SHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Footpaths, Land & Properties Committee Meeting held on 23rd July 2026 at Shorne Village Hall

PRESENT Ms P Clifton (Chairman)
Mr C Rea (Vice-Chairman)
Mr R Lane
Mr R Theobald
Mr R Hardy
Mrs L Williams
Mr J Bugg – *arrived at 7.44pm*
Mrs S Lindley
Mr T Rochard-Pullen
Mrs D Salmon (Parish Clerk)

APOLOGIES None

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

18. Minutes of previous meeting held on Thursday 11th June 2026:
The minutes were approved as a true record.

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

20. Recreation Ground:
Ms Clifton reported:

- The football teams are not playing matches at present, but practice sessions are being held weekly.
- Gravesham Borough Council continue to cut the grass on the pitch.
- The trees and bushes in the Recreation Ground, between the main gate and Pondfield Lane, are overhanging the highway. Due to this being a bus route, KCC are likely to request these are cut back. Ms Clifton will arrange for a quote for the works in preparation.

a) Sign erected on Pavilion:
The football teams have installed a sign on the outside of the Pavillion. Photos circulated to members in advance of the meeting. The current lease between Shorne Parish Council and both football teams states:
'Item 10- Display of Notices etc: The Tenants shall not affix or display any signs or posters on the Premises without the express permission of the Council'
Members discussed and reviewed the pictures. Members voted by a show of hands if the sign should be removed: 1 in favour of removal, 8 against removal.
Members agreed that the teams should have asked permission but, on this occasion no further action will be taken. Members asked the Clerk to write to the football teams to remind them to refer to the lease before any future works are undertaken.

- Mr Lane reported to KCC that the interactive sign by the Recreation Ground is not working. KCC have removed the sign for review.

21. Shorne Common:

a) Rough Sleepers close to Common:
The Parish Council have received a number of emails regarding the rough sleepers near to Shorne Common Rough and the Children's play area. The Parish Council also note several discussions on social media by residents. Ms Clifton and Mr Hardy visited

the area on 3rd July to confirm the rough sleepers were not on Parish Council land. There is currently 3 tents: 1 for the rough sleeper couple,1 for their dog, and 1 for storage. Ms Clifton and Mr Hardy spoke briefly with the couple and did not find them, or their dog intimidating. PC Joe Dallarda has confirmed the dog is not an XL Bully as previously reported on social media. Mr Lane has been in correspondence with the Housing Operations Manager at Gravesham Borough Council who has requested an update from the Rough Sleeping Initiative (RSI). Mr Hardy confirmed that GBC are actively helping the individuals find suitable accommodation.
Members understand Parishioners feeling intimidated to use the Childrens Play Area owned by the Parish Council and will continue to monitor the situation and the actions taken by GBC and Kent Police.

22. <u>Shorne Common Rough:</u>

a) Fallen Tree onto Woodlands Lane – Fly tipping:
After the logs from the fallen tree were removed, the previously reported fly tipping became visible again. Ms Clifton reported this to GBC who attended and removed the items quickly.

b) Request to remove fallen branch:
To be discussed with item c.

c) Report dead bough:
Mr Lane has previously received a request from a resident asking if they could take away fallen trees and branches causing issues to the highway. Shorne Parish Council approved the request. A further request has been received. Ms Clifton has visited the site and confirms any fallen trees and branches are away from the highway and any paths. As they are not causing an obstruction and are not a danger to a member of the public walking underneath, the fallen branches are usually left to create wildlife habitats. The resident has been advised.

d) Grassed Area:
The grassed area has had another cut by GBC.

- Mr Lane has cut back some branches to improve visibility when exiting Woodlands Lane. The verges may need to be mowed in the future but no action required at this time.

23. <u>Crabbles Bottom:</u>

- Ms Clifton has requested a quote from the Small Works Contractor (Versatile Property Services) for works required to the fencing between the meadow at Crabbles Bottom and NS321. Contractor has visited the site but quote not yet received.

a) To approve quotation for fencing repairs
Ms Clifton requested quotations from three fencing contractors. Two responded, one failed to provide a quotation. Ms Clifton has circulated the quotations received, and proposed that the Council accepts the lowest price. This was <u>approved</u>. There is £5,000 in the budget for Crabbles Bottom Restoration Works, however the cost of the work is likely to be covered by the current funding application (item 23e).

b) Grazing Update:
Ms Clifton and Mr Rea have not had the opportunity to visit the site this week therefore cannot confirm if the sheep are back on site. Mrs Williams is also not aware. Ms Clifton to review.

c) Current Maintenance Update:
Gozzett Tree Surgery and Land Management have carried out the cut to the orchard grass and cleared the footpath and bridleway on 15th June. The 2 Elder trees which had fallen onto the footpath were cut back Free of Charge as agreed. Ms Clifton and Mr Rea have visited the site and confirm works are complete. Mr Rea advised members that upon completion of the final cut of the year, the current contract will be reviewed as part the funding application process (item 23e).

d) KCC Fencing Update:
KCC have repaired the gaps in the fencing on the cycle path. A cyclist has since reported a fallen tree across the cycle path near Crutches Lane. Ms Clifton has reported this to KCC – reference 974055. The Clerk suggested the cyclist also reports the obstruction and provided the relevant links to KCCs website reporting tool.

e) Funding Application Update:
Ms Clifton and Mr Rea met with Katriona Sharp from Kent Downs Landscape on 6th July at Crabbles Bottom to discuss the work involved in the bid for funding. The funding is being provided by Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) which is part of Defra's (Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs) Agricultural Transition Plan. There is additional backing from the Lower Thames Crossing.
Mr Rea has already met with a Contractor to discuss providing a quote to assist with preparing the application bid.
Mrs Lindley reminded members that Crabbles Bottom will be impacted by additional pollution from the LTC so any works undertaken will assist in offsetting this. This information can be included in the funding application bid.

24. <u>Footpaths and Non-Motorised Highways</u>:

a) NS156 Trampoline:
Ms Clifton and Mr Hardy have checked the path and cannot see the trampoline. The vegetation is very dense and may have hidden the trampoline. Ms Clifton and Mr Hardy to check again when vegetation has died back a little in the Autumn.

b) Correspondence from KCC Footpaths Officer:
- In response to the query raised by Ms Clifton regarding NS167/169: *'The closures last for a period of 6 months, and then following that we are expecting National Highways to seek to re-apply to extend these orders which, if granted, will then last up to 5 years. They can close and re-open paths as they wish according to their work schedule. The reason we conducted the TTRO's [Temporary Traffic Regulation Order] this way is to give them flexibility'.*
- An email has been circulated to members with a link to a website which shows a diagram of the footpaths once the LTC is completed.
- As reported during the Gravesend Rights of Way Committee (GROWC): KCC acknowledge no waymarking on NS163/164 and will review; KCC will try to re-instate the footpath around the Cattlegrid on NS318 when it re-opens in Autumn/Winter 2026.

c) Report of overgrown path – Malthouse Lane to Crown Lane:
Ms Clifton has received verbal reports that it is no longer possible to walk this path due to overgrown vegetation, mainly stinging nettles. Ms Clifton suggests this is a project for the Community Payback Scheme (item 26).

- Mr Lane reports that one of the main LTC works traffic routes affects NS167.

25. <u>Verges and Greens</u>

a) Court Lodge Verge:
Ms Clifton reported that the verge has been cut again so she believes that KCC are including this in their Urban Grass schedule.

- The reported overgrown vegetation on the pavement on the Western corner of Green Farm Lane and A226 has been cleared.
- The abandoned roadworks fencing and cones on Mill Hill Lane at the top of Butchers Hill were previously reported to KCC – reference 966757. The KCC website is showing as 'Works Completed' but the items are still there. Ms Clifton to review again and report to KCC if required.

26. Community Payback Scheme:

a) To review Memorandum of Understanding:

A draft Memorandum of Understanding was circulated to members on 25th June following a conversation between Ms Clifton and Simon Rose, Placement Co-ordinator for the Community Payback Scheme. Members discussed and would like further clarification regarding Risk Assessment requirements. Mr Lane asked Ms Clifton to obtain further guidance, in particular, pages 19 and 20 of the document. Ms Clifton to refer back to Simon Rose.

27. CCTV Cameras:

- Mr Lane and Mr Rea to install the replacement CCTV camera at the Village Hall facing The Street.
- Mrs Williams to arrange the data package for the CCTV camera to be installed in Green Farm Lane. Once the data package is set up, Mr Lane will install the camera.

28. Display Case Butchers Hill:

- Ms Clifton chased Robert Peel from the Kent Ramblers regarding the damaged display case. Mr Peel responded that he has been unable to obtain assistance from KCC. A resident has since also reported the damaged display case. Mrs Lindley asked Ms Clifton if the National Nature Reserve (NNR) may be able to assist. Mr Rea suggested County Councillor Diane Morton may be able to assist. Ms Clifton to contact both, and the KCC PROW Officer.

Any other business:

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

- **Mr Rea:** All email correspondence between Mr Rea, KCC, GBC and the local bus companies has been sent to the Clerk to store in case of future queries regarding the noticeboard owned by Shorne Parish Council being installed in the Vigilant Way bus stop.
- **Mr Theobald:** The owner of the car reported as abandoned in Swillers Lane has come forward to claim ownership. The car is currently taxed but has no valid MOT. No further action can be taken until the tax expires.
- **Mrs Lindley:** The Local Government Restructure (LGR) has now been announced for the area including Shorne. Also, the first LTC Liaison meeting has been held. Further information to be provided to members at the next Planning & Highways Committee meeting on 24th September.
- **Mr Lane:** A resident has complained to Mr Lane via email regarding a sunken footpath in Malt House Lane. Mr Lane reported this to KCC who have assessed and advise no action is required.
- **Mrs Salmon (Clerk):** An updated Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest (DPI) form has been circulated to all members. Mrs Salmon asked members to complete the form and return to her either via email, or in person at the next Parish Council meeting on 10th September.

30. 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 8th October 2026.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8:50pm.

Signed Ms Clifton :…….. Dated:……..