

MINSTER PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held at John Spanton Sports Pavilion

St Mildreds Road, Minster

on 6th February 2024 at 7.00pm

Present: Councillors: Quittenden, Fordyce, Bates, Jones, Crow-Brown, Local, Smith, Owen, Fleming.

Also present: Kyla Lamb (Parish Clerk), Cllr Smith (TDC), Cllr Wright (KCC) Karl Aylett (Community Warden)

302. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Webzell, Ingleton, Clare Wilsdon (Assistant Parish Clerk)

303. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 9th January 2024 be approved and signed.

304. MEMBERS INTERESTS

No members interests recorded.

305. POLICING AND COMMUNITY WARDEN REPORT

PC Andy Howe was not present and no report was available. The issue of ongoing anti-social behaviour from youths reported to be getting the train to the village was discussed and residents MUST report any incidents to 101 or 999.

Community Warden Aylett reported that he had made trading standard visits to homes, had visited the cemetery following the report of a person sleeping in a tent there. He contacted social services and the man is no longer sleeping there.

He had given a talk on drugs and alcohol to the scouts. There is to be a vote on the proposed 1million pound cut to the warden service. If it goes ahead the number of wardens will go from 73 to 39 in Kent.

306. COUNTY COUNCILLOR & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Cllr Wright reported as follows:

- Had provided advocacy for residents.
- Understood from Cllr Crow-Brown the Clerk had a request for her. The Clerk reported that she understood that Cllr Wright may have some of her Members grant still available to use by the end of the financial year as the Parish Council are looking to carry out repairs to the public toilets. Cllr Wright told the Clerk to contact her directly.
- Has met the new party Chairman. DWP are reassessing everyone who claim. The new form is not fit for purpose. She is working with Natalie Elphick to try to get it changed.

Cllr Smith reported as follows:

- The issues with TDC's online IT systems were not caused by a cyberattack. It was the IT provider.
- TDC have launched a parking strategy consultation. She will send the link to the Clerk for circulation.
- The new head of cleansing Matthew Elmer wishes to engage with Parish Council regarding volunteer litter pickers.

Cllr Crow-Brown reported as follows:

- Financial contribution made to Monkton Nature reserve by Southern Water as compensation for lost revenue due to lengthy road closure.
- Made a further corporate complaint made to Southeastern following further last-minute cancellations of the train service serving schools in Sandwich which left school children stranded. The response from Southeastern trains was that it was caused by a points failure which has now been repaired.
- Following the ongoing ASB issues including shoplifting he had contacted Southeastern trains again to ask for more ticket officers and commended them for being more visible on the train services.
- The traffic lights that failed in Tothill Street were dealt with by Kent Highways street Team.

307. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chairman thanked Cllr Crow-Brown for his efforts and also Cllr Wright for her grant towards the new chairs that were in use by the public this evening. He reported that he had attended the police surgery at the Salvation Army on the 12th January.

308. REPORT OF THE CLERK

Nothing to report.

309. DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION

None available.

310. CEMETERY FEES AND CHARGES 2024/2025

Members considered an increase in fees and charges for the year 2024/2025.

RESOLVED: To increase cemetery fees and charges as detailed in the draft schedule.

311. D-DAY 80 – 6TH JUNE 2024

The Chairman updated members on taking part in this event. Currently the beacon will be lit on the church at an agreed time by the King's pageant master.

The RBL Club and Branch are meeting this week to consider how they will take part in this event. It was AGREED to receive feedback from this meeting. Other suggestions were to have an event on the churchyard possibly using the Council marquee.

Members AGREED to email the Chairman with any other ideas.

312. PLANNING, HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning, Highways & Transportation meeting held on 29th January, be received and the recommendations within them be approved.

Cllr Fleming reported that an update on Eden Grove/the Limes had been received from a resident, which she read out. Importantly that the receiver has appointed a contractor to finish the empty houses with a view to sale.

The Planning Highways and Transportation Committee are meeting with Baratt David Wilson Homes on 20th February 2024.

313. COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Members received reports from representatives of the following bodies:

TALC	Cllr Quittenden reported that a meeting was being held on 22 nd February 2024.
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Minster School	Cllr Fleming reported that she had received emails from both deputy heads and is arranging a meeting.
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314. REPORT OF THE RFO

RESOLVED:

- (a) the Bank balance statement be received and noted,
- (b) the statement of Receipts and Payments for the month of January 2024 be approved.

Cllr Local noted that since the IT issues with TDC perhaps we should be reverting to a hard drive back up as well as the automatic one provided by J & J Systems. Cllr Owen would get this set up.

315. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC / ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs Quittenden asked if Minster school were arranging anything to remember D-Day on the 6th June. Cllr Fleming would ask the school.

Mrs Brown asked about the upcoming road closures in Tothill Street and the diversion route. The Clerk will ensure that the notices are well publicized and check that don't clash with Monkton Road planned closures.

My Lythe asked if any assurances were in place to replace the hedgerow that has been removed. He was told by the contractor that all of it will be removed and replaced with a mature new hedge. Cllr Fleming replied that we are in regular contact with the developers and it is an issue that will be pursued.

Time concluded: 7.45pm

5th March 2024