

# ST JAMES, ISLE OF GRAIN, PARISH COUNCIL

## M I N U T E S

17<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2026

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD  
IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 19:00

**Present:**

Councillor P Blakeley (Chairman)  
Councillor A G Jones  
Councillor Mrs S Malone  
Councillor H Ogunfemi  
Councillor Mrs G Sands  
Councillor T Sands (Vice Chairman)  
Councillor Ms J Sharp

**In Attendance:**

Mrs Christine Gurr – Parish Clerk

**Recording, filming and broadcasting of the meeting:**

- No requests received.

**Apologies for absence (received and accepted):**

Councillor Ms H von der Holle - Work commitment

*(To avoid possible disqualification under the 6-month rule, Councillors must provide a reason for non-attendance)*

**Declarations of disclosable pecuniary Interests (DPIs):**

- A member need only disclose at any meeting the existence of a disclosable pecuniary interest (DPI) in a matter to be considered at that meeting **if** that DPI has not been entered on the disclosable pecuniary interests register maintained by the Monitoring Officer.
- A member disclosing a DPI at a meeting must thereafter notify the Monitoring Officer in writing of that interest within 28 days from the date of disclosure at the meeting.
- A member **may not participate** in a discussion of or vote on any matter in which he or she has a DPI (both those already registered and those disclosed at the meeting) and **must withdraw** from the room during such discussion/vote.
- Members may choose to voluntarily disclose a DPI at a meeting even if it is registered on the council's register of disclosable pecuniary interests but there is no legal requirement to do so.
- Members should also ensure they disclose any other interests which may give rise to a conflict under the council's code of conduct.
- In line with the training provided to members by the Monitoring Officer members with also need to consider bias and pre-determination in certain circumstances and whether they have a conflict of interest or should otherwise leave the room for Code reasons.

**The following DPIs were received:**

- None

*(A Councillor who declares a DPI must withdraw from the room unless a dispensation has been obtained from Medway Council's Monitoring Officer)*

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- 19:01 Exclusion of the Press and Public**  
*The Parish Council resolved that under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting for the consideration of the following items on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.*
- 26.32 Withdrawal of Candidate**  
Email dated 17<sup>th</sup> March 2026 (received at 17:58) from a candidate withdrawing their application for the Parish Council vacancy owing to a change in work and personal circumstances.
- 19:05 Members withdrew to a side room to conduct interviews. Councillor Jones remained in the main meeting room, with the Parish Clerk, and did not take part in the interviews or the voting.**
- 26.33 Interviews of Two Candidates**  
Members interviewed two candidates for one vacancy:
- 20:00 Members returned to the main meeting room.**
- 26.34 Voting for appointment of one candidate.**  
The Clerk issued ballot papers to the members (excluding Councillor Jones). The marked ballot papers were then returned to the Clerk for counting.
- 20:04 The Meeting was re-opened to the press and public**
- 26.35 Declaration of Co-Option of a Parish Councillor**  
The Clerk declared that Mrs Lorraine Giddy had an absolute majority and was therefore co-opted onto the Parish Council with immediate effect. Mrs Giddy will serve until the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday in May 2027 when the next local elections are scheduled.  
**Action/Comments Agreed:**  
The Clerk will:
- Inform both candidates of the result;
  - inform Medway Council of the appointment;
  - Update the website.
- 20:06 Councillor Ogunfemi then asked the Chairman for permission to speak, which was granted.**
- 26.36** Councillor Ogunfemi then addressed the members regarding the inappropriate verbal exchanges preceding the interviews and asked for more consideration to be shown by all for their fellow members.

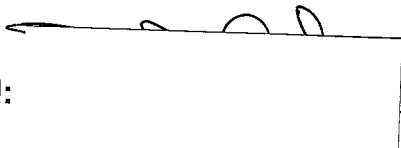
At the Clerk's suggestion, the following item will be added to the agenda for the PC meeting scheduled for 24<sup>th</sup> March 2026:

# ST JAMES, ISLE OF GRAIN, PARISH COUNCIL

- Civility and Respect Pledge.

**20:11** *There being no further business, the meeting was closed.*

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke, positioned above a rectangular box.

Date: 24/3/2026