

STALISFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Stalisfield Parish Council Meeting held in Stalisfield
Village Hall
on 31 March 2022

Present: Cllr Cat Horn (Chair), Cllr Jerry Brown, Cllr Tracy Dove and Cllr Nina Williams; and
Cllr Jerry Brown

Also present were seven members of the public.

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from County Councillor Rich Lehmann (unwell) and Ward Member David Simmons; apologies noted.

2. Declarations of interest

None were declared.

3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16 March 2022

Cllr Horn read the minutes.

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the minutes as a true record, Cllr Horn duly signed the minutes.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Cllr Horn informed Members that Mr Richard Vant has kindly agreed to oversee the design and work of new benches and The Kent Woodland Trust has agreed to donate the oak. The Parish Council will have the design overview.

5. Public Time

The meeting was adjourned for the Public Time

Concern was raised about unsafe hanging trees in the woods. When the wood has been taken out, will they regrade the work site? They said they would make good the footpath. When the end date would be? The hedge which was used for access will need replanting. Cllr Horn said the wood would be extracted in the Summer.

The meeting was reconvened.

6. Planning Matters

i. Ref: 22/500550/FULL

Address: Land West of Church Road Stalisfield Kent ME13 0JG

Proposal: Change of use of grazing/agricultural land to a natural burial ground, including creation of associated access and car park

Councillors considered the application and noted that the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty has objected as the landscape character of this highly sensitive site would be altered and this would contrast detrimentally with the surrounding natural landscape; the surfaced car park and vehicular access track would impact detrimentally on the landscape and visual beauty of the ANOB. The Environment Agency has objected as the site is less than 250m from a bore hole. Concern was raised that the roads are unsuitable for a funeral procession as there are no passing places; the road is steep and it would be inaccessible in winter; it could be a magnet for crime; badgers are known to dig up graves and may be in the

area; as well as funerals there would be visitors especially on anniversaries and special days increasing traffic on unsuitable country lanes; access would be difficult for an emergency vehicle caught up in a funeral cortege due to the unsuitable roads and lack of passing places; the site is completely unsuitable for a natural burial site.

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to object to the proposals.

ii. Ref: 22/500980/FULL

ADDRESS: Hillcrest Hillside Road Stalisfield Faversham Kent ME13 0JF

Proposal: Erection of side porch, alterations to rear pitched roof, Including Alterations To Windows And Doors.

Councillors considered the application and **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to support the proposal.

7. Finance

i. Councillor expenses

There were none.

ii. Invoices - Stalisfield Village Hall: hall hire

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Stalisfield Village Hall Trust for the hall hire £7.50 (cheque no240),

iii. To consider request from Church for a grant

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to give a grant of £370.00 to Stalisfield Church (cheque no 241)

8. Any Other Business

No other matters were raised.

9. Date of next meeting: Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Parish Council Meeting Monday 16 May at 7.30pm

Cllr Horn to contact KCC Highways to speak at the meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting finished at 9.05pm