

MINSTER PARISH COUNCIL

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

St Mildreds Road, Minster

on 5th December 2023 at 7.00pm

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

Also present: Kyla Lamb (Parish Clerk), Clare Wilsdon (Assistant Clerk), Cllr Abi Smith (TDC), Karl Aylett (Warden), PC Beth Ninnim, PC Andy Howe.

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, a one minute silence was observed in memory of Philip Sackett MBE – Former Minster Parish Council Clerk, who sadly passed away on 11th November 2023.

223. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Wright (KCC)

224. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 7th November 2023 be approved and signed.

225. MEMBERS INTERESTS

None

226. POLICING AND COMMUNITY WARDEN REPORT

Police Constable Andy Howe introduced himself.

PC Beth Ninnim and PC Andy Howe reported as follows;

- 165 calls to Thanet villages in the last month.
- 36 calls to Kent Police during November for the Minster area.
- Majority of these related to vehicle related incidents.
- Crime statistics show reports of criminal damage have shown a significant reduction.
- Focus will be on drink and drug driving over the festive period.
- No other areas of major concern.

Cllr Crow-Brown thanked PC Ninnim for her assistance when dealing with a neighbourhood dispute.

Community Warden Aylett was present and reported as follows;

- Fly-tipping incidents reported.
- Only two wardens now remain in Thanet.
- Further information will be available next month, following KCC's consultation on the Community Warden service.

227. COUNTY COUNCILLOR & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Cllr Smith reported as follows:

- The application, Land on the North side of Foxborough Lane (115 dwellings) has been called in to the planning committee.
- Spoke at planning committee on the Hoo Farm footpath application along with Cllr Bambridge. A site visit is to be carried out and the application will go back to the planning committee in December.
- Notice of motion by the Leader of TDC over concerns raised by the public relating to the Sealink project.
- 24 homes on the Tothill Street development, proposed for purchase by TDC, for affordable rent.

Cllr Crow-Brown thanked Cllr Smith for support in trying to halt developments over 10 homes by proposing a moratorium.

Cllr Crow-Brown reported as follows:

- Met with Lezanne Cesar, Highways Community Engagement officer and discussed the proposed Gladmans' development.
- Following the loss of the 954 bus service last year, that served Sir Roger Manwoods and Sandwich Technology schools, train signal failures on two days last week resulted in children being unable to get to school. A complaint was made to Southeastern and fortunately the issues were rectified quickly.
- Closure of the A253 has resulted in loss of revenue for Monkton Nature Reserve.
- Southern Water have funding in place to replace existing pumps with eel friendly pumps on Minster Marshes.

228. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chairman reported that the decorations are in place and preparations for the Christmas event on Saturday 9th December at 4pm are underway.

The carol service will take place at the lychgate of St Marys the Virgin Church on Monday 11th December at 7pm.

Rev'd Jeffrey Foulger has been appointed Priest in Charge of the Wantsum Group of Churches and the licensing ceremony for him will be held at Minster church.

Lighting of the church beacon is proposed on the anniversary of the D-Day landings on 6th June 2024.

At a recent TRRG meeting, Cllr Wright proposed to run a 'Best Decorated Village' competition. Further information to follow.

Attended a KCC Parish Highways forum via TEAMS. Much emphasis was placed on the importance of parishes and their local knowledge. There was a debate on road closures/diversions. Utility companies often only give two hours notice of road closure under for 'emergency repairs' and KCC are working hard to change this. Reviewing casualty numbers on roads when making decisions is being replaced by looking at other statistics.

229. REPORT OF THE CLERK

Nothing to report.

230. DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION

None available.

231. KENT LOCAL FLOOD RISK STRATEGY 2024-2034

Consultation on the draft local strategy will open on 22nd November 2023 and run until 30th January 2024. Members considered how to respond.

AGREED: The Planning, Highways and Transportation Committee will prepare a response.

232. POLICY ON FUTURE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

Cllr Local requested that members consider the following:

Minster Parish Council will fight any proposed large-scale development of any land within the Minster Parish boundaries.

A large-scale development will be classified as one of 10 dwellings or more.

Minster Parish Council, on the recommendation of its Planning, Highways & Transportation Committee (or any future committee tasked with dealing with planning), should automatically have access to MPC funds, allocated from reserves, to the value of £10,000 (or an amount seen fit by full council) for employing consultants or any other person they believe can assist in objecting to any such application. Speed is often of the essence and it wastes time coming back to full council each time for approval. Any further amount would be approved only at full council. The amount will be reviewed annually.

Cllr Local summarised the reason for the request.

AGREED: Criteria to be agreed whereby when planning applications are received that fulfil the specified criteria, a planning consultant will automatically be engaged for the purpose of preparing a response to the application. The Clerk will seek a quotation from a list of approved consultants and approval obtained from members via email.

AGREED: Member of the Planning, Highways and Transportation Committee to speak at TDC Planning Committee meetings in support of District Councillors.

AGREED: The Planning, Highways and Transportation Committee will formalise the above criteria for a consultant to be engaged.

233. FOOTBALL FOUNDATION GRASS PITCH MAINTENANCE GRANT

Funding of £20,606 for grass pitch maintenance has been secured from the Football Foundation, subject to a parish council contribution of £6869.

AGREED; Members ratified the contribution of £6869, being 25% of the total cost of a new Iseki tractor, cutting deck and SISIS quadraplay. Total cost £27,475.

234. FIREWORKS NOVEMBER 2024

Further to the last meeting, members considered consulting residents via a Facebook poll asking the following:

- a. Continue with the firework display in its current format
- b. Have a low noise display with music accompaniment – add link so residents can see what this would be like
- c. Cancel the firework display

The council will make their decision based on the majority response.

RESOLVED: To place a poll on Facebook with options as detailed above and to include further information about costs, and the reasons for the consideration of continuance of the fireworks. To also place this information on noticeboards asking for residents to respond with their view to the Parish Office.

235. PLANNING, HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Cllr Quittenden raised a number of queries as he was not present at the meeting.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning, Highways & Transportation meeting held on 27th November, be received and the recommendations within them be approved.

236. OL/TH/23/1404 – LAND ON THE NORTH SIDE OF FOXBOROUGH LANE

Outline planning application for the erection of up to 115 dwellings following demolition of 97 Tothill Streer with all matters reserved except for access.

RESOLVED: To ratify the decision to appoint Flo Churchill of Churchill & Churchill planning consultants, to carry out a site visit and prepare a response on behalf of the parish council, at a maximum cost of £1998.10 to include an appearance at a planning committee meeting.

RESOLVED: To object to the application.

237. SEALINK – NATIONAL GRID

A public consultation on the Sealink proposals is running from 24 October to 18 December 2023. Following the public information exhibition held on Thursday 16 November at Minster Village Hall, and subsequent meeting held with Sealink representatives following the presentation, members considered a response to the consultation. Members gave their views.

AGREED: The Clerk will prepare and circulate a response for approval.

It was noted that there will be a temporary bridge erected again across the Stour while the project is taking place. Cllr Jones asked for consideration to be given to the bridge remaining after the end of the project. Cllr Quittenden responded that it was unlikely to be a suitable place for a footbridge.

238. EMAIL STORAGE FOR COUNCIL EMAIL ACCOUNTS

The current storage for each Councillor email account is 2GB. Cllr Fleming has recently been notified that her inbox is nearly full. Members considered upgrading the storage to 50GB per email account for up to 10 users. The cost of this would be £10 per month for the first 3 months and then £25 per month.

AGREED: To upgrade storage on the email accounts as detailed.

239. COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Members received reports from representatives of the following bodies:

TALC

Cllr Quittenden reported on his attendance at the KALC AGM on 18th November.

A presentation was given by Roger Gough, KCC Leader who emphasised that the finances of KCC were much in line with other councils in the country. The importance of Localism was discussed and assurance given that legislation is slowly changing.

'Shed Projects' have proved successful in combatting loneliness.

Four motions were discussed.

- 1) Encouraging people to turn off their engines when waiting at level crossings.
- 2) To revisit the reduction of Community Wardens.
- 3) To exempt small councils from by-elections.
- 4) To encourage district councils to devise nature recovery strategies.

Next TAC meeting is on 7th December 2024

Minster School

No report provided.

240. 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 November 2023 be approved.

241. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC / ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs Stace said that at the consultation she had asked for brownfield sites to be given consideration given that Pfizers are now moving from the area.

Mr Stace said a generator has been running constantly opposite his house on the Tothill development site and the site supervisor advised that it is close to the road due to archaeology on the site.

Time concluded: 8.45pm

9th January 2024