

**STELLING MINNIS PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON 8 MARCH 2023 HELD AT
7.30PM IN STELLING MINNIS VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Parish Cllr Robert Hubble (Chairman)
Parish Cllr John Haffenden
Parish Cllr Ann Day
Parish Cllr Nick Smith
Parish Cllr Laszlo Dudas
Parish Cllr Garry Watts
Parish Cllr Elizabeth Philips
FHDC Cllr Jenny Hollingsbee
KCC & FHDC Cllr Susan Carey

Lee Jones, Internal Auditor (for part of meeting)
Gail Hubbard, Clerk to the Council
There were two members of the public present.

The Chairman began with a minute's silence in honour of a previous Parish Councillor, Dagmar Smyth, who had sadly passed away recently.

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. There were none.
- 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. Cllr Day declared an interest in planning application 23/0040/FH.
- 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 11 January 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

There were none discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

There was none.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

- 4.1 Kent Police & Crime Commissioner – Special edition newsletter Victim Voice (link circulated to Cllrs)

4.2 KCC Community Services Consultation – open 17th Jan-26th March.
Circulated to Cllrs. www.kent.gov.uk/communityservicesconsultation

4.3 Damian Collins MP – A response had now been received to the letter written regarding the power outages in Stelling Minnis parish. Damian Collins had taken this issue up with UK Power Networks and the response received as follows;

Dear Mr Collins,

Last week we completed line patrols across that section of network and identified areas of tree trimming required. This has been sent to our contractors to arrange the relevant shutdowns and we will complete these works as soon as possible. There were also some electrical works required which our Lead Field Engineer is looking into now. I am pleased to confirm that our systems show there have been no issues with the power this year, and the above works will only add to the reliability of the electricity supplies.

I will provide you with a more substantive response once I have heard back from the Lead Field Engineer, however, if you have any queries in the meantime please let me know.

Other correspondence noted.

5. PLANNING

5.1 DISCUSSED the following applications received since the last meeting.

23/0180/FH	Erection of a new garage. Land adjoining High Gate, Bossingham Road, Stelling Minnis CT4	SMPC objection to be lodged due to position of garage in front of property. Visual impact on street scene. Also note description of application different to house application under 20/1109/FH – could be misleading.
23/0040/FH	Demolition of derelict bungalow and proposed 4-bedroom house. Lower Courthope Bungalow, Sandy Lane, Stelling Minnis CT4 6DS	SMPC No objections
23/0014/FH	New roof at a steeper pitch to provide additional accommodation on the first floor, to include new dormer roofs front and rear & rebuilding existing garage. Tarn Hows, Curtis Lane, Stelling Minnis CT4 6AD	SMPC No objections already lodged but new documents available and wording of application changed. FHDC re-consulting new deadline 21 st March. Cllr Day left the room whilst application

		discussed. Clerk to ask FHDC for a design and access statement for the application.
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5.2 NOTED decisions by the planning authority since the last meeting

22/0284/FH	Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of a replacement dwelling Abbotswood, Fishers Lane, Stelling Minnis CT4 6BJ	Approved with conditions 10/02/23
20/1109/FH	Proposed erection of a new dwelling. Coxhole Farm, Bossingham Lane, Stelling Minnis CT4 6AQ	Approved with conditions 18/10/22

Lee Jones arrived at this point of the meeting.

- 5.3 Otterpool Park Y19/0257/FH – further information released. Open for comments until 16/03/23.
Cllr Hollingsbee mentioned that this application will go to planning committee on 4th April. SMPC not inclined to add any comments at this stage.

6. VILLAGE MATTERS

SAT NAV/ACCESS ISSUES ON RURAL ROUTES

Another incident had been flagged up by residents, when an emergency vehicle was trying to access a property via a road that is merely a gated track. Luckily locals were able to direct the fire engines in the right direction and prevent them getting stuck. Unfortunately, many of these tracks look like roads on Google Maps. Cllr Smith had contacted Google asking them to update their maps – no response had been received to date.

Cllr Haffenden suggested we encourage residents to know and use What3words for their properties, this is used on the farm regularly for deliveries etc. www.what3words.com
You can also stipulate a way point to get there to direct people via the right route.

Cllr Haffenden to collaborate with Cllr Dudas for an item in the newsletter on this. This could also go on the noticeboard and website.

DISABLED PARKING PROVISION IN MINNIS GREEN/MINNIS FIELD

Following an issue flagged up in the resident's questionnaires, the clerk had contacted FHDC to see if any disabled parking provision could be made within the Minnis Green/Minnis Field estate. The response had been that there was no money in the budget currently for this type of works. Clerk to ask FHDC if this was something that SMPC could fund if there was no money available, also copy Cllr Hollingsbee in.

DEFIBRILLATOR PROVISION AT THE VILLAGE HALL

Cllr Hubble gave thanks to Cllr Smith, Cllr Watts and Lee Jones for their input into this project. The hope is to arrange another training session here in the hall, 16 attended the last session and more were interested.

Cllr Smith mentioned that when the times come to replace the battery, SMPC consider replacing the whole unit (the unit is on loan and is not an ideal fit for the box).

Thanks to Cllr Smith for instigating the purchase of the equipment and co-ordinating.

CORONATION EVENT

Cllr Dudas to speak further with Nikki Gordon of Bossingham Parish to see if a joint event could be planned. It was felt it was rather short notice but something could still happen.

Cllr Hubble mentioned a possible source of funding for such an event, via NISA Making a Difference and the Stelling Minnis Stores. Grants of up to £500 are available to help with celebration events. It was AGREED Cllr Hubble should apply for the funding, then if we are successful we can agree what it is spent on to celebrate the Kings Coronation.

VILLAGE QUESTIONNAIRE

It was DECIDED that the promised meeting with residents about the questionnaire results should be combined with the APM on 24th May, in place of a guest speaker this year.

7. REPORTS

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

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

8. FINANCE

8.1 Additional bank account

The Clerk had prepared a report on the options for the opening of an additional account to place the CIL monies in that would earn some interest. Our current account has no interest earned on it. The recommendation was to open a Business Notice account with our existing bank, The Co-operative bank. This account could only be operated via our existing account, so no monies could be withdrawn without the use of two signatories. Money could however be transferred between the two accounts. It was AGREED the clerk should make an application to open this account.

8.2 NOTED receipts of income

None	
TOTALS £0.00	

8.3 AUTHORISED payments

CHQ409	Stelling Minnis Village Hall – grant for cinema equipment (CIL monies)	3,683.22
CHQ410	Mr N Smith – reimbursement for cost of Defibrillator cabinet, new battery & 3 sets of defib pads (CIL Monies)	1,115.95
CHQ411	Mr GA Watts – fit and wire in new defib cabinet at village hall (CIL monies)	291.91
CHQ412	Clerks salary Jan & Feb & backdated rise from 1 st April 2022	691.20

CHQ413	Clerks reimbursement of expenses (printer ink & paper)	42.10
CHQ414	Mr N Smith reimbursement for printing costs for noticeboard items	6.52
TOTALS		£5,830.09

The above payments were proposed by Cllr Haffenden, seconded by Cllr Day and AGREED to be approved for payment.

8.4 RECEIVED the bank reconciliation and budget expenditure report to 28th February 2023.

9. AOB for information only

Cllr Haffenden reminded everyone about the elections on 4th May and asked Cllrs to encourage people to stand.

Cllr Hubble mentioned the KALC planning conference on 31st March if anyone wished to attend, speak to the clerk to arrange.

The meeting closed at 9.07pm

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

Signed..... (Chairman)

Date.....

APPENDIX

SMPC REPORTS 8 MARCH 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.

2 March 2023

Stelling Minnis Parish Council website & Facebook Page

Updated as necessary. Page added for 2023 elections onto website with details of timetable of election and other information for residents on voter ID etc.

Gail Hubbard

Parish Clerk

Tree Warden Report

Several birch trees have fallen, the Managers should be aware as they are near the areas they are currently working.

Nick Smith – Tree Warden

2 March 2023

The Minnis

Cllr Haffenden reported the silver birches were noted and in hand – an extra working party is scheduled.

The Stewardship agreement ends later this year and a new scheme with start in January through Natural England.

John Haffenden Minnis Managers

Kent County Council report for Stelling Minnis 08 March 2023

You'll have seen in my newsletter entry for March that KCC has won £45m funding to improve access in and around the Port of Dover. The problems at the port can quickly escalate to impact the whole of Kent but particularly East Kent so this is welcome news. The project is expected to be completed within the next two years.

I also covered the Council Tax increase which is just under 5% (less than half the rate of inflation). We know that Kent's residents also face high inflation and no one wants to pay more council tax but even with this rise KCC needs to make some difficult savings. We have committed to £55m of savings and there is a risk that we will be unable to make them, the level of demand for our services may continue to rise beyond our ability to meet them and inflation may continue at the present high level. KCC Leader, Roger Gough, has said 'The risks are high and we are treading a narrow path.' The increase in KCC share of council tax is the equivalent of £1.40 a week a band D household.

There is help available for individuals and families struggling to pay bills (including council tax) and a useful place to look is on the KCC website under the 'Kent Together' banner or ring 03000 41 92 92.

The consultation on KCC's Community Services runs until 23 March and you'll find it at letstalk.kent.gov.uk/community-services-consultation. The consultation is about where KCC's services should be based and co-locating where possible to reduce the number of buildings we have to maintain. Part of the savings will be used to invest in more outreach and digital based services.

KCC has recently been awarded funding from the Government for our Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP). It cannot be used to reintroduce subsidies for uneconomic services where we have withdrawn the KCC subsidy but it is nonetheless welcome and will enable trials of new on demand style services and other innovations. The Government's own funding for £2 fares has also been extended to 30 June. Ridership on buses is at 75% of its pre-lockdown levels and the bus companies are facing challenges with driver recruitment/retention and increased fuel costs.

My newsletter on KCC's work on Environment & Waste disposal is sent to KALC who distribute it to their members so you should receive an update in this about the Kent-wide work I'm responsible for at KCC. Despite the financial challenges, we are making progress on reducing household waste, winning grants for tree planting and reducing our energy costs/carbon emissions. I'm also pleased to report that we'll be running a third round of our SolarTogether scheme which uses collective buying power to get a good price for Kent residents who want to install solar panels. Registration for the scheme should begin on 20 March.

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

District Councillors report for Stelling Minnis Parish Council 8 March 2023

Veolia, the company that collects your kerbside waste on behalf of the District Council, has reduced its carbon emissions by 5% over the last two years. This has been achieved mostly by reducing fuel consumption and installing electric bin lifts on the waste collection vehicles. LED lights and more efficient heating at the depot have also contributed to the drop.

The District has just announced a new campaign aimed at preventing loads of recycling being lost when the wrong items are put in bins. The *Don't Let Your Recycling Go to Waste* drive aims to help residents avoid "wish-cycling", which is when something is put in a recycling bin in the hope it can be recycled. With a focus on myth busting, the campaign will look at reducing contamination and increasing the amount recycled in the district through reminders of good recycling and answering frequently asked questions about waste. Residents can find out more about the campaign, including the major contaminants and how to dispose of them, by visiting our [website](#)

It's just been announced that more than 35,000 residents have signed up to MyAccount to access services, receive reminders about waste collections and pay their council tax online. Last month saw the launch of Housing Online where council tenants can view and update information about their property. They can also view balances and statements, book a repair, make payments and set up a Direct Debit. Online services provide 24/7 access and are increasingly popular. They bring an extra benefit by freeing up time at our Contact Centre for staff to deal with people who don't have digital access.

UK Power Networks has provided £27,300 towards the warm spaces that the District Council has set up at the community hubs at New Romney, Hythe, Folkestone and the Nepalese Community Centre in Folkestone. The money will help with the costs of running the warm spaces and fuel vouchers and warm packs to those most in need. The warm spaces are open to everyone in the district and provide not just somewhere to be warm but company and activities.

The District Council has won £205,000 of Government funding to install three Changing Places toilets. (Changing Places toilets are designed to meet the needs of disabled children and adults with complex needs and rely on carer support. They differ from standard disabled toilets designed for those who can use a toilet independently. Specialist equipment includes ceiling hoists and changing tables.) The need for such toilets was raised by residents during the Folkestone Place Plan engagement sessions and they'll be sited at the Lower Leas Coastal Park, Folca (the former Debenhams store) both in Folkestone and at the Coastal Destination project in Littlestone. This should enable more severely disabled people to enjoy visits to these places. (KCC has already installed a Changing Places toilet at Brockhill Country Park in Saltwood where it has been much appreciated by visitors).

Work on the Folca building (the former Debenhams store) to bring it back into use has just started. Folca will be separated into two parts: the Edwardian part of the site in Bouverie Place and the Art Deco section in Sandgate Road. [The council's recent successful Levelling Up Fund bid for £19.8 million](#) will partly support the refurbishment of the Art Deco section of the building. New uses for this part will be explored – with an intended focus on public services, retail, leisure and business uses for the rejuvenated building

There's a further consultation under way on plans for the outline planning application for Otterpool Park Garden Town. It consists of technical drawings and responses to earlier consultation about transport and other environmental matters. The application reference number is Y19/0257/FH. You can see the details on the council website and a paper copy of the updated application can be viewed by appointment at the Civic Centre in Folkestone. Please call customer services on 01303 853000 for details. Comments should be made by 4pm on Thursday 16 March.

Otterpool Park Garden Town was first proposed in 2016 and it's taken a long time to reach this point. It's intended to provide new homes of all sizes and tenures (self build, joint ownership, council homes, housing associations, starter homes, family homes, homes designed for the elderly) complete with its own facilities such as schools, doctors' surgery, shops and green spaces. We think this is the best way to provide the majority of the new homes our district needs rather than growing every existing village and town.

We held our budget meeting on Wednesday 22 February and a council tax rise of just under 3% was agreed. Some projects will need to be put on hold or scaled back but services to our residents should not be affected.

A reminder that there is help for residents that need support and you can find out more at <https://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/help-support-cost-living> or ring the council on 01303 853000.

Your District Today has just been published and should land on your doorstep sometime in the next two weeks. It can also be read on the District Council website.

Susan Carey and Jenny Hollingsbee your Folkestone & Hythe District Councillors