

KENT ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

Tonbridge and Malling Area Committee

MINUTES

Thursday 15th January 2026 at 7.30pm on Teams

Present: Sarah Barker (Chair), Sarah Huseyin (Secretary), Tricia Garrett – Addington, Tom Shelley – Aylesford, Jacquie Westwood – Birling, Mike Taylor & Tim Shaw – Borough Green, Nigel Newman – Ditton, David Seal & Mark Williams – East Peckham, Ed Bright - Hadlow, Kirsty Mitchem – Ightham, Dan Benyon – Plaxtol, Andy Betts – Ryarsh, Yvonne Tisson & Daren Sefer – Stansted, Sandy Oram – Shipbourne, David Gaunt – Trottiscliffe, Caroline Collyer-Ward – Wouldham, Harry Rayner – Wrotham
Speakers - Sacha Taylor, Kent Resilience Team & Zara McAiney T&M CSU

1. **Apologies for absence** - Sue Butterfill, David Young, Chris Bowyer, Wendy Palmer, Neil Hart, Sue Bell, Ann Adams, Stuart Matheison, S Sangha, Gwyneth Barkham, David Thornewell.

Matt Boughton and Damian Roberts sent their apologies, a report was circulated prior to the meeting.

2. **Introductions and Announcements** - No announcements. Chair introduced speakers.
3. **Update from T&M Community Safety Unit CSU - Inspector Zara McAiney**

Reported: Reduction in ASB figures in all areas and Parishes. ASB figures are highest in Snodland, around the town centre (Dominos and Budgens) and there are issues with vehicles on A228 at the roundabout by MacDonalds.

Shoplifting - usually there is a spike in December but there was only a small increase 2025. Key players have been identified and charged, 2 don't live in the area. Violent and serious crime remains low in the district. One recent incident related to a family feud in Aylesford.

Beat Officer's are now making contact with Parishes and James White (Sondland) was commended. Chair suggested emailing Zara: Zara.McAiney@kent.police.uk if Beat Officers aren't making contact.

Chair requested increase speed checks on A228 between Kings Hill. and West Malling Station

KENT ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

Tonbridge and Malling Area Committee

4. **Community Resilience Plans in our Parishes** **Sacha Taylor** **Kent & Medway Resilience Forum (KMRF)**

The KMRF comprises 18 partners who work together and are aligned with police and fire services to help communities in emergencies and help co-ordinate multi agency response.

They devise plans and training to help people work together with mitigation in place

Emergencies include flooding, pandemics, severe weather, fires, loss of essential services (Water gas, electricity, internet), terrorist attacks

They have a risk register taken from the [National Register](#).

Over recent years the UK has seen more extreme weather conditions hotter summers and higher rainfall in winter. Rainfall will increase by 25% by 2070. Fires will increase with more wildfires likely in rural settings.

KMRF run several workshops and keep a record of which Parishes have plans. In T & M ,7 Parishes have plans and Sasha urged members to keep plans updated and publish on their Parish websites. Plans are useful as they contain local knowledge, identify key contacts and assets, and help map resources.

Plans should highlight essential supplies, volunteers, businesses that can help, transport and physical spaces such as village halls for temporary refuge. Identify vulnerable people in the community, key communication networks. KMRF have templates and guidance on their website.

KMRF have case studies and can do table top exercise scenarios to test plans.

“5 steps campaign” - Encourages members of the community to help themselves ie by making an emergency grab bag with medication, having a list of essential numbers, knowing how to turn off gas and water. KMRF have posters and artwork for noticeboards and digital channels for Parishes to use.

People can sign up to weather and flood alerts so they can be prepared. You can check whether you live in a flood risk area to help plan to keep yourself and your property safe from flood.

[Priority service register](#) –encourage vulnerable people to sign up so they will be considered for priority service during a utility outage. There is a duty on Utility Companies to support vulnerable customers.

Sasha reported that Sue Butterfill has recently done a plan for Borough Green and Platt and is in the process of completing details of stakeholders and recruitment of volunteers. She would be happy to work together with smaller parishes and share resources and has advised to keep the plan simple and work with resources that you have.

Sacha is happy to help and give guidance, there is also training available through their partner “Community Prepared”.

KENT ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

Tonbridge and Malling Area Committee

Plans help communities to recover much more quickly from an emergency event. Sasha suggested a yearly update

Emergency Planning should go onto Parish agenda's.

[The Duke of Cornwall Community Safety Awards](#) aim to educate and empower young people in emergency preparedness and community resilience . KMRF have promotional materials that can be shared.

Chair thanked Sacha and suggested emailing Clerks to see who has a plan. East Peckham has prepared a video. Chair will work with Sacha to send an email, most parishes have the plans on their websites, they should be redacted versions due to GDPR.

Parishes should send their plans to TMBC as they have a statutory duty to provide welfare.

Yvonne Tisson reported that her Parish recently had water tankers collecting water from their Parish to provide Tunbridge Wells residents which caused issues along A20, how can this be prevented in the future? Sasha suggested raising concerns with the emergency planning department at TMBC and to approach Highways and ask it to be raised at their debrief with SE Water. There is a lot to be learnt from the recent water outages. The Chief Exec of KALC sits on Governance Committees so make her aware of any issues so that she can represent you.

E mail for Charmaine Keatley CEO KALC - chief.executive@kentalc.gov.uk

5. **Approval of Minutes from 9 October and 6 November 2025** – Both approved, Chair to sign in due course.
6. **Matters arising from the Minutes not otherwise on the agenda** – None.
7. **To report any updates on Local Government Reorganisation** - Secretary has circulated a summary report. There will be more information at PPP on 5th February. Chair encouraged members to attend as there will be a consultation and it is important to respond. Matt has asked for any comments/questions to be sent to him or Damian (matt.boughton@tmbc.gov.uk damian.roberts@tmbc.gov.uk)

Harry Rayner reported that consultation is likely to start 2nd week in February.

Mike Taylor reported concerns about the cancellation of the next local elections being undemocratic. He noted that those elected are already democratically elected. The cost of a Borough Election is high and candidates would only serve for a year so does not consider this as an attack on democracy.

8. **Tonbridge & Malling Local Plan:** Updates and next Steps - Mike Taylor attended a lot of the meetings and found people to be engaged with a lot of serious comments and questions.
 - *Questions from by Cllr Thornwell EM & L PC - when will additional sites be made public and when and how they will be consulted upon?* Mike responded: 600 sites came forward and 100 are in the draft local plan. As

KENT ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

Tonbridge and Malling Area Committee

further evidence comes forward, sites will be weeded out and some new sites brought in.

- *When the council as landowner will be considering the sites that its own consultants put forward within the urban capacity study? We will find out at Reg 19 stage when there will be further consultation.*

9. **Updates on TMBC Climate Action Forum** Tom Shelley/ Sarah Barker

Louise Stewart is the Climate Change Officer at TMBC . Climate change should be a standing item at PPP.

Tom reported the next CAF meeting will look at plastics as well as climate change, he will report back at the next meeting.

Chair reported a resident has commented on plastic films that can't be recycled. The bins at supermarkets fill quickly and aren't emptied, perhaps this is something that the new Officer can look at ?.

10. **KALC Training and Events available on KALC [Website](#)**

11. **Updates from TMBC and KCC Councillors present at the meeting**

Chair reported that the Government has just changed postal vote applications to be renewed every 3 years and asked Parishes to make residents aware so that they don't lose their votes. Applications should be returned by the end of January.

Harry Rayner met with Des Keers and Gill Fox who run "Safer Neighbourhoods" to talk about arrangements with Parish Councils. They are in the process of putting out to tender for new team from April 2026-2028. They are still looking for parishes to contribute and subject to tendering are hoping to reduce contributions to £2,000.

Harry Rayner reported a number of amalgamations of committees under Reform to save funds. The Planning and Regulation Committees has been amalgamated. The Environment and Transport Committee will be combined with Growth.

The draft budget has a 3.99% increase, lower than previous administrations. Harry foresees a significant risk with this as the Government may reduce what they pass on and reserves will be hit. Adult services use 48% budget, Reform have no planned increase, potentially leading to overspend and further losses.

Reports from Meetings and Events Minutes of TMBC meetings are available [here](#)

- KALC AGM 2025 - Any attendees to report - Harry Rayner has been voted as Vice President. Chair reported an excellent selection of stands and information. Leader of Medway provided the venue in Rochester.

12. **KALC Executive & F & GP Committee Meeting** - Minutes will be available on KALC [Website](#) after 26th January 2026. Meetings are held quarterly; Chair has requested members to go on the website.

13. **Proposed Topics for PPP** to be held on Thursday 5th February 2026 LGR and LP are standing items.

Ask Des Keers to attend or provide a report

KENT ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

Tonbridge and Malling Area Committee

Request for an Emergency Planning Officer to come along to a future meeting.

Yvonne Tisson asked whether we should join forces in asking for 20mph speed restrictions in villages? A member reported that 20mph aren't adhered to.

Action - Chair will raise with Police and PCC about monitoring 20mph.

Harry Rayner suggested as there is little money at KCC, we should lobby candidates with Parish requirements in May 2027 elections if LGR goes forward.

14. **PPP meetings after February 2026 are :**

Thursday 28th May, 27 August & Thursday 19th November.

15. **Future Meetings of KALC T & M Area Committee**

- Suggested dates for KALC T & M Meetings including date of our 2026 AGM Chair and Secretary to look at dates. Chair suggested AGM is in April or July as the year for all councils start on May 1st and Harry Rayner suggested first half of July to avoid holidays. Chair to ask Mike Taylor for use of Potters Mede.

16. **A.O.B**

Chair has put out a KALC questionnaire this week to Parishes about strategic items for a Kent Highways meeting. There have been changes within Highways Dept, Andrew Loosemore is Interim Director of Highways and Transport Department.

Chair thanked the Parishes who completed the questionnaire, Chair will ask the KALC Chief Exec whether we can have an extension to respond. 20mph limits have been included. Regarding any local issues have been raised, KALC will feed back suggestions as to how to approach

Mike Taylor reported that the informal landfill registry has been adopted but has recently discovered a pit with asbestos in Platt during a sand mineral application highlighting that there are still some hidden tips. Please send any details to Mike.

Meeting closed at 9.05

Signed.....

Date.....