



## ACOL PARISH COUNCIL

The Village Hall  
The Street  
Acol  
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### **Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at 7.45pm, Acol Village Hall**

**Present:** Parish Councillors Richard Steel – Chairman [RS], Sarah Corby [SC], Gavin Winpenny [GW], Wendy Winpenny [WW]

**In Attendance:** Sara Archer – Clerk, KCC Cllr Luke Evans, District Cllr Peter Evans, Community Warden Gary Groombridge plus 2 members of the public.

#### **01/26-27 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

Cllr Richard Steel was nominated to be elected as Chairman for the forthcoming year, this was proposed by Cllr Gavin Winpenny and seconded by Cllr Wendy Winpenny, all were in favour.

#### **02/26-27 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies had been received from District Cllr Abi Smith and PC Owen Crush.

#### **03/26-27 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Corby declared an interest in item 12(a), repayment of expenses.

#### **04/26-27 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

**RESOLVED:** To approve the minutes of the last Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2025 and the last meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2026.

These were proposed by Cllr Corby, seconded by Cllr W Winpenny, all were in agreement and therefore signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

#### **05/26-27 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman had provided a detailed report during the Annual Parish Meeting, there were no additional matters to report.

#### **06/26-27 CLERK'S REPORT**

The Clerk advised of the following:

- Reported missed dog waste bins at Recreation Ground
- Handyman – completed the works to the roundabout and quoted for the gate
- Pride in Place funding – opportunity to bid for grant funding. Projects to be considered
- .gov.uk email address – Hugofox to be instructed
- Attended first AI training – only 2 people in attendance, very useful
- Request for CCTV images, however, dates overwritten
- Parish Charter – Penny Button co-ordinating
- KALC – half price training provided by themselves, not third parties
- Enquiries had been made with the Clerk from Birchington with regard to progressing the Neighbourhood Plan.
- Drainage enquiries with Cllr Evans, to liaise with Lezanne Cesar regarding potential training
- The year end accounts and budget review had been completed.
- Policies and procedures had been updated and circulated accordingly.
- Insurance renewal received, £389.31

**RESOLVED to approve the renewal with Zurich 2026/27. Proposed Cllr Corby, Seconded Cllr Winpenny**

#### **07/26-27 COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS**

**Cllr Gavin Winpenny** had attended the recent TAC meeting which had focussed on the Local Government Review and welcomed a presentation on the topic from Colin Carmichael TDC CEO.

The TDC Parking Strategy consultation was also discussed.

Cllr Winpenny gave an over view of the proposed North Thanet Link Road, following a presentation by James Wraight, KCC. Details and plans of the scheme would be made available on the Parish Council website as soon as they are to hand.

A letter of support for the scheme would be welcomed by KCC. This was agreed for the Chairman to send on behalf of the Parish Council.

**Cllr Wendy Winpenny** confirmed she would be completing the play area inspection, and volunteered to liaise with Quex regarding the footpath, following the resignation of Kate. She would also maintain the planters. The damaged fencing around the rear of the play area was noted to be repaired/replaced.

**Cllr Sarah Corby** advised residents of the date for the next bites and banter afternoon – 30<sup>th</sup> May, 3pm in the Village Hall.

On behalf of Kate, Cllr Corby advised that Quex Farms had ensured the footpath had been levelled to make it safer for pedestrians. Grateful thanks were expressed to Kate for her generous donation of mulch for the village planters, and to the residents who had worked hard to trim the overhanging branches at Nursery Fields.

## **08/26-27 INDIVIDUAL OFFICER REPORTS**

a) **County Councillor Luke Evans** confirmed the carriageway repairs on the Thanet Way are due to be completed during June/July.

KCC's pollinator friendly initiative – Plan Bee, encouraged 'no mow May' and were exploring areas and verges to plant with pollinator friendly wildflowers.

A Veteran's dinner had been arranged by the Veterans Association, on 22<sup>nd</sup> April. Details of any Veteran who may wish to attend should contact Cllr Evans who would make the necessary arrangements.

Cllr Evans advised that the migrant emergency motion had used factual Government data and was considered to be Kent based emergency.

b) **District Councillor Peter Evans** advised of the following:

- Walpole Bay tidal pool remained closed due to unexpected repairs
- TDC's food waste initiative was being rolled out to a further 21,000 properties in the district.
- The City of Culture bid had been unsuccessful, however, a bid to make Margate a Town of Culture in 2028 was being submitted.
- The teenage market held at the Turner Centre had been well supported.
- The actor Toby Jones, had been subject of the BBC's Who Do You Think You Are? Which had been largely filmed in Margate and at the Theatre Royal.
- The Pride in Place funding was supporting a cultural event – Bring It To Life.
- A seminar on Landlord's Rights was being held on 1<sup>st</sup> May.

**District Councillor Abi Smith** offered her apologies, however, she circulated the following report in her absence:  
**Simpler Recycling**

From **yesterday** onwards, approximately 27,000 Thanet households not already receiving them will begin to receive the new weekly food waste collections. You can look up whether changes will apply to your postcode on the [TDC website](#).

If the change affects you, your collection schedule will look like this:

- A weekly food waste collection
- General waste collected every two weeks
- Paper, cardboard, glass, tins and plastic collected together, every two weeks. This is called mixed recycling.

## **UK Town of Culture Bid**

Sadly, Thanet was not successful in reaching the City of Culture shortlist, but Margate now hopes to become the first-ever **UK Town of Culture** in 2028. With a potential £3 million investment at stake, support at a recent stakeholder meeting was very positive.

## **Cliftonville division by-election**

Including Cliftonville East and West

After the holder lost this KCC seat for legal reasons, a hotly-contested campaign saw it won convincingly by former Mayor of Margate, Cllr Rob Yates, who also continues to hold a seat on Thanet District Council.

While I am abroad for family reasons, I continue to support the campaign to save the important habitats on Minster Marshes from development by National Grid, and also to represent Thanet Villages residents with planning applications and other issues. I am contactable by email at [cllr-abi.smith@thanet.gov.uk](mailto:cllr-abi.smith@thanet.gov.uk).

c) **PC Owen Crush** was unable to attend the meeting, however, he submitted the following report which had been circulated to members:

### Thanet Villages

Total crime reports: 102 reports (30 marked as non-crime)  
6 positive outcomes. (2 charges, 4 community resolutions)

### Acol

3 calls (one pocket dial accident!)

In addition to the above statistics, here is a selection of the work I have been carrying out over the past month:

1. Static road checks on Monkton St, Monkton by the school and nursery, and enforcement of the 'no stopping' zone.
2. I have arrested a male whilst on the beat, as he was wanted for failing to surrender on bail to police custody.
3. Checks on multiple suspicious vehicles raised to me by concerned residents across all villages, with tax, insurance, MOT and other queries resolved
4. I have arrested a male who was reported to be drink driving. He was caught and arrested for various traffic offences, and was remanded into police custody to present him straight to court. At court, he was given a 36 month disqualification from driving, given a fine, and ordered to carry out 120 hours of unpaid work.
5. I have been conducting rural patrols in response to recent poaching calls. As part of these patrols, a quantity of NOS canisters and rubbish were located which I have cleared up and will pay continuing attention to this location.
6. An on the beat arrest was made of a male wanted for failing to appear at court in relation to an assault.
7. Proactive patrolling in Minster led to the seizure of drugs from a person.
8. Attendance was swiftly made by officers at a reported burglary which happily turned out to be a false alarm with good intent.
9. I have had Community Protection Warning authorised for an individual who has been causing issues in Minster. This Warning has conditions to both support the individual and prevent further antisocial behaviour in the area.
10. I was notified of an ongoing domestic incident while on patrol in Minster, and thanks to help from a passer-by I was able to locate and arrest a male on suspicion of a variety of offences. This male was remanded to court and the victim safeguarded.
11. I have been liaising with PCSO colleagues to organise future Speedwatch and traffic enforcement across Cliffsend, Pegwell and Thanet Villages.
12. I have arrested two males on suspicion of shoplifting on consecutive days whilst on the beat in the Isle, both of whom were found with the suspected stolen goods still on their person (see below image). These offences remain under investigation.
13. My colleagues and I have responded to two high risk missing persons reported in my wards, with both thankfully found safe and well.
14. Patrols have continued to be undertaken in hotspot areas raised by councillors for ASB, and I've been engaging with residents around a variety of issues from nuisance parking to incidents of damage.
15. I attended an address of interest with colleagues and identified several stolen motorbikes within the property that had been stolen from Cliffsend and other locations in Thanet. A male was taken into custody on suspicion of theft offences and enquiries remain ongoing. I am aware of a reported increase of nuisance motorbikes particularly within Cliffsend and will continue to take action to combat criminal use of these vehicles.

d) **Community Warden Gary Groombridge** reported as follows:

- Continue to do a visual presence around the Village.
- Flytipping at Margate Hill reported.
- Margate Hill surface to be assessed by the Highways team for repairs.
- Doorstop Scammers warning circulated to ring to the attention of residents.
- Involved with incidents concerning youths targeting birds with catapults in Minster.
- Leaflet drop to be carried out in the village to promote Gary's contact details. Referrals for positive wellbeing welcomed.

#### **09/26-27 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW**

As discussed previously under item 7.

#### **10/26-27 HIGHWAYS**

- a) Speedwatch/Lorry Watch Scheme
- b) Street Cleansing, litter, fly-tipping
- c) Highways Improvement Plan

All of the above had been touched on previously during the meeting. However, it was discussed and confirmed that the Lorry Watch Scheme would be formally adopted with community support and led by a local resident. Infringement data would continue to be collected via the CCTV and haulage companies would be contacted direct and advised to take any necessary action.

**RESOLVED: To adopt the KCC Lorry Watch Scheme. Proposed: Cllr Steel, Seconded: Cllr Corby**

#### **11/26-27 PLANNING**

Ref: KCC/TH/0050/2026 – Land at Manston Road, Margate

The application was considered and no objections raised. Concern regarding the increase in lorry movements was noted.

## 12/26-27 FINANCE

a) The Clerk presented the monthly payment schedule which included the following payments:

S. Corby - Repayment Coffee Morning sundries	£72.22
Hugofox - Website hosting fee	£11.99
lonos - Email hosting fee	£7.20
Unity Trust - Service fee	£6.00
S. Archer - Clerk's salary & expenses	
Acol Village Hall - Internet IP address	£58.36
Hugofox - Website hosting fee	£11.99
lonos - Email hosting fee	£7.20
HMRC - Employee PAYE	
S. Archer - Clerk's salary & expenses	
Unity Trust - Service fee	£7.00

### Receipts:

AVHC - Repayment for grounds lease	£200.00
PCC - Payment for Speedgun	£245.00

**RESOLVED: To approve payment of invoices included in the monthly payment schedule for April. (Proposed: Cllr Steel, Seconded: Cllr G Winpenny).**

b) The Clerk presented the monthly bank reconciliation between the cash book and bank accounts.

**RESOLVED: To approve the monthly bank reconciliation for February & March (Proposed: Cllr Steel, seconded Cllr G Winpenny).**

c) The Clerk presented the annual accounts which had been previously circulated and gave a brief explanation of the significant variances noted following the audit. The Internal Auditors report was also duly acknowledged. No issues of concern were raised, and the relevant Certificate of Exemption and Sections 1 & 2 of the AGAR were signed by the Chairman and Clerk accordingly.

**RESOLVED: To approve the annual accounts for 2025-26 and Certificate of Exemption to be submitted to Mazars. This was proposed by Cllr W Winpenny and seconded by Cllr Corby.**

d) The Clerk advised the most suitable provider for a .gov.uk email address was Hugofox. Arrangements would be made to implement this as soon as possible.

**RESOLVED: To approve the purchase of a .gov.uk email address for the Clerk provided by Hugofox. This was proposed by Cllr Steel and seconded by Cllr W Winpenny.**

e) Cllr Steel gave a brief explanation of the Grant Scheme initiative from Action in Communities for Rural England, to support and strengthen village halls across Kent and Medway.

It was agreed to support the Village Hall with any appropriate bids for funding and to share details of the initiative.

## 13/26-27 POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

The following policies and procedures were previously circulated to members for review and approval:

Code of Conduct, Financial Regulations, Internal Control Statement, Risk Management Statement, Standing Orders, Publication Scheme.

The IT policy was a requirement of Assertion 10 and had been developed using the NALC template.

No comments were made, therefore it was agreed to approve for 2025/26.

**This was proposed by Cllr Steel and seconded by Cllr W Winpenny.**

## 14/26-27 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No further comments raised.

## 12/26-27 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2026, 7:30pm, Acol Village Hall

The meeting was closed by the chairman at 21:03hrs