

**STELLING MINNIS PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 9 MARCH 2022 HELD AT 7.30PM IN STELLING
MINNIS VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Parish Cllr Robert Hubble (Chairman)
Parish Cllr John Haffenden (Vice Chairman)
Parish Cllr Nick Smith
Parish Cllr Ann Day
Parish Cllr Laszlo Dudas
Parish Cllr Garry Watts
Parish Cllr Pam Carr

Lee Jones, Internal Auditor
Gail Hubbard, Clerk to the Council
There were 13 members of the public present.

Prior to the formal meeting itself The Chairman welcomed Simon Spratley and Igor Kovalenko to speak on the local efforts to provide aid to those fleeing the war in Ukraine.

Simon is ex-military and is planning a trip to Hungary in four mini buses to take supplies and return home with refugees with homes lined up. Sponsors are currently being sought for these refugees; to provide housing/cloth and feed them. He is looking to raise funds to pay for the vehicles and fuel costs. They are also short of drivers (D1 Licence needed)

Operation Dunkirk Ukraine – Simons Facebook Page
<https://www.facebook.com/opdunkerkukraine>

Igor has been living in Stelling Minnis/Bossingham since 2006 and has many family members and friends still in Ukraine. They are under continuous bombardment from Russia. Sub-zero temperatures being endured in makeshift accommodations.

Igor is working with the Kent Association of Head Teachers alongside the Head of Elham Primary School and Bigjigs Toys in Folkestone. One 40ft lorry has already departed and more are being prepared. There are over 100 volunteers in the group that are operating out of West Park Farm Industrial Estate. Local GP's and pharmacies have been very generous with medical supplies.

In Poland supplies are running low in supermarkets as so many refugees are now there.

Ashford Canterbury help for Ukraine – Igors Facebook Page
<https://www.facebook.com/helpukraine-canterbury>

The Chairman thanked both Simon and Igor for coming along this evening and explaining what we can do to help.
All members of the public departed at 8pm.

The Chairman then moved onto the formal section of the meeting and read out the statement on filming and recording during the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES, DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

- 1.1 Apologies for absence received and confirmed by the Council Members who cannot attend a meeting. These shall be tendered to the Parish Clerk prior to the meeting, under Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, the members present must decide whether the reason(s) for a member's absence shall be

accepted. Apologies received and accepted from District Cllr Jenny Hollingsbee (unwell) and County and District Cllr Susan Carey (attending another event).

- 1.2 Declaration of changes to the Register of Interests. There were none
- 1.3 To receive Declarations of Interest in respect of matters contained in this agenda. In accordance with the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 in respect of members and in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 in respect of officers. There were none.
- 1.4 Requests for Dispensations. There were none.
- 1.5 Declarations of Lobbying. There were none.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 12 JANUARY 2022

The minutes from the previous meeting had been circulated and read, it was proposed by Cllr Haffenden, seconded by Cllr Smith and AGREED by all that the minutes be accepted. The minutes were duly signed by the Chairman of the meeting.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Grit bin – Cllr Haffenden to contact Charlie Gooch to double check permission and then the bin can be installed and filled with grit. Cllr Haffenden and Cllr Watts to co-ordinate.

4. ADJOURNMENT

There was none.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

The following items of correspondence had been circulated to the Cllrs;

- FHDC – Core Strategy Review Inspectors Report. Circulated to Cllrs.
- Footpath Warden Upper Hardres – Green Lanes & Split Lane extension. The split Lane extension seems to be an issue with horses rather than pedestrians. The landowner is preventing horses using it as it is not a registered bridleway.
- FHDC – New plans for controlling dogs in open spaces. PSPO consultation.

6. PLANNING

6.1 Discussed planning applications received for consideration since the last meeting

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| 22/0284/FH | Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of replacement dwelling. Abbotswood, Fishers Lane, Stelling Minnis CT4 6BJ | Response due by 1 April. |
| 22/0330/FH | Erection of two storey front extension and single storey rear extension. Loft conversion with rear dormer. Change of windows and front door. Exterior walls to be rendered or light grey hardy plank. Roof tiles changed to slate. Landscaping to front of property to increase parking spaces. Homestead, Bossingham road, Stelling Minnis CT4 6AG | Response by 24 March |
| 22.0057/FH | Alterations to existing dwelling and new purpose built annexe following demolition of existing outbuilding. Cherry Garden Lodge, Bossingham Lane, Stelling Minnis CT4 6BB | No objection on the proviso the annexe cannot become a separate dwelling. 4:0 |

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| 22/0168/FH & 22/0117/FH | Listed building consent & Full consent to replace windows Old Mill House, Mill Lane, Stelling Minnis CT4 6AF | No objection submitted to FHDC 5:0 |
| 22/0122/FH | Extension to street facing elevation, alteration to main entrance and external façade. Boot House, Minnis Lane, Stelling Minnis CT4 6AS | No objection submitted to FHDC 7:0 |

Rose Lane Development

Cllr Watts, on behalf of Crown Lane residents and resident Mr Franklin had raised concerns over the boundary planting and buffer zones around the Rose Lane development. In particular the large gap that has appeared at the side of the electricity/telephone pole to allow foot access between Rose Lane and Crown Lane. Also the width of the buffer zones appears somewhat narrower than the S106 Agreement states it should be. Cllr Dudas explained there is a S106 Agreement in place for a 2m buffer zone on the Southern and Western boundaries and there was a verbal agreement for the northern boundary. Cllr Watts explained the Crown Lane residents are fearful of the hedge deteriorating and there being no buffer left (this buffer also provides screening from the lights of the new estate).

Hedging will need to be supplemented in places, especially where the gap by the telegraph pole is. There has also been an issue with one of the new residents cutting back the hedge completely at the bottom of the garden. The purchasers need to know they cannot cut the hedges down and going forward the policing will need to be done by the management company (which each household will have one share of) or by FHDC as the planning authority.

6.2 NOTED decisions by the planning authority since the last meeting

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| 21/2349/FH/PIP | Request for permission in principle for the erection of a modest residential dwelling Land opposite Ducks Hill, Sandy Lane, Stelling Minnis | REFUSED 4/2/22 |
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7. VILLAGE MATTERS

QUEENS PLATINUM JUBILEE COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE

Cllr Dudas has been seeking quotations from local stonemasons to produce the plaque. The first quotation has come in at £670 plus VAT fitted. This would be for a 460mm x 300mm approx. polished slate with the official emblem and lettering as per our design engraved using sandblasting. This will be mounted on the village hall exterior.

Cllr Hubble explained that the funding should be available to cover the costs of this project, as follows;

£500 MADL grant received from Stelling Minnis Stores via the Coop scheme
£100 of this to be spent completing the landscaping around the flagpole
£400 to go towards the plaque

We are hoping to obtain a further £1000 grant from Stelling Minnis Stores as a Heart of The Community Award
£400 to be used to finish the plaque
£600 to go towards The Big Sunday Lunch celebrations

For the grand unveiling, Cllr Hubble felt it would be appropriate to ask Sijia from Stelling Minnis Stores. Cllr Watts also suggested Cllr Day for this role.

QUEENS PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

5 June 2022

Cllr Hubble, Cllr Dudas and Cllr Day had all attended a meeting yesterday on the organising of this event. Nicki Gordon is leading the committee to arrange this joint event with Bossingham. Each household will receive an invite.

The majority of the events will take place at Bossingham Village Hall, with the Flagpole dedication, plaque unveiling and tree planting taking place in Stelling Minnis.

Times to be confirmed

10:30 Tree planting

12:00 Flagpole dedication and plaque unveiling ceremony – Stelling Minnis Village Hall

13:00 Onwards – Big Sunday Lunch

This will be advertised in the May newsletter with further details about the days activities.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING ARRANGEMENTS

This will be held in the main hall on 18th May with a 7.30pm start.

Chairman's report

Presentation of the accounts

District and County Cllrs

Reports from local groups

Refreshments after the main reports

Clerk to invite reports from local groups in coordination with Cllr Smith.

8. REPORTS

Refer to Appendix A at end of minutes for the full reports where available.

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| 8.1 | SMPC Website/Facebook report | Clerk |
| 8.2 | Community website report | Cllr Smith |
| 8.3 | KCC Report | Cllr Carey – as circulated |
| 8.4 | FHDC Report | Cllrs Carey/Hollingsbee – as circulated |
| 8.5 | Stelling Minnis Tree Warden | Cllr Smith |
| 8.6 | Stelling Minnis Hall | Lee Jones |

Lee Jones reported that Ivor Champion was standing down as treasurer.

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| 8.7 | Windmill | Cllr Dudas |
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Cllr Dudas confirmed that the Windmill will be open on 5th June.

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| 8.8 | Minnis | Cllr Haffenden |
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Cllr Haffenden reported that another working party might be needed after the high winds to remove stumps and fallen trees.

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| 8.9 | KALC | Cllr Dudas |
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Updates as circulated via email to Cllrs.

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| 8.10 | FHDC Joint Committee | Cllr Dudas |
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Minutes as circulated to Cllrs via email.

9. FINANCE

9.1 To AGREE a new payroll provider from 1st April 2022

The clerk has previously circulated a report on the three options for the new financial year. It was proposed by Cllr Haffenden and seconded by Cllr Smith, thus AGREED that we appoint Dynamix Accounting as payroll provider from 1st April.

9.2 NOTED receipts of income

| | | |
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| MADL grant for completion of flagpole and plaque project | | 500.00 |
| TOTALS | | £500.00 |

9.2 AUTHORISED payments

| | | |
|---------------|---|----------------|
| CHQ363 | The Hardres and Stelling News – Clerks subscription renewal | 17.00 |
| CHQ364 | Gail Hubbard – clerks salary Jan & Feb | 506.60 |
| CHQ365 | Gail Hubbard – clerks reimbursement of expenses Jan & Feb (printer ink & postage) | 31.58 |
| CHQ366 | NA Smith – reimbursement for printing for noticeboard | 4.93 |
| TOTALS | | £560.11 |

The above payments were proposed by Cllr Haffenden, seconded by Cllr Day and AGREED so the payments are to be authorised.

9.3 RECEIVED the bank reconciliation to 2ND March 2022.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm.

Dates of future meetings: 11 May Statutory Annual, 18 May APM, 13 July, 14 September, 9 November

Signed..... (Chairman)

Date.....

APPENDIX A

SMPC Reports 9 MARCH 2022

SMPC Website

Updated as and when necessary. Agenda and Minutes always displayed. Now using Newsfeed for anything deemed suitable to distribute this way.

Gail Hubbard
Parish Clerk

Facebook

Stelling Minnis Parish Council page created on 1st February, with Stelling Minnis Parish Clerk as the profile.

- Post pinned to top encouraging people to contact Clerk direct with queries
- Information posted so far on Library van, Storm advice, NHS volunteers.
- Site has been updated allowed us to only allow comments from profiles and pages we mention (so we seem to have a good control)
- We have joined the Stelling Minnis Windmill Group and the Stelling Minnis, Bossingham and Environs Group.
- Currently there are 4 people following our page and 2 people have liked.
- Could still do with some more photos of the village that we have permission to use on Facebook (ie taken by Cllrs or family)

Gail Hubbard
Parish Clerk

Stelling Minnis Community website report for 9 March 2022 PC meeting

Individual page maintenance and requested revisions made as required.
No problems with the site observed or reported.

Nick Smith – Webmaster for the community site.
1 March 2022

Report on KCC matters to Stelling Minnis Parish Council

Following the invasion of Ukraine, KCC has reviewed our suppliers to make sure we have no contracts with Russian companies and be indirectly funding President Putin's regime and its aggressive policies. Our energy subsidiary LASER has suspended Gazprom from our existing fixed price gas framework and no further business will be done with this company. Our Pension Fund has 0.3% of its investments in Russian assets and our Fund Managers are seeking to reduce this. We are also looking ahead to our responsibilities under the Civil Contingencies Act should the situation worsen. (Please see the District Council report for how individuals can send help to Ukraine).

We held our budget meeting on 10 February and after a full day's debate agreed a 3% rise in our share of council tax (2% for normal services and an extra 1% ring-fenced for social care). To balance the budget we also needed to agree a number of savings such as reducing the subsidy for the Kent Travel Saver and withdrawing subsidies for a number of bus services. One of the affected bus services serves our area – the Kent Karrier service where the subsidy per journey is £40.06 (£184,964 a year). There is a public consultation on the proposal and you can read more and respond by [20 April](#) at letstalk.kent.gov.uk (Hard copies of the consultation and alternative formats are also available.) We do not expect our financial situation to improve. On the contrary, we expect high inflation as a result of the invasion of Ukraine, sanctions and disruption to oil and gas supplies, Much of our budget is vulnerable to this risk.

Around 4,000 households have expressed an interest in our Solar Together scheme which uses collective buying power to get a good price for solar panels/battery storage. It's free to register your interest and a quote is without obligation <https://solartogether.co.uk/kent/home> With energy costs on the way up and energy security also a real issue it's a timely offer. Householders, community buildings and small businesses in Kent are all eligible to apply. The deadline is [15 March](#).

Our transport arrangements for children with Special Education Needs have had significant problems. Work is still under way to put this right and there will be a full investigation. The problem has already been to our KCC Cabinet (03 March) and it is also on the agenda for the KCC Scrutiny Committee tomorrow ([09 March](#)). The reports for these meetings are on the KCC website and the meetings themselves are available as webcasts.

Susan Carey
Member for Elham Valley, Kent County Council
District Councillor, North Downs West, Folkestone & Hythe District Council

District Councillors' Report March 2022

Budget – An increase in Council Tax of 1.96% (equivalent to less than 15p a day for an average Band D property) was agreed for 2022/23 on 23 February. The portion of the District Council tax equates to about 13% of the total bill. This increase will ensure the council continues to deliver services without any cuts. Guidance relating to the government's council tax rebate scheme has been received. Payments can only be automatically made where the council holds bank details - i.e. those who pay by Direct Debit currently. Once a solution has been finalised for refunding those whose banks details are not held by the Council then residents will be informed - there is no need to make contact with the council.

triWaste Collection – a gentle reminder that if bins are damaged on collection day by Veolia, this needs to be reported immediately.

More than 100 council managed homes in the Folkestone and Hythe district will benefit from increased energy efficiency, thanks to a £2 million government grant. The successful award is the result of a bid made by Folkestone and Hythe District Council under Wave 1 of The Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF). Tenants will be individually contacted and a time arranged for the work to be carried out over the next 12 months, with the funding being used for homes with the most urgent need. With an aim to create green job opportunities in the district, F&HDC will be looking to use local contractors for the insulation work where possible.

Support for Ukraine Folkestone & Hythe District Council has pledged to support local organisations trying to help those caught up in the conflict in Ukraine.

Please see the following information

Lyminge centre of Age UK Hythe & Lyminge - 63 Station Road, Lyminge, CT18 8HQ Monday to Friday between 10am and 2pm is a collection point for North Downs West, although the Hythe and New Romney Community Hubs are also operating as collection centres.

Bigjigs Toys, Unit B, Kingsmead, Folkestone, CT19 5EU, is providing space at its warehouse for donations to be made, sorted and loaded onto lorries bound for Eastern Europe. The warehouse is open Monday to Saturday from 9am to 5pm to accept donations. There will be AA signs directing people to the site. The most needed supplies are: nappies, baby wipes, baby food, sanitary products, long-lasting food and drink, warm socks and hats, other clothing, medicine, toiletries, blankets/bedding. Volunteers are needed to help sort, label and stack donations and anyone interested is asked to join: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/HvezOoWlmQM0WlEqTVGxqu> Freight 44 of Lymyne is providing the first lorry and covering the cost of the driver's wages, while Bigjigs Toys is funding the rest of the costs (fuel/duty/tolls). If you would like to donate money to pay for as many lorries as are needed, please go here: <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/igor-kovalenko-1>

Ukraine Humanitarian Aid, Folkestone, is asking for donations to be dropped off at **Holy Trinity Church, Sandgate Road, Folkestone, CT20 2HQ**, Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9.30am to 12.30pm and 1.30pm to 3.30pm. Items needed are: dry food (rice, pasta, tinned food, especially fish and meat), medicine (Paracetamol, Ibuprofen, painkillers, Calpol, Ibuprofen suspensions for babies and children), protective clothing (helmets, bullet-proof vests, binoculars, long-range radios).
Jenny Hollingsbee
Deputy Leader
Cabinet Member for Communities, Lifeline, Area Officers & Street Homeless
District Councillor, North Downs West Ward
jenny.hollingsbee@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk. Mobile: 07887918458

Tree Warden Report for 9 March 2022 PC meeting

Following on from the 3 February storms there are many trees wholly down or with branches fallen or broken and still attached to the trees with one end resting on the ground. Several of the well-used tracks are now partly or completely blocked by tree obstacles.

I have not reported to John, as I would normally, on the assumption that the Managers/FOSM will be carrying out one of their regular walk-about to ascertain the damage and report back to the owners land manager. Some work will require urgent attention for safety reasons and the rest dealt with when time and resources are available.

There are also trees on or near the boundary of the Minnis down, but I expect the land agent will be contacting the adjacent property owners in respect of those to organise removal or remedial action.

A tree branch has fallen near our signpost to the footpath/bridle way in Crown Lane and is temporary obscuring it. A job for Andy Osbourne, perhaps.

Nick Smith – Tree Warden