

STONE-cum-EBONY PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Held on 17th September 2025 at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall

Present:

Parish Cllrs: Cllrs D Lyward (Chair), R. Beckingham, S. Lowrie, R Parrock, M Bacon

Borough Cllr:

KCC Cllr:

Members of Public: 2

Clerk: A Beach

Min No		ACTION
686	Apologies & Reasons for Absence Cllr Chapman	
687	Declaration by Members i. Declaration by Members of any interest, Pecuniary or Other than Pecuniary, in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct. ii. To approve or reject any application put to the meeting by the Chairman in respect of Members' seeking a dispensation under the Localism Act 2011, s.33. iii. Request that Councillors' or any other persons' present declare if they intend to record any of the proceedings using any video or audio recording device or camera. Cllr Parrock declared an interest in planning application PA/2025/1301	
688	Confirm and approve the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd July 2025 The minutes were approved and signed by Cllr Lyward	
689	Public Session The meeting was adjourned to allow the Residents of the village to raise any concerns or put questions to the Parish Councillors. A resident identified some street lights which were no longer working although they have been reported previously, and problems with the security door to the block where he lives. Cllr Lyward will chase Ashford BC regarding the street lights and to Cllr Shilton on the other issue, and update the resident accordingly.	
690	Village Matters <u>Defibrillator in Ebony</u> The quotation from Hopkins for a Solar powered defibrillator has been received for £1,925.80 plus VAT. As per the previous decision if purchased this will be placed at the Memorial Hall and the one there relocated to Ebony. <u>Village Sign</u> Is complete and DL to check it and get it returned and in place	DL/MB

691	Matters Arising Cricket Club Donation – towards the annual insurance and mowing of the field; in 2024 the PC made a donation of £366. Following the discussion at the previous meeting when the PC agreed, in principle, to include the Club’s insurance into the PC’s insurance the CC representative contacted the Clerk and explained that their insurance broker had informed him that the PC would need a working connection to the CC. The Clerk suggested that maybe this could be achieved by a PC member becoming a member of the committee running the club, the representative agreed to discuss this and if acceptable get back to her, to date there has been no further contact. After this conversation the legality of the suggestion was investigated by the Clerk, the answer was: - a parish council can include the cricket club’s property and assets into its insurance if it has a legitimate connection to the council's powers and duties, such as if the council owns the land or the facility is a community asset for which the council has responsibility or an interest in maintaining. The council should have a policy that clearly defines its liability for these assets, and the cricket club's assets may be covered as part of the council's public liability and property insurance, but this depends on the specific policy terms and the nature of the relationship between the council and the cricket club.	
692	Borough Councillor Report. None available	
693	County Councillor Report Cllr Chapman was unable to attend the meeting but his monthly report showed the following points for Stone-cum-Ebony: - Highways Nothing to report Westminster, London I was invited to a meeting at the Houses of Commons with my Reform UK Leader Nigel Farage MP, Deputy Leader Richard Tice MP, Sarah Pochin MP, and Chairman Dr David Bull, alongside the Association of Reform Councillors. It was a pleasure to meet councillors from across the country, hear speeches, and discuss both local and national issues. Memorandum of Understanding was signed at Ebbsfleet, calling for the Office of Rail and Road (ORR) to end Eurostar’s monopoly and allow competing operators to run through the Channel Tunnel. Eurostar has committed to review the position in 2026. The councils’ agreement shows a united commitment to putting Kent back on the international rail map. If you also support the return of international services to Kent, please sign the petition: https://loom.ly/sxkpeDc Local Government Reorganisation & Devolution (LGR&D) The LGR&D process has been initiated by central government, not by KCC. It requires all councils in Kent to review their structures — without any funding from	

	government to support the transition. This will inevitably bring additional costs that are likely to be reflected in future council tax bills. As a member of the KCC LGR&D Committee, I have been part of discussions on the options being put forward. Some councils are exploring their own ideas, while KCC has developed a “Hybrid 1A Model”: a single unitary authority with three local assemblies beneath it. This option maintains the resilience and efficiency of KCC while devolving greater powers to local assemblies. You can read the full KCC report pack here: https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=979&MIId=9845&Ver=4 I can be contacted at: wayne.chapman@kent.gov.uk	
694	Planning The following applications have been received and decided on since the last meeting. PA/2025/1285 High House Farm – Two storey rear extension and changes to fenestration WITHDRAWN BY APPLICANT PA/2025/1301 Coldharbour Farm – Partial change of use and conversion of the first-floor mixed-use building into office accommodation with external staircase Cllr Parrock declared an interest in the application Decision – Object (O-4, Y-0, A-1) PA/2025/1373 Chapel Cottage – Repairs & replacement of roof tiles, hanging tiles, weatherboard & associated weathering membrane to side elevation PA/2025/1410 – Listed building for above Decision – Agreed (Y-4, O-0, A-1) PA/2025/1578 Upper Stone House – Single-storey side extension following the demolition of the garden room PA/2025/1615 Listed building for above Decision – Agreed (Y-3, O-0, A-0) PA/2025/1212 Bramble Cottage – Change of use of land to residential for the siting of a mobile home ancillary to the main dwelling Decision – Object (Y-0, O-3, A-2)	
695	Village Sign Refurbishment The refurbishment is now complete and awaiting collection. Cllr Lyward will arrange collection and the reinstallation.	DL/MB
696	Website Update Cllr Parrock is still working on the change and hopes to complete it shortly.	RP
697	Village Caretaker Update	DL

	The Wittersham Clerk has confirmed that we will be receiving a letter from their Chair regarding the scheme. <i>Post meeting confirmation was received that the scheme would cease in April 2026 and the PC would be responsible to arrange the villages required tasks.</i>																				
698	Payment Authorisation Chq No. 603 - Zurich Insurance £657.51 Chq No. 602 – Kenardington PC, Clerks attendance at conference £28.00 Chq No. 603 - A Beach – July & August Salary £423.76 <u>NALC 2025-26 Salary Increase</u> The annual salary increase has been approved by SLCC, the new rate is back-dated to April 2025. If approved the Clerk’s salary will be increased by £1.84 per week <table border="1"><tr><td>Local Government Services Pay Agreement 2025/26</td></tr></table> <table border="1"><tr><td></td><td colspan="2">01-Apr-24</td><td colspan="2">01-Apr-25</td><td>Scale Ranges</td></tr><tr><td>SCP</td><td>£ per annum</td><td>£ per hour</td><td>£ per annum</td><td>£ per hour</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>11</td><td>£27,269</td><td>£14.13</td><td>£28,142</td><td>£14.59</td><td>LC1 (substantive benchmark range)</td></tr></table> Receipts Deposit Account Interest July-Aug - £9.26	Local Government Services Pay Agreement 2025/26		01-Apr-24		01-Apr-25		Scale Ranges	SCP	£ per annum	£ per hour	£ per annum	£ per hour		11	£27,269	£14.13	£28,142	£14.59	LC1 (substantive benchmark range)	
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699	Finance a. Following the transactions above the current account will have a balance of £11,620.12 and £5,303.90 in the deposit account giving a working capital of £16,924.02 Reconciled to bank statement dated 29th August 2025																				
700	Correspondence <u>Previously emailed</u> KALC – Chief Executive Bulletin – August Newsletter – Training & Weekly Bulletins – Ashford Local Plan KALC – Ashford Branch – Minutes of the meeting on 30th July 2025 NALC																				

	– Chief Executive Bulletins KCC Ashford BC – Details of Green Space application	
701	Date of next meeting Wednesday 19 th November 2025 at 7.30pm	
702	Items for Information The 2026-27 budget will have to be agreed at the November meeting, please let Clerk know of any items you wish included	

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.40pm

2025-26 Meeting Dates

November	Wednesday 19 th November
January	Wednesday 21 st January 2026
March	Wednesday 18 th March 2026