

STONE-cum-EBONY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held on 23rd July 2025 at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall

Present:

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

Borough Cllr:

KCC Cllr:

Members of Public: 2

Clerk: A Beach

Minute No		ACTION
669	Apologies & Reasons for Absence Cllr M Bacon Cllr W Chapman – conflicting meeting	
670	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.	
671	Confirm and approve the minutes of the meeting held on 21st May 2025 The minutes were approved and signed by Cllr Lyward	
672	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 reported that the street-light at the top of the green is still not working, Cllr Lyward asked the Clerk to write to ABC and report the issue and agreed to send her the identification numbers.	
673	Village Matters <u><i>Defibrillator in Ebony</i></u> Awaiting quotation from Hopkins for a Solar powered defibrillator. <i>Post meeting a quotation was received for £1,925.80 plus VAT to be discussed at the next meeting.</i>	DL/MB

674	Matters Arising Cricket Club Donation – towards the annual insurance and mowing of the field; in 2024 the PC made a donation of £366. A representative for the Cricket Club attended to discuss a possible donation and explain the difficulties that they are currently experiencing; two of the costs are: - – As the volunteer who currently mows the lawn has retired a replacement is required at an unknown cost – The insurance continues to increase due to the annual value they have to report to the insurers. Cllr Lyward suggested placing the assets onto the parish council insurance and the PC would be responsible for this cost going forward, fellow Councillors accepted this in principle. The Clerk asked the representative to confirm when policy expires and to send her a copy of the current policy and list of assets included. The Cricket Club representative thanked the PC and confirmed he would send over the details. <i>Post meeting the Clerk spoke to him and he had been advised by his insurance broker that if the PC were to do this, they need a working connection to the cricket club. It was suggested that maybe this could be covered 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.</i> <i>After this conversation the legality of the suggestion was investigated by the Clerk, the answer was: -</i> <i>a parish council can insure cricket club property and assets 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</i>	
675	Borough Councillor Report None received	
676	County Councillor Report Cllr Chapman was unable to attend and sent the following update on highways in the area – Brook Street – Further investigation is underway by the KCC Drainage Team, as there may be underlying drainage issues to resolve before any surface repairs can proceed.	

	– Appledore Road – I’m continuing discussions with KCC Highways to clarify maintenance responsibilities and ensure the road is kept to a safe and appropriate standard. – Cranbrook Road – Surface water issues causing highway erosion are under assessment by the KCC Highways and Drainage Teams. Once complete, a full remedial works plan will be developed. – Tenterden High Street – The repairs at East and West Cross will now be scheduled as overnight works, likely in August/September, to minimise disruption. It was hoped to align these works with the St Michael’s roadworks in July but due to access issues, they will likely now be undertaken separately in August/September, subject to scheduling. – Rolvenden – I’m pleased to report patch and strip repairs have been completed on Benenden Road and Halden Lane. I continue to hold meetings with Highways officers and the Local Highways Improvement Officer. From October, we hope to introduce a dedicated team working across local divisions to repair reported potholes and other potholes they find in the vicinity. We are all hoping this fresh approach will address a lot of old problems over time.	
677	Planning The following applications have been received and decided on since the last meeting. PA/2025/0957 – Coldharbour Farm – Variation of condition 1 (approved plans) to allow for changes to the addition of external stairs to support disabled access, fire safety and tourism demand Decision: Object – 3 objected, 1 agreed, 1 abstained The following applications were decided at this meeting. PA/2025/1156 – Little Odium Farm – Application to discharge Section 106 planning obligation on 03/00559/AS (agricultural occupancy restriction) Decision: – Agreed – 3 agreed, 2 abstained	
678	Village Sign Refurbishment After inspection by Cllr Bacon the sign required extra repairs and it was agreed to send it to Black Forge for these before it can be re-installed.	DL/MB
679	Website Update The hosting and domain will expire in August, the cost for two years hosting and one year’s domain is £370 Following discussion, it was agreed to transfer over to Gov.uk domain and Cllr Parrock agreed to work with HugoFox to set-up a new website	RP

680	Village Caretaker Update The final details have been received regarding the cost from ABC but it is still lower than currently spent Cllr Beckingham asked if the caretaker could be asked to cut the path and hedgerow next to the church.	DL
681	Payment Authorisation Chq No. 600 - A Beach – May & June Salary £342.90 Receipts Deposit Account Interest Apr-June - £20.61	
682	Finance a. Following the transactions above the current account will have a balance of £12,359.19 and £5,294.64 in the deposit account giving a working capital of £17,653.83 Reconciled to bank statement dated 30 th June 2025	
683	Correspondence <u>Previously emailed</u> KALC – Chief Executive Bulletin – June Newsletter – Training & Weekly Bulletins KALC – Ashford Branch – Minutes of the meeting held on 28th May 2025 NALC – Chief Executive Bulletins Kent Police – Ashford BC – Agenda for the Planning Meeting on 18th June 2025 – Details of Consultation of The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Park – Community Energy event at The Ashford Cinema on Thursday 12th June 10.30am-3.00pm	
684	Date of next meeting Wednesday 17 th September 2025 at 7.30pm	
685	Items for Information	

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