

**STELLING MINNIS PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 13 NOVEMBER 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

Gail Hubbard, Clerk to the Council
There were six members 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.

30. APOLOGIES, DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

- 30.1 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 Cllr Haffenden (recuperating), FHDC Cllr Hollingsbee (unwell), Cllr Martin (attending another meeting) and Cllr Carey (attending another meeting).
- 30.2 Declaration of changes to the Register of Interests. There were none
- 30.3 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 item 6.1 & 6.2.
- 30.4 Requests for Dispensations. There were none.
- 30.5 Declarations of Lobbying. There were none.

31. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 11 SEPTEMBER 2024

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

32. MATTERS ARISING

There were none.

ADJOURNMENT

There were several residents present who asked about the current status of the enforcement case at Bower Farm and why more updates have not been made available via the parish council meetings. Cllr Hubble advised that FHDC as the planning authority are responsible for enforcement matters and due to the sensitive nature of enforcement, this has been dealt with at closed sessions, so reports and updates have not been readily available from District Cllrs. When there is information to share this will come direct from FHDC.

33. CORRESPONDENCE

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

- Rogate – response to request for a copy of the Land Registry map of the site, including map. Cllr Watts disputed the accuracy of the map as the passing place opposite ‘Jordan’ was not shown. Clerk to acknowledge receipt of map but note lack of passing bay shown.
- KCHFT – Kent Community Health NHS Trust are looking for people to stand as public governors (details circulated to Cllrs)
- Victim Support Kent & Medway – annual request for funding. Cllr Hubble proposed SMPC make a £50 donation as last year, this was seconded by Cllr Day and AGREED.
- ACRE- communication to clerks regarding village hall documentation held by the now disbanded ACRK. Clerk to collect any information held on SMVH and pass to the VH Committee.

34. PLANNING

34.1 FHDC Call for sites

FHDC had released their call for sites as part of the draft local plan process; landowners are asked to put forward pieces of land for development and parish councils are asked if they want to put forward any sites for housing, leisure, employment, community or open space.

The Cllrs felt that as SMPC owned no land other than the VH and grounds they would not be suggesting any sites to FHDC. If any residents had potential sites they wished to put forward the below link might be useful.

<https://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/planning-policy/call-sites>

34.2 DISCUSSED planning applications received for consideration since the last meeting

None		
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34.3 NOTED planning applications considered since the last meeting

None		
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34.4 NOTED decisions by the planning authority

24/1134/FH	UPVC replacement conservatory to rear Eucryphia, Bossingham Road, Stelling Minnis CT4 6AG	APPROVED 5/9/24
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35. VILLAGE MATTERS

STELLING MINNIS VILLAGE HALL REPAIR UPDATE

The Chairman gave an update on the current repair works in the VH, there is now an ACRO in place holding up a beam with some rotten timber. There is an emergency hall meeting to be held next week to discuss the costings. Information following the meeting will be reported back to Cllrs. Various funding options are currently being looked into.

CIL MONEY

The Clerk reminded Cllrs that the current CIL balance was £9311.00. Cllr Hubble made a proposal to ringfence £8,000 of SMPC CIL money for village hall repairs, this could be used as a match funding element when applying for larger grants. This was seconded by Cllr Smith and AGREED. Cllrs Couch, Watts and Day did not take part in this vote due to their VH Committee involvement.

Cllr Hubble also suggested that the VH Committee should consider matching this amount when applying for funds.

REPLACEMENT OF BENCH OUTSIDE SHOP

Both benches outside the shop were already dedicated to past residents of Stelling Minnis and were possibly donated by their families. Quotes for a replacement bench to be gathered for the next meeting. The Families also need to be contacted.

REPORT FROM NEIGHBOURING PARISH INFORMAL MEETING

The SMPC arranged parish get together was held in the hall on 16th October and was attended by representatives from seven other parishes plus Cllr Martin and the Leader of FHDC Cllr Jim Martin. It was a useful evening with lots of parish conversations and suggestions that other parishes should hold the next one.

The Chairman thanked the clerk for arranging and Cllr Day for her excellent hostess duties at this event.

EV CHARGING POINTS

Cllr Hubble reminded Cllrs that the funding from KCC had been withdrawn but was ever hopeful some more might come online in the near future.

HIGHWAYS AND PARKING

The Chairman had received some complaints from residents over the speed of vehicles outside the shop. A 20mph limit could be requested, SMPC to look at again when the HIP (Highway Improvement Plan) is reviewed.

The parking situation on The Minnis grass outside the Rose & Crown had also been flagged up by residents, it was suggested this could be deterred with kerbs or bollards. This is why the island is kerbed to prevent vehicles parking on it. The Minnis Managers would need to be approached on this matter.

36. REPORTS

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

- 36.1 Websites/Facebook report Cllr Smith/Clerk
- 36.2 KCC Report Cllr Carey
- 36.3 FHDC reports Cllr Martin/Cllr Hollingsbee
- 36.4 Tree Warden Cllr Smith
- 36.5 The Windmill Cara Cooper/Shelagh Carter
- 36.6 The Minnis Cllr Day
- 36.7 Highways faults Cllr Smith

37. FINANCE

37.1 NOTED receipts of income

None	
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TOTALS £0.00

37.2 AUTHORISED payments

Direct Debits to note

DD	Hugo Fox – monthly website fee September & October	23.98
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TOTALS £23.98

Payments for authorisation

CHQ500	Transfer of fund to open Unity Bank account	500.00
CHQ501	SMVH – hire of hall for defib training event	20.00
CHQ502	Clerks salary October	289.60
CHQ503	Cllr Day – reimbursement of expenses for social evening	14.31
CHQ504	Clerk – reimbursement of expenses (postage/name badges)	16.58
CHQ505	Mrs R Browne – reimbursement for remembrance Wreath.	21.50
CHQ506	KALC – Chairmans conference	84.00
CHQ507	Clerks salary November	298.30

TOTALS £744.29

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

37.3 NOTED the budget expenditure report to date

37.4 NOTED the bank reconciliation to 31st October 2024.

38. REMINDER

The Clerk reminded Cllrs and residents that the Community Defibrillator seminar that SMPC is hosting is next Monday 18th November at 7pm in SMVH. Please register your place with the Clerk.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Dates of future meetings: 15 January, 12 March, 14 May Statutory Annual Meeting, 21 May APM, 9 July, 10 September, 12 November 2025.

Signed..... (Chairman)

Date.....

APPENDIX A SMPC REPORTS 13 NOVEMBER 2024

36.1 PC Website

All currently up to date, no issues.

Gail Hubbard
Parish Clerk

Community Web Site report for November 2024 meeting

Was unable to update community web site from 22 September due to a software conflict and increased security at the host server. A work around was provided by host provider, Simon Wood on 30th October using Virtual Private Network of the Host (Cllrs advised accordingly). Since 30th October intermittent software and security conflicts arose, and Simon was able to resolve those.

He has been thanked for the time and effort he put in to resolving the problem.

Web site was updated 10 November.

Nick Smith

36.2 KCC Councillor Report for Stelling Minnis – Cllr Susan Carey

The new Government's Budget saw some welcome announcements on extra funding for Adult Social Care, children with Special Educational Needs, continued funding the Household Support Fund which helps the most vulnerable and extra money for road maintenance. Less welcome was the increase in the Employers' National Insurance Contributions and the National Living Wage as these will increase costs particularly for the companies and charities we use to deliver Social Care. The final settlement for Local Government will be confirmed in late December and we still expect we will need to make substantial savings to balance the KCC budget for 2025/26.

It was dismaying to see no changes in the Budget to eligibility levels to the Winter Fuel Allowance and KCC has a campaign to try to get more people to apply for Pension Credit so that they can still receive the Winter Fuel Allowance. The changes to Agricultural Property Relief are also alarming in their impact on family farms.

Current consultations include one on the use of pharmacies and another on KCC's Education strategy and you can take part at <https://letstalk.kent.gov.uk/> Matthew Scott, Kent's Police and Crime Commissioner, also has a survey for the public to help shape the new Police and Crime Plan. It takes around 5 minutes on the link below:

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/PoliceandCrimePlan2024/>

There was a paper about the preparations for the much-postponed European Entry Exit System (EES) at last week's meeting of the Full Council at KCC. EES, which replaces passport stamping with a biometric system, was due to be implemented from today but most EU countries (including France) are not yet ready. I spoke in the debate to make the point that our communities face regular disruption to our roads whenever there are problems with cross Channel traffic quite apart from the potential of long delays as

people register for EES. More needs to be done to enable people to register away from the ports and to manage the cross Channel traffic both tourist and freight so it doesn't blight Kent's roads. You can read the paper and see the full debate on the KCC website.

Susan Carey

Member for Elham Valley, Kent County Council

36.3 FHDC Councillor report – Cllr Martin

Free Christmas parking in Folkestone

F&HDC are once again providing free festive parking in Folkestone town centre. Charges in Folkestone & Hythe District Council car parks and on-street pay and display bays are being waived on the three Saturdays leading up to the big day:

- Saturday 7 December
- Saturday 14 December
- Saturday 21 December

The Rural England Prosperity Fund

The Rural England Prosperity Fund is now closed for applications. Of the £350,000 awarded to F&HDC there is only £94,000 left. This has been allocated to projects that have already been applied for.

Otterpool Park

Progress in discussions with Homes England has been very slow because of the Budget. We are hoping there will be some movement with these negotiations now.

Winter Well event

A reminder that F&HDC is facilitating the Winter Well Event again this year. 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.

National NHS review

Following the recent independent review of the NHS, the government has launched a national engagement exercise called '*Change NHS: A health service fit for the future: a national conversation to develop the 10-Year Health Plan*'. They want as much public opinions as possible and have a national website to share your experiences:

<https://change.nhs.uk/en-GB/>

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

District Councillor Report – Jenny Hollingsbee

Gift card Scams - There has been a rise in scams involving people being requested by criminals to purchase gift cards from stores. Gift card scams start with a call, text, email, WhatsApp or social media message. Scammers will say anything to get you to purchase gift cards, like Google Play, Apple, Steam, iTunes, or Amazon cards Never Assume - If you get a message from anyone claiming to be a friend or family member, or someone claiming to be from a reputable organisation such as HMRC, a bank, or the police, and you are asked to purchase any gift cards – STOP! – it will be a scam. Contact your Bank immediately, which you can do by calling 159 and report it to Action Fraud at

www.actionfraud.police.uk or call 0300 123 2040. Sign up to [Home Page - My Community Voice Kent](#) for further information.

Rural England Prosperity Fund – it has just been announced that this fund has been suspended as it is highly likely that the applications still to be assessed will, if granted, utilise the remaining funds.

Home Essential Fund - is a limited scheme to support low income households with energy efficient solutions to help reduce their costs and supply more efficient items to replace broken ones. This includes:

- Boiler servicing to ensure boilers are as efficient as possible.
- Boiler replacement for items that are no longer suitable for use.
- Oil heating servicing and support for residents that use oil for fuelling their home.
- White goods provision. To supply replacement or new energy efficient items to households including cookers, fridges/freezers, washing machines/dryers, microwaves and other items as appropriate.
- Beds and mattresses to homes that do not have suitable bed provision.

For further information [Home Essential Fund | Folkestone & Hythe District Council](#)

My Account – just a reminder to sign-up for My Account on the www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk website. This allows you to report issues, search for information, see planning applications near you etc. It is also a good way to communicate with the District Council.

Otterpool Park – discussions are on-going with Homes England and the waste water treatment plant planning application is imminent. A public consultation has been announced today for 3 December at Sellindge Village Hall from 3 30 – 8 pm. Papers on Otterpool will be considered at the Cabinet Meeting on 11 December 2024 and, as usual, will be webcast.

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

36.4 Tree warden report for September 2024 meeting

No issues reported.

36.5 The Windmill

Cara Cooper and Shelagh Carter both Stelling Minnis Mill and Museum Trustees gave an update on the KCC windmill disposals.

The Trustees had their initial meeting with KCC and the Heritage team last week. All the mills are in a similar position; a lack of expertise and knowledge of how to run a mill, business plans etc, up to now KCC have provided this knowledge. Some of the mills have already given their position that they are not interested in running it themselves.

The Trustees have given KCC a list of questions and queries for them to come back with answers to.

The Heritage's team's role is to ensure that the mills are maintained going forward. At the moment this cannot be ensured if the mills are disposed of, there is quite a lot of work to be done.

Next steps, the heritage officer needs to prepare a report which should go to the council meeting in January 2025.

The Trustees will continue to keep SMPC updated on this.

36.6 The Minnis

The cattle have now gone for this year and the working parties will be going during the winter months.

It was mentioned that the signs that indicated where the cattle were grazing are no longer being put out, it was felt this was a shame as this was useful to be warned of there whereabouts. Clerk to write to secretary of Minnis Manager saying that SMPC believe there should be signage displayed to show where the cattle are grazing and also a contact number would be useful.

Cllr Ann Day

36.7 Highways report for September 2024 meeting

Hedge obstructing 30mph sign in Curtis Lane reported for cutting back as agreed between KCC Highways and Parish Council when the speed limit signs were erected. Still not yet acted on by KCC.

Nick Smith