The Tilmanstone Brief

Monthly Update – Village events – Published by Tilmanstone Parish Council April 2026 - Issue 125

PARISH COUNCIL - The next Parish Council meeting is on **Monday, 20th April 2026 at 6.30pm.** All are welcome. If there are matters you would like the Council to discuss, please contact us by email or in writing at least a week before the meeting.

Parish Council AGM Monday, 20th April 2026 at 7pm will be held after the Parish Council meeting. All are welcome. Village groups are invited to give reports of events which have occurred over the last year. Drinks and refreshments are provided for all. This is your chance to comment on any and every aspect of village life.

Children's Playing Field:

Slide Surround – The new wooden surround is in place and should last for 20 years. Many thanks to Andrew Wyatt and his work team for completing the job so quickly and efficiently. New playground chips are in situ.

Grounds Maintenance:

TPC will continue to oversee and pay for the grass cutting of the Playing Field, Bus Shelter and Church Bank. The contract for April will be awarded at the next meeting. There is still time to send in tenders to the clerk.

Plough & Harrow: The planning application for a new let was refused by DDC.

Government Policies:

TPC have agreed to adopt the following policies now required by the Government Review:

- The Data Protection Policy
- The Data Retention Policy (subject to clarification on the length of time required to keep paper documents).
- The IT Policy
- The Financial Risk Management Record (subject to clarification on the 3 covenants and insurance policy for the playing field).

Whitfield Urban Renewal: (Meeting date t.b.c.)

Whitfield P.C. have invited all other P.C.s impacted by this development to a meeting. TPC have accepted.

Clerk's Expenditure:

TPC agreed the following expenditures for the Clerk's continuing Professional Development –

- Play Park Inspections £84.00
- Introduction to Planning £30.00 (50% of cost)
- Mastering Planning £30.00 (50% of cost)
- Internal Controls £17.50 (50% of cost)

Village Litter Pick:

A small group of villagers, parish counsellors and Councillor Manion set out on a glorious Spring afternoon to clear the bicycle paths along the old Dover Road. Several large bags were collected from around the village. TPC would like to thank all who took part.

Defibrillator: It now has new batteries.

KCC Update by Councillor Bridget Porter

Camera on Barville Road – KCC will give a response by the next meeting as to when/if it will be switched on.

Secondary Schools – 96% of Kent pupils were offered a place at their preferred secondary school for September 2026.

Local Charity/Club Funding - £36,000 was put aside for 28 local charities/clubs under the umbrella of the 'Forever Active Kent Service'.

Encouraging More Women to Work in Male-Dominated Sectors – women comprise only 28% of the workforce in 85 'STEM' companies so the businesses have teamed up with over 800 secondary school pupils to encourage interest in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. All skills essential for innovation in sectors like AI, data science, all forms of engineering, clean technology and digital transformation.

DDC Update by Councillor Steve Manion

Community Governance Review - DDC gave this out which basically asks whether each parish council has the correct ratio of councillors to population. TPC and the members of the public present at the meeting agreed to continue with 5 councillors in Tilmanstone.

The EES Scheme – This is due to start at Dover over Easter. Please be prepared for extra delays.

Electric Buses – These are being provided for the Whitfield Urban Expansion which will run into Dover every 30 minutes. No update yet on a bus through Tilmanstone.

PARISH COUNCILLORS

Cllr Barbara Totham, Cllr Nigel Watts (Chair), Cllr Rachel Bate, Cllr Mog Ovenden and Cllr Richard Wyatt
Tilmanstone Parish Clerk – Mrs H Biggs-Halles – 07463 092092 or email clerk@tilmanstonepc.org.uk
or write to Downlands, The Street, Staple CT3 1LL

KENT POLICE:

If you see any unusual activity in or around the village, please report it straightaway to our local PC Lauren whose email address is Lauren.Eyre-Jackson@kent.police.uk or leave a message on 14106 at kent.police.uk

WORKS BY SOUTHERN WATER: planned from 20th – 24th April affecting Upper Street outside Ravens House – pls check onsite signage for up-to-date info. For further info please check Southern Water's website.

ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT/PAINT/ROLL – this year's Village Event is on Easter Monday as usual 3pm-5pm in the village hall and playing field. Wear old clothes and come to have fun. Please bring a hard-boiled egg!

VILLAGE HALL

Pilates - Mondays – 10.00am (chair), Mondays – 11.00am (mat), Wednesdays – 10.00am (mat)
Offering a **free introductory session** to anyone who would like to try Pilates.
Contact Michelle Monk on 07857 661483 for information on Pilates classes.
The Hall can currently be booked for £10.00 per hour or £8.00 per hour for regular bookings. If you would like to be kept informed on future events, please text Sal on 07981 747298 to the WhatsApp group.

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH - Services April – All Welcome
Sunday 5th Easter Sunday at 8.00am HC Family Service Rev. Andrew Brown
Sunday 19th at 10.00am HC Rev. Hilary Baldwin
The next **monthly Coffee Morning** in the Church will be held on **Tuesday 28th April 10.00 – 11.30am.**
Church Warden – Julie Chandler – 01304 617489 – email housechurch10@gmail.com
For weddings, baptisms, funerals or more information on the above events, please contact Annette Silk – 01304 617833 or 07967 727551.

Waste Collections - Black Bin / Food Waste - Tuesday 14th and 28th April
Blue Bin / Recycling /Food Waste - Tuesday 7th and 21st April
Garden Waste - Wednesday 8th and 22nd April
It is advised that bins need to be out by 7:00am on the day of collection.