

MINSTER PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held at John Spanton Sports Pavilion

St Mildreds Road, Minster

on 2nd September 2025 at 7.00pm

Present: Councillors: Fordyce, Crow-Brown, Jones, Bates, Smith, Andrews, Webzell, Low and Mogridge.

Also present: Kyla Lamb (Parish Clerk), Cllr Smith (TDC), Community Warden Gary Groombridge, PC Andrew Howe, PC Chapman.

160. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs Quittenden, Ingleton and Clare Wilsdon (Assistant Clerk to the Council)

161. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 1st July 2025 be approved.

162. MEMBERS INTERESTS

No members interests noted.

163. POLICING AND COMMUNITY WARDEN REPORT

Community Warden Gary Groombridge reported as follows:

That he continues with drop in s at the library covering public safety, trading standards and scam talks.

He has a presence in all villages.

Had attended a complaint at the Foxhunter Park about noise over the bank holiday.

Had attended a multi agency event in Birchington

Visted the Minster Mens Shed.

Has reported potholes and flytipping.

Has requested more traffic enforcement visits from TDC.

PC Andy Howe reported as follows:

He has not had full statistics since March so has to go through information manually to report data.

39 call in August to Kent Police for Minster. There was nothing of concern reported.

6 disturbances at the hotels in Tothill Street. Now the summer is over he will be spending more time in the villages. The Clerk mentioned complaints regarding parking on pavements. The Clerk will forward emails to PC Howe.

164. COUNTY COUNCILLOR & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Cllr Smith reported as follows;

- Chasing TDC planning officers to respond to MPC concerns about Lime Trees estate, with some success.
- Working with Citizens Advice to support a local, vulnerable adult.
- Advising Minster residents about the planning application next door (which has been delayed again).
- Objecting to the St Augustine's Cross planning appeal: collaborating with Cliffsend councillors. OL/TH/24/1473
- Researching safety concerns related to a BESS plant planned for Ebbsfleet Lane Minster, which is now appealing its refused consent. The applicant's own technical reports say the drainage system will fail during the conditions it's designed to handle., and approving a development where the applicant admits there will be multiple "flood risk" conditions and system failures would be negligent. The drainage system discharges directly into the River Stour via a 150mm outfall.
- Opposing a retrospective planning application to store timber by the A299 layby. I support renewable energy, but we cannot allow our agricultural heritage to be industrialised. The applicant should find appropriate industrial sites, not convert our countryside as a convenience.
- Calling in Foxhunter planning application. This plan is for an unsuitable and unallocated location outside the Local Plan and would exacerbate traffic congestion and strain on local services in Minster.
- Objecting to two planning appeals for housing developments in St Nicholas at Wade.
- Supporting a very restive community against a small housing development in Sarre.
- Met a director of Hydrogen TE, regarding a commercial proposition that will affect the whole of the Thanet Villages, potentially with positive economic impacts, but also with questionable aesthetic and possibly safety implications.

TDC News:

- The council purchased four homes for affordable rent: three x 3-bedroom homes at Westwood Point for total £943,487, and one at Spitfire Green for £360,000.

Cllr Luke Evans reported as follows:

KCC are choosing the hybrid option for the Local Government Review.

KCC do not support the LGR as it is expected to cost a lot of money. Labour may well scrap plans for it.

Sealink may move the project to a more sustainable site at Dover.

He has members community grant available of £6000 p.a. The Clerk will contact him about this to help fund CCTV at the public toilets and car park and also put him in touch with the scouts who are looking for funding for a project and the Marshside campsite.

He had visited the site for the proposed hydrogen plant at Manston. Cllr Bates asked where to view the draft plans on the KCC website.

Cllr Peter Evans reported as follows:

Heritage days in Thanet next month are on the TDC website.

KCC grants for active travel are available.

LGR assets will not cover the costs of the proposals.

2 more developers have gone into administration in Thanet.

The leader of KCC has had meetings with businesses who are struggling with the increases to employers national insurance

165. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

Cllr Fordyce was acting Chairman for this meeting in the absence of Cllr Quittenden who is on holiday. Who gave the following report on his behalf:

The Thanet Area committee met on 14th July for their AGM. The new Chairman is Cllr Fellows from Birchington and vice Chair Cllr Steel from Acol. Discussions took place about section 106 agreements. KCC and TDC are being invited to attend the meetings.

Attended Margate's Charter Day. The Minster Show was a great success. Attended the VJ Remembrance ceremony in Birchington.

166. REPORT OF THE CLERK

Nothing to report

167. DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION

None.

168. CO-OPTION TO COUNCIL

Mr Peter Mogridge and Ms Michèle Low have been co-opted and have signed before the Clerk, the 'Declaration of Acceptance of Office' and completed a 'Notification of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests form'. The Chairman welcomed Cllrs Mogridge and Low to their first meeting.

169. THE FUTURE OF THE PROVISION OF CRICKET AT MINSTER RECREATION GROUND

This matter was considered earlier in the year as Minster Cricket Club had no fixtures or friendly matches this season. It was AGREED to carry on with bookings this season and review the usage and costs at this meeting.

The Assistant Clerk had summarised that there had been 12 matches played this season by Corinthians and Nelson Cricket team and the cost had been subsidised by £1528. Representatives were at the meeting from both of these teams.

RESOLVED that the meeting be closed at 7.55pm to allow both representatives to address the Council.

A discussion ensued and Councillors asked questions of both teams.

The meeting reopened at 8.10pm.

Councillors discussed the matter further and:

RESOLVED: that the cricket pitch will remain at present and Clerks will liaise with all cricket teams to try and increase the numbers of matches played next season to maximise the pitch.

170. INSURANCE RENEWAL

Members are asked to review the insurance renewal 1/10/2025 – 30/09/2026 for the Parish Council for the ensuing year.

RESOLVED: to accept the renewal quotation from Clear Councils Insurance of £4594.97 which includes a 3 year long term agreement fixing the premium for 3 years if there are no amendments to the policy.

171. MOTIONS FOR KALC AGM SATURDAY 22nd NOVEMBER 2025

Members had no motions to offer for consideration at the KALC AGM on Saturday 22nd November 2025.

172. PLANNING, HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning, highways and Transportation meeting held on 28th July 2025, be received and the recommendations contained therein.

Cllr Bates summarised the minutes in the absence of Cllr Ingleton. He reported that the outstanding enforcement on the land next to Azcro House at Manston goes to court in October.

173. MATURITY OF HAMPSHIRE TRUST BANK COUNCIL DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

RESOLVED that £83,400 be re-invested with Hampshire Trust Bank at a rate of 4.22% fixed for 1 year. (Previous rate was 2.11%)

174. COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Members received reports from representatives of the following bodies:

TALC	Cllr Crow Brown reported that the Local Government Review was relying on making a 2.9million saving. This is not looking as this is lightly to be achievable.
Minster School	Cllr Webzell had nothing to report.
Village Hall.	Cllr Smith had nothing to report.

175. REPORT OF THE RFO

RESOLVED:

- (a) the Bank balance statement be received and noted,
- (b) the statement of Receipts and Payments for the months of July and August 2025 be approved.
- (c) the budget/income expense report to 30th June be received.

176. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC/ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Brown from Greenhill Gardens raised concerns about the path that is being constructed on the BDW development site along the rear of the properties to the west of Greenhill Gardens. Cllr Bates replied that this would be referred to the Planning, Highways and Transportation Committee for consideration.

PC Howe commented that design out crime should have been consulted as part of the application.

Time concluded: 8.30 pm

2nd October 2025