

Penshurst Parish Assembly 2026

Draft Minutes

The annual Penshurst Parish Assembly was held at 7pm on Tuesday 7th April 2026 in Penshurst Village Hall.

Present: 12 Members of Public (MOP), Councillor Andy Campbell (Chairman), PC McCurry, PC Maunsell, Emma Bashford, and Rachael Turner (Clerk)

*Please see attached report

- 1** *Councillor Andy Campbell welcomed everyone and presented his report as Penshurst Parish Council Chairman.
- 2** The attendance register was completed and apologies for absence received from; County Councillor Robert Mayall, District Councillor Richard Streatfeild, Duncan Howard and Robert Rees.
- 3** Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on 14th April 2025 were agreed and signed.
- 4** Report from Police – PC McCurry confirmed there were only two officers physically assigned to the area so there was very limited coverage. He invited those present to let them know what the biggest concerns were and then resources could be focussed on that area. People were encouraged to sign up to My Community Voice, the messaging service that keeps residents in touch with the policing teams. This can be used to feedback and report issues and also to be kept abreast of current updates in the area. Councillor Townsend commented that Tom Tugendhat, MP, and Head of Police had been written to requesting more resources for the area. PC McCurry reiterated that if they could gather evidence of need of where the areas of concern were, then they could access resources that could target the key issues. He confirmed they had access to the Rural Task Force for specific targeted crime.

It was commented upon that with car crime there didn't appear to be any support for the victim and Police focus was to find the car.

A MOP referred to a local crime where a lorry load of stones had been tipped onto a property and then they were demanding money to remove them. The Police were called but were slow to respond. It was felt that victims of crime needed more support.

Other MOPs raised issues directly with PC McCurry at the meeting.

A list was circulated for those present to add their details to the police system, My Community Voice, and was passed to PC Currie. Anyone can sign up via:

<https://www.mycommunityvoicekent.co.uk/>

7.25 pm PC Currie and PC Maunsell left the meeting.

- 5** *Report from County Councillor Robert Mayall was read out in his absence.
- 6** *Report from District Councillor Richard Streatfeild was read out in his absence.
- 7** *Neighbourhood Watch report from Councillor Norman Furnell.
- 8** *Report from Peshurst CE Primary School was read out in their absence.
- 9** Report from Fordcombe Primary School – no report received.
- 10** Report from Almshouses – Emma Bashford introduced herself as the new Clerk for the Almshouses and confirmed there was another Trustee on board. There were no Almshouses vacancies at present, or for the foreseeable future.

Cllr Campbell thanked everyone for attending.

7.50 pm Parish Assembly closed.