

**MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
ON 10TH FEBRUARY, STARTING AT 6.30PM
HELD IN THE DURLING HALL**

15/26 To Record those Present and list any Apologies

Those Present: Councillors, S Parish _Chairman, N Fursdon, K Gipson and S Instance; also present were 2 members of the public and the Proper Officer (PO)

Apologies were received from: Cllrs G Worthy – ill health, D Haining – family issues, District Cllrs E Martin and J Hollingsbee – previous events.

16/26 To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI), Other Significant Interests (OSI's) or a Voluntary interest relating to items on the agenda.

There were none recorded.

17/26 Minutes

- a) To note, agree and sign the minutes of the January 2026 meeting

Having been previously circulated these were agreed and signed..

- b) To note the Minutes of previous committee meetings:

(Please be aware that Committees agree their own minutes, these for information only)

- F&GP
- Planning

Cllrs noted these, and the PO highlighted items, to members of the public.

A query was raised with regards to retrospective applications that had been refused, but it appeared that no further action was being taken by the Enforcement

Officer of FHDC

18/26 District and County Councillors reports

- a) Elaine Martin – noted
 b) Jenny Hollingsbee - noted
 c) Christopher Hespe – no report was sent

The reports from the district councillors were uploaded to the website.

19/26 Public questions on items on the agenda only

(The public can send in questions at any time, and raise issues with a Cllr prior to the meeting, these can then be considered at a later meeting)

A member of the public asked about items

1. When are extra items to be fitted in the play area for younger children – being done on 19th February
2. Will the wild flower areas be retained when The Lees starts to be mown again, the reply was yes.
3. Informed those present that the Co-op is being shut at 10pm on 14th to 26th February.

20/26 Finance

- a) To note, agree/ratify payments as listed (See Report 2026.01.01)

Hopkins	Invoice 251201SS Child electrodes SSC	£137.10	Bacs 11/02/2026 51462027
	Invoice 251201SVH Child electrodes SVH	£137.10	Bacs 11/02/2026 51461988

East Kent Training	Invoice 778 PA6a PA6	£720.00	Bacs 11/02/2026 51473128
Clear Insurance	Annual premium	£1,267.99	Bacs 11/02/2026 51462180
Microshade VSM	Invoice 260100418856 IT services	£203.92	Bacs 11/02/2026 51473128
Flotek Group	Invoice 260100418022 Phone	£164.09	DD 25/01/2026
Direct365	Invoice 0002349212 Waste 19/02 to 18/03	£131.54	DD
Sellindge V/hall	Invoice 26/015 Electric	£282.06	Bacs 11/02/2026 51462293
	Invoice 26/014 Hire of hall	£22.00	Bacs 11/02/2026 51462252

The above were agreed and/or ratified

21/26 Precept

To report back to Council with regards to the Precept

a) The PO explained to members that Precept had to be recalculated due to a decision by the district council regarding council tax support. This meant that band d equivalents went from 893.14 to 876.87 meaning the amount of precept for the Parish council will now increase from £82.90 to £85.53 an increase of £2.63 for the year.

(Please note: If you live in a larger or smaller property there will be differences in the amounts listed on your Council Tax Bill).

Councillors are looking at ways to show the details in a format that can be posted on the website.

b) Mazars External Audit. (EA)

The PO had produced a report explaining the comments from the EA and how they would like the AGAR to be completed in future years, this had been present to the Finance Committee earlier in the year, and was accepted with a recommendation it should be adopted by the Council. After a brief debate the full report was adopted.

This report will be will be uploaded to the accounts pages for the year 2024/25.

22/26 Correspondence

See report, and comments within the appendix at the end of these minutes.

23/26 To adopt the Code of Conduct

Due to a review of the Councillors Code of Conduct (CoC) by National Association of Local Councils and the Local Government Association, the parish council code needed to be updated, having been previously circulated over a couple of months the Code was formally adopted.

24/26 To note correspondence regarding The Lees

Discussed earlier, under agenda item 22/26.

25/26 Matters of General Interest

(This item is not for issues that require a decision, it is where Cllrs can ask for items to be placed on the next agenda.)

No items were raised.

26/26 Date of Next Meeting will be 10th March

The date was noted, there being no further business the closed at 7.31pm

Appendix Agenda Item 22/26 Correspondence

1. Emails from KALC, NALC, F&HDC District and County Council, and other round robin emails have been forwarded as they arrived.
2. Emails regarding the following;
 1. Concerning The Lees. See item 24/26. *Detailed emails had been exchanged, it was agreed that due to the seasonal extremes of weather, and that the idea of having the centre of the village illuminated would be detrimental to the bio-diversity of the area, and the fact that the site was signed off by the district council no further action would be taken.*
 2. District Cllr reports – on the website
 3. Six Broken fence posts round the perimeter of The Lees, the fence has come away from the posts, in two places, it's now not guarding a drop to a lower path It's up to them to repair them.
These will be repaired when the weather has improved.
 4. From F&HDC stating that elections will take place in May 2027, presumably, Kent has not asked for these to be delayed.
 5. Planning application lists – for planning committee.
 6. Negotiations for PC Insurance, to reduce premiums
 7. Changes to the band D equivalents, therefore further info regarding budget
 8. Still no response regarding salt bag
 9. A request for Barrow Hill Signs in the Barrow Hill area, *1 by the bridge and 1 by the layby – making a contribution. Make investigations, find out if anyone is interested in contributing.*