Ashford Borough Council

Minutes of a Meeting of the Ashford Borough Council held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford on the **29**th **February 2024.**

Present:

His Worshipful the Mayor, Cllr. L W Krause (Chairman);

Cllrs. Anckorn, Arnold, Barrett, Bartlett, Mrs Bell, Bell, Betty, Blanford, Brunger-Randall, Buchanan, Campkin, Chilton, Dean, Feacey, Forest, Gambling, Gathern, Giles, Hallett, Harman, Hayward, Heyes, Hicks, Iliffe, Joseph, Leavey, Ledger, McGeever, Meaden, Mulholland, Nilsson, Ovenden, Pauley, Pickering, Roden, Shilton, Smith, Spain, C Suddards, L Suddards, Townend, Walder, Wright.

Prior to the commencement of the meeting The Reverend Dr Sue Starkings said prayers.

Apologies:

Cllrs. Gauder, Link, Michael.

Also Present:

Chief Executive; Deputy Chief Executive; Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer; Corporate Director of Health and Wellbeing; Corporate Director of Housing; Customer, Technology and Finance; Corporate Director of Place, Space and Leisure; Assistant Director of Environment, Property and Recreation; Principal Solicitor (Strategic Development); Service Lead – Finance; Senior Accountant; Commercial Portfolio Operations Manager; Senior Building and Project Surveyor; Senior Member Services Officer.

328 Exempt or Confidential Items

The Mayor asked whether any items should be dealt with in private because of the likely disclosure of Exempt or Confidential information. There were none.

329 Declarations of Interest

Councillor	Interest	Minute No.
Bartlett	Made a 'Voluntary Announcement' as a Trustee of the Central Ashford Community Forum.	335
Mrs Bell	Informed the Council that as a proposed Member of Rolvenden Parish Council they would take no part in the debate or vote on this item.	340

Councillor	Interest	Minute No.
Bell	Informed the Council that as a proposed Member of Rolvenden Parish Council they would take no part in the debate or vote on this item.	340
Feacey	Made a 'Voluntary Announcement' as Chairman of the Ashford Volunteer Centre.	335
Pickering	Informed the Council that as a proposed Member of Rolvenden Parish Council they would take no part in the debate or vote on this item.	340
Shilton	Informed the Council that as a proposed Member of Rolvenden Parish Council they would take no part in the debate or vote on this item.	340
Wright	Made a 'Voluntary Announcement' as a Trustee of the Repton Connect Community Centre.	335

330 Minutes

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on the 14th December 2023 be approved and confirmed as a correct record.

331 Announcements

The Mayor

The Mayor said he had one brief piece of advice that he wanted to pass on to colleagues, about something that he had recently encountered and would no doubt affect others. He had had to renew his car insurance this month and, apart from the fact that the premium had doubled, he had also been alerted to fact that Elected Members needed to have business use on their policies if using their vehicles in their role as a Councillor. The Mayor understood this was a current area of focus from insurance companies and the Police, so he advised Members to be aware.

332 Licensing Committee – 16th January 2024

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Licensing Committee held on the 16th January 2024 be approved and adopted.

333 Regulatory Committee – 16th January 2024

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Regulatory Committee held on the 16th January 2024 be approved and adopted.

334 Cabinet – 25th January and 22nd February 2024

(a) Cabinet - 25th January 2024

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Cabinet held on the 25th January 2024 be received and noted.

(b) Cabinet – 22nd February 2024

Councillor C Suddards requested that with regard to Minute No. 320 – Ashford Parks Foundation, whether there could be any wider Member oversight of the final formation and accountability of the Parks Foundation. At present it appeared that this would all be decided under delegated authority and that was somewhat concerning and appeared undemocratic.

Councillor Bartlett supported what had been said. There had been a debate about this issue at the South Ashford Community Forum where concerns had also been expressed about a lack of involvement, and that area did include Victoria Park so it was hoped that the Forums would not be forgotten.

The Leader of the Council responded that this had been a Cabinet decision, but there had been inclusive cross-party working group meetings and they would continue that involvement right up to when final decisions were made. Shadow Portfolio Holders had very much been included and they would continue to do everything they could to include everybody along the way, including outside bodies where appropriate.

Resolved:

That subject to the expiry of the period by which decisions arising from the Meeting of the Cabinet held on the 22nd February may be called in, i.e. 6th March 2024:-

- (i) the Minutes of the Meeting of the Cabinet held on the 23rd February 2024 be received and noted with the exception of Minute No. 318.
- (ii) the recommendations in Minute No. 318 be deferred for consideration as part of the agenda item dealing with the Budget and Council Tax Resolutions 2024/25.

335 Council Tax Resolutions and General Fund Budget 2024/25 and Minute Number 318/2/24.

The Leader of the Council proposed:-

"That the budget recommendations as set out in Minute No. 318 of the Cabinet and the formal Council Tax resolutions for 2024/25 be approved."

This was subject to the revised fees as set out in the tabled Fees and Charges paper which Members' attention was directed to.

This was seconded.

The Leader also advised that in accordance with Procedure Rule 15.4A a recorded vote was required to be taken on the budget recommendations and any amendments moved and seconded during the debate.

The Mayor then invited the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to report on that Committee's scrutiny of the Cabinet's initial budget proposals. Councillor Bell wanted to thank all of the Officers and Councillors who had taken part in the scrutiny of the budget. There had been an immense amount of work and a great deal of experience and expertise employed in it. The Committee had been unable to find the budget 'sound and deliverable'. There had been a number of reason for this including: - risks around short term debts and changes to interest rates in comparison to the practices of some other Councils; uncertainties around the future of the cinema at Elwick Place; risks around the future of recycling credits from KCC; a degree of scepticism over savings levels from the move to International House; the future of the Monitoring Centre and being able to meet the expectations of the public; and the potential legal action from the Port Health Authority at Dover.

Councillor Bell then proposed an amendment related to earmarked reserves. Wording had been tabled for Members but in summary this related to two separate reserves for street market initiatives and broadband. With regard to Street Markets specifically, there were differing views, but it was proposed to allocate £50k specifically for Tenterden and the villages. The Council represented the whole Borough and such cash should not be specifically earmarked for the town centre. In terms of rural and urban broadband the intention was for the reserve to particularly support broadband provision for those who had previously fallen short through the voucher system. The mechanisms for this could be decided at a later date, but it was hoped that a reserve could be put aside and the Administration could help to deliver essential broadband.

Councillor Bell moved the following amendment to the Motion:

"That the budget be amended to earmark two separate chunks of reserves (each of £100k) for: - (a) Street Market initiatives (hopefully supported by the Task Group and informally split £50k for the town and £50k for Tenterden and the villages); and (b) Rural and Urban broadband (hopefully supported by the broadband strategy). The MTFP Risk reserve would be reduced by £200k".

This was seconded.

Councillor Hayward was grateful for the comments on markets and Members' support. As Chair of the Markets Task Group they had been proud of the work that had been undertaken so far, but it was observed that there had been no representation from the Conservative Group at the meeting, or subsequent contact, which had been surprising.

Councillor Bartlett advised that the Central Ashford Community Forum had written to Members of the Market Task Group advising how disappointed they were to not be invited to meetings. They had expected to be invited so it would be important to be inclusive. The markets initiative was a wider one than purely town centre and it was vital to revitalise village high streets as well. By way of a few examples, there had been success in rural areas in just the last few months with pop-up events at Evegate and Caldecott as well as at Repton and Tenterden also had a market worthy of support. It was hoped that colleagues would support this amendment which was seeking to support both the Town Centre and the villages. With regard to rural and urban broadband, a scheme to expand broadband had been attempted in Lower Mersham and this had fallen short of BT Openreach limits by just a few houses. The voucher scheme operated by KCC was prescribed and could not be triggered, but if this Council had a similar scheme to consider such circumstances, it was thought that £100k could do an awful lot of good for areas who needed better broadband.

Councillor Spain said that in terms of the Market Task Group, it was focussed on the Town Centre for a reason and set up in a particular way to support that initiative. The Town Centre was in need of a re-boot and a solid foundation on which to move forward and this was the essence of that Task Group. It would also bring in other groups and certainly be inclusive. This did not discount the importance of markets in other parts of the Borough, but it was believed that this needed to be done properly and separately with its own process and they did not want to lose the tight focus of this particular Task Group on the Town Centre.

Councillor Walder understood Tenterden's Town Centre market had undergone a significant revitalisation and re-framing a few years ago, funded by Tenterden Town Council and this had been extremely successful. In terms of markets in villages, Rolvenden had a market but it needed stall-holders rather than money and it was questioned whether the focus should be on maintaining village shops rather than markets.

Councillor Iliffe was a Conservative Group Member of the Task Group, and had attended a meeting in December. Apologies had been given for not being able to attend the meeting the previous week, but meetings were taking place during the middle of the working day, with no option to join remotely, and an unexpected work commitment had arisen. Councillor Iliffe had subsequently caught up with Councillor Betty and the Officers involved, and wanted to clarify that point.

Councillor Hayward, by way of personal explanation, said that the meeting in December had been a general Town Centre Regeneration meeting, the first Market Task Group had been the previous week. Colleagues would know that this Administration supported holding meetings at the most appropriate time of day, so would be willing to discuss alterative meeting times if these were preferred.

Councillor Brunger-Randall advised that due to the development at Tenterden Town Hall there would be a need to move the market which would incur further costs and a cash injection would greatly assist with this, and other markets, and help its survival.

The Leader of the Council summed up the debate on this proposed amendment. As the Portfolio Holder for broadband, there was a lot of work going on in this area and they would be examining what could be done to provide clarity and help people to improve their broadband. The voucher schemes had not succeeded in the past, but if they could provide enough clarity to put finances to it that would be welcomed. In terms of a specific reserve, if there was an appropriate scheme it could be supported by allocating reserves to it, but that needed to be a fully worked up decision, via a Task Group in the future. The Leader thought that this particular amendment was premature.

A vote on the amendment put forward by Councillor Bell was taken. This was lost.

Councillor Spain wanted to propose an amendment related to Town Centre markets. Wording had been tabled for Members but in summary this was based around the Town Centre Market Review Task Group which had been set up specifically for this project and was already undertaking some good quality work and would draw in appropriate representatives from appropriate groups at the right time as they proceeded.

Councillor Spain moved the following amendment to the Motion:

"That the Council allocate £100,000 from Reserves to support the establishment of a 'Best of Kent' market in Ashford following the review of the Town Centre Market Review Task Group. The £100,000 be allocated for one year after which the market must be viable in its own right".

This was seconded.

Councillor Bell was very happy to support this amendment and remained extremely keen on the development of markets. There was some disappointment that £50k had not been supported specifically for Tenterden and the villages. It was considered that one of the main problems of Government at all levels was the triumph of process over outcome and focussing on internal processes and who was attending certain meetings, rather than making funds available and inviting bids, was regrettable.

The Leader of the Council summed up the debate on this proposed amendment. Tenterden and the villages were Parished areas with their own Parish or Town Councils, with the ability to precept for themselves, so they could raise their own funds to support local people and local issues. Ashford Town Centre did not benefit from that same ability and the Borough Council had an obligation to support its Town Centre and fund that where necessary. The Leader therefore supported this particular amendment, targeted specifically towards the Task Group that had been set up.

A vote on the amendment put forward by Councillor Spain was taken. This was carried.

Councillor Chilton proposed an amendment related to cleaner, safer streets. Wording had been tabled for Members but in summary some figures were highlighted which, in times of enormous financial pressures, were worth taking note of. In 2022/23 the Council spent just short of £1.5m, in 2021/22 over £1.2m and in 2020/21 another £1.2m, on street cleaning and clearing litter. The tabled paper outlined a whole array of reasons why they considered fines imposed for this type of activity should be increased. Litter, dog fouling and fly-tipping were the most raised issues by residents and it was hoped that this amendment would send out a message and move Ashford in to line with other Districts in Kent who had higher fines

Councillor Chilton moved the following amendment to the Motion:

"To: -

- (i) Increase the fines imposed by this Council for littering and graffiti from £75 to £500 commencing on 1st April 2024.
- (ii) Increase the fines imposed by this Council for fly tipping from £400 to £1000 commencing on 1st April 2024.
- (iii) Increase the fines imposed by this Council for not picking up after dogs from £50 to £100 commencing on 1st April 2024.
- (iv) Increase the fines imposed by this Council on those failing to meet the Household Duty of Care from £400 to £600 from 1st April 2024."

This was seconded.

There was a general discussion on this proposed amendment. There was broad support, but there was some concern about the application of it, particularly with regard to littering and the proportionality. Some Members expressed the hope that this would not be used as a draconian step to target people who accidently littered, or where education could be used as an alternative measure.

The Leader of the Council summed up the debate on this proposed amendment. On littering it was considered a significant number of people were probably not aware that littering was a crime and that was perhaps the point that needed to be focussed on. Some of the smaller elements of litter caused some of the biggest problems, including chewing gum. Imposing heavier fines would hopefully get that message out. It was accepted that they did not want to be too draconian and go down the lines of having targeted Enforcement Officers looking to make an income, but they did want considerate enforcement with the ability to both educate and fine.

A vote on the amendment put forward by Councillor Chilton was taken. This was carried.

The Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer outlined the now substantive Motion that Members would be asked to vote on.

The Leader of the Council, as mover of the original Motion, then responded to some of the points raised during the debate. With regard to Port Health, this was fully backed by DEFRA so did not present a risk to the Council's budget. The proposed budget did also fully fund the Monitoring Centre for the next year so this also did not present an issue. With regard to fixing of debt and the practices of other Councils, it was considered that fixing at the present time would be at very high interest rates, so

their treasury management was currently in the right place. The Leader concluded by reiterating full support for the budget.

A recorded vote was then taken on the original motion moved by the Leader and seconded by the Deputy Leader, and amended during the debate. The Members voted as follows: -

For: Councillors Anckorn, Arnold, Barrett, Betty, Buchanan, Campkin,

Chilton, Dean, Gambling, Gathern, Giles, Hallett, Harman, Hayward, Joseph, Krause, Ledger, McGeever, Meaden, Nilsson, Ovenden, Pauley, Spain, C Suddards, L Suddards, Townend, Walder, Wright.

Votes For 28

Against: None

Votes Against 0

Abstentions: Councillors Bartlett, Mrs Bell, Bell, Blanford, Brunger-Randall, Feacey,

Forest, Heyes, Iliffe, Mulholland, Pickering, Roden, Shilton, Smith.

Abstentions 14

Did Note Vote: Councillors Hicks and Leavey.

Resolved:

That (i) the Budget for 2024/25 as recommended by the Cabinet in Minute No. 318, and as amended by the tabled papers with revised fees and charges, and the amendments passed at this Meeting, be approved (the table below contains details of those amended fees and charges).

DISCRETIONARY & STATUTORY FEES 2024/25								
Other Charges								
lte m	De scription/Comments	VAT Indicator	Charge 2022/23	Charge 2023/24	Proposed Charge 2024/25	Increase / Decrease on 2023/24		
			£	£	£	%		
Fixed Penalty Notices								
Non compliance of micro chip for a dog		NB	500.00	500.00	500.00	0.00%		
D og fouling		NB	50.00	50.00	100.00	100.00%		
Littering, graffiti		NB	75.00	75.00	500.00	588.67%		
Fly-posting		NB	0.00	0.00	150.00	New charge		
Fly tipping		NB	400.00	400.00	1,000.00	150.00%		
Failure to fulfil duty of care (Domestic Waste)		NB	400.00	400.00	600.00	50.00%		
Failure to comply with a Community Protection Notice		NB	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00%		
Failure to comply with a Public Space Protection Order		NB	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00%		

- (ii) the formal Council Tax resolutions set out below be approved.
- 1. It be noted that on **26 October 2023** the Cabinet calculated:
 - a. The Council Tax Base for 2024/25 for the whole Council area as 49,832 (Item T in the formula in Section 31B(3) of the Local

- Government Act 1992, as amended (the "Act")) and,
- b. For dwellings in those parts of its area to which a Parish precept relates as in the attached **Table A**.
- 2. Calculation that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2024/25 (excluding Parish precepts) is £9,366,420 (Tables D and E).
- 3. That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2024/25 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:
- 108,645,885 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils.
- 94,422,190 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
- 12.223,695 being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year. (Item R in the formula in Section 31A(4) of the Act).
 - 245.30 being the amount at 3(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (2 above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts).(Annex C)
- 2,857,275 being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act (as per the attached Annex B).
 - being the amount at 3(d) above less the result given by dividing the
 189.76 amount at 3(e) above by Item T (2 above), calculated by the Council, in
 accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its
 Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no
 Parish precept relates. (Annex D & E)

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TABLE A
Tax Base for Parish Precepts (Which are part of the Council's area) – Band D
equivalent properties) *

Local tax	Parish	Precept 2024/25
base		Charged to
2024/25		taxpayers
		£
640	Aldington & Bonnington	65,073.00
	Appledore	28,500.00
	Bethersden	45,000.00
1,305	Biddenden	72,949.56
	Bilsington	8,011.00
1,092	Boughton Aluph and Eastwell	45,428.00
	Brabourne	34,327.00
151	Brook	13,500.00
	Challock	24,000.00
	Charing	203,721.00
794	Chilham	52,670.00
95	Crundale (PM)	600.00
543	Egerton	48,950.00
182	Godmersham	14,000.00
2,920	Great Chart with Singleton	380,411.00
112	Hastingleigh	6,000.00
806	High Halden	33,054.00
277	Hothfield	15,500.00
	Kenardington	6,750.00
3,882	Kennington	110,000.00
	Kingsnorth	270,291.12
137	Little Chart	6,222.00
546	Mersham	25,106.00
	Molash	4,470.00
107	Newenden	10,000.00
664	Orlestone	32,272.00
537	Pluckley	51,475.00
723	Rolvenden	34,212.00
	Ruckinge	11,710.00
923	Sevington	14,330.00
	Shadoxhurst	23,450.00
	Smarden	57,000.00
	Smeeth	23,738.00
	South Willesborough & Newtown	86,803.00
	Stanhope	18,700.00
	Stone	6,250.00
	Tenterden (TC)	693,780.00
	Warehorne	7,400.00
	Westwell	29,950.00
561	Wittersham	35,700.00
871	Woodchurch	45,006.00
1,083	Wye with Hinxhill	160,965.00
36,840		2,857,274.68

^{*} Note: Band D Equivalent Tax base for the unparished area is 12,992

TABLE B

Billing Authority share of Council Tax including Parish Precept

PARISH	BAND A	BAND B	BAND C	BAND D	BAND E	BAND F	BAND G	BAND H
Aldin star 0 Danis star	400.40	005.07	057.40	000.04	054.04	440.07	400.74	570.00
Aldington & Bonnington	193.10	225.27	257.46	289.64	354.01 320.68	418.37	482.74	
Appledore Bethersden	174.92 164.02	204.06 191.35	233.22 218.69	262.37 246.02	320.66	378.98 355.36	437.29 410.04	524.74 492.04
Biddenden	162.58	189.67	216.09	243.86	298.05	352.24	406.44	492.04
Bilsington	158.69	185.13	210.77	238.03	290.03	343.82	396.72	476.06
Boughton Aluph and Eastwell	153.04	178.55	204.06	230.03	280.57	331.59	382.60	
Brabourne	161.58	188.50	215.44	242.36	296.22	350.08	403.94	484.72
Brook	184.91	215.72	246.55	277.36	339.00	400.63	462.27	554.72
Challock	154.62	180.38	206.16	231.92	283.46	335.00	386.54	463.84
Charing	222.81	259.94	297.08	334.21	408.48	482.75	557.02	668.42
Chilham	169.54	197.79	226.05	254.30	310.81	367.32	423.84	508.60
Crundale (PM)	129.52	151.11	172.70	194.28	237.45	280.63	323.80	388.56
Egerton	185.41	216.31	247.21	278.11	339.91	401.72	463.52	556.22
Godmersham	176.59	206.02	235.45	264.88	323.74	382.61	441.47	529.76
Great Chart with Singleton	212.16	247.52	282.88	318.24	388.96	459.68	530.40	
Hastingleigh	161.02	187.86	214.70	241.53	295.20	348.88	402.55	
High Halden	152.65		203.53	228.97	279.85	330.74	381.62	
Hothfield	162.62	189.71	216.82	243.92	298.13	352.33	406.54	
Kenardington	164.10	191.45	218.80	246.15	300.85	355.55	410.25	
Kennington	144.20	168.23	192.27	216.30	264.37	312.44	360.50	
Kingsnorth	163.15	190.34	217.53	244.72	299.10	353.49	407.87	489.44
Little Chart	155.59	181.52	207.45	233.38	285.24	337.11	388.97	466.76
Mersham	155.96	181.95	207.95	233.94	285.93	337.92	389.90	467.88
Molash	149.74	174.69	199.65	224.60	274.51	324.42	374.34	449.20
Newenden	187.62	218.88	250.16	281.42	343.96	406.50	469.04	562.84
Orlestone	157.71	183.99	210.28	236.56	289.13	341.70	394.27	473.12
Pluckley	189.22	220.75	252.29	283.82	346.89	409.96	473.04	567.64
Rolvenden	156.86	182.99	209.14	235.28	287.57	339.85	392.14	470.56
Ruckinge	147.18	171.70	196.24	220.76	269.82	318.88	367.94	441.52
Sevington	135.66	158.27	180.88	203.49	248.71	293.93	339.15	406.98
Shadoxhurst	152.08	177.42	202.77	228.11	278.80	329.49	380.19	456.22
Smarden	177.08	206.59	236.11	265.62	324.65	383.68	442.70	531.24
Smeeth	166.74	194.52	222.32	250.10	305.68	361.26	416.84	500.20
South Willesborough & Newtown	170.52	198.93	227.36	255.77	312.61	369.45	426.29	
Stanhope	140.97	164.46	187.96	211.45	258.44	305.43		
Stone	144.78				265.43	313.69		
Tenterden (TC)	242.73		323.64	364.09	445.00	525.91	606.82	
Warehorne	149.26		199.01	223.88	273.63	323.38		
Westwell	164.54		219.38		301.65	356.49		
Wittersham	167.74		223.65	251.60	307.51	363.42		
Woodchurch	159.76		213.01	239.63	292.88	346.13		
Wye with Hinxhill	224.40		299.20	336.59	411.39	486.19		
Unparished Area	125.31	146.19	167.08	187.96	229.73	271.50	313.27	375.92

TABLE C
Council Tax Charge per Band

PARISH	BAND A	BAND B	BAND C	BAND D	BAND E	BAND F	BAND G	BAND H
Aldington & Bonnington	1,497.69	1,747.29	1,996.91	2,246.52	2,745.75		3,744.21	4,493.04
Appledore	1,479.51	1,726.08	1,972.67	2,219.25		3,205.58	3,698.76	4,438.50
Bethersden	1,468.61	1,713.37	1,958.14	2,202.90			3,671.51	4,405.80
Biddenden	1,467.17	1,711.69	1,956.22	2,200.74			3,667.91	4,401.48
Bilsington	1,463.28	1,707.15	1,951.04	2,194.91	2,682.67	3,170.42	3,658.19	4,389.82
Boughton Aluph and Eastwell	1,457.63	1,700.57	1,943.51	2,186.44		3,158.19	3,644.07	4,372.88
Brabourne	1,466.17	1,710.52	1,954.89	2,199.24			3,665.41	4,398.48
Brook	1,489.50	1,737.74	1,986.00	2,234.24		3,227.23	3,723.74	4,468.48
Challock	1,459.21	1,702.40	1,945.61	2,188.80			3,648.01	4,377.60
Charing	1,527.40	1,781.96	2,036.53	2,291.09		3,309.35	3,818.49	4,582.18
Chilham	1,474.13	1,719.81	1,965.50	2,211.18			3,685.31	4,422.36
Crundale (PM)	1,434.11	1,673.13	1,912.15	2,151.16		3,107.23	3,585.27	4,302.32
Egerton	1,490.00	1,738.33	1,986.66	2,234.99			3,724.99	4,469.98
Godmersham	1,481.18	1,728.04	1,974.90	2,221.76	2,715.48	3,209.21	3,702.94	4,443.52
Great Chart with Singleton	1,516.75	1,769.54	2,022.33	2,275.12	2,780.70	3,286.28	3,791.87	4,550.24
Hastingleigh	1,465.61	1,709.88	1,954.15	2,198.41	2,686.94	3,175.48	3,664.02	4,396.82
High Halden	1,457.24	1,700.11	1,942.98	2,185.85			3,643.09	4,371.70
Hothfield	1,467.21	1,711.73	1,956.27	2,200.80	2,689.87	3,178.93	3,668.01	4,401.60
Kenardington	1,468.69	1,713.47	1,958.25	2,203.03	2,692.59	3,182.15	3,671.72	4,406.06
Kennington	1,448.79	1,690.25	1,931.72	2,173.18		3,139.04	3,621.97	4,346.36
Kingsnorth	1,467.74	1,712.36	1,956.98	2,201.60		3,180.09	3,669.34	4,403.20
Little Chart	1,460.18	1,703.54	1,946.90	2,190.26	2,676.98		3,650.44	4,380.52
Mersham	1,460.55	1,703.97	1,947.40	2,190.82		3,164.52	3,651.37	4,381.64
Molash	1,454.33	1,696.71	1,939.10	2,181.48			3,635.81	4,362.96
Newenden	1,492.21	1,740.90	1,989.61	2,238.30	2,735.70	3,233.10	3,730.51	4,476.60
Orlestone	1,462.30	1,706.01	1,949.73	2,193.44		3,168.30	3,655.74	4,386.88
Pluckley	1,493.81	1,742.77	1,991.74	2,240.70	2,738.63	3,236.56	3,734.51	4,481.40
Rolvenden	1,461.45	1,705.01	1,948.59	2,192.16	2,679.31	3,166.45	3,653.61	4,384.32
Ruckinge	1,451.77	1,693.72	1,935.69	2,177.64	2,661.56		3,629.41	4,355.28
Sevington	1,440.25	1,680.29	1,920.33	2,160.37	2,640.45	3,120.53	3,600.62	4,320.74
Shadoxhurst	1,456.67	1,699.44	1,942.22	2,184.99	2,670.54	3,156.09	3,641.66	4,369.98
Smarden	1,481.67	1,728.61	1,975.56	2,222.50		3,210.28	3,704.17	4,445.00
Smeeth	1,471.33	1,716.54	1,961.77	2,206.98	2,697.42	3,187.86	3,678.31	4,413.96
South Willesborough & Newtown	1,475.11	1,720.95	1,966.81	2,212.65	2,704.35		3,687.76	4,425.30
Stanhope	1,445.56	1,686.48	1,927.41	2,168.33	2,650.18	3,132.03	3,613.89	4,336.66
Stone	1,449.37	1,690.93	1,932.49	2,174.05		3,140.29	3,623.42	4,348.10
Tenterden (TC)	1,547.32	1,805.20	2,063.09	2,320.97	2,836.74	3,352.51	3,868.29	4,641.94
Warehorne	1,453.85	1,696.15	1,938.46	2,180.76	-	3,149.98	3,634.61	4,361.52
Westwell	1,469.13	1,713.97	1,958.83	2,203.68		3,183.09	3,672.81	4,407.36
Wittersham	1,472.33	1,717.71	1,963.10	2,208.48	2,699.25	3,190.02	3,680.81	4,416.96
Woodchurch	1,464.35	1,708.40	1,952.46	2,196.51	2,684.62	3,172.73	3,660.86	4,393.02
Wye with Hinxhill	1,528.99	1,783.81	2,038.65	2,293.47	2,803.13	3,312.79	3,822.46	4,586.94
Unparished Area	1,429.90	1,668.21	1,906.53	2,144.84	2,621.47	3,098.10	3,574.74	4,289.68

TABLE D

CALCULATION OF THE BUDGET REQUIREMENT AND COUNCIL TAX AT BAND D						
	£	£				
Gross Expenditure - General Fund	69,413,410					
Gross Expenditure - HRA	36,375,200					
Parish Precepts	2,857,275	108,645,885				
Less Gross Income	(84,028,190)	(84,028,190)				
NET EXPENDITURE	-	24,617,695				
Government Grant New Homes Bonus Retained Business Rates	(1,358,000) (1,447,000) (9,589,000)					
Netallieu Busiliess Nates	(9,569,000)	(12,394,000)				
BUDGET REQUIREMENT		12,223,694.68				
Less Parish Precepts		(2,857,274.68)				
Council Tax Requirement	- -	9,366,420				
Council Tax Base		49,832				
Band 'D' Council Tax		187.96				
Average including Parishes		245.30				

DELIBERATELY LEFT BLANK

TABLE E

·		REVE	NUE BUDGET					
SERVICE SUMMARY								
Actuals Budget Outturn		Outturn Service		Outturn Service		Budget 2024/25		
£	£	£		£				
1,549,881	3,097,440	, -,	Finance and IT	2,640,1				
388,604	660,810		HR, Customer Services, Comms and Digitalisation	615,4				
2,150,946	1,530,990	2,102,700		2,885,4				
550,187	800,180		Wellbeing and Port	729,5				
6,896,914	7,336,850		Environment, Property and Recreation	7,577,9				
2,525,126	2,636,170		Planning and Development	2,723,7 631,3				
1,492,266	833,600		882,830 Corporate Management Costs					
660,382	776,190		Head of Economic Development	796,3				
1,335,502	1,677,140		Head of Performance and Policy	1,523,9				
243,246	413,560		Solicitor to The Council and Monitoring Officer	491,1				
45,067	130		Head of Development					
17,838,121	19,763,060	20,842,832	Service Expenditure	20,615,1				
(2,998,304)	(734,500)	(269,580)	Capital Charges & Net Interest	638,0				
144,777	0	0	Revenue Funding of Capital Expenditure					
298,121	325,000	325,000	Levies	342,8				
2,025,162	(649,720)	(1,571,255)	Contribution to/(from) Balances	164,3				
17,307,877	18,703,840	19,326,997	ABC Budget Requirement	21,760,4				
			Income					
(384,178)	(614,500)	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Government Grant	(1,358,00				
(5,375,346)	(7,502,000)		Retained Business Rates	(9,589,0				
(1,885,977)	(1,662,000)		New Homes Bonus	(1,447,0				
(9,177,792)	(8,925,340)		Council Tax	(9,366,42				
484,584	0	623,157						

336 Standards Committee - 30th January 2024

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Standards Committee held on the 30th January 2024 be received and noted.

337 Annual Report of the Council's Monitoring Officer 2023

Resolved:

That the Annual Report of the Council's Monitoring Officer 2023 be received and noted.

338 Programme of Meetings 2024/25 and 2025/26

Resolved:

That the Programme of Meetings for 2024/25 and 2025/26 as appended to these Minutes be adopted.

339 Freedom of the Borough

Some Members expressed the opinion that such proposals should be more Member led and this did not appear to be so on this occasion.

The Leader of the Council responded that this was a matter of timing, with the presentation proposed for April 2024. These proposals would have come to the new Civic Events Advisory Committee had it been established at the time. It was not felt that anyone would object to the two proposed recipients on this occasion, but now the Advisory Committee was established, such proposals would come via that route in the future.

Resolved:

- That (i) in accordance with the provisions of Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council of the Borough of Ashford do confer Mrs Jo James OBE with the Freedom of the Borough of Ashford in recognition of her achievements and significant and eminent services rendered to the Borough; that the Common Seal of the Council be affixed to the Scroll recording such admission; and their name be entered in the Honorary Roll.
 - (ii) in accordance with the provisions of Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council of the Borough of Ashford do confer Mr Gerry Clarkson CBE with the Freedom of the Borough of Ashford in recognition of his achievements and significant and eminent services rendered to the Borough; that the Common Seal of the Council be affixed to the Scroll recording such admission; and their name be entered in the Honorary Roll.
 - (iii) the arrangements for the ceremony as set out within the report be noted.
 - (iv) it be noted that the Borough Council, in consultation with His Worshipful the Mayor, and the proposed recipients, have agreed that the formal ceremony be held in St Mary's Church, Ashford on 24th April 2024.

340 Report of the Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer – Rolvenden Parish Council

Resolved:

That (i) the Order, substantially in the form attached at Appendix 1 to the report, be made with effect from 1st March 2024.

(ii) in order to ensure that similar decisions in future can be made without delay, the authority to make s.91 Orders be delegated to the Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer, in accordance with the Procedure Note for Appointing Persons to Inquorate Local Councils, at Appendix 2 to the report.

341 Questions by Members

Question from Councillor Shilton to Councillor Campkin, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Climate, Environment and Transport

"What assessment has the Portfolio Holder made of the recent removal of dog waste bins across the Borough including the villages of Appledore, Kenardington and Wittersham?"

Reply by Councillor Campkin

"Mr Mayor, during contract negotiations for the new waste contract it was noted that the cost to empty dog waste bins was higher than the cost to empty general litter bins. As dog waste can be deposited in general litter bins, a decision was taken by the previous Administration to remove as many dog waste bins as possible, whilst also ensuring there were sufficient litter bins within the vicinity. It should also be noted that dog waste can be placed in residents' general waste bins for collection. We have removed over 100 dog waste bins as part of this process and the aim is to remove all dog waste bins on Borough Council owned land. The saving is £66.19 per bin (plus any contract uplift) per year with no impact on residents as sufficient general litter bins are available. However, we are monitoring the situation to ensure that there are indeed sufficient general waste bins available and I will also be investigating the possibility of any funds being raised through the rise in fines agreed this evening, being ring-fenced for extra bins and collections if a need is identified."

Supplementary Question by Councillor Shilton

"I thank Councillor Campkin for his update. As he is likely aware there were dog waste bins in my ward for example, in Wittersham and Stone, and therefore likely across the entire Borough, that were owned and emptied by Parish Councils. These bins have also been removed without any prior warning and without the owner's permission. Could Councillor Campkin enlighten us as to the reasoning behind this move and share with us what provision has been made to return or replace those bins across the Borough which did not belong to them? Alternatively, what budget have we set aside for replacements?"

Reply by Councillor Campkin

"My answer to the first question will pre-empt my answer to this question in that, no, I was not aware of this however I am happy to investigate, see what happened and see what can be remedied."

Supplementary Question by Councillor Anckorn

"I would just like to ask in this general area, whether the frequency of bin collection is also being monitored as well as the provision of bins? I have already reported that since the dog waste bins have been removed in Quantock Drive, the general waste bins have been more prone to overflowing with waste of all sorts as they are obviously being used more."

Reply by Councillor Campkin

"Yes Mr Mayor. This is another excellent point and I am happy to add this to the list of items I will be investigating. As an aside, I was in Quantock Drive recently and it's very nice over there and I did actually think to myself that I didn't notice any litter. If I had I would have picked it up with my litter picking kit that is always in the back of my van!"

DATES OF MEETINGS MAY 2024 - MAY 2026

Meetings are usually held at the Civic Centre and start at 7.00pm unless otherwise stated

MAY 2024	F 12	W 25 Th 26 Cabinet
W 1 Th 2 PCC ELECTIONS	M 15 Tu 16	F 27
F 3 M 6 BANK HOLIDAY	W 17 Th 18 Council F 19	M 30 OCTOBER 2024
Tu 7 W 8 Th 9 JCC 3.30pm F 10	M 22 T 23 W 24 Th 25 Cabinet	Tu 1 Audit 6pm W 2 Th 3 F 4
M 13 Tu 14 O&S W 15 Planning Th 16 Council F 17	F 26 M 29 Tu 30 W 31	M 7 Tu 8 O&S W 9 Planning Th 10
M 20 Tu 21	AUGUST 2024	F 11
Tu 21 W 22 Th 23 F 24	Th 1 F 2	M 14 Tu 15 W 16 Th 17 Council
M 27 BANK HOLIDAY Tu 28 TEB 2pm W 29	M 5 Tu 6 W 7 Th 8	F 18 M 21 Tu 22
Th 30 Selection & CR 6pm Cabinet	F 9	W 23 Th 24
F 31 JUNE 2024	M 12 Tu 13 O&S W 14 Planning	F 25 M 28
M 3	Th 15 F 16	Tu 29 W 30
Tu 4 Joint Transportation W 5 Th 6 F 7	M 19 Tu 20 W 21	Th 31 Cabinet NOVEMBER 2024
M 10	Th 22 F 23	F 1
Tu 11 O&S W 12 Planning Th 13 F 14	M 26 BANK HOLIDAY Tu 27 TEB 2pm W 28	M 4 Tu 5 W 6 Th 7
M 17	Th 29 Cabinet F 30	F 8
T 18 Audit 6pm W 19 Th 20	SEPTEMBER 2024	M 11 Tu 12 O&S W 13 Planning
F 21 M 24 Tu 25 W 26	M 2 Tu 3 Joint Transportation W 4 Th 5 F 6	Th 14 JCC 3.30pm F 15 M 18 Tu 19
Th 27 Cabinet F 28	M 9	W 20 Th 21
JULY 2024	Tu 10 O&S W 11 Planning Th 12 JCC 3.30pm	F 22 M 25
	111 12 300 3.300111	
M 1 Tu 2	F 13	Tu 26 TEB 2pm W 27
	F 13 M 16 Tu 17 W 18	
Tu 2 W 3 Th 4	F 13 M 16 Tu 17	W 27 Th 28 Cabinet

M 2 Tu 3 W 4	BER 2024 Joint Transportation	M 10 Tu 11 W 12 Th 13 F 14	O&S Planning	M 28 Tu 29 W 30	25
Th 5 F 6	Audit 6pm	M 17 Tu 18		MAY 20 2 Th 1 F 2	KCC ELECTIONS
M 9 Tu 10 W 11 Th 12	O&S Planning Council	W 19 Th 20 F 21	Cabinet	M 5 Tu 6 W 7	BANK HOLIDAY
F 15 M 16	Courion	M 24 Tu 25 W 26	TEB 2pm	Th 8 F 9	JCC 3.30pm
Tu 17 W 18 Th 19 F 20	Cabinet	Th 27 F 28 MARCH	Council (C Tax) 2025	M 12 Tu 13 W 14 Th 15	O&S Planning Council
M 23				F 16	Council
Tu 24 W 25 Th 26 F 27	CHRISTMAS DAY BOXING DAY OFFICES CLOSED	Tu 4 W 5 Th 6 F 7	Joint Transportation	M 19 Tu 20 W 21 Th 22 F 23	
M 30 Tu 31 JANUAF	RY 2025	M 10 Tu 11 W 12 Th 13	O&S Planning JCC 3.30pm	M 26 Tu 27 W 28	BANK HOLIDAY TEB 2pm
W 1 Th 2 F 3	NEW YEAR'S DAY	F 14 M 17 Tu 18 W 19	Audit 6pm	Th 29 F 30	Selection & CR 6pm Cabinet
M 6 Tu 7		Th 20 F 21	[KEY
W 8 Th 9 F 10	JCC 3.30pm	M 24 Tu 25 W 26		O&S	- Overview and Scrutiny
M 13 Tu 14 W 15	Planning	Th 27 F 28	Cabinet	JCC	- Joint Consultative Committee
Th 16 F 17		M 31	2005		
M 20 Tu 21	Licensing/Pegulatory	APRIL 2 Tu 1	:025		
W 22	Licensing/Regulatory 10am/10.30am	Tu 1 W 2 Th 3			
Th 23 F 24		F 4			
M 27 Tu 28 W 29 Th 30 F 31	Cabinet	M 7 Tu 8 W 9 Th 10 F 11	O&S		
* No O&	S meeting in due to Budget	M 14 Tu 15 W 16 Th 17	Planning		
FEBRU/	ARY 2025		GOOD FRIDAY		
M 3 Tu 4 W 5 Th 6 F 7	Standards	M 21 Tu 22 W 23 Th 24 F 25	Cabinet	I	

MAY 2025	Th 17 Council F 18	OCTOBER 2025
Th 1 KCC ELECTIONS F 2	M 21	W 1 Planning Th 2
M 5 BANK HOLIDAY Tu 6 W 7 Th 8 JCC 3.30pm F 9	T 22 W 23 Th 24 F 25 M 28	F 3 M 6 Tu 7 Audit 6pm W 8 Th 9
M 12 Tu 13 O&S W 14 Planning Th 15 Council F 16	Tu 29 W 30 Th 31 Cabinet AUGUST 2025 F 1	F 10 M 13 Tu 14 O&S W 15 Th 16 Council F 17
Tu 20 W 21 Th 22 F 23	M 4 Tu 5 W 6 Planning Th 7 F 8	M 20 Tu 21 W 22 Th 23 F 24
M 26 BANK HOLIDAY Tu 27 TEB 2pm W 28 Th 29 Selection & CR 6pm Cabinet F 30	M 11 Tu 12 O&S W 13 Th 14 F 15	M 27 Tu 28 W 29 Th 30 Cabinet F 31
JUNE 2025	M 18 Tu 19	NOVEMBER 2025
M 2 Tu 3 Joint Transportation W 4 Th 5 F 6	W 20 Th 21 F 22 M 25 BANK HOLIDAY	M 3 Tu 4 W 5 Planning Th 6 F 7
M 9 Tu 10 O&S W 11 Planning Th 12 F 13	Tu 26 TEB 2pm W 27 Th 28 Cabinet F 29 SEPTEMBER 2025	M 10 Tu 11 O&S W 12 Th 13 JCC 3.30pm F 14
M 16 T 17 Audit 6pm W 18 Th 19 F 20	M 1 Tu 2 Joint Transportation W 3 Planning Th 4 F 5	M 17 Tu 18 W 19 Th 20 F 21
M 23 Tu 24 W 25 Th 26 Cabinet F 27	M 8 Tu 9 O&S W 10 Th 11 JCC 3.30pm F 12	M 24 Tu 25 TEB 2pm W 25 Th 27 Cabinet F 28
JULY 2025	M 15	
Tu 1 W 2 Th 3 F 4	Tu 16 W 17 Th 18 F 19	
M 7 Tu 8 O&S W 9 Planning Th 10 JCC 3.30pm F 11	M 22 Tu 23 W 24 Th 25 Cabinet F 26	
M 14 Tu 15 W 16	M 29 Tu 30	

DECEM	BER 2025	M 9 Tu 10	O&S	M 27 Tu 28	
M 1 Tu 2 W 3	Joint Transportation	W 11 Th 12 F 13	Planning	W 29 Th 30	Cabinet
Th 4 F 5	Audit 6pm	M 16		MAY 20	26
M 8 Tu 9 W 10 Th 11	O&S Planning Council	Tu 17 W 18 Th 19 F 20	Cabinet	F 1 M 4 Tu 5 W 6	BANK HOLIDAY Planning
F 12		M 23 Tu 24	TEB 2pm	Th 7 F 8	. Kamining
M 15 Tu 16 W 17		W 25 Th 26 F 27	Council (C Tax)	M 11 Tu 12	O&S
Th 18 F 19	Cabinet	MARCH	2026	W 13 Th 14	JCC 3.30pm
M 22 Tu 23 W 24 Th 25 F 26	OFFICES CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY BOXING DAY	M 2 Tu 3 W 4 Th 5 F 6	Joint Transportation	F 15 M 18 Tu 19 W 20 Th 21	Council
M 29 Tu 30 W 31	RY 2026	M 9 Tu 10 W 11 Th 12 F 13	O&S Planning JCC 3.30pm	F 22 M 25 Tu 26 W 27 Th 28	BANK HOLIDAY TEB 2pm Selection & CR 6pm
Th 1 F 2	NEW YEAR'S DAY	M 16 Tu 17	Audit 6pm	F 29	Cabinet
M 5		W 18 Th 19	Addit opin		
Tu 6 W 7		F 20			KEY
Th 8 F 9	JCC 3.30pm	M 23 Tu 24 W 25		O&S	- Overview and Scrutiny
M 12 Tu 13	Di :	Th 26 F 27	Cabinet	JCC	- Joint Consultative
W 14 Th 15 F 16	Planning	M 30 Tu 31			Committee
M 19 Tu 20	Licensing/Regulatory	APRIL 2	2026		
W 21	10am/10.30am	W 1 Th 2			
Th 22 F 23		F 3	GOOD FRIDAY		
M 26 Tu 27 W 28 Th 29 F 30	Cabinet	M 6 Tu 7 W 8 Th 9 F 10	Planning		
* No O& January Scrutiny		M 13 Tu 14 W 15 Th 16 F 17	O&S		
M 2	ARY 2026	M 20			
Tu 3 W 4 Th 5 F 6	Standards	Tu 21 W 22 Th 23 F 24			