regard to the impact that construction traffic will have on local roads, businesses and the wider community. Cllr M Fothergill has been contacted to see if she can assist.

**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING –** The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on 22 April 2026, preceded by a Market Place at the Youth & Community Centre.

**FOCUS GROUP –** The notes of the Focus Group meeting held on 13 April 2026 will be distributed with the May 2026 Agenda.

**HIGHWAYS IMPROVEMENT PLAN (HIP) –** The next meeting of the HIP Working Group will be held on 17 June 2026.

### **NORTHFIELD MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE –**

- The next meeting of the Northfield Management Committee will be held on 22 May 2026.
- The 2025-26 Audit of Northfield will be carried out on 30 April 2026.
- The Horse Riding Route has re-opened for the 2026-27 season.

### **PLANNING ENFORCEMENT**

Sevenoaks District Council Enforcement are in contact with the owner of the White Swan regarding planning breaches on the site.

**SPORTS CENTRE WORKING GROUP –** Cllrs S Fishenden, R Brammer, S Glover and A Jauch have agreed to form the working group. A date has yet to be set for the first meeting

**YOUTH PROVISION –** The start date has been pushed back to 01 May 2026. Young Lives Foundation have been promoting the clubs .

## **ASH-CUM-RIDLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

**Agenda Item: 7.3 – Full Council 16 April 2026**

**Report Title: New Ash Green Clinic and Children's Centre**

---

The Parish Council's offer of £360,000 to purchase the New Ash Green Clinic and Children' Centre from the NHS has been formally accepted.

Following this, the Parish Council has received the Head of Terms from the seller's agent and instructed Surrey Hills Solicitors to act in this matter.

Arrangements are being made for a pre-acquisition building survey to be carried out in the week commencing 20 April 2026.

The updated information following the resolutions of the Parish Council in March 2026 have been submitted to the Public Works Loan Board.