



Minutes: Ordinary Meeting of Leysdown Parish Council
Tuesday 25th November 2025 at Leysdown Village Hall at 7pm

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

Members of the Public: 10 parishioners and PC Kinrade.

LOSPCM25/26-104 Apologies:

No apologies to note.

LOSPCM25/26-105 Public Session (30 minutes)

A parishioner asked why Leysdown Parish Council held a Finance Committee meeting at the Eastern Sheppey Community Hub at the previous weekend, as they observed that the Hub was quite small. Cllr. Switters noted that there was plenty of room for the public to attend.

LOSPCM25/26-106 Presentation from Sheppey Matters

Representatives from Sheppey Matters provided the Parish Council with an overview of the different schemes available to parishioners, including coffee mornings, bus trips to shopping centres and drop-in sessions. The Clerk agreed to share details of upcoming Sheppey Matters initiatives on the Facebook page and in the noticeboards, and Sheppey Matters also provided the Parish Council with several leaflets which can be displayed.

LOSPCM25/26-107 To receive any report from Borough Councillor:

Cllr. Moore provided an update about the recent decision taken by Swale Borough Council to suggest option 4b as their preferred option in the Local Government Reorganisation consultation. KCC have suggested option 1a, which does not appear to meet the Government requirements. The suggestions have now gone to Central Government and now await their decision in 2026.

Cllr. Moore noted that Swale Borough Council have decided to remove the free car parking in Queenborough, Halfway and at the Little Oyster in Minster.

Cllr. Moore noted that the lack of secondary school places for Y7 children in the East of the island remains. The next cohort of children will find out where they will be placed in March 2026, but the issues remain, whereby there are not enough spaces available at the island secondary schools.

LOSPCM25/26-108 To receive any report from County Councillor:

Cllr. Maxwell Harrison provided a written report. **See Appendix 1.**

LOSPCM25/26-109 To receive any report from Community Warden Claire Jones and PC Neil Kinrade

PC Kinrade read through his report, which can be viewed at **Appendix 2.**

PC Kinrade left the meeting at 7.43pm.

Cllr. Switters noted that Claire Jones could not attend the meeting but has sent a written report, which was read out. **See Appendix 3.**

LOSPCM25/26-110 For Members to make or receive declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Interests

None to note.

LOSPCM25/26-111 Approval and Adoption of Minutes

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

Cllr. Sandle raised that she had asked in the October meeting who pays for the conferences that the Clerk and RFO attend. The Clerk did not attend the conferences listed, and the RFO attended as a representative of the other Parish Councils she works for.

Cllr. Moore proposed that the minutes were adopted as a true record of the meeting. Cllr. Bidgood seconded. All agreed.

Resolved; accepted.

LOSPCM25/26-112 Matters arising from the previous minutes and not covered by other agenda items:

a Update on Doctor's Surgery Closure

The Clerk has emailed and called the Doctor's Surgery on numerous occasions to receive an update but has had no response. It had been heard that the Doctor's surgery may not be closing after all, but this has not been confirmed.

b **Vacancy of Parish Councillor**

The Clerk read the notice from Swale Borough Council relating to the vacancy.

A parishioner raised that the two Borough Councillors who are on the Parish Council should be removed from the Parish Council now that parishioners have petitioned for a by-election. The RFO clarified that the Section 91 passed in May 2025 means that the Borough Councillors are members of the Parish Council.

c **Update on consultation on public toilets – decision made at Swale Borough Council’s Environment and Climate Committee on 12th November**

The Clerk attended the Swale Borough Council meeting virtually and noted the recommendations from Swale Borough Council. They will close three toilet blocks and transfer seven to Parish Councils – both the Spinney and the Beach Services will be offered to be transferred to Leysdown Parish Council.

Negotiations with Parish Councils will start in 2026, and in the meantime, the toilets will not be closed. The Clerk awaits contact from Swale Borough Council. The Clerk has received running costs of the toilets, but nothing else from Swale Borough Council so far.

d **TravelMasters 360 Bus Services**

The Clerk understands that there will be a review of services undertaken in January 2026.

LOSPCM25/26-113 **Community Engagement – Working Groups**

a **Christmas Lights Switch On Event – 29th November 2025**

There will be a celebration of the Christmas lights on The Spinney on 29th November 2025.

A parishioner asked why the parishioners Christmas party is not going ahead in 2025. Cllr. Switters noted that it was decided not to do it this year, but it will be reviewed in 2026.

b **Litter Picking Dates for Spring 2026**

The dates were given as 21st March 2026, 26th April and 23rd May 2026. Volunteers collected 79.8kg of rubbish at the last litter picking date.

c **Eastern Sheppey Resilience Meeting with Warden and Eastchurch Parish Council**

d

Finance Committee

i. Recommendations from committee meeting on 15th November include:

- War Graves Project to be commenced. The Clerk will start this project.
- The bandstand is to be maintained by repainting it to ensure its continued preservation.
- A full skills audit of all Councillors is to be completed.
- Mandatory training is to be identified.

The RFO provided the Council with documentation of the proposed Leysdown Parish Council introduction pack for new Councillors, including mandatory policies. An annual training policy is proposed to be implemented across the Full Council. This is proposed to be signed off in January 2026. Cllr. Switters noted that the Finance Committee are proposing that all Councillors on the same committee complete the same training.

A parishioner asked the Parish Council what they feel they have achieved over the last year. Cllr. Switters asked the parishioner to email the Clerk with that question, where a full answer can be provided.

A parishioner asked who is paying for the training courses. Cllr. Switters responded that the training would be paid for by Leysdown Parish Council. The parishioner raised that they believed the courses will be too expensive for every Councillor to complete and noted that they feel the sub-committees are surplus to requirements. Cllr. Switters explained that ensuring the Councillors are well trained will mean that effective decisions can be made.

The meeting was interrupted, and the Chair called the meeting to order. Due to the disruption, the Responsible Finance Officer (Proper Officer) declared the meeting closed at 8.37pm. Any remaining business was adjourned to a future date.

The following agenda items were adjourned as a result:

LOSPCM25/26-115 Update from Outside Bodies

- a. **Local KALC Meeting**
- b. **Greenway Light Railway Meeting**
- c. **Joint Transportation Board (JTB) – 8th December**
- d. **Sheppey Area Committee – 2nd December**
- e. **Swale Liaison Forum – 2nd December**
- f. **Sheppey Island Forum – 25th November**

LOSPCM25/26-116 Appeals

LOSPCM25/26-117 General matters raised by Parish Councillors Reports for discussion

LOSPCM25/26-118 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.

- a. **Agree the budget for 2026/27**
- b. **Agree the precept for 2026/27**

LOSPCM25/26-119 Consultations

- a. **Swale Community Governance Review**
- b. **Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Lettings Policy**

LOSPCM25/26-120 Correspondence

- a. **KALC Newsletter November**
- b. **JTB: Swale Borough Council's Highways Manager will respond to Cllr. Sandle re: the layby along Leysdown Road.**

LOSPCM25/26-121 Training

- a. **Clerk to update on who has done the basic training**
- b. **Update of the Clerk's ILCA**

LOSPCM25/26-122 General matters raised by Councillors for discussion

LOSPCM25/26-123 Recommendations to next Full Council

No recommendations to note.

LOSPCM25/26-124 Dates of Next Meeting

- 16th December: Footpaths, Properties & Greens Committee, 7pm.
- 8th January: Planning & Transportation Committee 7pm
- 27th January: Full Council 7pm
- 3rd February: Footpaths, Properties & Greens Committee 7pm
- 12th February: Planning & Transportation Committee 7pm

LOSPCM25/26-125 Closure of Meeting

- Appendix 1:** Report from Cllr. Maxwell Harrison.
Appendix 2: Report from PC Kinrade.
Appendix 3: Report from Claire Jones.

