

MINSTER PARISH COUNCIL

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

St Mildreds Road, Minster

on 9th January 2024 at 7.00pm

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

Also present: Kyla Lamb (Parish Clerk), Clare Wilsdon (Assistant Clerk), Cllr Wright (TDC).

268. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Owen and Fleming. Cllr Smith (TDC). PC Andy Howe, PC Beth Ninnim, Karl Aylett (Community Warden)

269. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 5th December 2023 be approved and signed.

270. MEMBERS INTERESTS

Cllr Bates declared an interest in item 14.

271. POLICING AND COMMUNITY WARDEN REPORT

PC Andy Howe was not present but provided a report, read out by the clerk as follows;

- There was a spike in vehicle related calls over the holiday period with a group of people interfering with and entering numerous vehicles on Christmas Day. CCTV and ring doorbell footage has been provided to the police by residents, but no facial images were captured. All viable lines of enquiry were followed and the reports have been filed.
- Multiple storage units at Manston were entered. A group of three persons were arrested for trespassing but were not able to be linked to this.
- Nuisance youths reported to be throwing eggs at residences and businesses, and shoplifting on the evening of Wednesday 3rd January. Only one call was made to Kent police. Two addresses in Minster have been attended with a youth officer. It is very important to call in or report these incidents of ASB.
- Additional patrols and youth engagement to be requested.
- Two vehicles stopped suspected of hare coursing.

Community Warden Aylett was not present as attending a service wide meeting in Maidstone for more information on the future of the Community Warden Service and its new structure. He will report on this at the next meeting.

272. COUNTY COUNCILLOR & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Cllr Crow-Brown reported as follows:

- Further unacceptable road closures with minimal notice given to KCC due to 'Emergencies'. Around 30% of utility works are being undertaken in this way causing havoc on roads and leaving KCC to cancel their own planned road improvements. Highways to investigate how KCC use their existing powers and if necessary press the Dept for Transport to allow KCC to keep the roads moving for the benefit of residents and businesses.
- Further to traffic grid-lock over the Christmas period, asked KCC Highways for a strategic review of traffic flows around Westwood Cross
- Financial contribution made to Monkton Nature reserve by Southern Water as compensation for lost revenue due to lengthy road closure.
- Corporate complaint made to Southeastern following further last-minute cancellations of the train service serving schools in Sandwich which left school children stranded.

273. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chairman reported that the Christmas event held in the churchyard went well and the raffle raised £794 for the RAF Manston History Museum.

It was disappointing to see that some of the Christmas decorations put up in the village were vandalised.

The Carol service held at the Lychgate was well attended.

Monthly surgeries have been held in the library to allow members of the public to ask any questions they may have, but due to low attendance, the February date will be the last to be held.

274. REPORT OF THE CLERK

The Clerk reported that she had received an email from a member of the public, thanking the parish council for the continued provision of the public toilets in the village.

275. DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION

None available.

276. THANET DISTRICT COUNCILS DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN – CONSULTATION

The above consultation was notified to us on 19th December with a closing date of 2nd January 2024. An extension was requested to allow us to respond with our comments. Cllr Ingleton prepared a draft response (circulated by email).

RESOLVED: To submit the response as prepared by Cllr Ingleton.
Cllr Quittenden wished his abstention from voting be recorded.

277. POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Policy & Finance committee meeting held on 20th December 2023 be received and the recommendations within them be approved including;

Minute 266. FEES & CHARGES 2024/25

RESOLVED: That the fees and charges be set at the levels contained within the report attached to the minutes.

And

AGREED: Cemetery fees increase be considered at the March meeting when consideration can be given to the fees set by Thanet District Council

Minute 267. BUDGET PROCESS 2024/25

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the staff salaries be increased as per the budget and the assistant clerk has a 1 spinal point increment to 26
- (ii) That Council approves the draft budget of £220,727 as submitted, and to request from TDC a Precept sum of £98,599 for the year 2024/25. This would give an **INCREASE** of £3.33 pence per annum which represents an annual charge of £72.90 pence or 4.78% increase per annum on a band D property

278. FIREWORKS NOVEMBER 2024

During December, members of the public were asked to vote on the future of the fireworks display, via a poll on Facebook. Notices were also posted on notice boards and responses could be sent via email to the parish office.

478 votes were received via the Facebook poll as follows.

- | | |
|---|-----|
| a) Continue with the Firework Display in its current format | 80% |
| b) Have a low noise display with music accompaniment | 12% |
| c) Cancel the firework display | 8% |

4 additional votes for option A were received via email

5 additional votes for option C were received by email

AGREED: that the Council will continue with option A - Firework Display in its current format.

The Clerk reported that total donations of £1160 were received, to be split equally between Minster Surgery Therapy Garden and Pets as Therapy

279. PLANNING, HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning, Highways & Transportation meeting held on 19th December, be received and the recommendations within them be approved.

Cllr Ingleton provided an update as follows;

- **Manston Airport Development Consent Order – Further news expected on 11th January 2024**
- **F/TH/23/1475 - Land On The West Side Of Tothill Street RAMSGATE Kent**
- Erection of 36no. 2-storey dwellings, with vehicular access onto Tothill Street, and associated landscaping –
Further objection submitted regarding swales and proposed safety issues with these. Requested that this application be called in if our objection is not taken into account.

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

ON AGENDA IN ERROR as Members have already ratified the decision to appoint Flo Churchill of Churchill & Churchill planning consultants.

Cllr Ingleton reported that a planning application in Cliffsend for 141 houses has been refused by TDC planning committee contrary to the officers recommendation for approval which could help with this application. The updated NPPF has now been released.

281. COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Members received reports from representatives of the following bodies:

TALC	Cllr Quittenden reported that a meeting was held on 7 th December 2023. Presentation by Thanet Community Land Trust who may reform this year following disbandment in 2023. The Sealink proposal was discussed at length. A briefing was given by Cllr Steel on the future of Speedwatch but initiative appears not to be viable. Keen to see an initiative for a motion to be passed at TDC whereby more inclusion over decision making is given to Parish Councillors. Next TAC meeting is on 22 nd February 2024
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Minster School	Cllr Fleming was not present.
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282. 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 December 2023 be approved.**

283. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC / ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Following on from the report by PC Andy Howe about anti-social behaviour by nuisance youths, Karen Brazil provided further information about the incident. Youths stole eggs from the Co-op and Attwells and threw them at residences and businesses including the Tandoori. The youths also verbally abused staff and members of the public.

Mr Smith said the youths returned to the station suggesting that they are not necessarily local to the village.

Cllr Wright suggested contacting Matthew Scott, Kents Police and Crime commissioner.

The Chairman responded that a police surgery is being held at the Salvation Army hall on Friday 12th January between 7-8pm, and encouraged anyone with concerns to attend and raise them there. Also to report any incidents via 101.

Time concluded: 8.17pm

6th February 2024