Minutes of Full Council Meeting held on Monday 23 February 2026 at Sundridge Village Hall at 7.45pm

Present: Cllrs Allgood, Evans (Chair), Manley, Maybury, Powell and Wilson

Apologies: Cllr Banbrook, Coles, Collins, De Bono and Fribbens, Cllrs Sandra Robinson and Michelle Alger (District)

Attendance: 3 members of the public, Cllr Nigel Williams (County) (in part), Amanda Barlow (Clerk)

Cllr Evans (Chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting

1. To receive apologies and reasons for absence.

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Banbrook, Coles, Collins, De Bono and Fribbens, Cllr Sandra Robinson and Cllr Michelle Alger (District)

2. To receive declarations of personal, prejudicial and disclosable pecuniary interests on items on the agenda and updates to members' register of interests.

None.

3. Report from County Councillor

Cllr Nigel Williams

- Budget is an issue as the main problem is cost of adult social care
- Local Government Reform is now under consultation and the result will be announced on 16 July 2026.
- KCC is still very disruptive and Members needs to concentrate on residents on not in fighting.
- Cllr Williams said it is taking a long time for any actions to take place.

SDC

- Cllr Williams has a portfolio of Planning and Infrastructure which is now in Regulation 19
- Cllr Williams advised that once this phase is completed, they can then look at the infrastructure which is underpins everything
- Cllr Williams explained the background with regard to the Government's strategy on planning.
- Cllr Evans advised about the high incident of fly tipping.

4. Report from District Councillor

Cllr Robinson was unable to attend the meeting and sent an update at Appendix A.
Cllr Alger had sent apologies and advised that she had no update as the Sevenoaks District Council meeting is tomorrow night.

Cllrs Williams left the meeting.

5. **A Public Open Session**. Members of the public will be welcome to address the Parish Council with any local concerns they have. Please note this item will be limited in time at the discretion of the Chairman.

   There was a very lengthy debate on Stubbs Wood hwoever Members were clear that they were not going to make a decision on the future of Stubbs Wood at this meeting.

   - Richard Don gave his opinion on the Maydencroft presentation.
   - Cllr Maybury advised that the Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier grant which the Parish Council is apply for does not require them to have an agent. The Parish Council has made a pre-application. The Woodland Management Plan can be deferred to 2029.

6. To consider, and approve if appropriate, which agenda items are sufficiently confidential as to warrant exclusion of members of the press and public under the provisions of The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

   None.

7. To approve as a correct record the **Minutes** of the Parish Council meetings held on 26 January 2026.

   Members resolved to agree the minutes of the meeting held on 26 January 2026.

8. **To take Matters arising** from the Minutes where these are not covered under the subject headings below

   None.

9. **Finance, Personnel & Governance items**

   9.1 To agree the items received, paid and payable

   Members resolved to agree the items received, paid and payable as at Appendix B.

   9.2 To agree a transfer from reserves to cover the outstanding items as discussed and agreed by the Amenities Committees of Ide Hill and Sundridge

   Members resolved to agree that £6,500 should be should be transferred from reserves to the Village Hall account to cover the cost of the following items.

   - Curtains – £3,000
   - Tables and chairs – £3,000
   - Work to remove/replace notice board outside - £200
   - Skip to remove rubbish £300

   9.3 To confirm receipt of conclusion of audit and AGAR 24-25 and agree next actions.

   Members noted receipt of the conclusion of the audit. Members noted that the Parish Council have now separated the Village Hall Trust accounts form those of the Council and the Village Hall Trust has separate Committee meetings.

10. Ide Hill

10.1 To discuss the following in relation to Stubbs Wood

10.2.1 Presentation by Kate Harvey of Maydencroft

This item was discussed at length in the public forum.

10.2.2 Current position with regard to the Stubbs Wood Management Plan and the RPA Grant.

Cllr Maybury advised on the current position with Stubbs Wood and advised that the Forestry Commission would be visiting the woods in March.

10.2 To discuss and agree, if appropriate, next actions and allocation of finance with regard to the following

10.2.1 Tree Survey
All Angles will be carrying out the tree survey in March.

10.2.3 Fencing on Ide Hill recreation ground

A contractor needs to be appointed to carry out the work.

10.2.4 Additional bin at location

The PCC has confirmed that it has no objection to the bin being placed on their land. The Clerk has contacted Sevenoaks District Council to confirm they will collect from the bin.

10.2.5 Use of Ide Hill Recreation Ground by Ide Hill Football Club

Members resolved to agree that Ide Hill Football Club could use the recreation ground over two weekends during the summer.

10.2.5 Access to Ide Hill Recreation Ground

Members felt that there was adequate access to the recreation ground and noted the request had not come from a resident. Members agreed that there were several recreation grounds in the Sevenoaks area with good access.

11. Sundridge

11.1 To note the minutes of the Sundridge Amenities Committee and Sundridge Village Hall Committee on 11 February 2026
Noted.

11.2 To discuss and agree, if appropriate, any next actions with regard to Bowser's Meadow
No update.

11.3 To discuss and agree, if appropriate, next actions and allocation of finance with regard to the following:

11.3.1 Sundridge Village Hall
- Curtains
- Drains (outside)
- Area of damp inside hall
- Additional chairs and tables

Members resolved to transfer from reserves monies to cover the work at the Hall as detailed in Agenda Item 9.2.

11.3.2 Sundridge Recreation Ground
- Electrical work at the Pavilion

It was agreed to get further quotes for the electrical work at the pavilion.

11.3.3 Free library
Members felt that this was an excellent idea.

12. General Items

To receive an update and make any decisions regarding allocation of funds and next actions, if appropriate.

12.1 Streetlighting

Members resolved to agree the replacement light at a cost of £810 plus VAT

12.2 Highways

12.2.1 ANPR

No update.

12.2.2 Meeting with Kent Highways

The Clerk advised that the meeting with Nigel Rowe (Kent Highways) is taking place on Tuesday 24 March.

12.3 Correspondence

12.3.1 SDC – Views on anti social behaviour

Noted.

12.3.2 Local Government Reorganisation Update

Noted. This was discussed under the District Councillor's report.

12.4 Strategic Planning Day

Members confirmed that the meeting is taking place on Saturday 14 March 2026.

13. Dates of next meetings

13.1 To agree the dates of the next meetings of the Parish Council

Members resolved to agree the dates as at Appendix C.

Appendix A

From: Cllr Robinson, Sandra <cllr.robinson@sevenoaks.gov.uk>
Sent: 23 February 2026 07:56

Dear Amanda and all at Sundridge Parish Council,

Apologies I will not be able to come to the parish council meeting this evening,

I have only one piece of news for you concerning the District Council, which has arisen in the time since your last parish council meeting:

At the recent Audit Committee meeting, the Council's external auditor, Grant Thornton, confirmed that they have had to issue a disclaimed opinion on the Council's 2024/25 accounts. As this is the second consecutive year in which a disclaimer has been issued, I will share more details:

The disclaimer is partly from the ongoing national audit backlog, which affects about 46% of local authorities, so we are not alone here.

But, the auditor is clear, the disclaimer is additionally due to a lack of sufficient assurance provided across several accounting areas. The auditor was not given sufficient information in time, and there were discrepancies they could not (were not given the time to) resolve before the mandatory sign-off date, which means they cannot be confident the accounts are correct, and therefore cannot sign off on the Council's accounts.

This was also the case last year, and the auditor told us the assurance gap has unfortunately grown not reduced. They acknowledge the Council has addressed/resolved 4 out of the 15 recommendations they made last year, but there are matters that continue from previous years, including the Fixed Asset Register, which has for some years cannot reconcile the list of Council assets and the valuation of those assets. For those amongst you who are accountants: MIRS, CFR (capital financing requirement), and valuation of land, buildings and investments are among the several further accounting lines for which there is insufficient assurance for 2024/25.

As the auditor points out, addressing this is also a priority in the context of forthcoming Local Government Reorganisation. [For your info: the three other borough councils with whom we might form a West Kent Unitary Authority, have all had their accounts signed off with unqualified opinion - meaning: full assurance - by Grant Thornton].

The auditor informed us that, should sufficient progress not be made in the near future, they might consider issuing a statutory recommendation. A statutory recommendation is a formal, public measure, and can impact on reputation and external confidence.

The above information I have given you is all taken from, and available for public view in, the Auditor's Annual Report and their Audit Findings Report which are both on the council website. You can find them via the calendar of meetings and then papers for the Audit Committee last Tuesday 10 February. I would send you the link here, but even as councillor, I cannot access the website from abroad!

I will of course update you when I have news of progress on this.

I think everything else can wait until your March meeting, but in the meantime, do send me any questions, from the public or yourselves, by email.

Wishing you a good meeting!

Kind regards,

Sandra

Appendix B

23 February 2026 (2025-2026)

RECEIPTS LIST - 26 January to 23 February 2026

Code	Date	Description	Supplier			Total
Income Casual	26/01/2026	Hall Hire	Hall Hire Casual	X	45.00	45.00
Income Nayax	13/02/2026	Toilet Door Income	Nayax Europe UAB	X	209.15	209.15
			Total		**254.15**	**254.15**

PAYMENTS LIST 26 January to 23 February 2026

Code	Date	Description	Supplier				Total
Travel Expenses	26/01/2026	Mileage	Mrs A C Barlow	X	55.80		55.80
Supplies for meetings	26/01/2026	Coffee and Biscuits	Mrs A C Barlow	X	8.89		8.89
Supplies for meetings	26/01/2026	Coffee and Biscuits	Mrs A C Barlow	X	17.35		17.35
Photocopier and photocopying	26/01/2026	Photocopier rental	KCC	S	59.60	11.92	71.52
Grass cutting	26/01/2026	Grounds Maintenance 2024 (October, November, December)	Commercial Services	S	1,271.22	254.24	1,525.46
Cleaning	26/01/2026	Deep clean of Pavilion and Village Hall	C H Specialist Services	X	600.00		600.00
Renovations	26/01/2026	Reconfiguration of Kitchen	Banbrook Handyman and Garden Services	X	520.00		520.00
Booking Software	26/01/2026	Scribe Accounting Software	Scribe	S	348.00	69.60	417.60
Cleaning	26/01/2026	Deep clean of Pavilion and Village Hall	C H Specialist Services	X	600.00		600.00
Energy Costs	26/01/2026	Calor Gas	Calor Gas	L	11.98	0.60	12.58
Christmas festivities Sundridge	26/01/2026	Christmas expenses	Cllr J Banbrook	X	226.94	41.41	268.35
Christmas festivities Sundridge	26/01/2026	Christmas expenses	Mrs Gill Hughes	S	112.46	22.49	134.95
Christmas festivities Sundridge	26/01/2026	Christmas expenses	Mrs Gill Hughes	S	356.97	71.40	428.37
Christmas Trees	26/01/2026	Christmas expenses	Kevin Smith	X	23.00		23.00
WiFi	30/01/2026	WiFi VIllage Hall	Onecom Limited	S	89.29	17.86	107.15
Supplies for meetings	13/02/2026	Coffee and Biscuits	Mrs A C Barlow	X	9.80		9.80
Training	13/02/2026	Room Hire Strategic Day	Sevenoaks Town Council	S	169.58	33.92	203.50
Photocopier and photocopying	13/02/2026	Photocopier rental	KCC	S	59.60	11.92	71.52
Parish mobile telephone	13/02/2026	Mobile	Mrs A C Barlow	S	19.79	3.96	23.75
Parish WiFi (Clerk)	13/02/2026	WiFi	Mrs A C Barlow	X	10.00		10.00
Parish Zoom account	13/02/2026	Zoom	Mrs A C Barlow	S	11.99	2.40	14.39
External Auditor	13/02/2026	External Audit 24-25	Forvis Mazars	S	420.00	84.00	504.00
ROSPA Inspection (Playgrounds)	13/02/2026	Playground Inspection	Play Inspection Company	S	280.00	56.00	336.00
Grass cutting	13/02/2026	Ground Maintenance Oct to Dec 25	Commercial Services	S	1,878.64	375.73	2,254.37
Ground Maintenance	13/02/2026	Tree work at the recreation ground	All Angles Tree Care	S	2,450.00	490.00	2,940.00
Christmas festivities Sundridge	13/02/2026	Christmas expenses	Graham Hughes	X	142.75		142.75
Other grants	13/02/2026	Grant for SVT	Sevenoaks Volunteer Transport Group	X	150.00		150.00
Cleaning	19/02/2026	Cleaning	Val & Sander Reytenbach	X	180.00		180.00
Conveniences cleaning	19/02/2026	Cleaning	Val & Sander Reytenbach	X	500.00		500.00

PAYMENTS LIST at 24 February 2026

Code	Date	Description	Supplier				Total
Travel Expenses	24/02/2026	Mileage	Mrs A C Barlow	X	51.30		51.30
Supplies for meetings	24/02/2026	Coffee and Biscuits	Mrs A C Barlow	X	12.30		12.30
Stationery	24/02/2026	Paper	Mrs A C Barlow	S	19.12	3.83	22.95
Energy Costs	24/02/2026	Streetlighting Electricity Jan to March 25	NPower	S	1,864.27	372.85	2,237.12
General Costs	24/02/2026	Groundworks at Stubbs Wood	Four Elms Groundwork:	X	675.00		675.00
General Costs	24/02/2026	Hire of machinery for Stubbs Wood	Vantage Hire	S	317.50	63.50	381.00
Energy Costs	24/02/2026	Electricity - Rec	NPower	L	180.21	9.01	189.22
Conveniences energy costs	24/02/2026	Electricity - toilets	EDF Energy	L	108.27	5.41	113.68
Damage from Hirers	24/02/2026	Replacement window following party at hall	Sevenoaks Glazing	S	130.00	26.00	156.00

Appendix C

Full Council Meetings and Events all take place at Sundridge Village Hall at 7.45pm
(unless stated)

Monday	*26 January*	*2026*
Monday	*23 February*	*2026*
Monday	30 March	2026
Monday	27 April	2026
Monday	18 May	2026 – Annual Council Meeting
	20 May at 7pm	**Annual Parish Meeting and Summer Drinks**
		At the Social Club
Monday	22 June	2026
Saturday	27 June	2026 – Summer Walk at Stubbs Wood
Monday	27 July	2026
Monday	28 September	2026
Monday	26 October	2026
Monday	30 November	2026
Monday	7 December	2026 – Short meeting (urgent items only)