

STALISFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Stalisfield Village Hall on 17 July 2025

Present: Cllr Cat Horn (Chair), Cllr Jerry Brown and Cllr Nina Williams; and Mrs Wendy Licence (Clerk)

Cllr Horn welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Cllr Chris Norwood (at another meeting) and Cllr Richard Vant (harvest); apologies accepted.

2. Declarations of interest

None were declared.

3. Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting Held on 15 May 2025

Cllr Horn read the minutes. It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the minutes as a true record, Cllr Horn duly signed the minutes.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

All matters on the agenda.

5. Public Time

No members of the public were present.

6. Planning Matters

i. Ref: 25/502385/LAWPRO

Address: The Lodge Derbies Court Stalisfield Road Stalisfield Kent ME13 0HN

Lawful Development Certificate for proposed use of ancillary caravan as accommodation for a family member

Councillors considered the application and had no comment to make.

ii. Ref: 25/502804/PN15B

Address: The Plough Stalisfield Road Stalisfield Kent ME13 0HY

Proposal: Installation of electricity substation.

Councillors considered the application and had no comment to make.

iii. Any planning matter received by 17 July 2025

24/500882/FULL Land At Otterden Wood Stalisfield Road Stalisfield Kent ME13 0HW

Proposed ESN telecommunications installation, comprising of erection of a 30m high Swann 5SH Lattice tower, generator, and 3no. cabinets, with ancillary development, associated site works and access.

Awaiting decision.

7. Finance

i. Councillor expenses

There were none

ii. Invoices

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Stalisfield Village Hall £7.50 for hall hire (cheque no 193).

8. Any Other Business

Cllr Horn reported that the Government is encouraging all Local Authorities, with tiers, to become Unitary Authorities. This would mean that Swale Borough Council would cease to exist and the boundaries redrawn for three or four Unitary Authorities in Kent. Adult and Children's Social care would be carried out more locally and this would be a positive outcome. The proposal would mean that one more layer of democracy would be removed from residents, meaning that people would have less access to local representation. It might be beneficial for Parish Councils to link up with other Parish Councils and have a Memo of Understanding. The proposal for Kent Unitary Authorities, showing how the boundaries will be drawn up, has to be submitted by November. The general consensus is that Kent would be divided into four new authorities. The Reform UK administration at County Hall applied for the deadline to be postponed but this was declined.

There had been a request for a donation towards an East Downs food bank hub, this will be on the next agenda.

9. Date of next meeting – Thursday 23 October.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.37pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chair

Date: 23 October 2025