

MINSTER PARISH COUNCIL

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

St Mildreds Road, Minster

on 2nd December 2025 at 7.00pm

Present: Councillors: Quittenden, Crow-Brown, Jones, Ingleton, Webzell, Andrews, Low, Mogridge

Also present: Kyla Lamb (Clerk to the Council), Clare Wilsdon (Assistant Clerk to the Council), Cllr Luke Evans (KCC), Cllr Abi Smith (TDC), Gary Groombridge (KCC Warden)

275. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs Bates and Fordyce, PC Andrew Howe

276. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 4th November be approved.

277. MEMBERS INTERESTS

No members interests noted.

278. POLICING AND COMMUNITY WARDEN REPORT

Community Warden Gary Groombridge was present and reported as follows:

- Continues to hold information drop-ins at Minster Library.
- Wellbeing group being held at the Salvation Army hall on Friday 5th December.
- Meeting residents in the village.
- Dealing with neighbourhood disputes.
- Supports the Mens Shed.
- Met with the manager and residents at Rivers Court and will be holding a presentation on scams, along with Trading Standards.
- Digital workshops are being held at Minster Library.

PC Andy Howe was not present but provided a report as follows:

- Ten recorded crimes with the majority being domestic.
- Two thefts of motor vehicles from a business unit and a high value motorcycle.
- Black Peugeot motability van reported in relation to poaching incidents in the St Nicholas at Wade area. Information about this vehicle would be appreciated.
- Kent Police are focussing on drink-driving and shop-lifting at the moment.
- A299 likely to remain limited to 50mph for quite some time and our speed checks are being carried out a regular basis.

279. COUNTY COUNCILLOR & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Cllr Abi Smith was present and reported as follows:

- Attended St Augustines Cross housing development appeal.
- Spoke at Sealink DCO hearing along with Cllr Ingleton and many other residents.
- Contacted TDC Environmental Protection over the contamination incident in the Wantsum. It is not believed that the dead birds and dead fish are due to the same cause. DEFRA are no longer collecting the dead swans.
- Local Government Reorganisation – Full list of business cases can be seen at www.kentcouncilleaders.org.uk/councils-reveal-draft-business-cases-for-new-councils/. TDC are supporting option 4b.

Cllr Luke Evans reported as follows;

- Preferred option by KCC for the LGR is option 1a.
- Council tax is expected to increase by 10%.
- In order to receive government grants the council are obligated to increase council tax by the full amount.
- Many road closures are taking place at the moment but are mainly for work being carried out by utility companies and not KCC.
- Rumours that the Hydrogen Plant at Richborough has a lack of funds to move the proposal forward are not true. The proposal is moving forward and the company will be taking over a plant in Berlin.
- Environment Agency do not have resources to deal with swan deaths and so carcasses are being left for other wildlife to eat.
- Met James Wraight to discuss the North Thanet Link. He will be visiting parish councils soon with a presentation.
- £100M is being spent on private SEN provision. Plans are to divert children into schools that are currently undersubscribed and open new SRP units within them.
- The recent car fire outside Minster Primary school was fortunate to have happened before school hours as emergency vehicles would have struggled to attend with the high number of vehicles that park on double yellow lines on the road approaching the school.

280. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

Cllr Quittenden reported as follows:

- The fireworks display was well attended. Thanks to all those who volunteered to help on the evening and to the Clerks who organise the event.
- The church service for Remembrance Sunday was also well attended.
- The carol service at the Lychgate will be held on 15th December at 7pm.
- Will be attending an event at Hornby Hobbies

281. REPORT OF THE CLERK

Donations of approx. £1700 were collected at the Fireworks display. There is still a contribution to come from the burger van.

Thanks to KCC Cllr Evans who has given a £1000 members grant and KCC Cllr Randall who has given a £2000 members grant for our additional CCTV cameras at the toilets and car park in the High Street.

282. DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION

None.

283. CEMETERY EXTENSION LAND SUITABILITY AND CHANGE OF USE

Initial investigations by CDS Group to ascertain the lands suitability for use as a burial ground suggest that it appears suitable. To determine the most appropriate permitting route and to provide a formal recommendation, a full T2 groundwater risk assessment with flux modelling will be required to determine the total risk level of the site. Members considered a quotation of £3670 for this assessment and report.

RESOLVED : To accept the above quotation £3670 to proceed with the full T2 groundwater risk assessment.

284. REPLACEMENT OF 3G PITCH MAT 2026

The 3G pitch is at the end of its life and requires replacement. It has already been agreed that this will take place in 2026. Members considered the expected cost and tender process with Surfacing Standards and agreement was sought to fund any shortfall from reserves if no other funding sources are available. The expected cost is £215,450.00 without a shock pad.

RESOLVED: To proceed with the tender process with Surfacing Standards and to fund the shortfall from reserves if necessary, which can be replaced with future income.

285. PLANNING, HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning, Highways & Transportation meeting held on 24th November be received and the recommendations contained therein.

Cllr Ingleton summarised as follows:

It was agreed to thank Kent Highways for the recent new signage and road marking at the Sevenscore roundabout approaches and also request an additional lane sign closer to the approach to the roundabout from Ramsgate direction and request similar sign on the approach to Minster roundabout from Cleve Court.

Sealink – received a response from the applicant on Community benefits. If the DCO is approved they will adhere to the government guidance on delivering community benefit. It was AGREED to respond with a joint response with Cliffsend Parish DDC steadfastly refused the solar farm application on their side of boundary. The Clerk has received a number of objection's from Way Hill residents regarding application F/TH/25/1169. MPC have objected and will let District Councillors know and ask them to call it in and ask for Kent highways to have a further look at the application.

286. KALC 2025 COMMUNITY AWARDS SCHEME

Members were asked to consider adopting the scheme for 2026 and any possible nominations. Nominations need to be submitted by Friday 30th January 2026.

287. COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Members received reports from representatives of the following bodies:

TALC

Cllr Quittenden reported that a meeting took place on 24th November attended by Cllr Crow-Brown.

Cllr Crow-Brown reported as follows:

Included a presentation on health and wellbeing by Dr Marcus Maiden Tilson who reported on the following;

Thanets average age at 45 is higher than the national average of 40.

Thanet should have 92 GP's but there are currently only 47.

Cllr Paul Chapman suggested that 106 monies should be proportionally higher due to Thanet being a high deprivation area.

Also discussed was the LGR Option B business case preferred by Thanet councillors.

Cllr Quittenden reported that he had attended the KALC AGM. Much of the agenda was appointing officer. Three motions were discussed, all relating to devolution and its affect on parish and town councils.

Minster School

Cllr Webzell had spoken to Minster School about the Kent Safety Road Scheme.

Village Hall.

Cllr Smith was not present.

288. 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 2025 be approved.

289. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC/ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No members of the public were present.

Time concluded: 8.02pm

6th January 2026