SHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Footpaths, Land & Properties Committee Meeting held on 26th March 2026 at Shorne Village Hall

PRESENT
Ms P Clifton (Chairman)
Mr C Rea (Vice-Chairman)
Mr B Lane
Mr R Theobald
Mr R Hardy
Mrs S Lindley
Mr J Bugg
Mrs D Salmon (Parish Clerk)

APOLOGIES
Mrs L Williams
Mr T Rochard-Pullen

66. To receive any declarations of interest for any items on the agenda:
None.

67. Minutes of previous meeting held on Thursday 12th February 2026:
The minutes were approved as a true record.

68. Any Matters Arising from Minutes not covered in the Agenda:
None.

69. Recreation Ground:

a) Overhanging Oak Tree Branches:
NPC Tree Surgery were scheduled to complete the required works on Friday 20th March but a member of their team sustained an injury before arriving at the Recreation Ground. NPC Tree Surgery will provide another date for when the works are to be completed as soon as possible.

b) Business Rates Update:
No further updates.

- The annual peppercorn rent was last received in February 2025 meaning it is now due. Ms Clifton to visit the team when they next play at home to collect £1.00.
- Ms Clifton has noticed an increase in litter again. This will be monitored over the coming weeks and a letter sent to the team Managers if it continues. There is a rubbish bin next to the Pavillion that is emptied by Gravesham Borough Council.

70. Shorne Common:

a) Playground Graffiti:
Ms Clifton will request a quote from the Small Works Contractor for the removal of the graffiti. Ms Clifton attended the site week commencing 16th March and confirms that there is no further graffiti. Ms Clifton also assessed the playground equipment and confirms there are no issues.

71. Shorne Common Rough:

a) Work identified by Arboriculturist
This work was scheduled at the same time as item 69(a) above. Awaiting a new completion date.

- Ms Clifton circulated an email to members on the 13th March regarding the tree that came down in high winds on Woodlands Lane. The tree may have been the one identified in the recent Arboriculturist report, but no action was advised, and the tree appeared to have been uprooted, so not relevant to the findings of the Arboriculturist.

72. Crabbles Bottom:

a) Request to formally ratify the Woodland Management Plan:
The full Woodland Management Plan was circulated to members in advance of the meeting for review. No questions were raised. Mr Theobald proposed the approval of the plan. Mr Rea seconded. No objections. Woodland Management Plan approved. Mr Rea to advise Mike Phillips (Consultant) of the approval.

b) Damage caused by Motorbikes:
Ms Clifton advised members that motorbikes have caused considerable damage, mainly to Wildflower Meadow No 2. It appears they are accessing the meadows either via the broken fences on the bridleway or via the field gates from Bowesden Lane. Ms Clifton has secured the first gate with a chain and combination lock, and the second gate will be secured Friday 27th February now that Blakes have another in stock.
Ms Clifton has identified that the horse crossings need replacing to stop the bikes getting onto the bridleway as the wood on the original ones has rotted. The Head Ranger at the Country Park confirms that the ones they have are effective and approved by the British Horse Society (BHS). Ms Clifton suggests 1 is installed at each end of the Bridleway. Members discussed and agreed that this action may deter riders who would need to dismount and lift bikes over the crossings. Ms Clifton will contact the Country Park to ask for advice regarding measurements. She will then contact Hoist Fencing for a quote to supply and install.

c) Fencing Repairs:
Ms Clifton is expecting the quote for repairs to the bridleway fence from Hoist Fencing within the next week.
Ms Clifton has also made 2 separate reports to KCC Highways for gaps in their fence between the bridleway and the cycle path: Ref 954982 / 954984.

d) Update on Grazing:
The sheep are still grazing the orchard and are effective in keeping the grass short. There is no update from Shorne Young Farmers as to when they will be removed.

e) Current Maintenance Contract:
The on-going work schedule with Gozzett Tree Surgery & Maintenance Ltd will need to be amended for 2026. The 1st cut of the orchard was carried out at the end of April 2025 but this is not expected to be required in April 2026. Members discussed the works required.
Ms Clifton to contact Mr Gozzett to discuss the schedule for 2026.

f) Request for use of Model Aircraft:
A member of the public has requested the use of one of the meadows for taking off and landing his model aircraft once or twice a week, for short periods of around 20 to 30 minutes at a time. Ms Clifton and Mr Rea to arrange a site meeting with the resident for a demonstration. Once the meeting has taken place, Ms Clifton and Mr Rea will report back to members for approval.

73. Footpaths and Non-Motorised Highways:

a) Butchers Hill:

A local resident informed Shorne Parish Council that motorbikes were using Butchers Hill more frequently, concerned about the excessive noise and safety issues. Mr Lane contacted KCC to ask if there was any action that they could take. They responded that they are not prepared to install any new assets, and that the anti-social behaviour and enforcement of the non-vehicular access is the responsibility of the Police. In addition, as a non-vehicular highway, horses are permitted to use Butchers Hill, and any barriers that prevent motorbikes getting through would also prevent horse riders. Mr Lane has responded to the resident.

- NS 163/NS164 There are no marker stones or fingerposts for either of these paths from NS165 (Muggins Lane). Ms Clifton will report this to KCC.
- Ms Clifton has raised the issue of the cattlegrid on NS 318 with Julian Ling, the new PROW Officer. He is currently on leave.
- Residents have raised their concerns about the trampoline on NS156, at the end of Burdett Avenue. This was reported in 2024 to KCC who claimed it had been resolved. Ms Clifton will query this with Julian Ling.

74. Verges and Greens

a) Village Hall Landscaped Area:

The registered volunteer reported that she was beginning maintenance on Thursday 19th March.

- Mrs Lindley has received concerns from a resident in Manor Field regarding the trees at the edge of the Village Hall car park which have branches overhanging the pavement. Ms Clifton to review.

75. National Nature Reserve:

a) New Signs:

Installation was completed by the Small Works Contractor on Wednesday 24th March, with photos being circulated to members.

b) Shorne Country Park Open Day:

Ms Clifton has approached Mark Gracey at Shorne Country Park regarding the Parish Council having a stand at their Open Day on 27th May. The date coincides with the first anniversary of the North Kent Woods and Downs National Nature Reserve.

Mr Lane suggested the Annual Parish Report be completed and printed before the 27th May to allow Ms Clifton to take copies to the event. Mrs Lindley and Mrs Salmon have noted the date.

76. Michael Gardens Gym Equipment Update:

Mr Rea reported to members that the new equipment is receiving positive feedback and has been well used so far. Gravesham Borough Council are back on site this week upgrading and adding to their Children's Play Equipment.

Mr Rea reported that GBC have also added a further dog waste bin.

Mrs Salmon is to contact James Young at GBC as the invoice for the refurbished Gym Equipment has not yet been received. The Parish Council would like this to be paid before 31st March if possible.

Mr Rea will provide, on behalf of Shorne Parish Council, a brief report and photographs regarding the works at Michael Gardens for the Annual Parish Report.

Mr Rea advised members that he received notification of the AED at Michael Gardens being made available to South East Coast Ambulance Service again this week. This is the 3rd time since its installation.

77. Community Payback Scheme:

Mr Lane previously suggested that before proceeding with this scheme, a simple risk assessment document should be completed, identifying the potential risks, what controls are in place, and whether any further precautions or controls need to be put in place. Ms Clifton asked attendees of the recent KALC Gravesham Committee if any other Parishes that use the scheme may have a template document. Vigo Parish Council has used the scheme in the past, but the clerk has informed Ms Clifton that their Community Warden had organised their sessions.
Ms Clifton will contact the scheme organisers for guidance and identify what controls they have in place.

78. Request for Road Signage for Horse Riders:

Ms Clifton has received an email from a local horse rider requesting signage warning motorists to be aware of horse riders due to inconsiderate drivers in Woodlands Lane/Brewers Rd.
Ms Clifton recalls discussions within Parish Council meetings previously about additional signs in the village, but there were concerns of this being impractical as there were already a number of different signs and drivers could get confused.
Mrs Lindley will review the previous discussions and guidance on signs, on behalf of the Planning & Highways Committee.

Any other business:

79. Matters raised by Members, including from other Committees being discussed for convenience:

- **Mr Rea** attended the LTC event at Cascades on 25th March and spoke with LTC representatives. They are going to provide Shorne Parish Council with a number of laminated maps with details of the planned PROW Diversions to be added to Parish Council noticeboards. Mr Rea also discussed possible future funding opportunities.
- **Mr Rea** will be collecting the noticeboard that has been removed by a resident from their fence in Vigilant Way. The resident would prefer it not be reinstated on his new fence. Ms Clifton to ask Small Works Contractor about costs involved in renovating the noticeboard before a new location is found.
- **Mrs Lindley** confirmed to members that KCC have completed the installation of the dropped kerbs at the end of Manor Field.
- **Mrs Lindley** advises that GBC are yet to announce the start date of the consultation period for Regulation 19, however, Google AI states the 8-week period will begin on 25th April 2026.
- **Mrs Salmon (Clerk)** confirms that all CCTV notices on the exterior of the Village Hall now have the correct telephone number for Shorne Parish Council.

80. Matters raised by attending Parishioners (at discretion of the Chairman):

None in attendance.

Date of next meeting: The next meeting of the Footpaths, Land and Properties Committee will be held at 7.30pm on 11th June 2026.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8:35pm.

Signed Ms Clifton :…….. Dated:……..