

MINSTER PARISH COUNCIL

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

St Mildreds Road, Minster

on 3rd December at 7.00pm

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

Also present: Kyla Lamb (Parish Clerk), Clare Wilsdon (Assistant Clerk), Cllr Bambridge (TDC), PC Andy Howe.

264. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs Fleming, Local and Ingleton. Cllr Smith (TDC).

265. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 5th November 2024 be approved and signed.

266. MEMBERS INTERESTS

No members interests recorded.

267. POLICING AND COMMUNITY WARDEN REPORT

PC Andy Howe reported as follows:

- Suggested extra vigilance with home and vehicle security during the festive period.
- Don't leave valuables on show in vehicles.
- Avoid alcohol when driving.
- Remember if you are purchasing e-scooters, they are not legal on the road.
- A cannabis factory was recently shut down in Tothill Street following assistance by local residents.
- Nuisance parking reported at the junction of Tothill St and Monkton Road.

268. COUNTY COUNCILLOR & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Cllr Bambridge reported as follows;

- Attended a meeting about Manston Airport that was very positive and it is hoped the airport will reopen in 2027.
- Spoke on the motion to revoke the Local Plan at the recent cabinet meeting, this motion was put forwards due to inaccurate projected figures, including inward migration.
- Chapel House – unaware of any objections to the most recent planning application here.
- Local Plan meeting this week – will request a map that shows current status of development sites.

Cllr Crow-Brown reported as follows:

- Roadworks are causing numerous problems including an unwelcome disturbance at 4am in the High Street for unplanned, non-emergency works.
- EV charging points no longer have any funding available.
- Supported application for yellow lines outside Archies chip shop, but objected to the proposal in Tothill Street.
- Approval has been given for 1600 houses on land in Birchington.

269. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chairman reported as follows:

- During a recent training session for Chairmen, a reminder was given that no decision should be taken by individuals or small groups, without proper debate.
- Recently gave some assistance with equipment from the garage, to a dive team who were carrying out work on Minster Marshes.
- Annual Christmas Carol service at the Lychgate will take place on Monday 9th.
- Thanks to everyone who assisted with erecting the Christmas tree outside the church, including Matt Spanton for the use of his equipment and Clare for providing hot drinks and cake.
- The Minster Community Christmas event takes place on Saturday 14th December from 4-6.30pm.

270. REPORT OF THE CLERK

The Clerk reported that a meeting has been held with the Football Foundation and the planned replacement of the 3G pitch may be in 2025 or possibly deferred to 2026.

271. DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION

None available.

272. PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCY

Due to the resignation of Cllr Ray Owen, a vacancy has arisen on Minster Parish Council. The Clerk has notified Thanet District Council and they have issued the required notice of vacancy to advertise. On its expiry, a notice of co-option will be advertised accordingly.

Cllr Owen has offered to continue looking after Councillors laptops, assist with the cctv, and continue helping with lights for the Christmas tree.

Members AGREED that they would be grateful for this continued assistance.

273. PLANNING, HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 25th November be received and the recommendations within them therein.

Cllr Bates summarised the minutes.

A meeting was held with Lezanne Cezar, Kent Highways to update the Highways Improvement Plan.

A response to our most recent letter has not yet been received from Iain Livingstone.

An in person meeting has been organised with BDW Homes on 7th January 2025.

Members RESOLVED to appoint a spokesperson to attend the Foxborough Lane appeal enquiry in January 2025.

Eden Grove lighting condition application remains unsatisfactory.

Sealink – Further clarification is needed on how vehicles will access the works compound at the site.

274. VE DAY 80TH ANNIVERSARY 8TH MAY 2025

The Chairman reported that 8th May 2025 may possibly be made a bank holiday.

275. MINSTER SCHOOL GOVERNOR VACANCY

Members considered a request by Minster School for a volunteer to stand as a school governor.

AGREED: No members volunteered at present.

276. GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION ON ENABLING REMOTE ATTENDANCE AND PROXY VOTING AT LOCAL AUTHORITY MEETINGS

Members considered a response to the government consultation on remote meetings.

AGREED: Members agreed that having the option to hold remote meetings should be preferred.

277. KALC 2025 COMMUNITY AWARDS SCHEME

Members considered whether the scheme should be adopted for 2025 and if they wish to consider any nominations. Nominations are to be submitted by Friday 7th February 2025.

A suggestion was made to nominate the lady who keeps the kings steps footpath swept and tidy. Further information to be gathered.

278. COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Members received reports from representatives of the following bodies:

TALC

Cllr Quittenden reported as follows:

Meeting took place on 25th November.

Secretary has stood down and a replacement is needed.

KALC AGM took place on 30th November where a white paper report was presented on the reform of local government.

Attended a presentation by the Community Emergency and Resilience Planning Group who provided a template that we can use/review alongside our own new plan.
Standards Board meeting was cancelled.

Minster School Cllr Fleming was not present

Village Hall. Cllr Smith had nothing to report.

279. 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 2024 be approved.**

280. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC/ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Brian Watson said that the charity he works for has opted for remote meetings to be possible. He also thanked Councillors and staff for all they do in the parish and said he hoped that the appeal enquiry at Foxborough Lane would be thorough.

Time concluded: 8.10pm

7th January 2025