

MINSTER PARISH COUNCIL

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

St Mildreds Road, Minster

on 3rd March 2026 at 7.00pm

Present: Councillors: Quittenden, Fordyce, Crow-Brown, Jones, Low, Bates, Smith, Webzell.

Also present: Kyla Lamb (Clerk to the Council), Clare Wilsdon (Assistant Clerk to the Council), PC Owen Crush, Community Warden Gary Groombridge

356. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs Andrews, Ingleton and Mogridge, Cllr Smith (TDC)

357. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 3rd February 2026 be approved.

358. MEMBERS INTERESTS

No members interests noted.

359. POLICING AND COMMUNITY WARDEN REPORT

Community Warden Gary Groombridge was not present but provided a report as follows:

- Continues to be a visual presence within the village.
- Holding Information drop-ins at Minster Library.
- Numbers are increasing at the Heart in the Community Wellbeing group being held in the Salvation Army Hall.
- Continues to supports the Mens Shed and Manager at Rivers Court..
- Reported several potholes around the village.
- Reported that the abandoned caravan in the layby along the dual carriageway has been removed by TDC.
- Attended the safety in action week at Dreamland, Minster school were also in attendance.

PC Owen Crush introduced himself and reported as follows:

- 32 calls in February to the police including fraud and poaching. 11 have resulted in crime reports being required which PC Crush is monitoring or assisting with where possible.
- A proactive stop and search by officers in Minster led to the seizure of a quantity of drugs. The suspect was administered an out of court resolution.
- Next police surgery for thanet villages is 6/3/26 outside Monkton Village Hall.

360. COUNTY COUNCILLOR & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Cllrs Luke Evans, Peter Evans and Abi Smith were not present. Cllr Smith had sent a report as follows:

- **Community Planning Alliance National Day of Action, 18th April**
WESTGATE & GARLINGE Action Group (against housing development on Farmland) is organising a special event in Thanet in conjunction with the CPA event, to raise awareness of the loss of precious farmland for housing development. They are urgently seeking volunteers and this may be of interest to Minster residents.
WGAG: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2561972944099243>
CPA: <https://communityplanningalliance.org>
- **TDC 2026-27 Budget adopted**
Thanet District Council officially adopted its £30.357 million budget for the 2026/27 financial year on 26th February.
Key focus areas include a £21 million investment for temporary housing, along with funding for street cleaning & public space improvements.
A 'balanced' budget of £30.357 million was approved, requiring an increase of under 3% (approximately £8.10 for a Band D property) to ensure financial stability.
There was a lengthy debate about the council's previous decision to index-link member allowances, rather than debating proposed increases each year.
Also announced was a £21 million "invest to save" strategy to purchase properties for temporary accommodation, reducing reliance on expensive nightly-paid options.
The budget addresses structural overspends by utilising £2.1 million in recurring pension savings and increased core funding, alongside strict expenditure controls.
The budget includes investment in open spaces and public areas, with funding for additional street cleansers, graffiti cleaning, playground maintenance and replacement.
Increases in key areas such as parking, green waste collection and the crematorium are capped to 5%.
- **27th February "school wars" fight averted**
TDC received a warning from Kent Police about a message originating in the US, that was circulated on social media. The message (and matching poster) called for 'fights' between local schools. Kent Police were on high alert and ready to intervene to avert the danger.
- **Manston Airspace Change Consultation**
RSP is carrying out its Stage 3 airspace change consultation from 16th March to 22nd June. The consultation will provide residents, communities and wider stakeholders with details of proposed changes to flight paths and airspace structure.
Aspects of the consultation include an online portal to view consultation materials and proposals, and a series of in-person and online engagement events. Consultees will be able to provide feedback via the online portal, at the consultation events or by writing to FREEPOST 1616. I will advise of any further announcements, and in the meantime the website is <https://airspacechange.caa.co.uk/>.

361. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

Cllr Quittenden reported as follows:

- Sadly reported the passing of former KCC Councillor Roger Latchford OBE.
- Attended the Joint Transport meeting and at the request of Cllr Ingleton raised the issue of the state of the road from Minster to Cliffsend. The Lanes have subsequently had significant repairs. The Chairman asked the Clerk to pass of the thanks of Minster Parish Council to Kent Highways for these improvements.
- Attended a Standards Board Committee meeting and Parish Forum Meeting. Unable to raise points from Cllr Ingleton as these items were withdrawn from the agenda as officers were not available. The design code consultation has received a good response. TDC support the Isle of Culture application by Polly Billington MP however there are no funds available to support it.
- Have until 25th March to register thoughts on the unitary authority transfer. TDC staff will all retain their jobs after April 2028. £1.5 million Pride of Place funding maybe available for all towns and parishes. It was suggested we contact our MP to speak on behalf of the parish for a share of the funding.
- Attended the Channel Dash ceremony on Ramsgate harbour arm.

362. REPORT OF THE CLERK

The Clerk reported that Cllr Mogridge has agreed to join the Planning, Highways and Transportation Committee and also attend the Road Safety and Active Travel Group Seminar on Thursday 30th April 2026 with the Clerk at Betteshanger Park.

The Clerk further reported that an invitation to attend a Teams meeting for a North Thanet Link Road Scheme update on Wednesday 15th April 2026 12.00 to 13.00. Members are asked to notify the Clerk if they are available to join the meeting and she will send the teams link.

Riveroak Strategic Partners is carryout its stage 3 airspace change consultation from Monday 16th March to Monday 22nd June 2026. The Clerk will include this on the next Planning, Highways and Transportation Agenda for the committee to consider a response on behalf of the Council.

363. DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION

There were no documents available.

364. MINSTER SHOW SATURDAY 18th JULY 2026

Members considered the annual request for use of the recreation ground on Saturday 18th July 2026 for the holding of the Minster Show. The marquee will be erected on Friday 17th July and removed on Sunday 19th July. Portaloos will be provided but use of the pavilion toilets for the disabled is requested.

RESOLVED: To allow use of the recreation ground as detailed above.

365. OPEN GARDENS SATURDAY 6TH AND SUNDAY 7TH JUNE 2026

Members considered a request for permission to use the recreation ground for parking and the disabled toilet during Open Gardens weekend.

RESOLVED: To approve use of the recreation ground as detailed.

366. COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Members received reports from representatives of the following bodies:

TALC-Cllr Quittenden reported there was no meeting this month. He has attended 3 meetings on the subject of the Local Government Review. The Elections in May 2027 will go ahead as planned and vote for shadow authority members. New authority will be in place on 1st April 2028. Neighbourhood Committees being considered and the Parish Charters are considered important by NALC and KALC.

Cllr Low reported that she is now part of the Parish Charter working group at TDC and has seen a draft of the Parish Charter which is quite a standard document. She will update Members as things progress.

Minster School – Nothing to report.

Village Hall. – Nothing to report.

367. 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 February 2026 be approved.

368. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC/ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No members of public were present.

Time concluded: 7.30pm

7th April 2026