

Minutes of the meeting of Westbere Parish Council held on Monday 13 April 2026 in Westbere Village Hall at 7.00pm.

Present: Parish Councillors:

Paul Glover (Chairman), Sylvia Harlow (Vice Chairman), Ken Dekker, Georgina Glover, Granville Glover, Dave Wilson and Kathy Fielding.

Clerk to the Council, Amanda Sparkes.

7 x residents

1. The Chairman's opening remarks

Cllr P Glover welcomed everyone.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from CCC Cllr Harry McKenzie (although he had sent a report, below) and from CCC Cllr Keji Moses.

3. Declarations of Interests

None.

4. RECEIVED the Minutes of the Annual Electors' meeting held on 16 March 2026

(NOTE these get approved at next year's Annual Electors' meeting)

Actions arising from the Annual Electors meeting:

- i) A suggestion that the parish council considers submitting an application to CCC to register All Saints Church, Westbere as an Asset of Community Value. Cllr Wilson, Cllr Georgina Glover and the Clerk met informally on 01 April 2026 with the Chairman and Secretary of the WVPS and discussed this. It was recommended that any decision be deferred until after the Church Wardens have briefed the parish council at its 18 May 2026 parish council meeting.
- ii) In Westbere Lane near the entrance off the A28 the road edge is crumbling away – This was reported on 18 March 2026 fault reference 954137. However, an email was received on 19 March 2026 advising that the report had been risk assessed and no action is required. The email says: "KCC have adopted a risk-based approach for all aspects of highway infrastructure maintenance, including setting levels of service, inspections, response, resilience, priorities and programmes. The management of current and future risks has been embedded within our approach to asset management and service delivery. We confirm that the site has been assessed and, on this occasion, having followed our risk-based approach, no action is deemed necessary. We will continue to monitor the site during statutory highway inspections and other asset specific surveys and inspections. For more information on how we have reached this decision please refer to the following link and the documents within.
Managing highway infrastructure - Kent County Council
<https://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/service-specific-policies/roads-paths-and-transport-policies/managing-highway-infrastructure> "
- iii) The overgrown footpath on the A28 from Bushy Hill Road to Brooklyn Cottages – now so encroached it allows only single file pedestrians. (Reported 18 March 2026 fault reference 954130)
- iv) There has been no update from KCC Cllr Mark Mulvihill on the residents' request for a pedestrian crossing on the A28 by the top of Church Lane.

5. Minutes of the last meeting held 16 March 2026

Cllr Wilson proposed, and Cllr Fielding seconded and all councillors agreed they were a true record of the meeting, and the Chairman duly signed them. (Cllr Dekker abstained as he had not been present at the meeting.)

6. **NOTED that the next Canterbury Area of the Kent Association of Local Councils meeting will be its AGM and held on Friday 22 May at 6.30pm at Chartham Village Hall** – this will elect a Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, KALC Executive Committee representatives, a JTB Representative and Standards Board representative for 2026-2027 and the main agenda item will be the CCC Community Governance Review. Cllr Wilson, Cllr Georgina Glover and the Clerk will attend this.
7. **Adjournment of the meeting for Parishioners' questions and comments.**
 A resident explained he was in attendance as at the Annual Electors meeting residents had suggested that Westbere Parish Council put in a representation to the Regulation 19 consultation on the Canterbury District Local Plan and he asked if that meeting item could be open to members of the public present. The Chairman agreed to this.
 Another resident commented that the new planning application listed as being at Horton Court is misleading as it's not linked to Horton Court – it is on land north of Horton Court in separate ownership. (This application was discussed later in the meeting, see below).
 The meeting continued.

8. **Parish Councillors' reports**

Cllr Dave Wilson

Cllr Wilson advised that the KALC Executive committee had held just two meetings since August last year. He felt they were inward looking and a complacent organisation, and dominated by councillors from West Kent. He felt they don't appear to be looking at the challenges parish councils face. At the KALC AGM, the Dover area KALC wanted a motion for Local Government Reorganisation to have 4 Unitaries for Kent but the West Kent councillors did not allow the motion.

Cllr Wilson commented that he would not be standing for the position of Executive committee member again.

Cllr Fielding

Cllr Fielding had nothing to report.

Cllr Dekker

Cllr Dekker had nothing to report.

Cllr Harlow

Cllr Harlow had nothing to report.

Cllr Granville Glover

Cllr Granville Glover said he would like the city councillors to attend the parish council meetings more frequently. CCC Cllr Moses is Lord Mayor with other commitments currently and Cllr McKenzie does either attend or send reports. The KCC Cllr has only attended once since he was elected – he was contacted after the Annual Electors meeting but not yet responded.

Cllr Georgina Glover

Cllr G Glover advised that the local neighbourhood policing team will be at Hersden Community Centre, The Avenue, on 17th April 2026 from 10:00–11:00 hours. This is an opportunity to come along and speak about any issues or concerns in the area, ask questions, seek advice, or simply say hello.

9. **Canterbury City Councillor Harry McKenzie report**

Cllr P Glover read the Canterbury City Council councillor, Cllr McKenzie's following report:

Councillor Report for Westbere Parish Council (13/04/2026)

Councillors Harry McKenzie and Keji Moses

Draft Local Plan and Transport Strategy

The Draft Local Plan and Transport Strategy has been sent to a Regulation 19 Consultation before being sent to the Planning Inspector. We voted in favour of this action at Full Council

because the plans deliver on all three of the pledges that we made to voters when getting elected. Please respond to the consultations here:

<https://news.canterbury.gov.uk/.../canterbury-district.../>

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Annual Parking Review

The Annual Parking Review occurred which has had mainly good outcomes for Sturry Ward fed into by residents as the consultation was clearly listened to. There were no applications within Westbere.

Changes to Planning Committee speaking rules

At Governance Committee, it was agreed that a recommendation will go to Full Council to allow people to speak more than once on each item at the Planning Committee.

Purchasing and protecting Old Park

Negotiations are underway for Canterbury City Council to purchase Old Park from the MOD to protect this precious green space into the future. We are monitoring this.

New playground funding

The council has been awarded £280,000 from the government to create new playparks or improve existing ones. Where do you think this funding would be well spent?

Council tenant engagement

Tenants of council homes are invited to an engagement hub in the Hersden Community Centre at 10.30am on Friday 1st May.

Park and Ride over the Easter Holidays

Park and Ride services costs only £1 over the Easter Holidays.

10. Planning matters

Regulation 19 consultation on the Canterbury District Local Plan

Canterbury City Council published the Canterbury District Local Plan at

<https://haveyoursay.canterbury.gov.uk/43579/widgets/130223/documents/103524> on 23 March 2026 for consultation, in accordance with Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. The consultation is open **until 5pm on Monday 18 May 2026**.

At Regulation 19 stage, the Local Plan is published for representations on its soundness and legal compliance. All comments received at this stage will be passed directly to the Planning Inspector who will then consider whether any changes are needed.

It is expected that the Examination will begin in late 2026, concluding with a report from the Inspector in November 2027, and adoption of the new Local Plan in December 2027.

Residents present had been given a copy of the Clerk's parish council's draft response to the Regulation 19 consultation mainly in respect of concerns about the settlement boundaries. Cllr Wilson commented that it was a difficult thing to write and still needed an introduction and some context of the Westbere development site (Policy R6 Bread and Cheese Field) in context of the 1000's of houses across the district. He drew attention to Policy R20 section 5.34 which should be added as this classifies houses at the top of Bushy Hill Road as countryside so they should be protected. Policy R6 proposes development right up to them so there is no protection for them.

A resident commented that he'd found examples in other authority areas of modifications to settlement boundaries and individual sites.

A resident advised that the Westbere Village Preservation Society's draft Regulation 19 response had been shared and it is very different. WVPS has two maps where the Bread and Cheese site boundary for parish boundaries was changed during the governance review circa 2018.

The process of the settlement boundaries was not easy to find or understand. Cllr Wilson commented that nobody argued these during the process.
Cllr Wilson commented that for Policy R6 the access is the major concern.

A resident advised that the WVPS latest version has changed a lot and would be shared with the Clerk and parish councillors. A resident suggested that WVPS and parish council representatives meet informally to agree a Regulation response with from each body or as a joint representation. The Clerk and Chairman did not commit to a joint response at this time. For this joint meeting, Cllr Paul Glover and the Clerk, and Cllr Wilson and Cllr Dekker if they are free would meet with WVPS representatives after 07 May 2026.
It was agreed that all councillors would be invited to comment and endorse a final response and that delegated authority to the Chairman be given to meet the 18 May 2026 CCC deadline.

The Chairman of the WVPS asked that if the parish council use any of the WVPS material that this be acknowledged. He commented that the parish council's response needs to strengthen the reasons for 'unsoundness'. He thanked the council for its hard work and for agreeing to another meeting.

New planning applications:

CA/26/00522 - 24A Westbere Lane, Westbere CT2 0HH

Erection of double garage with driveway together with raising the height of the roof to existing garage.

Cllr Paul Glover and Cllr Wilson had looked at the plans. Cllr Wilson commented that it was a confusing application. Cllr P Glover explained the proposal is for the existing garage to have its roof height raised and a new garage built in the garden.

The parish council had no concerns.

CA/26/00456 - Horton Court, Westbere Lane, Westbere CT2 0HJ

Erection of 3 two-storey detached dwellings.

Comments by 08 May 2026.

The Design and Access Statement advises that pre-application advice has been submitted to this application and was carefully read and seen as positive by all parties involved. The planning officer stated, "Officers would likely be supportive of a scheme of three new dwellings at the site."

The parish council objects to this application.

There is concern regarding access on and off the A28 - it is unsuitable. It is such a busy road and the speed limit here is 40mph. There is difficulty with vision and sightlines with the trees and fencing at the entrance. Three 5-bedroom houses will mean a minimum of six cars.

The site is not an allocation in the Canterbury District Local Plan. This is considered opportunistic development.

The Design and Access Statement at point 2.7 states that the site is not located in a Conservation Area. This is incorrect - [Canterbury City Council's Planning constraints interactive layers map](#) clearly shows the site is in the Westbere Conservation Area 2 (outer).

The Biodiversity Net Gain assessment is wrong - the applicant's own pictures show trees that they felled (without conservation area consent) since the assessment was made.

There is concern about the annotation on the proposed site block plan drawing stating "future access" - what does this mean. This suggests more than three houses are planned. The parish council objects as this is not the whole of the scheme and it appears an incomplete application.

The ward councillors have been asked by residents to call the application in to committee. Cllr Wilson advised he would be prepared to speak at the planning committee.

Notifications: None.

11. **Arrangements for a Summer Party event to celebrate the gifting of the village green**
Cllr Wilson, Cllr Georgina Glover and the Clerk met informally on 01 April 2026 with the Chairman and Vice Chair of the WVPS and discussed whether members of the WVPS would help with a summer party to mark the gifting of the village green. It was agreed that last year's event was special and exceptional, marking the return of the Bread and Cheese Field to Westbere.
As the budget is only £200 a scaled-down event similar to that held in 2024 in the village hall should be the template. WVPS offered to email its members to see if some will help – and asked for a list of tasks for people to understand what is needed and what they might volunteer for.
- Cllr Wilson advised that he'd made enquiries with the landlord of the Yew Tree Public House and they would be happy to do a pop up bar on a Saturday (not a Sunday). They have also offered to provide finger food for £200. The Chairman and the Clerk will follow this up and speak to the Yew Tree landlord.
- It was agreed that the event would be held on the village green unless the weather is inclement.
A provisional date of Saturday 27 June 2026 from 12pm – 3pm was agreed subject to the Yew Tree availability.
A resident offered to research getting music provided.
The Chairman of WVPS will ask the WVPS if it would make a donation.
WVPS members could bake cakes and help with logistics.
12. **Use of Section 101 Scheme of Delegation** to the Clerk in conjunction with a minimum of two councillors since the last meeting: None.
13. **Finance**
RECEIVED the bank statements and bank reconciliation for March 2026 and RESOLVED the signature of a councillor other than the Chairman thereon – and two councillors initialled the invoices.
14. **Authorisation of online payments**
The payments were listed on the agenda. The Chairman signed the Finance Appendix x2 for the Minute book and Invoice file.
15. **Highways – double yellow lines**
There is a persistent problem with cars parking too close to the entrance to Pennington Close making it dangerous when they're parked there. There is a stretch of yellow lines on one side. It was suggested that yellow lines be added from the entrance to the beginning of the drive of No. 16 Pennington Close. The Clerk offered to draw the proposal on a map for councillors to endorse. Then the parish council would submit a request to CCC for this to be considered in the next annual parking review.
16. **Clerk report**
NOTED that on 18 March 2026 the Clerk emailed CCC with a request to consider new street name plates x3 for the entrance at Westbere Lane. CCC agreed to this request and will do the next order at the start of April and they normally take 4 to 6 weeks to come from the supplier.
- NOTED that on 25 March 2026 the Clerk met two CCC officers at their request, to follow up on the CCC biodiversity grant given for bird boxes and bat boxes.
- Cllr Dekker proposed and Cllr Georgina Glover seconded and all councillors were happy that as per the Clerk's Contract of Employment that 5 days of annual leave not taken in 2025-2026 may be carried forward to 2026-2027.

Reopening Manston Airport – 2026 Airspace Change Consultation

RiverOak Strategic Partners Limited ('RSP') is working to redevelop and reopen Manston Airport as an air freight hub. RSP's Stage 3 airspace change consultation runs until Monday 22 June 2026. The consultation provides residents, communities and wider stakeholders with details of proposed changes to flight paths and airspace structure.

The consultation includes a dedicated website where materials and proposals can be viewed and responses submitted: <https://consultations.airspacechange.co.uk/manston-airport/manston-airport-consultation/>.

Consultees can provide feedback via the online portal, at the consultation events, or by printing the questionnaire and posting it to a Freepost address (FREEPOST 1616).

The consultation is being run in accordance with airspace change standards governed by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). All progress regarding the consultation and wider airspace change process is available to view on the CAA's online portal: <https://airspacechange.caa.co.uk/PublicProposalArea?plD=112>

The Clerk will attend a public consultation event on 25 April 2026 and report back.

17. New residents for a Welcome Pack

The Clerk was asked to prepare a welcome pack for new residents at 27 Bushy Hill Road.

[Footnote: the Clerk has actually already done one for this new household after the March meeting]

The meeting closed at 8.25pm.

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Signed: Cllr Paul Glover, Chairman

Date:

Please note these Minutes remain as draft Minutes until they are approved by the parish council at their next parish council meeting.

The parish council meets bi-monthly on the third Monday of each month: Next meeting dates are 18 May, 20 July, 21 September and 16 November 2026.