



## ACOL PARISH COUNCIL

The Village Hall  
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Acol  
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### **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2025 at 7.30pm, Acol Village Hall**

**Present:** Parish Councillors Sarah Corby [SC], Gavin Winpenny [GW], Wendy Winpenny [WW], Kate Ruranski [KR]

**In Attendance:** Sara Archer – Clerk, PC Andy Howe, KCC Cllr Luke Evans, District Cllrs Abi Smith and Peter Evans, Community Warden Gary Groombridge plus 2 members of public.

Cllr Wendy Winpenny chaired the meeting in the absence of Cllr Steel.

#### **39/25-26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr Richard Steel (Holiday)

#### **40/25-26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Kate Ruranski declared an interest in item 47/25-26 (a) – Reimbursement for expenditure on Village planters.

#### **41/25-26 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

**RESOLVED:** To approve the minutes of the last Parish Council Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> August 2025.

These were proposed by Cllr G Winpenny, seconded by Cllr Ruranski, all were in agreement and therefore signed by the Chairman of the meeting as a correct record.

#### **42/25-26 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Cllr Wendy Winpenny advised she had nothing additional to report that would not be addressed on the agenda.

#### **43/25-26 CLERK'S REPORT**

The Clerk advised she had ordered the poppy wreath for the Remembrance Service.

The Clerk had written to the resident generously offering to plant a tree at the Recreation Ground, and advised there was currently no room, however, the area would be monitored and if space became available, the Parish Council would be in touch.

The handyman from Minster had been contacted and asked to quote for maintenance of the roundabout. This had been received and circulated. Following discussion, it was agreed to accept the quote of £578, to supply 12sq m of grass matting, 1 tonne topsoil, 12 sq m turf and labour costs. The Clerk would advise the handyman to proceed with the works accordingly.

**RESOLVED:** To instruct the Minster handyman to proceed with repairs to the roundabout as per the quote of £578. Proposed: Cllr W Winpenny, Seconded: Cllr Corby, all in agreement.

#### **44/25-26 COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS**

**Cllr W Winpenny** advised that following concerns raised regarding the safety and security of the Recreation Ground for young children, a self lockable gate was being explored to prevent small children from running into the nearby road. The Minster handyman had been approached and asked to visit the site and make a recommendation for a suitable gate for the location. To be updated at the next meeting.

**Cllr Corby** reported that the Community coffee afternoon – 'Bites & Banter', had been arranged for 29<sup>th</sup> November. incorporating the Village Table Top Sale. Refreshments would be available all day (11am-4pm) and donations welcomed which would be collected for the village hall.

**Cllr Ruranski** thanked the groundwork team at Quex Park Farms for maintaining the footpath between the Village and Quex. A letter of thanks would be sent on behalf of the parish.

Cllr G Winpenny would be building the 4ft X 4ft planters for the Nursery Fields green in the upcoming month, and bulbs were ready to be planted.

**Cllr G Winpenny** confirmed he had repaired the picnic bench at the play area, however, it was nearing the end of its usable life. Reinforcement to the rear fencing had also been carried out.

Cllr Winpenny had attended the Thanet Area Committee meeting along with Cllr Steel. The Planning Manager, Iain Livingstone had presented information regarding Section 106 contributions which had been circulated to members for reference. The next meeting would be held on 24<sup>th</sup> November.

## **45/25-26 INDIVIDUAL OFFICER REPORTS**

a) **Cllr Luke Evans** offered the following report:

### LGR

5 Proposals are going forward for the Government to make the final decision on.

KCC's option is 1a and it proposes 1 unitary authority and 3 regional assemblies. This is considered the most cost effective option. An estimated cost of £150m on redundancies is predicted.

### Thanet Way

Road is over 30 years old so is at the end of its current lifespan but KCC does not have the funds to resurface it all. Based on this the most likely outcome will be patch repairs but this will not be known until the engineers reports comes back. In the meantime the road will stay as a restricted 50mph road for safety reasons.

New signage for the St Nicholas roundabout had been ordered.

### Flags

Cllr Evans confirmed that KCC would not be prioritising the removal of the flags from lampposts at this time.

### Debt reduction

We have now reduced KCC debt down from £732m to £650m through a combination of efficiency savings and paying a long standing loan off 50 years early. By paying the loan off early we made an immediate £5.5m saving as we negotiated a discount with Barclays. Further savings of £670,000 per year for the next 50 years will be made by this deal.

### SEND Surgery

If any residents have SEND children and they need assistance then I will be operating a SEND Surgery by appointment only at the Bouncing Bomb Café in Minnis Bay. I have 25 years experience working in SEND settings and recently qualified as a Headteacher so I can offer a range of assistance in this field if required.

b) **Cllr Abi Smith** advised of the following:

- George Cooper and Nik Mitchell had been recognised in the recent BBC Make a Difference Awards for their work with Save Minster Marshes campaign.
- The incident on 8th October at Margate regarding suspicious activity causing 25 people to be taken to safety from their homes highlighted the effectiveness of the emergency response scheme.
- Enquiries made with Environmental Health regarding uncovered trailers during the harvest. Advised there is no statutory duty to cover trailers, only enforceable if the deposits create road safety issues.
- Waiting for a response from the planning department with regard to the traffic management proposal at Crumps Farm.
- Will be making representation at the Planning Committee against the development proposal at the St Nicholas Campsite.
- Written to the planning officer with regard to the development proposal at Sarre. This is not likely to be heard before December. Objections against the development for various reasons noted.

**Cllr Peter Evans** reported as follows:

- Rough sleeping support is being relocated to Grosvenor Place, Margate.
- Coastal preparations are taking place – sand banking being carried out.
- Graffiti is being removed across the district.
- Local Government Review – Financial impact of redundancies not being taken into account.

c) **PC Andy Howe** presented the following report:

### Calls to Kent Police from Acol

Only two calls were made in relation to Acol over September, one of which was an enquiry and the other being related to an ANPR hit (automatic number plate reading).

### Crime reported from Acol

Just one crime report was generated from Acol. I won't go into the specifics of this, but it was of no impact upon the community.

### My activity over the month

During September I have been able to spend a little more time in the villages post the madness of summer. I have been conducting patrols in the poaching areas when on early duties and when on late duties, I have been checking the farm plant areas after some suspicious activity was reported near fuel storage locations. I have spent some time assisting colleagues in the main towns and have made or assisted with a number of arrests. I have been attending meetings with partners and Manston Migrant Centre.

My colleagues and I are undertaking some proactive work in the Acol area which has already delivered a substantial result. Unfortunately, I am not yet at liberty to be any more specific than this.

### October

During October I will be increasing my visibility further along with my colleagues to tackle nuisance issues on the run up to November 5th. I will be conducting speed checks around the villages and have requested the assistance of Special Constables and the Neighbourhood Task Force to conduct additional checks. Our Hot Spots will be Manston Road (the museum road), Ramsgate Road (Cliffsend), A28 St Nicholas at Wade, A28 Sarre, and Minster Road Acol. I am continuing to work with TDC in relation to the increased levels of fly tipping in the rural area.

d) **Community Warden Gary Groombridge** advised of the following:

- Continuing to do Information drop-ins at Minster Library. Sessions booked in.
- I am working with Heart in the community a Wellbeing Charity. The new wellbeing group has started in Minster at the Salvation Army Hall on the 17th October, We have had two sessions now 10.00-11.00 I've got some advertising out everywhere for that, the GP surgery, The Vets, Local notice boards, The Premier Shop, in the Co-op.
- I'm also still trying to get a wellbeing group started for residents at Minster Library, the staff are keen to get things going as soon as possible. I have two possible people to move it forward.
- I continue to do Visual Presence in the Villages, continuing to get out and meet residents around the villages, deal with any concerns that arise.
- Deal with any resident queries or concerns, and referral visits that come in from other agencies.
- I continue to attend the Monkton Village Hall wellbeing group, help and continue to support the residents, who attend, I've held a couple of quizzes. I've also held a scam talk presentation with Trading Standards to the group on the 15th October from
- I Continue to attend and support the Man Shed in Minster, a group of mainly retired Men who get together to use their practical skills to support each other and the community.
- I attend and support the St Nicholas at Wade Men's wellbeing group.
- Information Drop-ins at St Nicholas at Wade, in the Church. Support the residents with any queries or problems. Pass the information to the police and other agencies, if needed. The next drop in is this coming Thursday 6thth November.
- I continue to Report in Fly-tipping, to the Street Scene Enforcement Officer (TDC) Two lots recently at St Nicholas at Wade, some also in Minster.
- Support the Residents at the Coffee/Wellbeing group in the Bell Meadow Pavillion, St Nicholas at Wade. A Scam talk presentation was carried out on the 20th of October. We handed out safety freebies, which included personal attack alarms. I'm now out of personal alarms. Need some more.
- Support and talk the Residents at the Coffee/Wellbeing group in the Sun Inn, St Nicholas at Wade. Deal with any issues or queries they may have.

#### **46/25-26 HIGHWAYS**

a) & b) It was noted the first stage towards the implementation of the 20mph traffic scheme had progressed with the Design Scheme fee being processed.

Recent pothole repairs at Nursery Fields had been welcomed, and it was noted that repairs were scheduled to be completed for Margate Hill in due course.

#### **47/25-16 FINANCE**

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

**RESOLVED: To approve the monthly bank reconciliation for August & September (Proposed: Cllr Corby, seconded Cllr Ruranski).**

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

Hugofox - Website hosting fee	£11.99
K. Ruranski - Repayment for plants	£115.19
Ionos - Email hosting fee	£3.00
Unity Trust - Service fee	£6.00
KCC - 20mph scheme	£1,124.00
Hughes & Son - Grass Cutting	£192.00
S. Archer - Clerk's salary & expenses	
Hugofox - Website hosting fee	£11.99
Ionos - Email hosting fee	£3.00
Hughes & Son - Grass Cutting	£192.00
HMRC - Employee PAYE	
WJ Sunstone - ANPR Cameras	£1,006.78
S. Archer - Clerk's salary & expenses	
Unity Trust - Service fee	£6.00

#### **Receipts:**

TDC - Precept	£5,552.50
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**RESOLVED: To approve payment of invoices included in the monthly payment schedule for October. (Proposed: Cllr Corby, Seconded: Cllr Ruranski).**

#### **48/25-26 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

No questions raised.

#### **49/25-26 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2025, 7:30pm, Acol Village Hall. Apologies were noted from Cllr Abi Smith.

The meeting was closed to the public by the chairman at 20:42hrs

**50/25-26 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC**

Under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public were excluded by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted during this item.

The meeting was closed by the chairman at 21:10hrs