



Minutes: Ordinary Meeting of Leysdown Parish Council
Tuesday 30th September 2025 at Leysdown Village Hall at 7pm

Present: Cllr. Switters, Cllr. Sandle, Cllr. Bidgood, Cllr. Noe, Cllr. Partis, Mrs S Poole – RFO, Mrs E O’Neill – Clerk.

Members of the Public: 10 parishioners.

LOSPCM25/26-60 Apologies:

Cllr. Moore sent apologies.

LOSPCM25/26-61 Public Session (30 minutes)

Representatives from Sheppey Matters attended the meeting and introduced themselves. The representatives will be invited to an upcoming Full Council meeting to present their work to the Parish Council and parishioners. The Clerk will ask Minster Parish Council to borrow the Owl to ensure that the presentation can be live streamed.

A parishioner raised that the shed that had been purchased for Parish Council use at the Village Hall appeared to be too big for use. The RFO is to meet with a Village Hall representative to ascertain whether the shed that has been purchased can be erected.

LOSPCM25/26-62 To receive any report from Borough Councillor:

Cllr. Noe updated the Parish Council with news of the £20million Pride in Place funding (at £2million per year) that has been awarded to Sheppey East, over 10 years. There is a strict process that needs to be followed to ensure that the funding is allocated fairly. An independent Board is to be created, and a Chair will be in place by November this year. The Board will then put together a plan which is then to be approved by Government. The money can be spent on improving the area, but any initiatives need to be evidence-based and agreed by HMCLJ. It was also noted that the local MP will be holding a coffee morning at Leysdown Village Hall in October. There is a survey for members of the public to complete with ideas of where and how the money can be spent.

LOSPCM25/26-63 To receive any report from County Councillor:

Cllr. Maxwell Harrison provided an update on Local Government Reorganisation and confirmed that Kent County Council will be pursuing its own reorganisation model, 'option 1a', which is one unitary authority with three assemblies, i.e. East, West and North.

The ongoing lack of secondary school places for Year 7 students on the island remains. Cllr. Harrison noted that KCC are still awaiting absence data from some schools in the area. Until this is received, further modelling will not be able to be undertaken.

On 8th October, the Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Coastal Rejuvenation is coming to the island to speak to charities and businesses about how KCC can assist with developing the local area.

LOSPCM25/26-64 To receive any report from Community Warden Claire Jones and PC Neil Kinrade

Cllr. Switters read through PC Kinrade's report and noted that as much information as possible needs to be reported to the Police. PC Kinrade will continue the drop-in surgeries over the coming months, with dates to be confirmed.

See Appendix 1.

Cllr. Switters read through Claire Jones' report.

See Appendix 2.

LOSPCM25/26-65 For Members to make or receive declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Interests

Cllr. Noe may be called to Swale Borough Council's Planning Committee and therefore will not take part in planning decisions at this meeting.

LOSPCM25/26-66 Approval and Adoption of Minutes

The minutes from the Full Council Meeting 28th August 2025 were circulated to Councillors, prior to the meeting.

Cllr. Bidgood proposed that the minutes were adopted as a true record of the meeting. Cllr. Partis seconded. All agreed. **Resolved; accepted.**

LOSPCM25/26-67 Matters arising from the previous minutes and not covered by other agenda items:

a Update on Doctors Surgery Closure

The RFO noted that St. George's Medical Centre are planning a drop in session at Eastchurch Village Hall.

b Vacancy of Parish Councillor

The RFO will be advertising the co-option vacancy. Members of the public were asked to email the Clerk or RFO if they are interested in becoming a Councillor.

c Update on consultation on toilets – feedback from parishioners

The consultation on Swale Borough Council's proposal to close the Spinney toilets finishes on 3rd October 2025. The Clerk has promoted the consultation in noticeboards and across Facebook. Councillors handed out QR codes to parishioners to complete the form whilst on the Spinney in August.

d Chalkwell Bus Services

The Clerk is awaiting the new timetable from Chalkwell Bus Services. Cllr. Sandle noted that anyone can use the school timetabled buses. The schedule will be reviewed by the provider after three months.

e Lanyards

The RFO confirmed that they were due to be delivered today but had not arrived. The RFO will chase this up with the supplier.

LOSPCM25/26-68 Community Engagement – Working Groups

a Remembrance Wreath

The Parish Council discussed the number of wreaths required. Cllr. Partis proposed that three wreaths be purchased. Cllr. Bidgood seconded. All agreed. **Resolved; accepted.**

Cllr. Sandle proposed £150 to be donated to the Royal British Legion, which includes the purchase of the three wreaths. Cllr. Bidgood seconded. All agreed. **Resolved; accepted.**

b Christmas Lights Switch On

Cllr. Switters raised that she has spoken to the owner of the Coffee Pot in Leysdown about merging the lights switch on with their own switch-on event, which is on 29th November 2025. Cllr. Switters to confirm with the owner what time their switch on is.

The Village Hall will enquire with Leysdown Bakery as to whether they can donate mince pies. Cllr. Switters proposed that mulled wine and mince pies be provided free of charge to parishioners at the event. Cllr. Bidgood seconded. All agreed. **Resolved; accepted.** A request to have the Mayor present for the switch on needs to be actioned.

Cllr. Harrison left the meeting at 7.45pm.

Cllr. Sandle left the room from 7.50pm – 7.55pm.

c

Newsletter Delivery

The Councillors have been delivering the newsletters over the past few weeks. Cllr. Switters expressed her thanks to the Clerk for the production of the newsletter and noted she has received some positive feedback from several parishioners.

Cllr. Sandle is to drop newsletters into the holiday parks.

The Parish Council discussed the next newsletter, and it was suggested that another newsletter is sent out before Christmas. The Clerk will bring a draft to the October Full Council Meeting.

d

Litter Picking Dates

The next Litter Pick is going ahead on 19th October 2025, meeting at the Village Hall and working towards the Spinney. All are welcome.

e

Christmas Lunch Survey Monkey/QR code

The Parish Council discussed Christmas events. It was voted that no Christmas meal would be planned for this year. Cllr. Sandle objected to this.

Cllr. Switters proposed that the Parish Council organise the Christmas Lights Switch On event only this year. Cllr. Bidgood seconded. Cllr. Sandle abstained. **Resolved; accepted.**

f

Purchase new flags

Cllr. Switters proposed to purchase two new Union Jack flags. Cllr. Noe seconded. All agreed. **Resolved; accepted.**

A parishioner also raised who was maintaining the church yard. Cllr. Switters explained that the issue of maintenance had been resolved before the summer, and that the church have taken on the ongoing maintenance. From feedback from parishioners, it appears that the maintenance is being completed to a good standard.

LOSPCM25/26-69

Interim Committee Reports

a

Footpaths, Properties and Greens Committee

i. Update on when the new defibrillators will arrive

The RFO confirmed it should arrive later this week.

ii. Defibrillator training

Cllr. Partis and Cllr. Bidgood would like to undertake training with St. John's Ambulance.

b

Planning & Transportation Committee

i. Planning Application: Ref. No. 25/503608/FULL Installation of children's play equipment (retrospective) Priory Hill Holiday Park, Wing Road, Leysdown, Kent, ME12 4QR

The Parish Council discussed the recent planning application. Cllr. Switters proposed no objections be raised to the application. Cllr. Bidgood seconded. Cllr. Noe abstained from voting. **Resolved; accepted.**

ii. HIP Progress

The Clerk will contact KCC to arrange a HIP review meeting. A parishioner raised that the flashing speed lights are turned on at random times. He will speak to the school to understand why. Councillors were asked to email the Clerk with any suggestions to be included on the HIP.

c

Staffing Committee

The meeting dates will be set after this Full Council meeting.

d

Finance Committee

The meeting dates will be set after this Full Council meeting.

LOSPCM25/26-70

Update from Outside Bodies

a. Local KALC – 20th October at 7pm at Bobbing Village Hall

Cllr. Switters and Cllr. Bidgood will be attending the meeting. Any other Councillor is also welcome to attend.

b. Greenway Light Railway

The next meeting is at the end of October 2025. Cllr. Partis to attend the next meeting.

c. Joint Transportation Board (JTB) – 6th October at 5.30pm

Cllr. Sandle to attend this meeting.

d. Sheppey Area Committee – 18th September

Cllr. Switters and Cllr. Sandle attended this meeting.

e. Swale Liaison Forum – 24th September

The RFO attended this meeting. There was an update on LGR and LCWIP. Michelle Anderson from Swale Borough Council would like to talk at a future Footpaths, Properties & Greens Committee Meeting.

f. Sheppey Island Forum – 16th September

An email from the Chair of the Island Forum has been sent with details of the discussions held at the meeting.

LOSPCM25/26-71 Appeals

None to note.

LOSPCM25/26-72 General matters raised by Parish Councillors Reports for discussion

Cllr. Bidgood noted that the parking charging signs at Shellness have been removed; this has been reported to Swale Borough Council.

Cllr. Noe left the room at 8.37pm and returned at 8.40pm.

LOSPCM25/26-73 Financial Statement and Authorisation of Payments

The Clerk will make payments under the delegated powers of the Clerk/RFO and to seek approval of any additional payments as necessary.

See Appendix 3.

a. Remittance from Swale Borough Council has been received

The Parish Council noted this. The current balance of the bank is £95,611.50p.

b. Assertion 10 Presentation

This was deferred to the October Full Council Meeting.

c. Mazars External Auditor

The RFO read the latest update from Mazars. The RFO is still awaiting the final report from them and the Leysdown Parish Council website will be updated to reflect this.

d. Update from SLCC Local Government Services Pay Agreement 2025/26

It was noted that the Staffing Committee had received notice of this at the last meeting.

LOSPCM25/26-74 Consultations

a. Swale LGR Consultation – Response

This will be sent to all Councillors for review.

b. Notification of Strategic Planning Policy Database Transfer

The RFO sent the email to the Clerk. The Clerk will review.

c. LCWIP

Michelle Anderson has printed some copies of the consultation forms, which Cllr. Switters will be picking up.

LOSPCM25/26-75 Correspondence

a. KALC Newsletter September

This had been sent to all Councillors

b. Request for Parish Council to pay for printing for Remembrance Day

A parishioner presented the Parish Council with a draft programme for the Remembrance Day service and asked that a Councillor contact him to run-through the proposed schedule. The parishioner requested that the Parish Council pay for the costs of printing the programme. The Clerk is to contact Swale Borough Council to ascertain a quote for printing.

c. KALC Award Nominations

This had been sent to all Councillors.

d. Salvation Army Donation Request

Cllr. Sandle proposed £200 donation. Cllr. Switters seconded. All agreed. **Resolved; accepted.**

LOSPCM25/26-76 Training

a. Clerk to update on who has done the basic training

No further training has been completed this month.

b. Update of the Clerk's ILCA

The Clerk will start the ILCA course this week.

LOSPCM25/26-77 General matters raised by Councillors for discussion

Nothing to note.

LOSPCM25/26-78 Recommendations to next Full Council

- Sheppey Matters presentation
- LCWIP
- Hiring the Owl from Swale Borough Council

LOSPCM25/26-79 Dates of Next Meeting

- 9th October: Planning & Transportation Committee Meeting
- 28th October: Full Council Meeting
- 4th November: Footpaths, Properties and Greens Committee Meeting

Appendix 1: Report from PC Kinrade.

Appendix 2: Report from Claire Jones, KCC Warden.

Appendix 3: Schedule of payments

All public in attendance left the meeting at 8.58pm.

Closed Session:

LOSPCM25/26-80 Employment Update / Staffing Meeting

The Staffing Committee previously met and conducted employment reviews with the RFO and Clerk.

LOSPCM25/26-81 Closure of Meeting

The meeting closed at 9.05pm