

# KENT ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

Tonbridge and Malling Area Committee

## MINUTES

Thursday 23rd April 2026 at 7:30pm on Zoom

### Present:

Sarah Barker (Chair) - Kings Hill, Sue Butterfill – (Vice Chair) - Borough Green, Sarah Huseyin (Secretary), Tricia Garrett – Addington, Tom Shelley - Aylesford, Ed Bright - Hadlow, Mike Taylor & Tim Shaw - Borough Green, Cathy Wynn – Hildenborough, David Emmett - Ightham, Dan Benyon - Plaxtol, Sandy Oram - Shipbourne, Darren Sefer – Stansted, David Gaunt – Trottiscliffe, Stuart Mathieson - Wateringbury, Gwyneth Barkham - West Malling Harry Rayner - Wrotham, Guest: Inspector Zara McAiney – CSU T&M

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### 1. Apologies of absence

Sue Bell - Snodland, Cllr Sangha - Burham, Jacquie Westwood - Birling, Margaret Colman - Kings Hill, Nigel Newman - Ditton, David Thornwell - East Malling and Larkfield, Wendy Palmer - Platt.

### 2. Introductions and announcements

Chair introduced Inspector Zara McAiney to the meeting.

### 3. Update from T&M Community Safety Unit CSU - Inspector Zara McAiney

- Antisocial Behaviour – Numbers have fallen and there has been a big drop in crime since November 2025. Some continuing antisocial behaviour with vehicles in Snodland and East Peckham but CSU is working on this.
- Recent fatality involving a horse and a trap and is being investigated.
- Shop lifting - General reduction in shop lifting with unmarked patrols in Snodland and Tonbridge. There has been a slight increase in shoplifting in the Co-op and CSU is working with them to try and reduce this.
- Harm – Overall numbers have decreased, some minor incidents but suspects have been identified.
- Staffing - Everyone in post and PC Warner who was injured is back.

Gwyneth reported ongoing issues with antisocial behaviour and the problem of trying to get residents to make a report to the Police. West Malling PC has put details on social media to say that people can complain anonymously.

Zara said she would ask David to encourage people to report crime at the next surgery and encouraged the use of the Community Voice App as this allows PCs to target problem areas. Link to [My Community Voice](#)

# KENT ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

## Tonbridge and Malling Area Committee

Mike asked whether there a requirement for lights on the back of traps as there had been a few incidents with them recently. Zara said that they were required to have a red rear light at night.

Tim asked whether police could monitor speed on A25 between Sevenoaks Road and Ightham and nuisance vehicles making noise. Zara said she would pass the request to the Beat Officers.

Chair reported from SE News, the clampdown on E-scooters. The Government and Neighbourhood Taskforce is working hard on this.

#### **4. Approval of the Minutes from 15th January 2026**

Approval proposed by Sue Butterfill, seconded by David Gaunt.

#### **5. Matters arising from the minutes not otherwise on the agenda.**

Chair reminded Parishes to do Community Resilience Plans and said that Sasha (from the Kent Resilience Forum) would be happy to help.

#### **6. To nominate and approve the KALC T&M Parish Vice Chair of Tonbridge and Malling Parish Partnership Panel**

Parishes were asked if they wanted to nominate anyone. Sue Butterfill (Borough Green) and David Gaunt (Trottiscliffe) put themselves forward and members voted. Sue received the majority of votes and will be the representative for PPP (for adoption end of May 2026.)

#### **7. To consider strategic questions for next KALC meeting with KCC Highways heads of departments**

Chair sent a questionnaire and there was a good response last time from all parishes. If Parishes have any items to raise, send them to her by the 6th May 2026. Matters must be strategic. i.e. A25 - loud vehicles

Chair asked if everyone knew their highways steward and community engagement officer?

If not, let her know and she will chase up KCC.

#### **8. To receive updates on Local Government Reorganisation**

There was a meeting between KALC and CEO's of Maidstone, Sevenoaks Tunbridge Wells and Tonbridge and Malling Councils. Chair will circulate information. Letter from Damian Roberts Attached

Chair asked how many Parishes responded to the LGR consultation? Most Parishes confirmed they had responded, Wateringbury reported that they did not respond. A decision is due in July.

# KENT ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

## Tonbridge and Malling Area Committee

Harry reported that the LGR may get delayed if the PM changes. He thought it likely that we would end up with the 4D option. We will update everyone as soon as there is some information.

### **9. Tonbridge and Malling Local plan: Updates and next steps.**

Chair asked for an update on the local plan. Mike said it's moving towards Reg 19. Due in the Autumn 2026 .Some sites are still being assessed.'

Mike Taylor said there have been reports about water shortages which will have an impact on local plans. Matt Boughton has taken it up with Defra and the Minister for Communities and Housing.

On a separate planning matter, Mike reported that TMBC is looking at merging the Area Planning Committees into 1 Committee from May 2026.

### **10. TMBC Planning Portal Questions from Ightham PC**

Secretary asked how clerks should respond to planning applications on behalf of Parishes as there is no separate category for Parishes on the portal?

Action for Mike Taylor to follow up.

Tom raised the issue for sewerage overflows which is a big problem in TMBC Mike said sewerage is a significant problem, TMBC is aware of it.

### **11. Climate change**

- What are the Parishes doing this year? Chair noted that Shipbourne, Plaxtol and West Malling are leading Parishes in climate change. Chair is planning to compile information about other Parishes' climate change efforts. Lots of Parishes are doing something eg hanging baskets, EV chargers, solar panels but not capturing information. Please let Chair know.
- T&M Climate Change Forum Update – Nothing to report. Tom raised concerns about micro-plastics recently on KMTV (video link to be circulated)
- Climate Action Shipbourne and Plaxtol (CASP) is running a Healthy Planet, Warm Homes event on 25<sup>th</sup> April at Shipbourne Village Hall. The event will showcase the results of the home surveys carried out as part of their project funded by a Government grant.
- Tunbridge Wells Sunday 3rd May 10:00 – 5pm Climate Action and Nature [Full Details](#)
- Sevenoaks CAN Saturday 2nd May 10am to 4pm [Full Details](#)
- Big Green Week 6- 14th June - See [Get involved](#)

### **12. Environmental**

Ightham and Shipbourne PC's have been frustrated by the recent lack of litter collection in the villages and the apparent lack of schedule for litter picking. We know

# KENT ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

## Tonbridge and Malling Area Committee

TMBC has a hefty budget for this, but it seems to go mostly on Tonbridge. Can we ask the question about the schedules for litter picking and road sweeping on villages? It was Suggested that a letter goes to the Head of Waste Services. Chair will find out who the Cabinet Member is.

Harry suggested Parishes lobby Unitary candidates to add it to their manifesto in time for the elections. All money is going towards towns instead of villages.

David Gaunt said they have a particular problem with regards to drainage. Once a month South Eastern water flushes out drains, roads flood because drains are blocked, KCC wont clear them routinely. Harry suggested contacting him to him put in touch with the correct people.

### **13. To receive verbal updates on KCC Road Safety and Active Travel Seminar held on 21st April at County Hall Maidstone.**

Chair attended the event and reported a positive change in attitude. A briefing note will be circulated. Highways discussed what is available for schools for road safety, help for adult drivers and briefings on safety aspects of driving. Officer and department contact details were given which will be useful for Parishes. There is another session in Deal.

### **14. KALC Updates**

- KALC training and Events are available on KALC [Website](#)

Chair reported Scribe runs short courses and will send the link. You don't have to use their products. [Scribe Academy](#)

- KALC website pending upgrades

Chair recommended getting a login as all LGR information is on there.

- Verbal updates from KALC Executive committee February 2026 and F & GP Committee 7th April 2026

No minutes are available yet. The next AGM will be on a weekday which may isolate some members. Chair urged Parishes to continue membership.

- KALC Area Committee Chairs workshop was held on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026.

# KENT ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

Tonbridge and Malling Area Committee

## 15. Updates from TMBC and KCC councillors present at the meeting

Harry wanted to flag to parishes the potential disruption to bus services as the cost of diesel is increasing due to the closure of the Straits of Hormuz. The cost of diesel is borne by the bus operator, this will be problematic if Straits aren't reopened and bus companies are unlikely to keep their current level of services. For parents buying annual bus tickets he recommended monthly payments as bus services are at risk; some services may not recover.

Harry is the KALC representative on the Kent Downs National Landscape Advisory Committee. There is a potential review of boundaries, email Harry for information. Harry is seeking to bring penalties against contractors who leave diversion signs in situ after roadworks have been completed. Chair will bring forward as a strategic item for the highways meeting.

- Reports and minutes of TMBC meetings are available [here](#)

## 16. Proposed topics for PPP to be held on Thursday 28th May 2026.

Local Plan Update and future water restrictions

Update on LGR – In the event that there isn't a decision on LGR and elections on TMBC are postponed, Parish elections will stand alone. Will TMBC give the same level of support? Will TMBC recover costs from parishes?

Climate Change  
Community Resilience - Presentation

Litter collection - what hours do the contractors spend Parish by Parish compared to Tonbridge?

## 17. Future PPP meetings are:

Thursday 27th August 2026 and Thursday 19th November 2026.

## 18. Future meetings of KALC T & M Area committee.

- Thursday 9th July (AGM) in person at Ditton Community Centre
- Thursday 1st October Teams

# KENT ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

Tonbridge and Malling Area Committee

## 19.A.O.B

Gwyneth reported there is no facility to recycle blister packs. This can be raised at the Climate Change Forum. Harry suggested asking at PPP why TMBC don't recycle them.

Chair said the Safer Neighbourhood Team was launched last year (was ASB). The new contract runs from 6/5/26 - 8/11/26. This is funded by Parishes who are contributing £2,000 for an enhanced service. The team can look at hot spots. It is intelligence led. Contact Gill Fox Gill.Fox@tmbc.gov.uk for more information.

Some Parishes had mixed experiences last year but a change in team should address any issues. Chair suggested discussing sharing the fee with neighbouring Parishes if money was an issue, as it would be easy for officers to move from one Parish to another.

Tim suggested it would be good to get someone from TMBC recycling and waste to come to the next meeting.

David Gaunt asked why supermarket carparks aren't being considered for solar panels rather than the countryside. Chair suggested this would be a question for the Climate Change Forum and PPP.

The meeting closed at 9.11pm

Signed..... Date.....

Committee Chair