

**STELLING MINNIS PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON 11 JANUARY 2023 HELD AT
7.30PM IN STELLING MINNIS VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Parish Cllr Robert Hubble (Chairman)
Parish Cllr Ann Day
Parish Cllr Nick Smith
Parish Cllr Laszlo Dudas
Parish Cllr Garry Watts
Parish Cllr Elizabeth Philips

Lee Jones, Internal Auditor (for part of meeting)
Gail Hubbard, Clerk to the Council
There were no members of the public present.

The Chairman began with a minute's silence in honour of a previous Parish Councillor, David Stuart, who had sadly passed away before Christmas.

The Chairman went on to read out the statement on filming and recording during the meeting and then welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES, DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

- 1.1 Apologies for absence received and confirmed by the Council Members who cannot attend a meeting. These shall be tendered to the Parish Clerk prior to the meeting, under Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, the members present must decide whether the reason(s) for a member's absence shall be accepted. Cllr Haffenden (holiday), FHDC Cllr Hollingsbee and KCC & FHDC Cllr Carey.
- 1.2 Declaration of changes to the Register of Interests. There were none
- 1.3 To receive Declarations of Interest in respect of matters contained in this agenda. In accordance with the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 in respect of members and in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 in respect of officers. There were none.
- 1.4 Requests for Dispensations. There were none.
- 1.5 Declarations of Lobbying. There were none.

2. MINUTES

The minutes from the previous meeting on 9th November had been circulated and read. They were AGREED as a true record of the meeting. The minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

The Chairman had been in contact with Quinn Estates regarding the Pentland Homes footpath rerouting and maintenance but had no response received as yet.

ADJOURNMENT

There was none.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

- 4.1 SAAA – Notification of external auditor appointment for 2022-23 for the financial year for the five year period until 2026-27. MAZARS LLP has been appointed.
- 4.2 Kent PCC News Winter 2022 – Policing Newsletter circulated

4.3 FHDC – Budget consultation for 2023/24 now open until 1st Feb. www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/consultations/budgetconsultation2023-2024

Other correspondence noted.

5. PLANNING

5.1 DISCUSSED the following applications received since the last meeting.

22/2188/FH	Malt Farm, Bossingham Road, Stelling Minnis CT4 6BD Conversion of existing outbuilding to annexe	Cllrs to visit site and response to be submitted by 28 Jan.
22/2043/FH	Proposed creation of two 200m ² ponds, specifically designed to be suitable for great crested newt and other native wildlife. Field North-West of Pony Cart Lane, Stelling Minnis CT4 6AX	SMPC: No objection but would not want to see land used for commercial gain in the future.
22/1992/FH	Proposed conversion of existing double garage into an annexe, including roof alterations and the erection of a new detached garage. Woodland Cottage, Lime Kiln Lane, Petham CT4 5PF	SMPC: No objection on the condition that the annexe cannot become a separate dwelling. Concern also raised over replacement garage also being converted in the future.
22/1964/FH	Section 73 application for removal of condition 2 (agricultural occupancy) of planning permission 87/1306/SH Erection of farmhouse. Gilderage Farm, Fryarne Park, Stelling Minnis CT4 6AQ	No objection lodged from SMPC

5.2 NOTED decisions by the planning authority since the last meeting

	There were none	
--	-----------------	--

6. VILLAGE MATTERS

Lee Jones arrived at 8pm

QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES

Cllr Philips had been tasked with some further reviewing of the received responses. Her 10 main points coming out of the questionnaire for consideration and proposals are as follows:

1. Problems with frequent electricity outages.

2. Cinema
3. More use of the windmill and surrounding ground
4. Problems for disabled parking at Minnis Field
5. Children's play area (a) behind SMVH; (b) in front of SM shop
6. Sports facilities
7. Senior Citizens Club
8. Curtis Lane widening or a public footpath
9. Mains drainage
10. Cafe

Her proposal:

1. A letter to be written in the Parish Magazine thanking all those who took part and outlining the main points
2. Examining which points to pursue
3. Calling a meeting with all those who have offered help

From the above points SMPC to write to MP regarding the electricity outages as letters have been previously written to UK Power Networks by SMPC and residents to no avail.

SMPC to contact FHDC estates regarding the possibility of providing disabled parking bays for residents of Minnis Green and Minnis Field.

Chairman to thank those respondents that returned their questionnaires in the February Hardres and Stelling News and advise that a meeting will be setup in the summer. This can be arranged further at the next meeting.

STELLING MINNIS VILLAGE HALL GRANT REQUEST

An application had been received from Stelling Minnis Hall for the sum of £3683.22 towards the purchase and installation of a new projector and audio system at the village hall. Cllr Hollingsbee and Cllr Carey have already awarded the project a joint amount of £1099 from their Members fund. The application is made as a CIL project under social infrastructure enabling the SMVH Committee to run a film club for the residents. A film club/cinema at the hall had been suggested by several residents in the questionnaire that was sent round last summer.

It was proposed by the Chairman that this project be supported with the full amount of £3683.22 and if any further monies was needed for sound insulation to improve the acoustics in the hall these costs should also be brought back to SMPC for consideration. This was AGREED.

PROJECTOR LAMP REPLACEMENT

Cllr Smith proposed the purchase of a replacement lamp for the SMPC projector that is kept at the hall. This was AGREED.

STONE STREET/CURTIS LANE JUNCTION

Cllr Day had raised this topic for the meeting due to recent discussions on Facebook from residents about how dangerous the junction is. Several suggestions had been made for how it could be improved including cats eyes, warning signs being moved back further towards Canterbury, the bollards in the roadway to be lit, red colour surfacing on the road (like at Chilham) and cutting back of vegetation to improve visibility when pulling out of Curtis Lane. Cllr Hubble to arrange a meeting with the KCC Highways representative to discuss what could be done.

DEFIBRILLATOR PROVISION AT THE VILLAGE HALL

Cllr Smith updated the Cllrs and advised he was awaiting further guidance from Steve Moores before placing an order for the necessary equipment. The costs of this had previously been agreed.

7. REPORTS

7.1	Website/Facebook reports	Cllr Smith
7.2	Kent County Council	Cllr Carey
7.3	FHDC	Cllrs Carey/Hollingsbee
7.4	Stelling Minnis Tree Warden	Cllr Smith
7.5	KALC	Cllr Dudas
	Previously circulated minutes to Cllrs.	
7.6	FHDC Joint Committee	Cllr Dudas
	Previously circulated minutes to Cllrs.	
7.7	Kent Police	PCSO Hazell

Full reports can be found in the Appendix at the end of the minutes.

8. FINANCE

- 8.1 It was AGREED the LGA National Salary Award for 2022-23 should be paid to the Clerk, backdated to 1st April 2022.

8.2 CONSIDERED & AGREED the budget and Precept for 2023-24
The draft budget figures had been previously circulated to Cllrs and were looked at in detail, it was felt the figure charged to each household should remain the same as last year. Due to the change in band D tax base from the additional houses in Rose Lane, this would mean a figure of £7959 could be obtained by keeping the Band D rate at approx. £26.35 per year. It was thus AGREED a precept figure of £7959.00 be requested from FHDC for 2023-24. Clerk to advise this request by 31st January.

- 8.3 Additional bank account - This item was deferred until the March meeting

- 8.4 NOTED receipts of income

None	
------	--

TOTALS £0.00

- 8.5 AUTHORISED payments

CHQ404	Dynamix – payroll services to quarter ending Dec 2022	25.20
CHQ405	HMRC payment PAYE	51.91
CHQ406	Clerks salary Nov & Dec 2022	515.20
CHQ407	Clerks reimbursement of expenses (Nov & Dec)	28.75

CHQ408	Mr DL Jones – internal audit for year 2022-23	120.00
--------	---	--------

TOTALS £741.06

The above payments were AGREED and approved for payment.

8.6 RECEIVED the bank reconciliation and budget expenditure report to 31st December

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

Dates of future meetings: 8 March, 17 May, 24 May APM, 12 July, 13 September, 8 November 2023.

Signed..... (Chairman)

Date.....

APPENDIX

STELLING MINNIS REPORTS 11 JANUARY 2023

Stelling Minnis Community web site report,

Individual page maintenance and requested revisions made as required.
No problems with the site observed or reported.

Nick Smith – Webmaster for the community site.
4 January 2023

SMPC website & Facebook

Website updated monthly to include minutes and agendas.
Facebook page used to share useful information when available.

Gail Hubbard – Parish Clerk

Tree Warden Report

Nothing new reported.

Nick Smith – Tree Warden
4 January 2023

Phone Box

Progress on hold pending better weather

Nick Smith
4 January 2023

Defibrillator for Village Hall

Electrical supply installation costs to be advised, once the location has been agreed.

When viability of electrical supply and thus location of the cabinet is confirmed, the cabinet, battery, pads and a sign will be ordered.

Nick Smith
4 January 2023

North Downs East & West Town & Parish Report December 2022

Kent Police report for this month's town and parish council meetings, Happy New Year to you all, I hope the new year finds you well. From the figures I have looked over it seems promising at least.

This report contains figures for the last month for the areas of North Downs East & North Downs West of incidents relevant to the public, the figures will feature on the Kent Police website if not already, there may be certain incidents not mentioned within this report but have been reported to Kent Police which do not fall within the public domain.

Reported Crime December 2022 (most recent figures):

North Downs West

Assault or Violent offences – x 3
Theft – x 1
Theft from motor vehicle- x 2
ASB x 1

Other Information or advice:

- The most common theme for the North Downs appears to be theft from motor vehicles and other theft offences, there has been a number of thefts from motor vehicles across Folkestone & Hythe District, opportunists have been trying door handles on vehicles, working their way along streets & taking whatever items from vehicles that have been left insecure. Always remove valuables from your vehicle when possible and never leave them on display. But most relevant of all for this particular method is to lock your car!
- Heating Oil Theft – With the price of fuel remaining at an all time high, this makes it highly desirable to thieves. Consider security options for your vehicle such as, parking off road/ secure parking, CCTV and dash cams.
- Burglaries – With the longer nights there is typically a rise in burglaries, remember to secure your property appropriately overnight. Remember to lock doors and easily accessible windows, and do not leave the keys where they can be seen or reached from outside the property. Thieves are generally targeting cash, jewellery, and small electronic devices that have value and are easy to sell on.

If you have any worries, concerns or information you would like me to know, please contact on 101 (non-emergency), or utilise the new online reporting tools via the Kent Police website and the information will get to me.

PCSO Nicholas Hazell 59007 and PCSO Daniel Mills 58997
Folkestone & Hythe District

District Councillors' Report – Cllrs Carey & Hollingsbee

Budget Consultation - The council will consider the proposed £19m spend on services for the new financial year at the full council meeting on 22 February 2023. The services include maintaining parks and gardens, providing social housing, keeping streets clean, emptying bins and dealing with planning applications. Please visit the budget consultation 2023-2024 page for further information - all comments should be received by 4pm Wednesday 1 February 2023.

Use of accommodation in the district to temporarily house those seeking asylum in the UK. The council is organising an online engagement event to answer resident questions around the Home Office's use of local accommodation, health and wellbeing, community safety and what support network is in place for those seeking asylum. Questions can only be submitted ahead of the meeting and need to be submitted before 4pm on Friday 20 January 2023. These can be sent in online via <https://fhdcformassembly.tfaforms.net/f/community-event> or sent by post to Committee Services at the District Council. This event will be streamed live on YouTube and will take place at 3pm on Friday 27 January 2023 - youtube.com/@folkestoneandhythemeetings

Cost of Living – Just a reminder that there are many schemes available to support vulnerable people/families – information can be found on the website, Live chat via website, by telephoning customer services 01303 853000 or the Customer Access Point (CAP) at the Civic Centre which is exclusively to enable those without digital access to self-serve online through computer points with help available if needed. Southern Water is just one of the utilities that run a scheme to help customers struggling to pay their water bill – We would urge you to get in touch on payless@southernwater.co.uk or: 0800 027 0363 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm)

Home essential fund (previously referred to as the UK Prosperity Fund). This is a scheme to support families on low incomes and is over a three year period. Currently, in this financial year, there is funding available for boiler replacement or servicing and particularly relevant to our area oil boilers needing to be replaced or tuned up and checked for efficiency, top-up of oil or gas bottles. Application forms will be on the Council website shortly, however please advise us if you know a family who may benefit from this scheme as we are keen that residents in this ward do not miss out because funding on this particular project is only available until the end of March 2023. Other projects, under this heading will follow in the next financial year – watch this space.

KCC Councillor report January – Cllr Susan Carey

2022 has been a tumultuous year – for the world; for our country, which lost its longest-reigning monarch and saw three Prime Ministers hold office; and also for all of us here in Kent.

In addition to the effects of the invasion of Ukraine, we have seen record arrivals from small boat crossings of the Channel to our shores; a record-breaking heat wave and

failures of water supply on the Isle of Sheppey in the summer (and subsequent water supply disruptions in many parts of Kent in the run up to Christmas); massive pressures on our bus network, at their most intense over the summer but which have not gone away; and frequent reminders of how quickly a range of issues at the Channel border can escalate into a crisis which, even when Operation Brock is in place, can spill over into disruption on our county's road network.

Amid all these pressures and crises, and in the vital day to day delivery of services, our staff at KCC have been there to support residents and communities with dedication and commitment.

The return of war to Europe through Putin's invasion of Ukraine has had a most dramatic effect. People in Kent have responded to this in an extraordinary way; we remain the part of the country which hosts the largest number of Ukrainian guests under the Homes for Ukraine scheme. KCC and our partners have worked to support this, most recently by introducing – ahead of many councils and of any national policy – higher rates of support for hosts. I hope that this move will not only reassure current hosts in these financially challenging times, but also encourage more people in the county to sign up to the scheme. More Ukrainian guests are still arriving every day, and more homes are desperately needed.

The economic havoc unleashed by the invasion of Ukraine has exacerbated already serious pressures on the cost of living. With funding from government, we have sought through our Helping Hands and Financial Hardship programmes to provide help to those most in need, through holiday Free School Meal programmes, support with energy and water bills, financial help and advice and much more. We continue to work with our public sector partners and with the voluntary and community sector to do everything we can to help those most in need – once more building on the spirit and actions of Kent Together that were brought forward during the pandemic. We will maintain this support into 2023.

Economic disruption from the aftermath of the pandemic and from the Ukraine war, the highest inflation in 40 years and severe labour shortages have had a massive impact on the council's services and finances. This will remain a huge challenge for us in 2023.

In the short term, the government's Autumn Statement was a real help. It was particularly welcome to see local government, and social care in particular, being given higher priority. But what we face in local government – and this was the point of the letter that the Leader of Hampshire County Council, Rob Humby, and I wrote to ministers in October – is the lasting crisis of an unsustainable model.

To meet this challenge, and to do more than just struggle to get through the next crisis, we need to do three things. The first is to put our finances on a sustainable course. That will mean that we still have to take some very difficult decisions, with the focus always on providing our services in the most cost-effective way we can.

The second is to work in ever closer partnership, above all with the NHS. Like areas across the country, we are developing an Integrated Care System for Kent and Medway, working together to make the best use of our resources to tackle the pressures that we face over this winter and beyond and ultimately improve the lives of our residents. What we have done so far – under the phrase "Together, We Can" – is a good start, and I

believe it is one of the most hopeful developments of 2022 but we must take it much further in 2023.

Finally, we must ensure that the County Council is the strong organisation that people in Kent need it to be. Not just to manage the unprecedented risks and pressures that we now face, and not just to deliver our core statutory services, above all to vulnerable people – vital though that is. We must also address the really big challenges that we face as a county: organising and providing public services in times of growing need but with limited resources; addressing the pressures we face as a frontline, border county; securing the infrastructure that we desperately need; continuing to support and champion local businesses and the Kent economy; and helping to achieve energy transition, net zero and adaptation to climate change.

To do this, we have already brought about big changes in how the council is run. We must also respond to changing national policies; both government (through the Levelling Up White Paper, published in February 2022) and the opposition (in Gordon Brown's Commission on the UK's Future) have set out plans to change our over-centralised system. We can expect to hear a lot more of devolution and county deals in 2023. I look forward to the opportunity of taking part in and influencing this debate in relation to the future of the county.

2022 has been a tough year, and its challenges are still very much with us. But people across this county responded in an amazing way to those challenges, and we look to 2023 with realism but also with hope and optimism.

Roger Gough, Leader KCC

Susan Carey

Member for Elham Valley, Kent County Council
District Councillor, North Downs West, Folkestone & Hythe District Council