

MINSTER PARISH COUNCIL

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

St Mildreds Road, Minster

on 7th November 2023 at 7.00pm

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

Also present: Kyla Lamb (Parish Clerk), Clare Wilsdon (Assistant Clerk), Cllr Sam Bambridge (TDC), Cllr Linda Wright (KCC), PC Beth Ninnim.

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, a one minute silence was observed for Remembrance Day and atrocities in the world.

188. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Owen. Cllr Abi Smith (TDC), Community Warden Karl Aylett.

189. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 3rd October 2023 be approved and signed.

190. MEMBERS INTERESTS

None

191. POLICING AND COMMUNITY WARDEN REPORT

Community Warden Aylett was not present but provided a report read out by the Chairman as follows;

- Assistance given to local residents over domestic abuse issues, neighbour disputes and parking concerns.
- Visits carried out on behalf of trading standards and adult social services.
- Attended multi-agency neighbourhood engagement day, organised by TDC.

Police Constable Beth Ninnim was present and reported as follows:

- PC Andy Howe to join her in covering rural villages. This will be a positive addition and will provide more coverage.
- 62 calls to Kent Police during October for the Minster area.
- Increased reports of issues with dogs.
- PC Jason Wright working with Acol Speedwatch group, has enquired whether Minster may consider forming a group.
- Reminder to remain vigilant during darker winter days and to ensure property is secure.
- Possibility of arranging a property marking event for members of the public.
- Planning on holding a Police surgery together with Cllr Abi Smith.

Cllr Local reported that the former Speedwatch group stopped operating due to a lack of support from the Police.

Cllr Crow-Brown asked if anyone had been apprehended following reports of hare-coursing taking place locally.

PC Ninnim responded that somebody had been caught and gave a reminder that hare-coursing should be reported via 999.

192. COUNTY COUNCILLOR & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Cllr Bambridge (TDC) reported as follows:

- No case for the judicial review for Manston airport. Right of appeal was refused.
- Planning application for the footpath at Hoo Farm has been called in at the TDC planning committee meeting next week.

Cllr Wright reported as follows:

- Public health remains the only budget that is ring-fenced.
- Healthy Start Scheme provides a pre-paid card to eligible pregnant mums (10 weeks plus) and those with children under 4 years of age. The card can be used to purchase milk, fresh fruit and vegetables, and vitamins. More information on the scheme and how to apply for the card is available on the website.
- Covid rate is currently low.
- Reminder for eligible people to be vaccinated against covid, flu and shingles.

Cllr Crow-Brown reported as follows:

- Plans to close waste recycling sites have been scrapped.
- A local farmer at Monkton parish council meeting explained that geese use the tree lines to help them navigate and that this should be considered in the Sealink plans.
- Engaging with Hydrogen Transition Energy who are proposing the first waste to hydrogen facility in the UK, with the creation of 180 jobs.

193. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chairman reported on the sad loss of ex Cllr Tony Goodman. His funeral will be held at Margate crematorium at 10.45am Friday 17th November.

Also, ex Cllr and former Chairman, Peter Osborne's interment of ashes will take place on Tuesday 28th November at 12.00pm at Minster cemetery.

The post office counter opened in the new Attwells shop on 25th October.

194. REPORT OF THE CLERK

Funding of £20,606 for grass pitch maintenance has been secured from the Football Foundation, with a parish council contribution of £6869. Cllr Crow-Brown thanked the Clerk for her efforts securing this funding.

195. DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION

Copy of letter from TDC to Michael Gove re Thanet Local Plan.

196. ZEROHOUR REQUEST FOR SUPPORT FOR THE CLIMATE AND ECOLOGY BILL

Members considered whether to support the climate and ecology bill, information as circulated. Cllr Local reported that having looked into this, there are numerous issues surrounding the bill, including an increase in inflation.

AGREED: That no further action be taken.

197. CARBON LITERACY ACTION DAY IN PARTNERSHIP WITH KENT ASSOCIATION FOR LOCAL COUNCILS MONDAY 4TH DECEMBER 2023

Members were asked if they wish to attend this event.

AGREED: No members are to attend.

198. FIREWORKS NOVEMBER 2024

The Chairman reported that there are a number of contentious issues surrounding the fireworks display, including increased attendance from people outside of the village due to social media, the detrimental affect on wildlife and pets, and traffic congestion. Despite these issues, many people enjoy the display and local businesses benefit from an increase in business on the evening of the display.

Cllr Ingleton expressed that the event was well managed.

Cllr Local considered the display as a waste of the precept and raised concerns over wildlife and pets. A suggestion was made to use 'silent' fireworks with reduced decibels, or a laser display as a possible alternative.

Cllr Jones raised a concern over the climate issues relating to the use of fireworks.

AGREED: Other options are to be considered for next year, and views of the village to be sought. A review of these would be considered at a later meeting.

The Clerk thanked the assistant Clerk for the event organisation.

199. PLANNING, HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning, Highways & Transportation meeting held on 30th October, be received and the recommendations within them be approved.

Cllr Ingleton reported that Dover Local Plan is soon to be examined and includes a number of issues common to Thanet, including the use of agricultural land for development.

200. SEALINK – NATIONAL GRID

A public consultation is running from 24th October to 18th December on the Sealink proposals. There is a public exhibition being held on Thursday 16th November at Minster Village Hall. A meeting with the parish council has been arranged after the exhibition, in order to discuss the proposals in more detail.

201. THANET ARCHAEOLOGICAL LANDSCAPES MAPPING PROJECT

The Heritage Conservation team at Kent County Council is working with Thanet District Council and the Aerial Investigation and Mapping (AIM) team at Historic England on a new project designed to improve understanding of the archaeology of the Isle of Thanet – *The Thanet Archaeological Landscape Mapping Project*.

Members considered an invitation for the project organisers to attend and give a talk.

AGREED: That a meeting would be arranged as invited.

202. COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Members received reports from representatives of the following bodies:

TALC Cllr Quittenden reported that a meeting has not been held and the next date scheduled is 23rd November 2023.

The KALC AGM will be held on 18th November and Cllr Quittenden and Crow-Brown will attend.

Minster School No report provided.

203. 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 October 2023 be approved.**

204. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC / ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Barbara Quittenden asked if the chairs are to be replaced.

Mrs Stace said there has been further graffiti in the bus shelter at the top of Tothill Street.

A resident asked how members of the public can respond to the Sealink proposals. Cllr Fleming responded that comments can be made both online and via email or letter. There is a condensed '10-minute read' document that condenses the extensive documents to a more readable format. Cllr Fleming reminded members of the public that Minster Parish Council and Thanet District Council do not have any power over decisions relating to the Sealink project but will make comment where appropriate.

Barbara Quittenden suggested that members of the public should make their individual opinions known via comments to the Sealink project.

Time concluded: 8.05pm

5th November 2023