

SHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Footpaths, Land & Properties Committee Meeting held on 12th February 2026 at Shorne Village Hall

PRESENT

Ms P Clifton (Chairman)
Mr C Rea (Vice-Chairman)
Mr R Theobald
Mr R Hardy
Mr J Bugg
Mrs D Salmon (Parish Clerk)

APOLOGIES

Mr B Lane
Mrs S Lindley

In attendance:

None

Not in attendance:

Mrs L Williams
Mr T Rochard-Pullen

50. To receive any declarations of interest for any items on the agenda:

None.

51. Minutes of previous meeting held on Thursday 9th October 2025:

The minutes were approved as a true record.

52. Any Matters Arising from Minutes not covered in the Agenda:

None.

53. Recreation Ground:**a) Overhanging Oak Tree Branches:**

Gravesham Borough Council have approved the application for work to be carried out in a Conservation Area. The contractor has been appointed to conduct the works. The Clerk will notify the Football Team once a date for works has been confirmed.

b) Business Rates Update:

The Clerk notified the Football Team on 17th October via email that as tenants they are liable for any business rates associated with the Pavillion, but as an amateur sports club they may be approved for rate relief upon submitting an application. Within the notification email, the Clerk informed the team that Shorne Parish Council is legally obliged to provide their details to Gravesham Borough Council upon request.

The Clerk has provided the information requested by Gravesham Borough Council.

The Football Team have not responded to the Clerk.

54. Shorne Common:**a) Playground Graffiti:**

Ms Clifton will ask the Small Works Contractor to visit the site and quote for works required. Ms Clifton has visited the playground recently and confirms there has been no further graffiti.

55. Shorne Common Rough:

a) Work identified by Arboriculturist

Gravesham Borough Council have approved the application for work to be carried out in a Conservation Area. The contractor has been appointed to conduct the works. Ms Clifton and Mr Rea visited Shorne Common Rough to find the What 3 Words location of the trees requiring work to assist the Contractor.

56. Crabbles Bottom:

a) Update on Grazing:

Shorne Young Farmers currently have 7 sheep grazing in the Orchard. Members discussed if 7 sheep will affect the current schedule of 4 cuts per annum of the Orchard. Mr Rea proposed to continue with the current schedule. Members agreed.

b) Repair to Field Gate:

Ms Clifton met with a fencing contractor on site recently to discuss the gap below the gate where the sheep had previously escaped. Ms Clifton is waiting for a quote from the fencing contractor to lower the gate and add rubble underneath to prevent the soil being washed away. Ms Clifton will circulate the quote to members upon receipt.

c) Pruning of Apple Trees:

On 12th November 2025, I am Lumberjack Ltd attended the site and completed the works as agreed: to prune the 7 trees with snapped branches following the heavy apple crop.

d) Update on Woodland Management Plan:

Following the meeting between some members and Mike Phillips (working as a freelance consultant) in December, Mr Phillips has now produced a draft Management Plan, a Work Plan and an Inventory of Trees. Ms Clifton circulated the Draft Management Plan to all members on 8th February for review.

The cost of the preparation of the plan will be covered by a grant from the Rural Payments Agency.

Mr Theobald commented on the excellent quality of the report. Members agreed.

e) Quotes for Clearance of Meadows:

Ms Clifton had requested 3 quotes for the clearing of the meadows and forming an access route via Bowesden Lane. 2 quotes have been received but no response from the 3rd contractor. Members discussed the 2 quotes received. Members agreed to proceed with the quote from Baylis Landscape Contractors Ltd.

57. Footpaths and Non-Motorised Highways:

a) Appointment of new Public Rights of Way Officer:

Julian Ling is now in post as PROW Officer for Dartford and Gravesham. He will not be able to attend the next Gravesham Rights of Way Committee (GROWC) meeting on 25th March but has invited anyone to email him in advance of the meeting with any concerns or questions.

b) Diversion of Footpath NS169:

Mr Rea met with Emma Gaydon, Stakeholder and Customer Lead for the LTC Community on 14th January to discuss the proposed diversion route of NS169. Ms Gaydon agreed that the proposed diversion route was not ideal and would propose Mr Rea's suggested route that many walkers already use running behind Davys Place and along the edge of Claylane Woods where it then joins the NS174. Mr Rea has had

no further updates from Ms Gaydon. Ms Clifton will raise this query with Julian Ling PROW Officer.

c) Reports to KCC PROW:

- NS163/NS164 Near Muggins Lane: The footpaths have still not been re-instated after the fields were ploughed Summer 2025. Ms Clifton first reported this to KCC on 18th August. It had been showing as 'Allocated – Awaiting Inspection' on the KCC website but this has now changed to 'Closed – No action Required'. If works had been completed KCC usually show as 'Work Completed' so it is still not known what action was taken. It is reported by residents that the footpaths are now visible, but this is believed to be due to walkers using them rather than the farmer re-instating them. Ms Clifton and Mr Hardy will visit when weather permits and check that marker stones / fingerposts have been reinstalled.

Mr Lane contacted the farmer in October asking when the paths would be re-instated, however, there has been no further response.

- On the 4th February, there was a report on Facebook of barbed wire near a footpath in the area to the rear of the Doctors surgery towards Shorne Common (Shorne Parish Council do not know the exact location). Mr Theobald tried to locate the wire and spoke with resident who had reported on Facebook. The resident was able to return to the location this week to remove the barbed wire, and thanked Mr Theobald for his assistance.
- The finger post reported as being down at The Ridgeway end of NS162 has been re-instated.

d) Shornemead Crossing:

The Shornemead Crossing was finally opened at the beginning of December. However, there is a cattlegrid on Bridleway NS318 that runs from the Crossing north to the River Thames. This is difficult to navigate for walkers and users of the bridleway. Ms Clifton to raise the issue with Julian Ling PROW Officer.

58. Verges and Greens

a) Village Hall Landscaped Area:

The volunteer has advised the Parish Council that the shrubs are quite overgrown on The Street but she will give them a thorough cut back in the Spring. She advises that they will look worse before they look better but the maintenance is essential.

- **Green at Hollands Close (not Parish Council land):**

Logs have been placed around the green to prevent cars parking. It is believed that this was done by local residents. Gravesham Borough Council maintain the green.

59. National Nature Reserve:

a) New Signs:

Ms Clifton has obtained a quote from the Small Works Contractor for erection of the NNR signs at Shorne Common Rough and Crabbles Bottom.

The sign at Shorne Common Rough will require the supply and installation of 2 aluminium posts to be concreted in before the sign is attached using compatible clips. The 2 signs at Crabbles Bottom can be installed on the existing fencing at the entrances on Cutches Lane and Bowesden Lane.

Members discussed the quote for the works. Members agreed to proceed.

b) Doormouse Research Project:

Ms Clifton circulated details of the project to all members on the 1st January 2026. Ms Clifton is hoping to attend the workshop arranged on 20th March as Birling Estate.

60. Michael Gardens Gym Equipment Update:

Mr Rea has received confirmation from James Young at Gravesham Borough Council who confirms the equipment is ready for installation before the end of February, weather permitting.

61. Additional CCTV Camera:

Mr Lane circulated an email to all members on 6th February regarding the possible installation of a CCTV camera on Green Farm Lane to assist with identifying vehicles using the restricted lane without reason. Mr Lane asked members to discuss granting agreement in principle for Mr Lane to investigate installing a camera on Green Farm Lane and the associated costs. Members agreed unanimously.

62. CCTV Maintenance:

Further to Mr Lane meeting with a local CCTV Engineer at the Village Hall in August, a quote for the maintenance of the system, or an invoice for the works, have still not been received. The Engineer was able to make some minor adjustments to the system in August, and the system is now running smoothly.

The Clerk has updated the contact telephone number on the CCTV information sign on the wall of the Village Hall.

63. Community Payback Scheme:

Ms Clifton has no further reports regarding use of this scheme. Ms Clifton will make contact with the co-ordinators later in the year, or when a suitable task is required.

Any other business:

64. Matters raised by Members, including from other Committees being discussed for convenience:

- Mr Theobald advised members that he had a printed copy of the Gravesham Borough Council Draft Local Plan if anyone wished to view it after the meeting. This was previously circulated to all members via email.

65. Matters raised by attending Parishioners (at discretion of the Chairman):

None in attendance.

Date of next meeting: The next meeting of the Footpaths, Land and Properties Committee will be held at 7.30pm on 26th March 2026.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8:29pm.

Signed Ms Clifton :.....

Dated:.....