

Minutes of Meeting 2026-4 held on Monday 13 April 2026 at The Community Room, Newchurch Village Hall, Newchurch, Romney Marsh, Kent TN29 ODP.

Unique Minute Number	Agenda item	Record	Action
2026-4-1	In attendance	<p>Parish Councillors Colin Woollard (Chair), Michelle Barden & Valerie Denby – Cllr Scott Fielding joined the meeting remotely</p> <p>Clerk & Finance Officer, Alison Prentice</p>	
2026-4-2	Declarations of Interest	The Chair reminded all Parish Councillors to declare any conflicts of interest in the business before them. None noted	
2026-4-3	Approval of previous minutes	The minutes of the previous meeting were approved. Proposed Colin Woollard, seconded Michelle Bardon.	ACTION Clerk to file/update notice board & website.
2026-4-4	Matters Arising	These were raised during later agenda items.	
2026-4-5	Invited speakers & public participation	<p>Cllr Tony Hills was welcomed to the meeting and gave his report. Matters I have been engaged with, Romney Marsh ward. Water Quality I put forward the motion at the last F&H council...Water testing in Romney Marsh and the East Stour.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Request that Cabinet investigate, as a matter of urgency the commissioning of an independent report to identify the relevant watercourses and to propose the optimum sampling locations, which the EA will consider as valid prior to FHDC officers setting out costed options for a targeted water-testing programme which the EA will accept as valid covering major open sewers and connected watercourses on Romney Marsh and within the East Stour catchment. 2. Ask that this report include options for testing for E. Coli, Intestinal Enterococci and other indicators/tracers of human faecal contamination and, where practicable and lawful, options for antimicrobial-resistance screening through partnership working with appropriate public bodies, regulators, water companies, laboratories and academic institutions. 3. Request that the Leader and Chief Executive write to the Environment Agency, Southern Water, Kent County Council, UKHSA and any relevant academic or public-health partners seeking cooperation, data-sharing and, where possible, joint working. 4. Request that the findings of any agreed testing programme be reported publicly to councillors and residents, and referred to Overview and Scrutiny for consideration of any next steps. <p>This was passed unanimously by the Council.</p> <p>Solar Farms We are awaiting the second round of consultation, as I said last month, the threat these NSIP mega farms would be to local business, communities and the</p>	

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		<p>ecology of Romney Marsh. We should hear before summer; this should have more detail for us to consider.</p> <p>Unitary Councils</p> <p>Again, we are still awaiting the decision from Government on which direction will be taken. Once announced F&H DC are ready to swing into action and the real work will begin.</p> <p>Sea defences</p> <p>I had a meeting with the EA at their offices on last week to discuss repairing the beach defences at Lydd ranges, yes this is not in our Parish, but this will affect the whole of Romney Marsh. We agreed to have a site meeting with all parties. EA, MOD, NE and F&H DC. I will keep you informed of progress.</p> <p>The Nest</p> <p>I have been happy to support 'The Nest' and let's hope they have a great summer. Tony Hills, F&H District councillor for Romney Marsh Ward. Home Telephone 01797 321246 Mobile 07860 295730</p>	
2026-4-6	FINANCIAL REPORT	<p>Current & Deposit account Chair reported that the handover had not been processed yet by Santander for current and deposit transfer to new Finance Officer/obtaining new bank statements for ratification. As a signatory the Chair was able to get balance details of current account £3038.76 and deposit account £1022.94 as at 25 March 2026</p> <p>The change application form had been submitted requesting that Michael Sharpe and his address be removed from both current and deposit accounts as he had retired as Finance Officer from the Parish Council and that all account administration had passed to the new Finance Officer appointed by the Parish Council Alison Prentice and that her address should be used (as per the application form details). Michael Sharpe to cease being able to access both current and deposit accounts as administration had passed to Alison Prentice. Alison Prentice should have access to view accounts and receive all documentation in addition to a new deposit card and ability to go online to manage both current and deposit accounts on behalf of the parish council as currently online access is frozen pending account administration update. These updated minutes would be provided to enable Santander to process the changes. Currently statements are on hold pending this information being provided in writing to them.</p> <p>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). Cllrs Woollard, Barden and Fielding confirmed they had completed all required information. Once open the intention is to transfer over current account funds to HSBC fee free account.</p>	ACTION: Clerk to provide Santander with minutes as evidence to process changes.

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		<p>Cheques for payment: Clerk Alison Prentice clerk wages £322 (March) cheque 000810 (to pay own tax direct to HMRC) KALC 2026/7 subscription £207.78 cheque 000809 KAD climbing frame net £64.99 cheque 000811 AGAR half year audit May/June. (3 cheques in total value £594.77)</p> <p>Funds received: Cllr Tony Hills Ward Grant approved/received for Newchurch website and email project £700.00</p> <p>Internal Audit Fri 5 June 2026 with Mulberry auditors – Clerk to undertake.</p>	
2026-4-7	Newchurch Village website administration & Newchurch Parish Council Website/email account project	<p>Clerk reported that Cllr Tony Hills had kindly awarded a £700 grant to fund the Newchurch village website and email project to ensure compliance with AGAR. Chair reported that the administration of newchurchvillage.org including the history website would remain with Brooker Farms. As an important village asset it was agreed that funding for domain name renewal and web hosting would remain with Warren IT and approx costs for 2026 of around £138.00 (inc vat) would be supported.</p> <p>The subscription quote received from Parish online for creation of an independent parish council .gov.uk website domain they would manage on behalf of the Parish Council, entitled NewchurchKentparishcouncil.gov.uk was accepted. This included migration of documents from existing newchurchvillage.org website, provision of up to 20 mailbox with 5gb storage each and Clerk email upgrade with additional storage and cloud storage 30gb mailbox and 10gb file storage at £42 plus vat. Yearly subscription of £350 plus vat. First year less £100 offer as switching to .gov.uk domain. So £250 plus vat. They would provide ongoing maintenance/upgrades and hosting services. 4-6 week timescale for action completion.</p> <p>Once created a link to the Parish Council website would feature on newchurchvillage.org in place of existing Parish Council information.</p>	ACTION: Clerk to appoint Parish Online to create a parish website/ migrate parish council documents from newchurchvillage.org and provide 6 email and cloud storage.
2026-4-8	Planning	None for consideration	
2026-4-9	Highways	Highways – Gammons Farm Lane and Chapel Lane has been reported to Highways as collapsing, full of pot holes caused by large agricultural vehicles using both lanes. Highways had closed the road pending remedial work once new contractors/funding in place.	

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		<p>Clerk reported other items in the parish on the KCC Highways portal which had been addressed – 30 mile an hour speed restriction posts adjacent to Spinney collapsing in dyke, junction warning sign Marsh Road reinstatement, no lorries sign at end Wils Lane near Bilsington sign refixing to post, numerous potholes and 6ft 6 width restriction sign The Street near church replacement as unclear. 6ft 6 width restriction signs hidden in hedging and one facing the wrong way near Bonnington Road before Bellfield Farm required attention.</p> <p>Street lighting – Adjacent to Bramley Cottage/Street Farm – led light timer replaced. Light fixed. Street light opposite Newchurch House was reported as constantly illuminating residents in the area since the led update. Reported to KCC Highways to have light shield reinstated.</p>	
2026-4-10	Jubilee Fields & pond	<p>Chair had purchased a new climbing frame scramble net and would install.</p> <p>Pond dig would be undertaken on Saturday 25 April 8am and local residents out of courtesy would be informed.</p> <p>Village Pond adjacent to pond would be marked out of action and also along roadway on evening of Friday 24 April to enable works to take place and spoil to be taken away. Clerk to advise all local residents who park in the vicinity</p> <p>Improved arrangements for use of the Village Pound were discussed. Appropriate consideration regards parking on the Village Pound is required by all to keep area/pathways available for disabled, funeral hearse, wedding cars, in addition to maintenance workers for the church and pond. Councillor Denby as a PCC member agreed to raise the suggestion of improved communications with the parish so that church events were notified eg funerals, weddings, events that may require increased use of Village Pound for hearse, wedding vehicles or disabled personnel in addition to maintenance workers etc.</p>	<p>ACTION: Chair – repair net</p> <p>ACTION: Clerk to advise local residents</p> <p>ACTION: Councillor Denby discuss at PCC improved communications of events.</p>
2026-4-11	AOB	None	
2026-4-12	Date, time & place of next meeting	Monday 11 May 2026 at 7.30pm in the Community Room, Newchurch Village Hall. To include Annual Parish Meeting.	

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