

# Luddesdown Parish Council

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## Minutes of a meeting of Luddesdown Parish Council held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 7:30pm in Luddesdown Village Hall

**Members Present:** Cllr P Crow  
Cllr L Martin  
Cllr M Newnes  
Cllr J Rossouw  
Cllr M Beresford

**In Attendance:** Charles Amis – Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer  
One member of the public

**Item 1: Apologies for Absence: To receive and accept apologies**

**F.C. 42** Cllr Samir Jassal, Cllr Dakota Dibben, Cllr Brian Sweetland

**Item 2: Declarations of Members' Interests: To receive declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests for this meeting**

**F.C. 43** There were no declarations of interest.

**Item 3: To approve minutes of the previous Annual Parish Council meeting held on 07.10.2024 and 18.11.2024**

**F.C. 44** Cllr Martin proposed the minutes for the 07.10.2024 meeting and Cllr Crow seconded. Cllr Beresford proposed the minutes for the 18.11.2024 meeting and Cllr Rossouw seconded.

**Item 4: Highways Improvement Plan**

**F.C. 45** The Clerk had been chasing KCC Highways to carry out repairs to the surface on Lockyers Hill. Cllr Newnes reported the road surface at Lockyers Hill to KCC during the meeting. **Action:** Clerk to call Cllr Bryan Sweetland. KCC had filled the potholes on nearby Wrangling Lane.

**F.C. 46** A consultant had asked to see Luddesdown's Highways Improvement Plan. The consultant was working on behalf of Silverhand. **Action:** Clerk to send a response to the consultant.

**F.C. 47** Network Rail had confirmed that the road over rail bridges at Gold Street and both of the bridges at Batts Road had been designated to carry 40 tonnes.

**F.C. 48** A parish councillor had spoken with an individual who works at Cobham House Vineyard. The public footpath will not be diverted or closed.

**Item 5: Public Session & External Reports**

**5.1 Public Session**

**F.C. 48** Sally Stanier and Pat Luxford attend the Gravesham Rights of Way Committee Meetings on behalf of Luddesdown Parish. Ian Sheridan, the acting Chair at Luddesdown Rights of Way Group does not attend. It was asked if the meetings were more Gravesend focused. The Luddesdown Rights of Way Group look after footpaths in Luddesdown, which are generally in good condition.  
It was asked if LPC could offer any other help to Luddesdown Rights of Way Group. It was asked if a footpath map on a board could be ordered from The Ramblers and KCC but LPC does not own any land for the notice board to be installed. **Action:** It was suggested that the Footpath maps could be added to the parish council website. Clerk to invite Luddesdown Rights of Way to the Annual Parish Assembly.

## **5.2 Borough Councillors and County Councillor**

**F.C. 49** There was no Borough Cllr or County Cllr present. Nothing to report. Cllr Sweetland, Cllr Jassal and Cllr Dibben do not normally attend. It was noted that the GBC councillors had not attended a parish council meeting for some time. **Action:** Clerk to invite Cllr Jassal and Cllr Dibben to the Annual Parish Assembly.

The Parish Chairs Meeting with Cllr John Burden had been positive. The meeting was a useful forum for the Parish Chairs to raise items with GBC. The parish councils were working with GBC on environmental issues. There was also the Gravesham KALC Area Meeting where representatives from the parish councils to discuss issues.

## **5.3 Police and Community Warden**

**F.C. 50** The local beat officers had not attended the parish council meetings for some time.  
A dead foal had been found at the side of Batts Road beside the telecommunications mast.  
KCC had made a Traffic Restriction Order (TRO) for byway NS221 to stop motorised and horse drawn vehicles unless they held a permit. Off road motorcycles were still able to ride around the concrete blocks at the junction of Buckland Road and Cutter Ridge Road and the police need to carry out patrols in the area.  
An ambulance had been seen outside Luxon Farm at 4am recently.

**Action:** Clerk to invite local beat officers to the Annual Parish Meeting.

## **Item 6: Update on Planning Applications:**

**6.1 Oakenden/Land East of Yew Trees** – Nothing to report

**6.2 Greenacres** – Nothing to report

**F.C. 51** **6.3 The Old Rectory Ref: 20241152** – The owner had wanted to demolish an existing outbuilding and install a single-storey front extension in its place. LPC had no objections to this a planning application.

**F.C. 52**      **Red House, Wrangling Lane** – The owner had submitted a planning application (Ref: 20240236) nine months ago which is still pending with GBC Planning Department. The owner had installed a building for their dog without the planning permission. The owner was working until late into the night using heavy machinery and shouting.  
**Action:** Clerk to speak to GBC Planning Department regarding the building for the dog. Clerk to report the noise to GBC Environmental Health Department

**Item 7:**      **Clerk’s Report: To receive a report of items for information from the Clerk**

**7.1      Litter Pick in March –**

**F.C. 53**      A litter pick has been organised for the morning of Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March. People should meet at the Lion PH for 9am. People carry out the litter pick at their own risk. Silverhand have cleared the hedges. **Action:** Cllr Newnes to order a skip from Pin Bins.

**7.2      Meeting regarding the setting up of Kent Downs National Nature Reserve –**

**F.C. 54**      Cllr Dymond had organised a meeting for Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November at Luddesdown Village Hall. Mike Phillips, a consultant, spoke about the setting up of the National Landscape/National Nature Reserve. Cllr Martin and Cllr Beresford had represented LPC at the meeting. The purpose of the National Landscape is to open up the countryside for visitors. Silverhand are involved.

**7.3      Nominations for the KALC Community Award**

A parishioner was put forward for the KALC Community Award.  
**Action:** Clerk to complete the nomination form.

**Item 8:**      **Council Finance**

**8.1      Schedule of Payments: To approve the schedule of payments up to 20.1.25, in accordance with Financial Regulation 5.2**

**F.C. 55**      The following cheques were signed at the meeting by Cllr Newnes and Cllr Rossouw.

HMRC Payment £242  
Clerk’s Salary for October and November £686.40  
Clerk – reimburse for A4 Paper and plastic pockets £6.65  
Royal British Legion – LPC Wreath for Remembrance Sunday £27.50  
Grant to Luddesdown PCC for grass cutting at Luddesdown Churchyard £400  
Grant to Luddesdown PCC for a free Christmas and Easter edition of the Parish Magazine £118

**8.2      Receipts & Payments Report: To note the receipts and payments report up to 20.1.25**

**F.C. 56**      The R&P report was circulated at the meeting. All were in favour.

### **Payments made since the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

<b>Date of payment</b>	<b>Company</b>	<b>Reason</b>	<b>Amount</b>
20/11/2024	Clerk	Reimburse for payment of tax and NICS to HMRC	£242
20/11/2024	Clerk	October and November 2024 Salary	£686.40
20/11/2024	Clerk	Mileage	£12.87
20/11/2024	Clerk	A4 plastic document wallets	£6.65
30/11/2024	Unity Trust Bank	Service Charge	£6
3/12/2024	Royal British Legion	Wreath for Remembrance Sunday	£27.50
6/12/2024	Luddesdown PCC	Grant towards Luddesdown Churchyard maintenance	£400
6/12/2024	Luddesdown PCC	Grant for free copy of the parish magazine at Christmas and Easter	£118
9/12/2024	Hugo Fox	Hosting website	£11.99
31/12/2024	Unity Trust Bank	Service Charge	£6
9/1/2025	Hugo Fox	Hosting website	£11.99

### **Payments to be made at the Meeting**

<b>Date of payment</b>	<b>Company</b>	<b>Reason</b>	<b>Amount</b>
20/1/2025	Clerk	Salary for December 2024 & January 2025	£668.40
20/1/2025	Clerk	Mileage for 20 <sup>th</sup> January	£12.87

Luddesdown Parish Council's direct debit of £25 with the London Green Belt Council has been cancelled. I have asked them to check why this taken place.

#### **8.3 Bank Statement: To receive the bank statement as of 15.07.24**

**F.C. 57** The clerk was unable to login into the Unity Trust due to a problem with the wifi. Prior to the meeting the clerk was able to login into the Unity Rust ban account and the bank balance was £16,046.92.

#### **8.4 We Are Beams Grant**

**F.C. 58** It was agreed that We are Beams need to confirm how many families are being helped in Luddesdown Parish. Action: Clerk to send a grant application form to We Are Beams.

#### **8.5 Laminator**

**F.C. 59** It was suggested that LPC needed a laminator for the meeting confirmations. Cllr Beresford had a laminator. All of the Parish Councillors that up to £50 be spent on a laminator plus the laminator sheets.

**Item 9: Items for Information: To receive reports from all councillors**

**F.C. 60 Action:** Add Cllr Beresford as a signatory to the Unity Trust Bank.

**F.C. 61** All of the Parish Councillors were happy to pay a quarter of the cost of the Clerk's broadband.

**F.C. 62 Action:** Clerk to circulate employment contract

**F.C. 63 Action:** Clerk to circulate the details for the Flood Warden.

***The meeting closed at 9.25pm***