

**STELLING MINNIS PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 13 MARCH 2024 HELD AT 7.30PM IN STELLING
MINNIS VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Parish Cllr Robert Hubble (Chairman)
Parish Cllr John Haffenden
Parish Cllr Nick Smith
Parish Cllr Ann Day
Parish Cllr Garry Watts
Parish Cllr Sally Morley-Smith
Parish Cllr Max Couch
KCC Cllr Susan Carey
FHDC Cllr Elaine Martin

Gail Hubbard, Clerk to the Council

There were two members of the public present for part of the meeting.

The Chairman began by reading out the statement about filming and recording during the meeting 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. Apologies received from FHDC Cllr Hollingsbee (attending another PC meeting).
- 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. Cllr Haffenden declared an interest in the claimed bridleway between Eastleigh Court & High Minnis.
- 1.5 Declarations of Lobbying. There were none.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 10 JANUARY 2024

The minutes from the previous meeting were proposed by Cllr Haffenden, seconded by Cllr Day and AGREED. The minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.

3. MATTERS ARISING

Cllr Day mentioned that there was nothing further to report from Shelagh Carter, Trustee of Stelling Minnis Mill and Museum, regarding the windmill other than they will be open for teas as per usual at Easter.

ADJOURNMENT

There was none.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

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

- Kent Police – Kent Crime Commissioners newsletter winter (circulated to Cllrs)
- KALC – list of upcoming training events for 2024 for Cllrs (circulated to Cllrs)

- FHDC – Details of how voting at the next general election has changed (leaflets available at meeting)

5. PLANNING

5.1 RECEIVED a presentation from residents on a current application:

24/0151/FH – Winterbourne

The applicant explained that this was a small single storey extension creating a bigger kitchen and utility room. It cannot be seen from the road and is unlikely to impact upon others. Plans had already been circulated to Cllrs to consider.

The applicant left the meeting at 7.40pm

5.2 DISCUSSED planning applications received for consideration since the last meeting

24/0151/FH	Single storey side extension Winterbourne, Curtis Lane, Stelling Minnis CT4 6AD	No objection to be submitted from SMPC.
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5.3 NOTED planning applications considered since last meeting

23/1996/FH	Single storey rear extension Malt Farm, Bossingham Road, Stelling Minnis, CT4 6BD	No objection submitted from SMPC 20/02/24
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5.4 NOTED decisions by the planning authority since the last meeting

23/1967/FH	Erection of two 3-bedroom chalet bungalows, associated garages and driveway. Land rear St Bernadette Cottage, Harvest Lane, Stelling Minnis CT4 6AX	Approved by FHDC 7/2/24
24/0020/FH	Two storey side and rear extension and solar panels on workshop roof. Sandgath, Sandy Lane, Stelling Minnis CT4 6DR	Approved by FHDC 27/02/24

6. VILLAGE MATTERS

DAVISON'S MILL STELLING MINNIS UPDATE

Cllr Carey gave an update from KCC on the windmill consultation, the report from this will go to the Environment and Transport Committee on 21st May so more will be known after that point. The Clerk reported that the nomination for ACV had been submitted to FHDC and the response deadline was the 11th March, so a response to that should be received very shortly.

PORTRAIT OF HIS MAJESTY THE KING

It was AGREED the clerk should register for the free of charge official portrait of King Charles III that was on offer for all parishes to apply for. A3 in size and oak framed. This could hopefully be hung in the village hall.

SMPC EMERGENCY PLAN

Cllr Couch had attended three online sessions run by the Kent Resilience Forum on the creation of an Emergency Plan and feedback what he had learnt to the council.

A contact page mentioned as the most important section; not all villagers would know who to contact (especially newer residents). The village magazine already has a comprehensive contact listing within. Other agencies could be added to this listing if necessary.

Cllrs AGREED not to pursue the creation of an Emergency Plan for Stelling Minnis any further at this point.

PASSING BAY IN CROWN LANE

Currently awaiting a response back from the developer of Rose Lane.

HIGHWAYS IMPROVEMENT PLAN (HIP)

Cllr Hubble had been looking at the roundels and repeater signs that have been installed in neighbouring villages; namely Rhodes Minnis and Brook and suggested that Stelling Minnis might want more than were currently being offered under the HIP.

It was felt we needed to wait and see the scheme drawings from Highways to see exactly what they were proposing before asking for anything further. Clerk to see if drawings have been created yet.

Cllr Haffenden suggested CIL monies could be spent purchasing a light up speed device, with Curtis Lane as a possible location. It was felt this was an expensive option but clerk to check prices of these units and if it could run on solar.

BLOCKED PROW

The PROW HE12 that runs from Ponycart Lane is currently blocked by the spoils from the excavation project going on at the neighbouring property. This would be reported via the PROW website, Cllr Couch to confirm path and location of problem.

TELEPHONE BOX UPDATE

Cllr Smith reported that the phone box is now up and running as a book/game library. There are various books, jigsaws and toys to be borrowed/swapped. The plaque recognising peoples work will be fitted shortly.

7. REPORTS

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

7.1 Websites/Facebook report Cllr Smith/Clerk

Cllr Smith reported that there had been an issue with uploading to the website, this has now been sorted.

7.2 KCC Report Cllr Carey

Cllr Carey raised the claimed bridleway that had come out for comment this week; this had been submitted to KCC PROW by the British Horse Society. A number of these claims have been submitted in the county by the British Horse Society, as there is a deadline for any claims approaching.

Claimed bridleway between Eastleigh Court Road and the public highway known as High Minnis (application reference C429)

The application has been made on the basis that historic evidence suggests the route should have been included as a bridleway on the Definitive Map.

Cllr Haffenden as one of the landowners that this claimed bridleway would cross had signed a Deposit of Definitive Map only a few years ago with PROW to say he agreed with the Definitive Map as it stood at that point in time. Cllr Haffenden would make representation to the PROW Officer to challenge this application.

None of the Cllrs had any evidence to offer that this route had been used as a bridleway in the past thus no evidence or comments to be submitted from SMPC.

7.3 FHDC Report Cllr Martin/Cllr Hollingsbee

7.4 Stelling Minnis Hall Cllr Couch/Cllr Day

Cllr Couch reported that the front porch had been leaking and an emergency roofer had been instructed to carry out the needed repairs. A survey of the whole roof is to be carried out in due course. Cllr Day had suggested a survey of the whole building be carried out too.

Cllr Carey reported that the EV Charger points that the hall had applied for were not being pursued by KCC due to revenue not justifying the cost at this location. Hopefully there might be further rounds and the hall could be reconsidered for installation.

7.5 Stelling Minnis Tree Warden Cllr Smith

Cllr Smith reported no current reported problems.

7.6 Windmill Cllr Morley Smith

Cllr Morely-Smith had nothing further to report.

7.7 The Minnis Cllr Haffenden

Cllr Haffenden reported that a tree survey had been done and the identified tree works have been carried out.

8. FINANCE

8.1 NOTED receipts of income

None	
TOTALS £0.00	

8.2 AUTHORISED payments

CHQ461	Cllr Smith – reimbursement for new defib battery (already paid)	323.40
CHQ462	Clerks salary February	289.60
CHQ463	Yu & He Ltd – Electric contribution to shop for defib (replacement CHQ as previous expired and new bank account details for payee)	30.00
CHQ464	Clerks reimbursement of expenses – ink, postage and phone use	41.59
CHQ465	Dynamix – payroll services for 4 th QTR	36.00
CHQ466	Cllr Smith – reimbursement of printing costs for noticeboard	5.99
CHQ467	HMRC payment – 4 th QTR PAYE	253.20
CHQ468	Clerks salary March (to be paid 28 th March)	289.60
TOTALS		£1269.38

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

8.3 RECEIVED the Budget expenditure report to 13th March 2024.

8.4 RECEIVED the bank reconciliation dated 29th February 2024.

The meeting closed at 9pm.

Dates of future meetings: 8 May, 22 May APM, 10 July, 11 September, 13 November 2024.

Signed..... (Chairman)

Date.....

APPENDIX A

SMPC REPORTS 13 MARCH 2024

Report for Stelling Minnis Parish Council 13 March 2024

The KCC budget was agreed at a full day meeting of the County Council on 19 February. The papers for the meeting and a webcast of the debate are on the KCC website www.kent.gov.uk. The Labour Group, Liberal Democrats, Greens and Independents all put forward amendments to make small changes to spending but their proposals also all involved a 5% increase. None of the amendments were accepted (one involved opening a bar in County Hall to make money!) The budget that was passed has increased spending on adult social care, children in care and home to school transport in line with demand.

KCC has stepped up its campaign for all those involved but particularly the Government to do more to help preparations for the proposed introduction of the new EU Entry Exit System (EES). From 06 October 2024 EES will replace stamping passports with an electronic system to register the dates of entry and exit by non-EU travellers and is similar to systems already in operation in the USA, Canada and Australia. EES requires biometric information such as facial recognition and fingerprints. It is technically possible to do most of these checks before arriving at the ports, but current plans do not allow this. Roger Gough, KCC's leader, told Parliament's EU Scrutiny Committee on 31 January that traffic modelling showed a worst-case scenario of delays of up to 14 hours at the ports and Eurotunnel once EES is in place. Roger called for funding for measures to cope with the change. He pointed out that delays in Kent also impacted on the whole UK economy and urged the Government to look at technological and legal changes to enable remote registration. Roger has also visited Eurotunnel to see the preparations being made there to reduce the potential impact of the new checks. Eurotunnel has invested E80m to prepare their terminals for the change. Such work is reassuring but more facilities are needed particularly for freight traffic. A report on this issue went to the Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee on 07 March and you can read this and watch the debate on the KCC website www.kent.gov.uk

Another current campaign is the one to restore the Kent stops for Eurostar services. There is a petition on this which has nearly reached 50,000 signatures. If you'd like to support it you can sign the online petition. KCC has also surveyed Kent businesses and found strong support for the reintroduction of the Kent stops. I know Damian Green MP, Ashford Borough Council and KCC are all involved in the campaign to persuade Eurostar to restore the services.

KCC has launched a Biodiversity Net Gain Site Register for Kent. Since 12 February all developments with over ten houses are required to deliver a 10% increase in

biodiversity. The aim is for this improvement to be delivered on the site itself but if this is impractical then the site register

will provide a pipeline of suitable land to deliver this commitment. The Making Space for Nature Kent website has more details on this.

Do please keep reporting potholes preferably on the KCC website or to 03000 41 81 81. Nearly 60,000 potholes were repaired on Kent's roads between April and December 2023 and the work continues. The Government has allocated Kent £135m of additional funding over the next 11 years for road repairs. £8.6m of this will be spent between March and October this year. This is on top of the £50m in KCC's own road and footway maintenance budget. Reporting by residents ensures our local roads are added to the list for this spending.

The Government grant which supports KCC's work to install Electric Vehicle charging points at community buildings will not presently stretch to the proposal to install charging points at Stelling Minnis Village Hall. I am hopeful that future rounds of funding or other locations proving unviable will enable the works to be done in future.

Susan Carey, Member for Elham Valley, Kent County Council

District Councillor Report for Stelling Minnis Parish Council – 13 March 2024

Otterpool Park – There is a lot of work being undertaken on this project but there is no confirmation yet of a strategic partner.

Budget Meeting - held on Wednesday 28 February had to be adjourned for over an hour while protesters were removed from the Gallery. The protest was about the situation in Gaza and one gentleman in particular, refused to sit down or stop shouting and eventually had to be evicted by the police. There was then a debate on the Housing Revenue Account and the Revenue Budget and associated documents. As is required by law, the budget is a balanced budget which has been achieved through a better than expected Government settlement of just under £1m additional funding and £3.6m of savings, (£2m on staff and £1.6m on services), Lower inflation and interest rates also contributed. Cuts include reduction in bins across the District, reduced street cleansing in some areas, area officer team reduced, rural verge cutting reduced to once per year, no Air Show for 2024, Tall Ships project (joint with Boulogne) axed and all fees and charges increased. Garden Waste charges will rise from £48 to £60 and collection of bulk items will rise from £35 for one item to £53 for three items. As from 1 April, car parking charges at the Sandgate Road and Coastal Park car parks will be to 9 pm instead of 6 pm. This all results in a Council Tax increase of 2.94% (£280.08 at Band D – an increase of £8.01 on the current charge). Voting on the budget was – in favour - 13 Green/Lib Dem, abstentions 10 Labour/1 independent and against 5 Conservatives/1 independent. On the housing front, social rents will increase by 7.7% which equates to an increase of £7.37 per week or £390.61 per annum. The budget debate can be accessed via this link [Council - Wednesday 28 February 2024, 7:00pm - Folkestone & Hythe webcasting \(public-i.tv\)](#)

Landslips – there have been a number of landslips in Folkestone. The Road of Remembrance has suffered quite badly with initially trees blocking the road followed by two further slips. The road will not be reopened until the area has been assessed as safe to work in, and due to the most recent slips and continued rainfall this could be some

time. The District Council is working closely with KCC who are the Highways Authority. Further details on all landslides can be found on the website.

Parliamentary Elections – new boundary lines to balance the number of people voting for members of Parliament has resulted in the change for residents in our ward North Downs West (which includes Stelling Minnis). It is only the Parliamentary constituency boundary that is changing following the Boundary Commission's review. Folkestone & Hythe District Council will continue to collect council tax and provide local services. Elections for Folkestone & Hythe District Council and any parish or town council in the ward will also continue as before.

Contact – jennyhollingsbee@gmail.com Mobile 07887918458

District Councillor Report for Stelling Minnis Parish Council

At the meeting of the Full Council on Wednesday a fully costed and balanced budget for 2024/25 was approved. As expected, the Council Tax will increase, the F&HDC proportion of it is increasing by 2.99%. Other precepts will be determined by KCC, Kent Police and Crime Commissioner, Kent Fire and Rescue Service and Town/Parish Councils. The budget includes £18 million to be spent on front line services such as waste collection, quality social housing and other community based services. The Housing Revenue Account budget was also approved and unfortunately rents will be increasing by 7.7%. This is in line with the Government recommendations. The extra money will enable the council to continue with the maintenance of it's properties and allow us to build more social housing in the District. I know that these increases come at a very bad time with the ongoing cost of living crisis. Please check the Council's website for details of help and support that can be provided if you are affected by this.

At the Overview and Scrutiny Committee there was a presentation on the CIL regulations. The figures that were given were for the year 2022/23; almost a year out of date. Stelling Minnis was listed as having £25,300.00 available. I requested up to date information for all eight parishes in the North Downs West Ward. The information indicated that the money was from the year 2021 – 2022 so needs to be drawn down within 5 years of being allocated. CIL money should be used on infrastructure (provision, improvement or replacement of the infrastructure) that will benefit the community such as play areas, benches, sports facilities, public open spaces, community halls etc.

There have been several landslides along the Folkestone part of the coast and the Road of Remembrance remains shut. F&HDC have completed the works they are responsible for: all shrubs and sycamore trees were removed, and 12 evergreen oak trees were coppiced to form a low hedge. We are now awaiting a drone survey to be carried out along the escarpment and an assessment will be made to see if any other works need to be carried out. The road remains closed whilst KCC arranges clearance of the fallen trees.

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