

# **MINSTER PARISH COUNCIL**

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

**St Mildreds Road, Minster**

**on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at 7.00pm**

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

Also present: Clare Wilsdon (Assistant Clerk to the Council), PC Andrew Howe, Cllr Luke Evans (KCC), Cllr Abi Smith (TDC), Community Warden Gary Groombridge

## **243. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Kyla Lamb (Clerk to the Council), Cllr Peter Evans (TDC),

## **244. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> October be approved.**

## **245. MEMBERS INTERESTS**

No members interests noted.

## **246. POLICING AND COMMUNITY WARDEN REPORT**

Community Warden Gary Groombridge was present and reported as follows:

- Information drop-in sessions booked at Minster Library.
- 'Heart', a charity promoting well-being, is running groups at the library starting soon
- Meeting local residents and dealing with their concerns
- Holding quizzes and scam talks in the community.
- Supporting the Mens Shed
- Reporting fly-tipping incidents.

Cllr Mogridge asked if there are any groups aimed at teens in the village. Gary Groombridge responded that there are none at present.

PC Andy Howe was present and reported as follows:

- 41 calls to Police from the villages during October.
- One reported knife incident but the validity of the report was not confirmed.
- Report of an accosting of a lone female in Tothill Street.
- Continued increased levels of fly-tipping, some investigated with success and those responsible identified.
- Small increase in poaching activity in Thanet.
- Reminder to residents to keep homes and vehicles secure in the run up to Christmas.

## **247. COUNTY COUNCILLOR & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS**

Cllr Abi Smith was present and reported as follows:

- Attended St Augustines Cross housing development appeal.
- Will speak at the Sealink DCO process next week.
- TDC will go ahead with a 999 year lease and £4M grant agreement to take-over Margate Winter Gardens.
- TDC annual residents survey is now live. Link for this is; [www.thanet.gov.uk/info-pages/residents-survey](http://www.thanet.gov.uk/info-pages/residents-survey)
- TDC 'Leafing Bin' scheme has been launched and will run until Christmas.
- Park Life event was held in Ellington Park hosted by the Thanet Community Safety Partnership. The event offers free advice and support for young people.

Cllr Luke Evans reported as follows;

- Provided a summary of the proposed business cases being considered as part of the LGR and the associated costs.
- Updated members on the situation with the A299 and the funding issues and need for the 50mph speed limit due to the safety concerns arising from the surface deterioration.

Cllr Ingleton noted that there was an earlier proposal possibly feeding into the Road Investment Strategy (RIS) 3 process to reclassify the A299 to a trunk road due to the significance for the Port of Ramsgate and Port of Dover when traffic is diverted.

- KCC are supporting the Goodwin Sands Conservation Trust.
- Offered a £500 grant to the Mens Shed and £1000 to the parish council for additional CCTV.

Cllr Peter Evans was not present but provided a report, as follows;

- £1.5M Pride in Place Impact Funding Grant by the government will help refurbish buildings, improve green spaces and revitalise High Street.
- TDC Annual Residents Survey is now live. Postcards are sent out to 7000 homes inviting them to reply.
- Winter Gardens refurbishment will go ahead and will include upgrading the main hall, a rooftop bar and restaurant, 4 additional bars, drama school, vocational learning centre and a Nursery.

## **248. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT**

Cllr Quittenden reported as follows:

- Attended KCC Highways and transport seminar.
  - A new contractor has been appointed at KCC for road repairs.
  - The fire damage to Ramsgate tunnel will be paid for by the insurance of the vehicle owners.
  - KCC will continue to fund the lollipop lady.
  - KCC are investigating the possibility of using Lydden Race-track as a temporary lorry park to reduce the use of Operation Brock.
  - 10,000 on street charging points to be installed.
  - Parking issues discussed particularly outside schools. Highways are happy to engage with schools on road safety issue but this is not always met enthusiastically by school.

- Ground water survey has taken place at the cemetery extension and the report should be received.
- Remembrance service takes place on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November.

The Chairman invited Cllr Ingleton to update on his response to Southeastern Railways Customer Survey and the Manston Arrivals and Processing Centre

Cllr Ingleton advised that with Southeastern, he had made a number of points about general service performance, including the following:

Southeastern

1. The Parish Council's dissatisfaction with the disruption to services attending schools in Sandwich;
2. Vandalism of the Ticket Machine at Sandwich Station.
3. The need to ensure continued service timetable connections with HS1 at Ashford; and
4. The assurance that Minster Station will continue to operate notwithstanding the housing growth in close proximity to Thanet Parkway Station

Manston Arrivals and Processing Centre

The Home Office has submitted a planning application for the reconstruction of the site. This will be dealt with by the Secretary of State at the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government under the Urgent Crown Development Procedure, which is process intended to expedite significant urgent decisions.

There is an oblique reference to the Spitfire Way Junction within the application. Cllr Ingleton has alerted Paul Valek at KCC Highways to this given the earlier engagements with KCC, the Home Office and RSP on this matter

#### **249. REPORT OF THE CLERK**

Nothing to report

#### **250. DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION**

None.

#### **251. KALC AGM 22<sup>ND</sup> NOVEMBER 2025**

The KALC AGM is being held on 22<sup>nd</sup> November at Rochester Corn Exchange, The Meeting House, Rochester. The Clerk asked whether any members wished to attend.

Cllrs Quittenden and Mogridge asked to attend.

#### **252. PLANNING, HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Planning, Highways & Transportation meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2025, be received and the recommendations contained therein.

Cllr Ingleton updated members on the following points:

Minute 230 - Kent Highways have commenced lane marking and signage improvements on the approaches to Sevenscore Roundabout.

KCC has also marked potholes and surface deficiencies along Foxborough Lane, The Lanes and Cottington Road in advance of remedial works.

Minute 232 - No replies have been received from TDC in response to MPC's requests for clarification of drainage matters and the status of the path to the rear of Greenhill Gardens.

Minute 233 - No replies have been received from TDC Planning. However, correspondence was in process with Sonya Synek over the S278 works. KCC are considering how the expected, approved visibility splays could be achieved.

Minute 235 - No reply had been received from the Applicant in respect of MPC's clarification the provision of community benefits. Cllr Ingleton will raise this at the upcoming Open Floor Hearing.

Minute 240 - Cllr Ingleton confirmed that the Public Inquiry relating to the Cottington Development was scheduled to last for five sitting days.

**253. 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 30<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

**254. COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS**

Members received reports from representatives of the following bodies:

|                |                                                              |
|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| TALC           | Cllr Quittenden reported that a meeting had not taken place. |
| Minster School | Cllr Webzell had nothing to report.                          |
| Village Hall.  | Cllr Smith had nothing to report.                            |

**255. 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 September 2025 be approved.
- (c) the budget income/expens report to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025 be received.

**256. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC/ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Barbara Quittenden asked PC Andy Howe if the fly-tipping investigations had found that the waste was from a Minster resident.

PC Andy Howe advised there is currently an operation to identify and reduce the misuse of mobility vehicles. Members of the public can report any incidents of this that they are aware of to him.

**Time concluded: 8.17pm**

**2<sup>nd</sup> December 2025**

DRAFT