



BROADSTAIRS & ST. PETER'S
TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Monday 26 January 2026 at 7pm in Pierremont Hall, Broadstairs.

Present: Cllrs J Bayford, J Bright, K Bright, R Farooki, M Garner, C Kemp, C Leys, A Munns, E Orhan, J Nichols, S Roberts & G Rusiecki.

Town Clerk: Kirsty Holroyd

Before the meeting commenced, the Chairman, Cllr M Garner welcomed everyone and drew their attention to the openness and transparency legislation confirmed in several notices around the room.

771. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

772. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies with reason from Cllrs Jacobs, Moore and Pressland were received and accepted.

773. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – Cllr K Bright declared an interest in item 15: Pierremont Depot.

774. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That with an amendment to minute 762 to clarify the sum recorded is for December salaries, not November, the minutes of the Council meeting held on 15 December 2025 can be approved and duly signed as a true record by the Chairman.

775. MATTERS ARISING

Minute 761: The letter of thanks has been gratefully acknowledged.
Minute 769: The mandatory training is now available and the link has been sent to all councillors.

776. QUESTIONS AND/OR OBSERVATIONS FORM THE ELECTORATE OF BROADSTAIRS AND ST PETERS

A representative of the friends of Pierremont Park spoke about the sale of the depot and encouraged the Town Council to work with groups in the town to formulate a viable plan for the site.

Cllr Finch, KCC Member for Broadstairs gave Kent Highways' official position on the flags which have been unofficially fixed to lampposts throughout the town.

The Chairman thanked both for their comments and explained each matter would be discussed by Council later in the meeting.

777. PLANNING COMMITTEE

Members received the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 13 January 2026.
RESOLVED: Members agreed to note.

778. ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Members received the draft minutes of the meeting held on Monday 12 January 2026.

RESOLVED: Min 117: That the quote from Box Green to undertake the town planting scheme for the next 27 months be accepted at a total cost of £19,010.

779. COMMUNITY ASSETS COMMITTEE

Members received the draft minutes of the meeting held on Monday 19 January 2026.

RESOLVED:

Min 280 That the quote from Ability Sash to refurbish 16 sash windows in Pierremont Hall be accepted at a cost of £23,625.

Min 285: That the Town Council does not wish to purchase the former toilet block at Albion Street car park.

780. COMMUNICATIONS

i) The Town Mayor gave a report on the two Carol services he had attended on behalf of the Town Council prior to Christmas.

ii) The Town Clerk gave an update on the following: -

- The Town Council gardeners have agreed to work in Nuckles Garden for a week at the end of January to assist TDC. This will be repeated with a further week's work in the autumn.
- The Woodland Manager has produced his first newsletter of 2026 which has been sent out by email and via social media. Copies were passed to councillors.
- Pierremont Hall has won a second award for the quality of its weddings. This time wedding website Hitched has given it a five star rating based on reviews from couples who have held their wedding at the venue.
- At the recent police surgery, PC Crush was reported to have been contacting the local schools to help identify potential flash points for ASB over the summer (exam dates, end of term dates etc) The Town Clerk has contacted him to arrange a meeting to discuss how the Town Council can assist in a joined up approach to this. It was agreed he should also be invited to the School Forum.
- TMD have sent through the latest progress report as promised. Copies had been sent to all councillors. A decision was needed regarding timeframes for considering tenders.

RESOLVED: That the Town Clerk set up an online meeting with the Phase III subgroup to discuss this.

781. FINANCE

i) Members received a report concerning payments for the period 16 December 2025 to 20 January 2026 (see agenda).

RESOLVED: That the payments be approved.

ii) Members received a report concerning receipts for the period 16 December 2025 to 20 January 2026 (see agenda).

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

iii) Members received a summary of staff salaries totalling £42,648 for the month of January.

RESOLVED: Members agreed to note.

iv) Members received information about works or services authorised between meetings under financial regulation 4.1 (see attached).

RESOLVED: Members agreed to note.

v) Members received a report concerning payments for the period 18 October 2025 when the agenda was sent out until 27 October 2025. Please see attached.

RESOLVED: That the payments be approved.

vi) Members received and considered a summary report of payments and receipts as to 30 December 2025 (end of Qu.3) in line with Standing Order 16 cii).

RESOLVED: Members agreed to note.

vii) Members received and noted the bank reconciliation report dated 30 December 2025 (end of Qu.3) in line with Standing Order 17 ciii).

RESOLVED: Members agreed to note.

viii) Members received a report from the Finance Officer and considered writing off a bad debt.

RESOLVED: That the debt to the value of £3805.64 be written off.

782. BUDGET 2026-27

i) Members received an updated summary document detailing proposed expenditure and resulting total requirement. It was noted that with final figures now having been received from various contracts since the December meeting, including items agreed earlier in this meeting, there was a net additional requirement of £8625 bringing the total anticipated expenditure to £1,075,596.60.

RESOLVED: members agreed to note.

ii) Members discussed whether further additions to the reserves were needed.

RESOLVED:

a) That the Memory Bench and Retort House contingencies reserves be closed and the funds moved to Future Asset Refurbishment.

b) That the proceeds of the sale of Retort House be moved to Future Asset refurbishment.

c) That once the £50,000 top up approved at the November meeting is applied, there will be no need for further top-ups to the reserves.

iii) Members received an update showing the effect of any surplus and anticipated income to offset the requirement. It was noted that the resulting precept demand would be £942,777.60.

RESOLVED: Members agreed to note.

iii) Members received a document which illustrates the effect of any increase on the Council Tax demand. The Town Clerk confirmed that the updated tax base for 2026-27 had been received and used in this table.

RESOLVED: Members agreed a precept demand of £944,903.34. which results in a Band D Council Tax of £89.58. This represents an increase of approximately 6% on the current year or £5.07 per annum on the average Band D property.

783. PRIVATE MOTION

Members received and considered a proposal from Cllr Garner regarding the display of flags on lampposts. Members acknowledged the official line that Kent Highways will not remove flags from public infrastructure unless they pose a health and safety risk.

RESOLVED:

i) That the Town Clerk:-

Write formally to Kent County Council, as the highway authority, requesting the removal of unauthorised flags attached to lampposts and other highway street furniture within Broadstairs & St Peter's.

Ask Kent County Council to confirm:

- **the legal position regarding such attachments,**
- **the process for removal,**
- **and how the public will be informed of the policy.**

Request that any action taken is communicated clearly as a matter of public safety and community cohesion.

ii) that Broadstairs and St Peter's Town Council reaffirm its commitment to an inclusive, respectful and welcoming town to live, work and visit.

784. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Members received and considered a report from the Deputy Town Clerk.

RESOLVED: that an extension to the contract of two years be offered to the current supplier, SparkX at the same cost as 2025.

785. PIERREMONT DEPOT

Members discussed the merits of developing a plan with social value even before viewing the land in order to be well placed for consideration.

RESOLVED:

i) That an informal meeting of the key stakeholders be arranged to discuss and develop such a plan.

ii) That any recommendations and decisions are considered at an extraordinary meeting of the Community Assets Committee to be convened shortly afterwards.

786. PRIDE OF PLACE FUNDING

There were no formal updates but the Town Clerk shared notes from Birchington Parish Council which recently voted in favour of lobbying TDC for each parish to have a share of the money rather than it being allocated to two flag ship projects as publicised. Cllr K Bright considered that would not be possible due to the onerous burden many smaller projects would put on TDC officers who have been tasked with administering the fund.

RESOLVED: Members did not feel able to support the proposal that monies are divided up proportionately but will wait to hear the method of allocation from TDC.

787. GRANTS

i) Members received a report on grants awarded so far this year.

RESOLVED: members agreed to note.

ii) Members received and considered a request for funding from Broadstairs Folk Week.

RESOLVED: That £10,000 be allocated to sponsor the event, proved the Town Council is acknowledged as the headline sponsor.

iii) Members received and considered a request for funding from Broadstairs Christchurch.

RESOLVED: that £14,359 is approved for the provision of a new kitchen and flooring.

iv) Members received and considered a request for funding from the Town Team (Gardening group).

RESOLVED: that £1532 is approved for two projects within the town.

788. SCHEME OF DELEGATION

Members received the updated document and undertook the annual review.

RESOLVED: That the document is approved with the suggested addition to reflect the Council resolution at minute 745 of the November meeting.

789. STAFF EYE TEST POLICY

Members received and reviewed the document.

RESOLVED: That the document be approved with no need for any amendments.

790. PIERREMONT PARK PARKING POLICY

i) Members received and reviewed the document.

RESOLVED: That the document be approved. There is no need to adopt the suggested amendment since a new EVCP is soon to be installed.

The following item was discussed after a resolution to exclude the public under standing order 3d due to the confidential nature of the business.

791. LEGAL ISSUES

The Town Clerk explained the process for accessing legal advice via NALC's Direct Access Service.

RESOLVED: That the Town Clerk has blanket permission to access the service whenever she considers legal advice is in the Town Council's best interests.

792. SUMMER SECURITY MEASURES

i) The Town Clerk updated members on some concerns by local groups at the rise in ASB in the town. Members reaffirmed their commitment to addressing this by means of increasing the budget for beach and high street security. They also agreed that the next Town Forum can focus on security and anti-social behaviour in the town.

ii) Members received the draft tender for the beach and high street summer security contract.

RESOLVED: that the tender is fit for purpose and can be published.

**Cllr Orhan left the meeting at 20.50.*

793. STAFF MANAGEMENT ISSUES

i) Members received and considered a summary of the Town Clerk's appraisal.

RESOLVED: That the document be noted and that the Town Clerk receive a one-point salary increment in light of evidenced satisfactory performance.

ii) Members received information about a short term project to research and record the history of Pierremont Hall.

RESOLVED:

i) That a budget of £2000 be allocated to the project.

ii) that organisation of staff for the project be allocated to the Town Clerk.

Members of the public, had any been in attendance, would have been permitted to re-enter the meeting.

794. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 23 February 2026 at 7pm in Pierremont Hall.

Meeting closed at 8.59 pm

Signed _____ Date _____