

ST JAMES, ISLE OF GRAIN, PARISH COUNCIL

M I N U T E S

24th MARCH 2026

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

Present:

Councillor P Blakeley (Chairman)
Councillor Mrs L Giddy
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
2 Reps from South East 4 x 4 Response
2 Members of the Public

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.

ST JAMES, ISLE OF GRAIN, PARISH COUNCIL

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)

Urgent matters by reason of special circumstances

- The following four items were discussed as a matter of urgency:

26.37 South East 4 x 4 Response

A presentation was given by Sue Butterfill and John Cox from the above organisation asking for permission to install an aerial and equipment at the Pavilion to enhance the range of their radio communications. The installation would be funded by their organisation.

Action/Comments Agreed:

It was agreed on proposition by Councillor Ms Sharp and seconded by Councillor Mrs Sands, to allow the installation at the Pavilion.

26.38 Overnight Parking

A resident raised concerns about the number of commercial vehicles that are parking in the village overnight and asked that the 'No Overnight Parking' sign be reinstated.

Action/Comments Agreed:

Ask Medway Council to reinstate the prohibition sign at the entrance to the village.

26.39 Railings on Seawall

A resident raised concerns about the condition of the railings on the seawall adjacent to Church Beach.

Action/Comments Agreed:

Ask Medway Council to carry out urgent repairs as this forms part of Public Right of Way RS1.

26.40 Pedestrian Access to Church Beach Car Park

A resident raised concerns about the lack of safe access for pedestrians along High Street between the school entrance and the Beach Car Park. The resident commented that he had raised this issue with Ward Councillor Chris Spalding some time ago but nothing had been done.

Action/Comments Agreed:

Contact Medway Council again (copied to Councillor Spalding) to ask for the creation of a footpath along this section of High Street.

26.41 Minutes

The minutes of the following meetings were accepted as an accurate record of the proceedings:

- Parish Council – 3rd February 2026 (including Confidential Notes)
 - Proposer: Councillor Jones
 - Seconder: Councillor Blakeley

ST JAMES, ISLE OF GRAIN, PARISH COUNCIL

- GP Committee – 17th February 2026
 - Proposer: Councillor Jones
 - Seconder: Councillor Blakeley
- Parish Council – 17th March (including Confidential Notes)
 - Proposer: Councillor Jones
 - Seconder: Councillor Blakeley

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION, RESOLUTION, OR REPRESENTATIONS

26.42 MHCLG Consultation: Unitary Local Government for Kent and Medway

There was a lengthy discussion of the email dated 3rd March 2026 from KALC giving details of the five proposals for unitary local government for Kent & Medway for comment by 26th March 2026.

Action/Comments Agreed:

It was proposed by Councillor Ogunfemi, seconded by Councillor Mrs Malone, and agreed that the Dover District Council, Swale Borough Council and Thanet District Council proposal for four Unitary Authorities across Kent (as detailed below) be supported:

- North: Dartford, Gravesham and Medway;
- West: Maidstone, Sevenoaks, Tonbridge & Malling and Tunbridge Wells;
- Mid: Swale, Ashford and Folkestone & Hythe;
- East: Canterbury, Dover and Thanet.

26.43 Seaview Meadow Car Park – Tanker Parking

Members reviewed the following documents:

- Email dated 17th March 2026 from a resident concerned about the overnight parking of tankers in the Seaview Meadow Car Park whilst on standby for the Pumping Station;
 - Email dated 18th March 2026 from MTS in response to GPC online contact form;
 - Email dated 18th March 2026 from Southern Water in response to GPC online contact form;
- Verbal report on meeting with Blakes Security on 18th March 2026 to discuss possible car park barrier.

Action/Comments Agreed:

The following was agreed on proposition by Councillor Mrs Malone and seconded by Councillor Sands:

- Contact Medway Council to ask if double yellow lines can be installed in Port Victoria Road to prevent tanker parking;
- Obtain quotes for width restriction bollards and/or a height barrier at Seaview Meadow;
- Chase Southern Water for a response to noise complaints raised by residents;



ST JAMES, ISLE OF GRAIN, PARISH COUNCIL

- Request that the potential nuisance to residents during any future pumping station incidents be highlighted in a Customer Risk Register;
- Agenda for April PC meeting.

26.44 Civility & Respect Pledge

Following Councillor Ogunfemi introduction, members reviewed the following documents:

- Extract from SLCC website dated 23/03/26;
- Civility and Respect Pledge suggested agenda item:
 - To pass a resolution to sign up to the civility and Respect pledge

Action/Comments Agreed:

It was proposed by Councillor Ogunfemi, seconded by Councillor Ms Sharp, and agreed that:

- The Parish Council should sign the Civility and Respect Pledge when compliance to the eight elements has been achieved as compliance with four are outstanding;
- Agenda for April PC meeting.

26.45 Repairs to Village Hall Central Heating System

Members reviewed the Quotations from Akehurst Plumbing and Heating dated 13th March 2026:

- QU-0011 to carry out full CH power flush etc on for main hall boiler at a cost of £1,000 (no VAT);
- QU-0010 to carry out full service on Worcester GB boiler (Surgery) at a cost of £360.00 (no VAT)

Action/Comments Agreed:

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Malone, seconded by Councillor Ogunfemi, and agreed to accept the quotations from Akehurst Plumbing and Heating dated 13th March 2026 at a total cost of £1,360 (not VAT).

26.46 Repairs to Car Park Barriers

Members discussed a verbal report on the following work:

- Pavilion high-lever barrier:
 - Replacement of two security padlocks (including welding) straightening/remedial work on barrier;
- Beach Car Park barriers (entrance and exit):
 - Replacement of two security padlocks (including welding),
 - Remedial work to padlock housing (including welding).

The verbal estimate from Blakes Security for this work is £2,300 (plus VAT) but final costs cannot be confirmed at this time.

Action/Comments Agreed:

It was proposed by Councillor T Sands, seconded by Councillor Ms Sharp to defer the work until:

ST JAMES, ISLE OF GRAIN, PARISH COUNCIL

- Blakes Security can provide an accurate estimate of the proposed work;
- An alternative quote can be obtained;
- Agenda for April PC meeting.

26.47 Allocation of Donations Budget for 2025/26

Members reviewed the following documents:

- Summary of 2025/26 Donations Requests
- Breakdown of Donations from 2016/17 to 2024/25

Action/Comments Agreed:

It was resolved, on proposition by Councillor Mrs Malone, seconded by Councillor Mrs Sands, and agreed, that the Council, in accordance with its powers under sections 137 and 139 of the Local Government Act 1972, should incur the following expenditure, which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure:

<i>Cheque No</i>	<i>Recipient</i>	<i>£</i>
123280	Mrs C Gurr (RBL Wreath)	40.00
123296	E J Clough (Xmas Tree)	142.00
023518	PCC of Grain (Xmas Tree Elect)	50.00
023521	Friends of Grain Coastal Park	50.00
023522	Grain Craft Group	50.00
023523	Grain Fete Committee	50.00
023524	Grain Vets FC	50.00
023525	Hoo Community First Responders	50.00
023526	Showin' Grain	50.00
023527	South East 4x4 Response	50.00
023528	St James CofE Primary Academy	50.00
023529	UJ Community Partnership (see entry below)	18.00
023530	wHoo Cares	50.00

Additional donations of £104 were funded from unspent Chairman's Allowance

023520	1st Isle of Grain Brownies	72.00
023529	UJ Community Partnership (see entry above)	32.00

26.48 **The confidential session was deferred, as no update was available.**

26.49 **Authorisation of Payments of Accounts**

Schedule of cheques, BACS and Direct Debit payments for March 2026 for approval:

- Revenue Account: £10,178.27
- Capital Account: Nil
- **TOTAL PAYMENTS: £10,178.27 (inclusive of VAT)**

ST JAMES, ISLE OF GRAIN, PARISH COUNCIL

Action/Comments Agreed:

It was proposed by Councillor Blakeley, seconded by Councillor Mrs G Sands and agreed, that the schedule of payments, as *per* Appendix 1, was approved.

26.50 Revenue and Capital Receipts Report

Schedule of receipts during February 2026 for information:

- Revenue Account
 - Cash/cheques: £219.88
 - BACS deposits: £1,588.16
- Capital Account
 - Cash/cheques banked: Nil
 - BACS credits: Nil
- **TOTAL RECEIPTS: £1,808.04 (inclusive of VAT)**

Action/Comments Agreed:

It was proposed by Councillor T Sands, seconded by Councillor Ogunfemi and agreed, that the schedule of receipts, as *per* Appendix 2, was approved.

26.51 Consideration of Planning Applications

None notified.

26.52 Reports from meetings/events hosted by outside organisations

Councillor Blakeley gave a verbal report on the Medway Council planning meeting at St George's Centre on 11th March 2026 at which MC/23/0855 (270 residential units at High Halstow) was discussed.

Action/Comments Agreed:

Report noted.

26.53 General Correspondence

The following correspondence was received:

24/03/26 Email from Emma Lake of Medway Council's Green Spaces Team giving details of a beach clean-up on Wednesday, 22nd April at Grain Coastal Park.

Actions/Comments Agreed:

- Inform Friends of Grain Coastal Park to avoid any clash of events.

09/03/26 Medway Council Non-Domestic Rate Bill 2026/27 showing a Nil balance as the Small Business Relief has been applied.

Actions/Comments Agreed:

- Noted.

17/03/26 Letter from National Grid confirming that they are not looking to purchase land as part of the Grain-Tilbury project.

Actions/Comments Agreed:

- Preparation of Easement is in progress.

ST JAMES, ISLE OF GRAIN, PARISH COUNCIL

21:00 *There being no further business, the meeting was closed.*

Signed:



Parish Council Meeting

26/48

Date: 28/4/2026

24th March 2026

APPENDIX 1

ST JAMES, ISLE OF GRAIN, PARISH COUNCIL

LIST OF PAYMENTS AGREED/APPROVED - MARCH 2026

Cheque Number	Supplier/Payee	Amount £	VAT £	Total £	Expenditure Category
Revenue Account					
S/Orders	Salaries & Expenses - see below				Salaries
023512	Salaries & Expenses - see below				Salaries
023513	Salaries & Expenses - see below				Salaries
023514	Cancelled				
023515	Salaries & Expenses - see below				Salaries
023516	HM Revenue & Customs	3,442.44	0.00	3,442.44	Salaries
023517	Boyds Electrical Ltd	445.00	89.00	534.00	Pavilion M&R
023518	PCC of Grain	50.00	0.00	50.00	Section 137
023519	Vision ICT Ltd	50.00	10.00	60.00	Administration
Various	Donations (as per attached list)	572.00	0.00	572.00	Split
	Salaries & Expenses	3,496.13	42.48	3,538.61	Salaries
	Total - Cheques/BACS	8,055.57	141.48	8,197.05	
Revenue Account - Direct Debits					
20/02/2026	Vodafone Ltd*	34.50	6.90	41.40	Telephone/Post
28/02/2026	Veolia ES (UK) Ltd	337.77	67.55	405.32	V/Hall M&R
01/03/2026	Blueraq Networks Ltd	20.00	4.00	24.00	Administration
	Business Stream	0.00	0.00	0.00	V/H Water
	Business Stream (Pavilion)	0.00	0.00	0.00	Water
23/03/2026	EE Broadband	58.32	0.00	58.32	Telephone/Post
01/03/2026	Santander (Account Fee)	9.98	0.00	9.98	Administration
05/03/2026	Crown Gas & Power Ltd	959.17	191.84	1,151.01	Gas
10/03/2026	Crown Gas & Power Ltd	196.94	9.85	206.79	V/H Electricity
10/03/2026	Crown Gas & Power Ltd (Pavilion)	53.96	2.70	56.66	Electricity
10/03/2026	Crown Gas & Power Ltd (MUGA)	40.60	2.03	42.63	Electricity
10/03/2026	Crown Gas & Power Ltd (W/Shop)	25.25	1.26	26.51	Electricity
	Total - Direct Debits	1,701.99	279.23	1,981.22	
*Offset by ATC Credit of £22 per month					
TOTAL REVENUE PAYMENTS		9,757.56	420.71	10,178.27	
Capital Account					
				0.00	Capital
TOTAL CAPITAL PAYMENTS		0.00	0.00	0.00	
TOTAL PAYMENTS FOR MARCH 2026		9,757.56	420.71	10,178.27	

RB

APPENDIX 1

ST JAMES, ISLE OF GRAIN, PARISH COUNCIL

LIST OF PAYMENTS AGREED/APPROVED - MARCH 2026

DONATIONS

Cheque Number	Supplier/Payee	Amount £	VAT £	Total £	Expenditure Category
Revenue Account					
023520	1st Isle of Grain Brownies	72.00	0.00	72.00	Chair's Allow
023521	Friends of Grain Coastal Park	50.00	0.00	50.00	Section 137
023522	Grain Craft Group	50.00	0.00	50.00	Section 137
023523	Grain Fete Committee	50.00	0.00	50.00	Section 137
023524	Grain Vets FC	50.00	0.00	50.00	Section 137
023525	Hoo Community First Responders	50.00	0.00	50.00	Section 137
023526	Showin' Grain	50.00	0.00	50.00	Section 137
023527	South East 4x4 Response	50.00	0.00	50.00	Section 137
023528	St James CofE Primary Academy	50.00	0.00	50.00	Section 137
023529	UJ Community Partnership	50.00	0.00	50.00	Split-See below*
023530	wHoo Cares	50.00	0.00	50.00	Section 137
<u>Split</u>					
*023529	UJ Community Partnership	18.00	Section 137		
		32.00	Chair's Allow		
	Total	£50.00			
Total Spend		572.00	0.00	572.00	

PR

APPENDIX 2

ST JAMES, ISLE OF GRAIN, PARISH COUNCIL

REVENUE & CAPITAL RECEIPTS REPORT

REVENUE ACCOUNT

Cash/Cheques	Receipt No 6818 to 6820
~ Garages	£219.88
~ Village Hall Lettings	£0.00
~ Wayleaves	£0.00
~ Miscellaneous	£0.00
TOTAL: £219.88	

BACS Deposits	Bank Statement 003/2026
~ Garages	£517.06
~ Village Hall Lettings	£749.10
~ Airtime Refund	£22.00
~ Miscellaneous (Play Field)	£300.00
~ VAT Repayments*	£0.00
TOTAL: £1,588.16	

CAPITAL ACCOUNT

Cash/cheques	Receipt No 6818 to 6820
~ Other	£0.00
TOTAL: £0.00	

BACS deposits	Bank Statement 001&002/2026
~ Other	£0.00
TOTAL: £0.00	

TOTAL RECEIPTS FOR FEBRUARY 2026:

£1,808.04

FB