Monkton
Parish Council

PARISH CLERK: Sara Archer, 204 Monkton St, Monkton, Ramsgate, Kent CT12 4JN
Tel:01843 821989 E: clerk@monktonparish.co.uk

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held on 27th August 2026 at 7:00pm Monkton Village Hall

Present **Parish Councillors** Gilly Brown [GB], Davina Ransom [DR], Jason Button [JB]

In Attendance Sara Archer – Clerk, KCC Cllr Luke Evans, District Cllr Abi Smith, plus 4 members of the public.

27/26-27 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
Apologies had been received from District Cllr Peter Evans, PC Owen Crush, Community Warden Gary Groombridge, David Mills – Monkton Football Club,

28/26-27 **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**
None declared.

29/26-27 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**
- It was suggested that the agenda for the meeting was published on the village facebook pages.
- The speed of traffic travelling through the village was discussed. Concerns were noted and would be raised on the Highways Improvement Plan once again.
- Issues regarding the parking opposite the Foxhunter Caravan Park were discussed. Attempts to arrange a joint meeting with representatives from the Site, TDC and Parish Council had been unsuccessful to date, however, the Clerk would pursue the matter. Cllr Smith advised she would also follow up with the licensing department. Cllr Button confirmed he has met with representatives previously and would also attempt to make contact. **Action JB/SA**

30/26-27 **MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS**
It was resolved to accept the minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting held on 2nd July 2026 as a true record. These were proposed by Cllr Brown and Seconded by Cllr Ransom and duly signed by the Chair of the meeting.

31/26-27 **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**
Cllr Brown regrettably reported that Andy Kershaw had stepped down from the Parish Council. A decision not taken lightly, however, understandable due to many other demands on his time.
Andy was a highly valued member of the Parish Council undertaking his role with diligence and passion and always willing to help villagers where he could, supporting the wider role of the Council in the community. Although he has stood down, he continues to be supportive towards the Parish Council for which we are extremely grateful.

Cllr Brown expressed the disappointment and de-motivation in the apparent lack of interest in the Village, explaining there are now two vacancies on the Parish Council. Volunteers with a little spare time and a love of the village who might be interested in joining the Council would be welcomed.

Thanet District Council has recently opened the first stage of the consultation process on the next Local Plan. This is not only a call for sites, it is also an opportunity to comment on future development. A link to the consultation would be published on facebook and in newsletter.

The overgrowth along the access track to the Recreation Ground had been cut back and the landowner had arranged for a dangerous tree to be assessed. An application to fell the tree would be submitted to TDC accordingly.

32/26-27 **INDIVIDUAL REPORTS**
To receive updates for the following:
a) County Councillor – **Cllr Luke Evans** reported as per the appended notes.

b) District Councillors – **Cllr Abi Smith** reported as per the appended notes.

Cllr Peter Evans was not in attendance, however, he submitted a report which is appended to the minutes.

c) Parish Councillors – No meetings attended.

d) Kent Police – **PC Owen Crush** was unable to attend the meeting, however, he submitted the report appended to the minutes.

e) Community Warden – **Gary Groombridge** was unable to attend the meeting, however, he submitted the report appended to the minutes.

33/26-27 **RECREATION GROUND & PLAY AREA**

a) The recent RoSPA inspection report had been circulated to the Councillors. It was noted that there were no high risk actions to be addressed. A number of bolts required tightening, and small issues noted. Neil would be contacted and asked to complete the necessary repairs.

b) The Clerk advised she had contacted David Mills – MFC Manager who confirmed that the Pitch Power report would be completed in view to the grant application being submitted, however, applications had currently been suspended due to the dry weather.

34/26-27 **PLANNING**

a) To note any new Planning Applications.
No new applications received.
b) To receive an update on outstanding applications:
OL/TH/24/1460 - Land South Of, Monkton Street, Monkton, Kent
The Resident's Association had raised a query with regard to the provision of social housing which had been supported by the Parish Council.

F/TH/26/0281 and F/TH/25/0697 – The Foxhunter Caravan Park, Monkton Street, Monkton
As previously discussed.

35/26-27 **HIGHWAYS**

a) The Clerk had reported the blocked drains at Seamark Close which had since been cleaned. Cllr Evans advised he intends to raise the issue of the flooding and road erosion of Willets Hill, requesting larger drains are installed at Seamark Close and the six monthly cleanse of the gullies.

Two recent accidents on the dual carriageway were noted.
The Clerk would report concerns regarding the flooding on the Monkton roundabout again. **Action SA**

36/26-27 **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

a) Members resolved to approve the Schedule of Payments below, which had been previously circulated.
This was proposed by Cllr Ransom and seconded by Cllr Button.

N. Cooper - Play area repairs	£263.27
Hugofox - website hosting fee	£11.99
NEST - Clerk's pension	
Landscape services - Grounds maintenance	£2,786.40
S. Archer - Clerk's salary & expenses	
Unity Trust - Bank charges	£7.00
Receipts:	
Monkton Under 5's - Pavilion Hire	£20.00

b) The banking reconciliation for July was approved.
This was proposed by Cllr Ransom and seconded by Cllr Button.

c) It was noted that the application for £19,500 towards the refurbishment of the Chapel and development of the building into a community hub, from the Pride in Place Funding Scheme, had been approved by TDC. The Parish Council were thanked for their support.

37/26-27 **POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

The Clerk advised that Thanet District Council recently agreed during a Full Council meeting to update the Code of Conduct for Parish Councils across the District to mirror changes made to the Council's own Code of Conduct. The document had been circulated to Councillors.
Proposed: Cllr Brown, seconded: Cllr Button

38/26-27 **DATES OF THE NEXT MEETINGS**

Future Parish Council meetings would be held on 5th Nov, 7pm Monkton Village Hall

Signed…… *Date 5th November 2026*

39/26-27 **EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC**

Under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public are excluded by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted during this item.

- The Clerk would make further enquiries with regard to cost and location of ANPR cameras.
- Cllr Button and Brown would complete the regular play area safety inspections.
- The repayment for the Clerk's office was discussed and option agreed.

The meeting was closed by the Chairman at 8:15pm.

APPENDIX

Item 32/26-27 (a)

REPORT FROM KCC CLLR LUKE EVANS

Thanet Way Update

After 12 months of a temporary 50mph speed limit on the Thanet Way, I am pleased to confirm that the necessary repairs have been completed and the national speed limit has now been restored.
I attended the Thanet Way Speed Programme in early July and witnessed an operation carried out with military precision. Highways teams from across Kent worked over two nights to replace lighting, repair and resurface sections of road, clear drains and gullies, cut grass, collect litter, and remove the temporary speed restrictions.
I even had the pleasure of helping Cllr Peter Osborne, Kent County Council's Cabinet Member for Highways, remove one of the 50mph signs. I suspect it may have been one of the most popular sign removals in Kent this year!

Bus Services Update

Many residents will have heard concerns about the future of the 32 and 9 bus routes which basically cover the whole of my division from the borders with Margate division in Garlinge up to Birchington and throughout all my rural villages to the borders with Ramsgate Division. While it is true that both services were under threat, it is important to clarify that Kent County Council was not responsible for the proposed withdrawals. Bus services are operated by private companies which have faced significant financial pressures due to Government policies such as increased employer NIC and the £2 bus fares. Polly Billington MP blaming these route withdrawals on KCC was either a blatant lie on her behalf in a game of political point scoring or she simply didn't know what she was talking about. Either way it is a bad look for an MP.
As soon as I became aware of the situation, I worked closely with Cllr Spencer Dixon, Deputy Cabinet Member for Highways, council officers, and the operators to find a solution.
I am delighted to report that those efforts have been successful and both routes have been saved. While KCC did not remove these services, we have worked hard behind the scenes to help secure their future for local residents.

Kent's First-Ever Fly-Tipping Conference

On 10 July, Kent County Council hosted the county's first-ever Fly-Tipping Conference, bringing together local authorities, the Environment Agency, Kent Police, government representatives, landowners and waste industry professionals to tackle waste crime head-on.
Leader Linden Kemkaran did not hold back on the scale of the problem, warning that fly-tipping "scars neighbourhoods, damages our countryside and places a real financial burden on the people of Kent," and that letting it persist in the same places risks it becoming normalised. The conference has led to a new partnership and the development of a Kent Fly-Tipping Action Plan to keep the momentum going.
Read more here:
https://news.kent.gov.uk/articles/partners-unite-to-tackle-fly-tipping-and-waste-crime-across-kent
https://x.com/LeaderofKCC/status/2075521592088531300?s=20

Item 32/26-27 (b)

REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR ABI SMITH

Waste management issues

Briefing for councillors last Tuesday: Primarily concerned with how to communicate the issue with residents. Are there many people in flats or otherwise subject to 'simpler recycling' scheme? Please let me know of any specific complaints. The following is excerpted from a statement given to district councillors by TDC's Director of the Environment:

"In recent weeks the Cleansing team has worked hard to increase the number of household waste and recycling collections completed on schedule. Recently, daily collection rates have reached up to 97%.
Although there has been an improvement in the collection rate compared with the period from April-June, this week in particular we have a shortage of HGV drivers which is impacting the level of missed collections.

Signed…… *Date 5th November 2026*

There are a number of reasons for the shortage and there is a lot of work going on to increase driver availability.
We have prioritised refuse and food waste collections, however this has resulted in paper and card collections being impacted...
We appreciate that you're receiving contact from residents about these issues. Please keep using the dedicated email address: household.collections@thanet.gov.uk Thank you for your continued patience."

Pride in Place grants awarded: Congrats to Sara on achieving a £19,500 grant!

TheThanetTrustAssociation.org.uk: David Peerless has been running an alm0ost single-handed campaign against landowner St John's College, Cambridge, which has been selling land acquired through a 1642 will, which it has failed to produce. Please consider supporting him via the links available from his website.

Westgate and Garlinge Action Group Against Housing Development on Farmland will be discussing the forthcoming Thanet Local Plan at its next meeting on Wednesday 26th August, from 7pm at The Bakehouse in Westgate (located between the betting shop and The Carlton cinema, and behind the Bake & Alehouse micropub). It may be of interest to those wishing to know about the future of planning in Thanet.

Controversial tree felling in Sarre: I am following up with officers regarding the removal of 30-40 trees in Sarre, causing concern for residents in seven surrounding homes due to the unstable land left behind. TDC claims it had no powers to act, so reported it to the Forestry Commission, which confirmed an offence had been committed but also declined to act!

REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR PETER EVANS

Waste and Recycling update
The current driver shortage has had an impact on paper and cardboard recycling collections, in that they were delayed. There is now a shift in approach. Crews have still prioritised general waste and food but anyone with a paper collection this week is being asked to leave it out. Crews will return to collect wherever possible. Crews will be out over the weekend catching up on collections, including missed paper and card.

Advice against bathing
As a precaution, signs against bathing have been put out today (Friday 21 August) at Ramsgate Western Undercliff and Ramsgate Main Sands. This follows confirmed discharges from Military Road, Ramsgate and Foads Hill, Pegwell. Ward councillors have been notified directly. Lifeguards will display the red flag at Ramsgate Main Sands to warn beach users.

Margate wayfinding drop ins
Plans for drop in events related to the project which is reviewing the existing wayfinding signs between Margate town centre, Cliftonville and the coastline.
The confirmed timings for the public events are at Droit House in Margate on Friday 28, Sunday 30 August and Tuesday 1 September are 11am to 1pm. On Thursday 28 August at 10am Councillors are invited to a dedicated preview hour.

Thanet Games
The Thanet Games returns on Thursday 27 August. It will take place in Ellington Park, Ramsgate from 11.30am to 2.30pm. Alongside the Thanet Community Safety Partnership, there are a number of local organisations offering sessions including Mencap - Our Active Community, Social Enterprise Kent (SEK), Sports Connect and Margate Yoga Studio.
There will be multisports, Nordic walking and safety advice, as well as a pop-up inclusive book club. Open to all, please help spread the word about this afternoon of free activities.

Active Travel Corridor
There were three drop-in sessions held last week about the two proposed accessible routes to link Margate and Ramsgate. In total, the team spoke to approximately 100 residents. Around 50 to 60 people visited the Westwood Cross event, and approximately 40 people attended the sessions in Margate and Ramsgate.
Thank you for your support in promoting these events and encouraging people to participate.

Crematorium closure for maintenance
The grounds at Thanet Crematorium will be closed to the public on Monday 7 and Tuesday 8 September for essential tree maintenance. Given the heavy machinery required, keeping the site closed is a health and safety necessity.

The team is very aware of the importance of these spaces to people wishing to visit, so the aim is to keep disruption to a minimum.
For anyone wishing to view the Book of Remembrance on those dates, access inside the Cemetery Chapel will still be available, by appointment only.
This information will be posted on the Crematorium webpages and shared to social media.

REPORT FROM PC OWEN CRUSH

Monkton Parish Council Report:

- Since this time last month, there have been 350 calls to the whole 'Thanet Villages' ward.
- 28 calls were made to Monkton in this period, of which the vast majority related to traffic incidents, broken down vehicles and similar incidents on the dual carriageway. There are no concerning incidents that have come to my attention in the village itself which is good news!

Items of note:

- I have been focusing on road safety issues recently due to increased reports from residents and councillors. I have conducted numerous traffic stops whilst on mobile patrol, and this has led to the seizure of three vehicles for no insurance. One of these was a moped where I also arrested the driver on suspicion of drug driving after he provided a positive roadside drugs wipe for cannabis and cocaine. Another was a nuisance e-bike that had earlier made off from colleagues and I, but was tracked down and seized. I have also made an arrest on suspicion of drink driving, so a busy month for traffic enforcement!
- I have conducted 6 stop searches across the Isle, resulting in several drugs seizures, which have been dealt with by way of out of court disposals aimed at preventing further offending.
- I have been assisting local response teams with a high volume of calls due to the recent summer demand across all of Thanet. This has included medical incidents, serious assaults, domestics and incidents of criminal damage, totalling around 44 calls in total attended by me.
- Two separate arrests have been made by me during my patrolling of persons wanted for domestic offences. Both were dealt with in custody by detectives and this has allowed victims to be safeguarded promptly.
- Monkton has thankfully not seen a rise in crime with the Summer period, which cannot be said for the rest of Thanet, but I have continued to monitor reports.

Item 32/26-27 (e)

REPORT FROM COMMUNITY WARDEN – GARY GROOMBRIDGE

- Continue to do Visual Presence around the Village.
- Attend and support the wellbeing group at Monkton Village Hall, speak to the residents about any concerns.
- I had a report from a resident of anti-social behaviour from children, possibly staying at the Foxhunter Park.
- Supported and attended the Birchington, Minnis Bay Dip Events, Run by Scripture Union, part of the duties was traffic management, keeping the families safe.
- I was contacted by a local resident with concerns for another resident who had not been seen for a while, I popped to see him to ask if he needed help, but he declined the offer. I did leave my contact details and told him to contact me if he needed my help.

I did pop to see him a second time, due to an accident that he had, but he still refused any help.

- Multi-agency event in Birchington that I helped organise and facilitate at Dog Acre on the 15th August. Well attended by the agencies and the local residents.
- Attended and supported the Summer Blast Sports activities event the last couple of days, over at Dane Valley, Dane Park. Margate. I've been helping to support the local children and families attending the event.