

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY MEETING

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 15th April 2025

At John Spanton Sports Pavilion, St Mildreds Road, Minster at 7 p.m.

Present: Cllrs: Quittenden (Chairman); Jones, Crow-Brown, Fleming, Fordyce, Owen, Ingleton, Bates, Smith

Local Government Electors: 5 residents

In Attendance: Kyla Lamb (Clerk to the Council) and Clare Wilsdon (Assistant Clerk to the Council).

1. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th April 2024 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

2. CHAIRMANS REPORT

The Chairman, Councillor Quittenden, read from the report for the last year 2024-2025 which is appended to the minutes at **Appendix A**.

Cllr Quittenden summarised the year.

A new code of conduct was adopted by the council.

The development consent order for Manston Airport was approved.

Sir Roger Gale was re-elected as our local MP and continues to support the work of our council. The boundary for governmental elections was changed and we are now included in Herne Bay and Sandwich Constituency..

Representation continues on several outside bodies including TAC, TDC Joint Transportation board, Standards board and Parish Forum, and the village hall.

Our community warden Karl Aylett has moved to another area, but PC Andrew Howe continues his role in the parish.

The land transfer for the cemetery extension has now been completed at no cost.

Councillor Sam Bambridge resigned from TDC. Thanks to Cllrs Smith, Wright and Crow-Brown for their continued service and to Cllr Wright for her support with grants.

A revised emergency plan is in place

A proposal for a public car park in St Marys Road was abandoned due to cost and operational problems. Signage has been erected at the Monkton Road and High Street car parks to discourage abuse of these facilities.

The annual fireworks display was again well attended. Donations given by members of the public have been allocated to reserves, to be used where necessary, for the engagement of consultants who can provide advice and assistance towards our responses to planning applications.

The Christmas event held in the church yard was also well attended and raised over £1300 for Thanet First Responders. Thanks to Minster businesses for the donation of raffle prizes and the volunteers that make these events possible.

Cllr Owen stood down this year and will be sadly missed, along with our operative Rob Quinney who sadly passed away in December.

There was a full church for the Remembrance Day service as usual.

Plans continue for the mat replacement at the 3G pitch and the high level of maintenance carried out by our staff was commended by the Football Foundation.

The future of cricket at Minster has been debated. Costs to maintain the cricket square are mounting and bookings are in decline. A decision on whether we continue to offer this facility will be taken next season.

Further information is to come on the reorganisation of local government and how this will affect town and parish councils.

Plans for the Open Gardens event in June and the Minster Show in July are underway, along with the celebrations planned in May for the 80th anniversary of VE Day. Thanks to all the volunteers who keep the community spirit alive in Minster.

The planning committee have been extremely busy this year responding to planning applications received by TDC. Of particular note is their contribution and response to an application for 115 houses at land off Foxborough Lane by Gladman developments. This application was refused by TDC, and the subsequent planning appeal hearing also dismissed by the Planning Inspectorate.

Issues of speeding traffic on the Butts Field estate and Monkton Road have been addressed. The development at Tothill Street continues to be monitored closely and the Limes development has had problems with the developers declaring bankruptcy.

Thanks to our clerk Kyla Lamb, her assistant Clare Wilsdon and the ground staff who continue to give their best efforts.

3. FINANCE REPORT

The Chairman of Policy and Finance Committee, Councillor John Quittenden, reported upon the financial situation held by the Parish Council.

The full report of the Chairman of Policy & Finance is attached to the minutes at **Appendix B.**

4. GENERAL QUESTIONS

Mrs Quittenden said that a new KCC Community Warden is being trained. Reece Pugh reported that Birchington North had also lost their community warden.

Brian Watson said that receipt of grants for equipment was good news and said he hoped it was being kept safe from theft. The council responded that all equipment is kept securely in locked containers.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.18pm