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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Held on Wednesday 15th July 2026 at 7.00pm at Cliffsend Village Hall

Present:
Cllr Paul Chapman (Chair)
Cllr John Davis
Cllr Brenda Rogers
Cllr Grahame Birchall
Cllr Natasha Pooley
Cllr Terry Mole (KCC)
8 members of the public

Apologies for Absence:
Cllr Beryl Harrison, Cllr David McIntyre, PC Crush

Declarations of Interest:
There were no declarations of Interest
Cllr John Davis appointed as Interim Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer

Adoption of Minutes of 20th May 2026
The Minutes were adopted as a true and accurate record. Proposer, Cllr Davis, Seconder, Cllr Rogers, approved unanimously by the Meeting.

Matters Arising:
No longer employing the former clerk, advertisement for replacement underway.
Question relating to the last payment made to the Information Commissioner. Cllr Chapman confirmed no previous record had been kept but the Council is now compliant.
Cllr Chapman referenced the outstanding bin replacement at Chapman Meadow.

Councillor Reports:
Cllr Terry Mole, KCC, referenced ongoing concerns regarding speeding issues which they are working to address. Ongoing highway repairs. There was discussion about establishing a speed watch initiative and an appeal for volunteers from the community. It was agreed that six volunteers would be required.

Thanet District Council Report:
Cllr Brenda Rogers confirmed she continues to complain about delayed and missing bin collections, including addressing it with the relevant Cabinet Member. Cllr Davis asked the Meeting if anyone had had difficulty reporting any problems and it was confirmed that residents found it almost impossible, including by telephone.

Current Topics:
Communications. CPC Notice Boards have been refurbished. It was also reported that the social media presence was growing in reach and content.
Meadow & Open Spaces. Work continues to replace the gate at the entrance to the Meadow along with the programme to replace the picnic benches for public use. The Meadow continues

to be mown on a monthly basis, which has received excellent feedback from residents. The borders are being left untrimmed in order to encourage insects and better biodiversity.
Storage of Council Assets. A storage container is being planned in unused space in the village hall car park, in consultation with Village Hall Committee.
Local Government Reorganisation and TDC & KCC Assets and Services in Cliffsend. Cllr Birchall updated the Meeting regarding LGR and confirmed ongoing frustrations with lack of information, but advised that he was confident this would improve, as the format of the East Kent Unitary becomes clear. Cllr Birchall confirmed that he is still working to meet with National Grid regarding mitigation should the Sealink project proceed. Council confirmed that it completely objects to the location of this project in Cliffsend & Minster.

Financial Matters:
Cllrs voted unanimously to approve the Q1 Budget Monitoring Report and expenditure against bank statement, proposed by Cllr Rogers, seconded by Cllr Davis.
It was noted that the internal audit report and Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR) had been unanimously agreed by Cllrs at CPC meeting on 26/6/26. Documents had been sent to the external auditor and AGAR published, as required.

Review of Council Procedures:
Thanks were noted to Cllr McIntyre for his continuing work to establish appropriate Council protocols and procedures as part of the ongoing review programme.

Planning Applications:
No objections or observations were made regarding any outstanding applications.

Correspondence Received:
Recognition was given to a resident who has established a volunteer initiative led by himself to tidy and improve the communal areas of the village, repairing planters and generally improving the environment.
Request was received from a resident to support breast cancer charity fundraiser, to be held in the village hall. The Council unanimously approved a donation of £250.00, proposed by Cllr Rogers, seconded by Cllr Birchall.
A communication was received regarding hedge cutting and hedgehog welfare. Cllr Pooley responded by explaining the cutting schedule for The Meadow and how Cliffsend and its residents were helping to provide a safe environment for the indigenous hedgehog population including work to support the hedgehog hospital at Herne Bay.
Correspondence was received inquiring as to whether the previous Clerk was still employed. Chair confirmed she is no longer employed.
Cllr Chapman received a number of emails regarding access to Thanet Parkway Station from South side of the line. Cllr Davis to continue liaising with residents to attempt to achieve a mutually agreeable solution.

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 7.55pm

Note: the meeting was recorded and minutes produced by Avril Towning and Cllr John Davis.