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Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Held on Wednesday 16th September 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 David McIntyre
Cllr Terry Mole (KCC)
Tony Marmo and Mark Greening (TDC)
12 members of the public

Apologies for Absence:
Cllr Beryl Harrison.
No contact from Kent Police officers.

Declarations of Interest:
There were no declarations of Interest

Household Waste Collections:
The Parish Council had invited TDC officers to the meeting to discuss the lack of regular bin collections in Cliffsend over the past 6 months. Tony Marmo apologised for the poor service and presented the reasons why, and actions underway to address the issues. Residents were given the opportunity to ask questions and discuss with Tony Marmo and Mark Greening. There are now fortnightly TDC meetings with district ward Councillors (Cllr Brenda Rogers and Cllr John Davis). Residents are encouraged to report further issues, missed collections etc, to these Councillors.

Declaration of Interest: There were no declarations of interest.

Adoption of Minutes of 15th July 2026: The proposal to adopt the minutes was made by Cllr Chapman, seconded by Cllr Davis, and carried unanimously.

Matters arising: There were no specific matters arising

Councillor Reports:
KCC Cllr Mole: confirmed that the Local Government Reorganisation had been suspended by the government, so now waiting for the next plan of action. He confirmed that Thanet District Council elections would be held in May 2027. He also reported that the Ghurkas had been given the freedom of Kent. In response to concerns about the future of the No 9 bus service, he promised to approach the carrier about extending it for 12 months and will provide update at next PC meeting.
TDC Cllr Rogers: confirmed she will continue to have ongoing meetings about bin collections and if anyone is in difficulties with bags, please inform Cllr Rogers. She also reported that the bins at Sea Holly Road will now be monitored. Cllr Rogers also reported that the Council had

been awarded £1,3370 for Pride in Place funding for boards for a heritage trail project on Hugins Green, to be completed by March 2027. Residents are encouraged to input ideas for the content of each board. Cllr Rogers also recorded a vote of thanks to Deborah Owen-Hughes and team on the Breast Cancer Now fundraising afternoon tea, which had raised £1850.00. Cllr Chapman said that Cliffsend Parish Council had contributed £250 and presented the cheque to Deborah Owen-Hughes.
TDC Cllr Davis reported on the Sandwich Road situation regarding lorries scattering debris. Cllr Davis also wanted put on record the amount of work the presentation speakers had done to tackle the problem of waste collection. They demonstrated there is a plan by holding regular meetings as well as with enforcement officers.

Police Officers: No report

Recruiting for Clerk/RFO: Cllr Chapman reported that an advert had been placed and a number of applications received. The closing date for applications is 25 September.
Communications: Cllr McIntyre reported that the website had attracted 500 visits, Facebook page 27000 views per month, and WhatsApp close to 200, so becoming more effective. Receiving praise through social media for our volunteers. New noticeboards have been erected and now considering ways of making them more useful for residents. All policies reviewed are now on the website. Now reviewing Standing Orders as some are not best suited to how Cliffsend Parish Council works.
Meadows & Open Spaces: The recommendation is that a green-waste bin be purchased by the Council for use by a volunteer who is clearing weeds and other overgrown areas in the village. This was proposed by Cllr McIntyre, seconded by Cllr Pooley and carried unanimously by the meeting.
TDC & KCC assets & services in Cliffsend: Cllr Chapman reported that Cliffsend Parish Council had been approached by Thanet District Council regarding the piece of land TDC own directly in front of the village hall, as TDC has no use for it. Cllr Rogers proposed the motion and Cllr Davis seconded it that the Parish Council progress the transfer of the land from TDC to the village hall – which is a registered charity – subject to agreement with all parties. The meeting voted in favour, with only Cllr Pooley abstaining as she is also a Trustee of the village hall. Note: Cllr Pooley took no part in the discussion or vote, to avoid any possible conflict of interest.
National Grid – Sea Link Project: Cllr Birchall had offered two dates for a meeting but was informed by National Grid that neither was appropriate. He suggested the public consider putting their thoughts on the website, as this would convey a united front and help present a strong case. Cllr Davis backed this view.
Local Plan Consultation: Cllrs Birchall and Davis are leading on this. They encouraged residents to input their views. Cllr Birchall said the government's new planning framework proposals, such as a restriction in councilors being able to "call in" planning applications, would reduce the authority of the Local Plan.
Financial Matters:
Details of bank expenditure and receipts/invoices already circulated by email, and chair produced paper copies of bank statement at the meeting. Cllr Davis proposed the motion to accept and agree the bank reconciliation and Cllr Rogers seconded it. The motion was carried unanimously.

Proposed adjustments to the budget for this year had previously been emailed on 6/9/26, with paper copies available for Councillors at the meeting. Overall budget unchanged. Cllr McIntyre proposed, Cllr Rogers seconded, carried unanimously.

Cllr Birchall proposed and Cllr McIntyre seconded a motion to donate up to £400 to the village hall for a Christmas tree and associated items (e.g. straw bales). The motion was carried. A resident offered to donate a tree currently growing in her garden. It was agreed to consider this as an option first. Proposed by Cllr Davis seconded by Cllr McIntyre - motion carried. Note: Cllr Pooley did not take part in the discussion and abstained in the voting, to avoid any possible conflict of interest, due to her being a trustee on the village hall committee.

Dottie's Hedgehogs - Cllr McIntyre reported they were doing fantastic job of rewilding. Cllr McIntyre proposed that Cliffsend PC make a donation to Dottie's Hedgehogs of £200 towards

helping biodiversity in and around the village. Cllr Rogers seconded it. After further discussion the motion was carried unanimously.

HR Expenditure: As a new Clerk was to be appointed, Cllr Chapman sought agreement in principle to fund mobile phone purchase with appropriate software. Cllr Davis proposed the motion Cllr McIntyre seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.

Bus stop shelter grants.
Cllr Chapman reported that Parish Councils were able to apply for a grant, funding by Department for Transport and match-funded by the Parish Council. £2500 to refurbish, or £4000 to replace. Cllr Rogers proposed the motion that the parish council investigate applying. Cllr McIntyre seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Planning Applications: 67 Sandwich Road: planning application approved.

Correspondence Received: Cllr Chapman reported: -
A volunteer had proposed creating and managing flower beds at the railway station, believing it would make it look much nicer. To be progressed.
Overgrown vegetation reported on footways was also causing trip hazards. Cllr Chapman had cleared some footpaths himself. KCC advised for clearing.
Duke of Edinburgh volunteer directed to helping Saturday morning park runs.

Public Questions:
Resident raised wilding at Viking Ship and believed the area should be kept cut short due to fire risk. Also that TDC should not cut back the bushes along Sandwich Rd. Cllr Rogers has meeting with heads of service on 17 September and will raise it.

Stagecoach bus shelter near Jet garage has no light.

A resident mentioned Cliffsend Youth Club, which is looking for volunteers once a month or every 3 weeks, as they currently have just a “skeleton staff”. Tuesdays from 6.15 until 8pm. It serves 11-18 year olds and provides recreational activities and making new friends. Includes children with social and emotional difficulties.

A resident suggested having a coordinator for volunteers, giving a structure, encouraging more to come forward.

A resident proposed organising a Christmas lunch for residents. Would need 4 -5 volunteers, but ideally, 10 in total. Ticket priced. Cllr McIntyre said social media would be helpful in promoting it - send a message via Facebook or drop a letter into Cliffsend PC. Cllr McIntyre reminded everyone that any function in the village hall would require the appropriate insurance.

Village Green lights - they need to be checked professionally as they are not working as they should. All would like to see them working again.

Further meeting:
The motion was proposed by Cllr Chapman and seconded by Cllr Davis that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting due to the confidential nature of HR business to be transacted. The motion was carried unanimously.

There being no further business, the Public Meeting closed at 20.57pm

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