

Minutes of Meeting 2026-1b held on Tuesday 27 January 2026 at The Community Room, Newchurch Village Hall, Newchurch, Romney Marsh, Kent TN29 0DP.

Unique Minute Number	Agenda item	Record	Action
2026-1b-1	In attendance	<p>Parish Councillors Colin Woollard (Chair), Michelle Barden & Valerie Denby Finance Officer, Alison Prentice. 1 member of the general public was welcomed to the meeting.</p> <p>Apologies received from Cllr Scott Fielding (Vice Chair), Cllrs Cooper, Hills & Wimble.</p>	
2026-1b-2	Declarations of Interest	The Chair reminded all Parish Councillors to declare any conflicts of interest in the business before them. None noted	
2026-1b-3	Approval of previous minutes	The minutes of the previous meeting were approved. Proposed Valerie Denby, seconded Michelle Bardon.	ACTION Clerk to file/update notice board & website.
2026-1b-4	Matters Arising	These were raised during later agenda items.	
2026-1b-5	Invited speakers & public participation	<p>Cllr Hills sent a report that he would be happy to support Newchurch parish council on any issues raised. He had a meeting clash with a district council meeting.</p> <p>Cllr Cooper sent a report. "I attended meetings both locally and in the House of Commons last week with our MP Tony Vaughan. I also attended a joint community meeting over the quality of sea bathing water. The district council will be taking over running of these events in the future. I recently awarded you £500 out of my ward grant towards the costs of your new bike repair station outside of the church. I hope you will get it up and running soon and look forward to report on its use. You will no doubt be aware of the sad news that the planning committee has approved the Solar Farm by Enviromena. This was voted through by 8 votes to 4. I along with the other two Marsh Councillors together with an out of area member voted against the solar farm. I also seconded the proposal for refusal, but this fell due to the affirmative vote going first. Before work can begin, there is a list of conditions Enviromena must comply with, including, for example, soil sampling and an agreed traffic plan going up St Mary's Road in New Romney. It's important that you monitor the traffic and construction and report any breaches as they happen. Don't forget to monitor any S106 payments that may be due both to your Parish and St Mary in the Marsh because of this consent as that money can be spent in the village to improve it.</p>	

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		<p>The Rural England Prosperity Fund has also been extended to June, so please make use of it. Once it's gone, it's gone.</p> <p>The district council will be finalising its budget in the coming weeks, including introducing a new council tax relief scheme, which should help some with the cost-of-living crisis.</p> <p>Considering the proposed expenditure on swimming pools, I will be asking at tomorrow night's council meeting when can the people of the Marsh expect to see a swimming pool built for them.</p> <p>As usual, please don't hesitate to contact me if you any need support, or I can be of any help.</p>	
2026-1b-6	Newchurch Village website administration	Chair reported handover arrangements from Brooker Farms to Newchurch Parish Council were in progress – likely to be March 2026.	ACTION: Chair to arrange handover.
2026-1b-7	FINANCIAL REPORTS	<p>Current & Deposit account Clerk reported handover had not been process yet by Santander account for current and deposit transfer to new Finance Officer/obtaining new bank statements for ratification. A new current business fee free account with HSBC was in the process of being opened with signatories, Cllr Woollard, Fielding & Barden (only 3 permitted).</p> <p>Grant from Cllr Cooper £500 transferred via BACS to fund bike repair station.</p> <p>Precept of £6500 to be received in 1 BACS payment April 2026.</p> <p>Current balance TBC. Deposit balance TBC</p> <p>Cheques for payment: Clerk HMRC Tax £64.40 cheque 000805, Alison Prentice clerk wages £262 cheque 000806 and KAD for purchase of bike repair station £420 (£380 plus £40.00 vat to be reclaimed).</p> <p>(3 cheques in total value £744)</p>	ACTION: Clerk to open HSBC business bank account and obtain Santander final current account statements prior to transfer to new HSBC account.
2026-1b-9	Planning	<p>The Chair reported his concern at the Planning Committee process undertaken to grant permission for the 16 MW Solar farm project by Environmena on 40 hectares of land in parish of Newchurch opposite Martin Farm. There were some irregularities that required review and redress.</p> <p>Wills farm bungalow ref 25/2300/FH replacement dwelling. The meeting reviewed the application on the portal and had no objections to the revised proposal.</p>	<p>ACTION: Chair to review Planning complaint process and liaise with Clerk on next steps.</p> <p>Clerk update planning portal.</p>
2026-1b-10	Jubilee Fields & pond	Jubilee Fields: Chair reported that he would review and resolve the issue with the climbing net. In addition to installing a camera in the dog walking area to support the ongoing issue with dog fouling/non collection.	ACTION: Chair – repair net & install camera

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		<p>Pond area – quote for maintenance March to October inclusive of 1 grass cut every 4 weeks and 2 hedge cuts @ £280 from Connor Dunne was accepted.</p> <p>Pond digging – Chair to arrange for a digger to reshape pond and reed area at no cost to the parish.</p> <p>Fix it party for a couple of hours to make good the area post digger reshape of pond and reed area and currently Saturday 28 March at 10am (refreshments kindly to be provided by Michelle & Valerie). This fix it session date will be dependent upon pond dig and may move.</p> <p>Cycle Fix it station grant received – Chair to purchase and install.</p>	<p>Chair to arrange dig and liaise with Clerk for risk assessment/fix it party arrangements</p>
2026-1b-11	AOB	<p>Highways – Norwood Lane roadway was collapsing and needed urgent repair. Clerk reported to Highways Inspector and road closure in situ pending funding to resolve.</p> <p>Highways – salt bin x 3 refill request chased with KCC. In addition to querying why the road from New Romney to Bilsington (a bus route) was not on the official gritting route. Issue flagged regards non gritting to Cllr Hills to support and leverage reinstatement.</p> <p>Folkestone & District Council road signage – The village sign before Limberlost required replacement, in addition to Church View and Mill Lane. These were all reported to FDC to resolve.</p> <p>Pot holes in the Parish- Cllr Denby and Clerk reported they had access the KCC portal and reported several pot holes in the parish. Some which have been remediated, some pending completion.</p> <p>Flags on village sign – Clerk reported they had been removed as were damaged beyond repair.</p>	
2026-1b-12	Date, time & place of next meeting	Monday 2 March 2026 at 7.30pm in the Community Room, Newchurch Village Hall.	

The Chair thanked all those present and declared the Parish Council meeting closed at 8.30pm.