

**STELLING MINNIS PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 11 SEPTEMBER 2024 HELD AT 7.30PM IN
STELLING MINNIS VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Parish Cllr Max Couch (Chairman)
Parish Cllr Robert Hubble
Parish Cllr Nick Smith
Parish Cllr Ann Day
Parish Cllr Garry Watts
Parish Cllr Sally Morley-Smith

FHDC Cllr Elaine Martin
KCC Cllr Susan Carey

Gail Hubbard, Clerk to the Council
There was one member of the public present.

The Chairman began by reading out the statement about filming and recording during the meeting then welcomed everyone to the meeting.

21. APOLOGIES, DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

- 21.1 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. Apologies received from FHDC Cllr Hollingsbee (attending another meeting) and Cllr Haffenden (retrospectively).
- 21.2 Declaration of changes to the Register of Interests. There were none
- 21.3 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. It was recorded that Cllrs Couch, Day and Watts are all members of the Stelling Minnis Village Hall Committee, item on agenda for discussion under 7.4 & 7.5.
- 21.4 Requests for Dispensations. There were none.
- 21.5 Declarations of Lobbying. There were none.

22. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 10 JULY 2024

The minutes from the previous meeting were proposed by Cllr Morley-Smith, seconded by Cllr Watts and AGREED. The minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.

23. MATTERS ARISING

There were none

ADJOURNMENT

There was none.

24. CORRESPONDENCE

The following items of correspondence had been circulated to the Cllrs;

- Kent & Medway Resilience Forum – latest letter detailing cross channel traffic over the summer
- KALC – latest KALC newsletter

25. PLANNING

25.1 **DISCUSSED** planning applications received for consideration since the last meeting

None		
------	--	--

25.2 **NOTED** planning applications considered since the last meeting

24/1134/FH	UPVC replacement conservatory to rear Eucryphia, Bossingham Road, Stelling Minnis CT4 6AG	No objection lodged from SMPC
------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------

25.3 **NOTED** decisions by the planning authority

24/1058/FH	Retrospective application for the construction of first floor double gable extension to replace catslide roof. Stelling Lodge Oast, Church Lane, Stelling Minnis CT4 5PS	No objection lodged from SMPC FHDC have now APPROVED
24/1067/FH	Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) of planning permission 21/1381/FH to amend design of north extension. Stone Hall, Stone Street, Stelling Minnis CT4 6DD	No objection lodged from SMPC FHDC have now REFUSED

25.4 **PROW**

PROW/FH/C429	Claimed bridleway between Eastleigh Court Road and High Minnis in Stelling Minnis Claim submitted by British Horse Society	Decision issued to modify the Definitive Map and statement in line with request. There is still an opportunity for further objection, if objections are received, they will be considered by the Planning Inspectorate for determination. SMPC to make no comment on claim.
--------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

26. VILLAGE MATTERS

NEIGHBOURING PARISHES INFORMAL MEETING

The Clerk had sent out an invitation to the other parishes as agreed at the July meeting; so far approx. 7 other Cllrs had said they would attend. Clerk will send out a reminder email to the clerks in the next week to hopefully increase the numbers attending. The hall is booked for 16th October at 7pm and Cllr Day to provide wine/non alcoholic drinks and nibbles.

DEFIB TRAINING SESSION

Clerk awaiting confirmation of booking for the session in November. Once confirmed this needs to be well advertised to encourage attendance. Max capacity is 50, those

interested will need to register for their space via either the clerk stellingminnic@outlook.com or by speaking to one of the Cllrs.

TELEPHONE BOX

Cllr Smith reported that two residents, Mrs Patricia Dabrowski and Mrs Sandie Slucky had come forward wishing to keep the phone box and its contents (books, jigsaws etc) clean and tidy. They would check the box twice a week between them, tidy and swap out books when appropriate (these would then be taken to a local charity shop).

Cllr Hubble proposed that was set aside an amount of £50 per year for small expenses related to this role, this was seconded by Cllr Day and AGREED.

STELLING MINNIS VILLAGE HALL CONDITION REPORT

The recent report on the condition of the hall carried out by Daniel Martin on 22 May 2024, had been forwarded to SMPC by the Chairman. The contents of this report were noted.

RELATIONSHIP & ROLES OF SMPC & SMVH

Following the publication of the above report there had been some confusion as to the responsibilities and roles of SMPC and SMVH Committee.

Cllr Hubble had received some pro bono advice from a retired solicitor who had been involved in the writing of the Declaration of Trust document dated 21st September 1999. He advised that as per this document the village hall is owned by SMPC and with any major works that are required, the VH Committee should inform SMPC. Cllr Hubble was awaiting some further feedback on this matter and would report back with anything at the next meeting.

There had been an issue raised with the scaffolding poles from the adjacent property being sited on the carpark without permission from either SMPC or SMVH Committee. It was felt the owners should have sought permission before going ahead.

Cllr Smith had sought advice from Jenny Bradbury, who had been and advisor at ACRE, she advised that as Village Hall Trust cannot own land, SMPC are the owners of the land and building but they had handed over responsibility to the Village Hall Committee; they must however keep the PC advised.

It was suggested by the Cllrs that anything to do with the fabric of the building in future should be notified to SMPC by SMVH within seven days. The SMVH representatives concurred this should be the way forward.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING PLANS

Cllr Hubble wished to raise this now so thought could be given about how to increase the numbers that attend the APM, these numbers have decreased dramatically over the last few years, especially since Covid. For next years APM an invite through resident's doors should be arranged. An interesting guest speaker would be another way to encourage residents to attend.

HIGHWAYS MATTERS

Cllr Hubble reported that the 30mph roundel by the Wheelbarrow Town bus shelter had been tarmacked over when this stretch of road was resurfaced. This needs to be reinstated. Clerk to report through as fault.

The Chairman had reported through the vegetation obscuring the view when pulling out of Curtis Lane onto Stone Street.

The Clerk reported that the SLOW sign on Stone Street (when approaching Curtis Lane from Canterbury) had now had the junction sign reinstated underneath it, so drivers know what they are to slow for.

Cllr Hubble gave an update on the passing bay and vegetation issues in Crown Lane, the developer Mr Showler appears to no longer be involved in activities onsite and is unlikely to have further involvement with this issue. Cllr Hubble proposed that the Clerk write to Mr Showler asking for a copy of the title deed for the area including the hedge on the Crown Lane side, for our records. This was seconded by Cllr Day and AGREED.

27. REPORTS

Refer to Appendix A at end of minutes for the full reports.

27.1	Websites/Facebook report	Cllr Smith/Clerk
27.2	KCC Report	Cllr Carey
27.3	FHDC reports	Cllr Martin/Cllr Hollingsbee
27.4	Tree Warden	Cllr Smith
27.5	SM Village Hall	Cllr Couch
27.6	The Windmill	Cllr Morley-Smith
27.7	The Minnis	Cllr Day

28. FINANCE

28.1 NOTED receipts of income

None	
TOTALS £0.00	

28.2 AUTHORISED payments

Direct Debits to note

DD	Hugo Fox – monthly website fee July & August	23.98
TOTALS £23.98		

Payments for authorisation

CHQ491	The Stelling Minnis School PTA – grant towards new play equipment (from CIL funds) (Paid Aug)	500.00
CHQ492	Anthony Hadlow – Strimming Aug (Paid Aug)	50.00
CHQ493	Gail Hubbard - Clerks reimbursement of expenses (postage/printer ink/lonos renewal)	60.80
CHQ494	Gail Hubbard - Clerks salary August	289.60
CHQ495	Dynamix – payroll services for QTR ending sept	36.00
CHQ496	Gail Hubbard – clerks salary September	289.60
CHQ497	HMRC – Quarterly PAYE payment	217.20
CHQ498	Robert Hubble – reimbursement for personal CHQ issued to A Hadlow for July payment (Clerk away)	55.00
CHQ499	Stelling Minnis Village Hall – Hire of room for 2024	110.00
TOTALS		£1,613.20

The above payments were proposed by Cllr Smith, seconded by Cllr Day and AGREED for payment.

28.3 NOTED the bank reconciliation to 4 September 2024.

29 SMPC MEETINGS 2025

The following dates were confirmed for 2025, Cllr Day has already booked the use of the hall for these meetings.

15th January 2025

- 12th March 2025
- 14th May 2025 – Statutory Annual Meeting
- 21st May 2025 - Annual Parish Meeting
- 9th July 2025
- 10th September 2025
- 12th November 2025

The meeting closed at 9.05pm.

Dates of future meetings: 13 November 2024.

Signed..... (Chairman)

Date.....

APPENDIX A
SMPC REPORTS 11 SEPTEMBER 2024

27.1 Websites

PC Website

All currently up to date, no issues.

Gail Hubbard
 Parish Clerk

Community Web Site report for September 2024 meeting

No problems observed and none reported. Pages updates as required or requested.

Nick Smith

27.2 KCC County Councillor Report for Stelling Minnis Parish Council Meeting

Whilst we must wait till the October budget to see what the new government will fund and what it will not, there has already been one policy announcement about Adult Social Care funding. The government confirmed in Fixing the Foundations that it will not be proceeding with adult social care funding change that would have put a cap on care costs. This reform, which would have combined a cap of £86,000 on lifetime care costs with a more generous means test, was due to be implemented in October 2025. With so many of us living into frail old age, more families are being expected to meet care costs and it's a shame to see this attempt to share the burden more fairly is not going ahead as planned.

Following the Government's decision to restrict the Winter Fuel Payment to those eligible for Pension Credit or other means tested benefits it may be worthwhile to check your eligibility for these. If you aren't eligible then you may still find there is support available via KentTogether. You can find KentTogether at www.kent.gov.uk or ring 03000 41 92 92.

You may have seen news coverage of the government's consultation for reforms to the National Planning Policy Framework and other changes to the planning system. Housing targets have been raised in Kent to help meet the target of 1.5m homes to be built in the next 5 years (bizarrely the housing target for London has been reduced!) KCC is concerned that the new plans do not mention minerals and waste for which we are responsible nor of the Nature Recovery work that is under way. We do however welcome the proposals to look at transport needs earlier in the process and to look at plans across a region rather than each district being looked at in isolation. Our response to the consultation raise concerns about infrastructure in Kent to support the new housing and questions about how realistic the targets are. In the meantime, if you would like to learn more about Nature Recovery or even take part in one of our workshops do sign up to the newsletter at www.makingspacefornature.org.uk

KCC's Director of Public Health is urging those eligible to take up vaccinations for protection from flu and COVID 19. The effectiveness of vaccines wanes over time so topping up is important especially for the vulnerable such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions.

Thank you to those of you who took part in the consultation on KCC's 2025/26 budget. The results of this will help shape where savings are made and what should be prioritised. We are already making some painful changes affecting social care, our children's centres and our discretionary services and we don't expect our financial pressures to ease.

The decision has now been taken by KCC to seek new owners for its 8 windmills including the one at Stelling Minnis. I know that Rob Thomas, KCC's Cabinet Member for Environment wants local groups involved in future ownership. I will share more news when available

Susan Carey

Member for Elham Valley, Kent County Council

Cllr Hubble asked Cllr Carey if there was anything KCC could do about the closure of Folkestone Sports Centre; unfortunately KCC have no legal responsibility and at present they are struggling to fund those things they are responsible for so they wouldn't be able to take this on.

27.3 District Councillor report – Elaine Martin

Recycling

F&HDC have launched a new campaign called *Raise the Rate* which aims to improve the district's current recycling rate of 44.6% by encouraging residents to be extra careful about putting the right things in the correct bins. As part of the campaign an A-Z guide for recycling and waste page has been launched along with details for recycling and waste resources. See F&HDC's website for details

Transport Consultation

A consultation is underway by Kent County Council until October 8th 2024 concerning its statutory Local Transport Plan. All the details of the draft Local Transport Plan and how to respond are on the KCC webpage at www.kent.gov.uk/ltp5. The Local Transport Plan sets out KCC's priorities for transport investment in the county as whole and across the district. The Local Transport Plan will help our council make the case to secure funding for these improvements over time.

Autumn and Winter Well events

The District is facilitating both the Autumn Well Event and the Winter Well Event again this year. The Autumn Well Event is being held on the 20th September at Age UK Hythe, Lyminge and Ashford, Sanford House, Stade Street, Hythe, CT21 6BD between 10am and 1pm. The Winter Well Event is being held on 27th November at South Kent Community Church, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone CT20 2QR between 10am and 1 pm. These events are a one stop shop morning providing advice and help from a range of agencies.

North Downs Forum

At the recent North Downs Forum, the draft of the updated Corporate Plan for 2025 – 2030 was discussed. This enabled people to formulate their thoughts on it ready to respond to the consultation. As a reminder, consultation on the Corporate Plan is open until the 27th September and it is important that you share your views on it so we can get a cross district view of its contents.

Reach the Beach

"Reach the Beach", the free summer bus service from Folkestone West station to the Harbour Arm, has now ended. It was amazingly successful with a total of 13,683 passengers using the service. Many of these users were visitors to the District boosting tourism in the area.

Otterpool Park

Negotiations are still ongoing to find a strategic partner for the development. Talks with Homes England continue as well as other interested parties.

Annual Canvas

F&HDC are launching their annual canvas in October and November for 2024. This is a legal requirement to make sure the electoral register is accurate and up to date every year. Please check and make sure your details are correct if you are contacted to do so.

Contact: Elaine.Martin@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk

District Councillor Report – Jenny Hollingsbee

Annual Canvass – FHDC have just started the annual canvass, a statutory requirement, to ensure the electoral register is up-to-date. Residents will either receive an email about this or – if the council does not have your email address – a paper form through your letterbox. Households should read the instructions carefully as there may not be a need to respond. More information about the process can be found on the council's website.

My Community Voice – (Kent Police local Policing team) Book your Fraud Protect Presentation - The Fraud Prevent and Protect Officer is keen to give presentations to organisations and community groups on how to protect yourselves from the threat of

Scams and avoid criminals stealing your money. These can be tapered for the needs and requirements of any group and can be booked for anytime in the future. If you are part of or in charge of any groups, including businesses that would benefit from this input, then please contact Stephen Kelly at the following email address – Stephen.kelly@kent.police.uk Ticket Fraud Many of you may have been unsuccessful in obtaining tickets for next year's Oasis concerts. It is important now if you are looking online for tickets being sold second hand that you do not end up "looking back in anger" from buying fake Oasis tickets. Criminals will see this as a wonderful opportunity to advertise fake tickets for sale via social media etc. Be vigilant, avoid clicking on suspicious links and only ever use authorised ticket agents to buy tickets. For further information on ticket fraud visit the Action fraud Website - Ticket fraud | Action Fraud.

Radnor Lodge Tea Room – FHDC is seeking offers from interested parties wanting to take on the Radnor Lodge tearoom in Folkestone. The lease contract allows trading from the tearoom between 9am and 7pm every day and permits the selling of hot (warmed through only) and cold food, non-alcoholic beverages, and ice cream (or any combination of these). For further information contact mhairi.richards@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk

Rural Prosperity Fund – Some good news for Etchinghill Village Hall who have been awarded £30,000 to build an extension to the village hall and community groups equipment area, freeing up space for installation of a stage and a green room. In addition, both Elaine and I have contributed £500 from our Ward Budget towards new fireproof curtains which have recently been fitted.

Contact: jenny.hollingsbee@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk Mobile 07887918458

27.4 Tree warden report

Tree warden report for September 2024 meeting

No issues reported.

Nick Smith

27.5 SM Village Hall

Two roofers have now looked at the works needed and quotes have been received. There are some immediate works to be done and some longer term works. Cllr Watts has cleared the gutters out. The Committee are looking at grant funding opportunities for the roof works.

Cllr Couch, Committee member

27.6 The Windmill

Nothing further to report since last meeting.

Cllr Morley-Smith

27.7 The Minnis

Dates for the next working party have been provided.

Cllr Hubble reported on the broken bench outside the shop; the back had collapsed and was dangerous so has been removed from site. Item for agenda in November to consider the replacement of this bench and the other one that is also in poor condition. These benches were donated to SMPC and are on the asset register.

Cllr Day