



Alkham Parish Council

SUMMONS

To All Members of the Parish Council in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1972, you are hereby summoned to attend a meeting **of Alkham Parish Council on**

Monday 12th January 2026 at 7.30 pm.

The meeting will be held in the Alkham Village Hall, Hogbrook Hill Lane, Alkham, Dover CT15 7QJ

Irene Bowie

Clerk to the Council

clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk

7th January 2026

NOTICE OF MEETING

Public Notice of the meeting has been given in accordance with Schedule 12, Para 10(2) of the Local Government Act 1972. The Meeting is open to the press and public.

AGENDA

1. Apologies and Declarations.

- 1.1 Apologies for absence received and confirmed by the Council Members who cannot attend a meeting shall tender their apologies to the Parish Clerk prior to the meetings, under Section 75(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, the members present must decide whether the reason(s) for a member's absence shall be accepted.
- 1.2 Declaration of Changes to the Register of Interests.
Councillors are responsible for ensuring that their Register of Interests is up to date (within 28 days of any changes).
- 1.3 To receive Declarations of Interest in respect of matters contained in this agenda. In accordance with the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 in respect of members and in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 respectively for officers.
Reminder to Members to disclose either a Pecuniary Interest or Other Interest in any item on the agenda. The clerk cannot advise members on this, and members are personally responsible for declaring an interest
- 1.4 Requests for Dispensations.
- 1.5 Declarations of Lobbying.

2. Public comments and observations. (Maximum 15 minutes)

The meeting will be adjourned to allow members of the public to speak. Individuals may speak for up to three minutes, at the discretion of the Chairman, on agenda items only. The minute book will be closed.

3. Reports from external parties (if present).

4. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

To resolve that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 3rd November 2025 to be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

5. Planning:

5.1 To table planning applications received for consideration:

- 5.1.1 25/01337 Great Cauldham Farm Cauldham Lane Capel Le Ferne Kent CT18 7HQ
Ref: 25/2170/FH: Construction of an Anaerobic Digestion Plant and Associated Infrastructure

5.2 To Table and Validate Planning Applications, which have been dealt with since the last meeting.

5.3 To table decisions by Dover District Council (DDC) since the last meeting.

- 5.3.1 25/01328 Uplands Farm Meggett Lane Alkham CT15 7DG
Prior approval for the erection of 2 agricultural barns for the purpose of lambing
Decision Prior Approval refused (28 days)
- 5.3.2 25/00933 Wolverton Farm Wolverton Hill Alkham CT15 7DT

5.4 To table late planning matters.

6. Finance:

- 6.1 To receive and authorise payments listed on the schedule (to be provided at the meeting)
- 6.2 Late Payment Request/s to be discussed for approval and payment.
- 6.3 To note receipts of Income.
- 6.4 To receive the bank reconciliation.
- 6.5 To receive any late financial matters.
- 6.6 To consider the budget for 2026/27
- 6.7 To agree the precept demand for 2026/27

7. To consider a motion for an Alkham Valley Road Transport and Road Safety Policy and Strategic Proposal

Appendix A: Alkham Valley Road Transport and Road Safety Policy and Strategic Proposal

MOTION: Alkham Parish Council notes the unsustainable levels of traffic, speeding, and inappropriate HGV use on the Alkham Valley Road, resulting in increasing risks to road safety, residential amenity, and the rural character of the parish.

The Council recognises that these conditions arise primarily from strategic development and regional and international traffic pressures beyond parish control, and that local mitigation measures have been exhausted.

This Council resolves to:

- Adopt the position that the Alkham Valley Road requires strategic, cross-authority intervention.
- Request that Kent County Council convenes a strategic review of traffic using the Alkham Valley Road, involving relevant district councils and affected parish councils.
- Authorise the Clerk to submit this resolution and supporting evidence to the appropriate authorities.

8. To receive Reports and agree on actions if appropriate.

- 8.1 Chairman's Report
- 8.2 KALC Area Meeting Alkham Parish Council Representative.
- 8.3 Clerks Report (on matters not included in other agenda items)
- 8.4 Councillors Reports (on matters not included in other agenda items)
- 8.6 Flood and Drainage Warden
- 8.7 Footpath Warden
- 8.8 Village Organisations

9. To receive reports and consider recommendations from the working groups.

- 9.1 Highways Working Group.
- 9.2 Communications and Community Involvement Working Group
- 9.3 Parish Plan Evolution and Delivery Working Group
- 9.4 Green Spaces and Environment Working Group

10. To receive the Playground Inspection Reports.

11. Correspondence:

12. Agenda Items for the next meeting:

13. Consideration of items to be taken in private (Exclusion of Public and Press):

There are only a few reasons as to why, legally, the public and press can be excluded from a meeting. The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 Sec 1 (2) states "A body may, by resolution, exclude the

public from a meeting (whether during the whole or part of the proceedings) whenever publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted or for other special reasons stated in the resolution and arising from the nature of that business or of the proceedings; and where such a resolution is passed, this Act shall not require the meeting to be open to the public during proceedings to which the resolution applies." It is generally considered acceptable to exclude the press and public if the agenda item relates to the consideration of tenders, leases, purchases of assets, for matters relating to staffing covered by the Data Protection Act and to consider complaints against the council or a code of conduct complaint.

13.1 Enforcement Matters

14. Meeting Dates 2026.

2nd February, 2nd March 2nd, 13th April 13th, 11th May, 1st June, 6th July, 7th September, 5th October, 2nd November

Councillor Standing Declarations of Interests.

Cllr Trevor Johns:

Chairman of the Alkham Valley Society

Member of the Alkham Community Speedwatch Team

Cllr Catie Webber:

Vice-Chairman of the Alkham Valley Society

Cllr Paul Tapsell.

Trustee of the Alkham Village Hall (Charity number: 255919)

Cllr Steve Edwards.

Member of the Alkham Valley Society Management Committee

Member of the Alkham Community Speedwatch Team

National rules about pecuniary interests are set out in Chapter 7 of the Localism Act 2011 and in secondary Legislation made under the Act, in particular The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012

Appendix A:

Alkham Valley Road Transport and Road Safety Policy and Strategic Proposal

1. Purpose of this Policy

This policy sets out Alkham Parish Council's formal position on the escalating transport, safety, and environmental impacts affecting the Alkham Valley Road and establishes a clear proposal for strategic intervention. It seeks to move beyond piecemeal mitigation towards a coordinated, evidence-led approach that protects residents, road users, and the rural character of the Alkham Valley.

2. Background and Problem Statement

The highways and safety challenges affecting the Alkham Valley Road have been recognised for over three decades. In recent years these issues have intensified significantly due to:

- The Whitfield Urban Expansion and associated housing growth
- Increased port-related and international freight traffic
- TAP operations and wider cross-Channel movement
- The use of the Alkham Valley Road as a rat run between the A2 and M20

These pressures are fundamentally incompatible with:

- A historic, narrow, unclassified rural road network
- A designated conservation area
- A protected rural landscape with limited pedestrian infrastructure

Localised measures, parish-led initiatives, and signage are no longer sufficient. What was once a local traffic issue has become a strategic transport failure, requiring intervention at county and district level.

3. Policy Context

This policy aligns with and supports Kent County Council Local Transport Plan 5 titled "Striking the Balance", Kent Vision Zero, and the planning policies of Dover District Council and Folkestone and Hythe District Council, including the joint A260, Alkham Valley Road, and A20 junction strategy funded in part through Section 106 contributions.

4. Evidence of Harm and Risk

Speedwatch volunteers recorded thousands of speeding vehicles in the past year. Over 5,000 police warning letters were issued in one year alone. Approximately 40 percent of offending vehicles originated from the Whitfield postcode area. Alkham Valley Road now carries traffic volumes of up to 1,000 vehicles per hour at peak times. There are no safe pedestrian crossing points through the village. Rural roads account for 57 percent of all fatal collisions in Kent. The railway bridge at Kearsney is reportedly the most frequently struck bridge in Kent.

5. Policy Position

Alkham Parish Council adopts the position that the Alkham Valley Road is unsuitable for high volumes of through traffic and HGV movements, that rural road safety must take precedence over procedural rigidity, and that strategic, cross-authority intervention is required.