

MINSTER PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held at

John Spanton Sports Pavilion, St Mildreds Road, Minster

on 1st September 2026 at 7.00pm

Present: Councillors: Quittenden, Crow-Brown, Fordyce, Bates, Smith, Low, Webzell, Jones, Mogridge

Also present: Kyla Lamb (Clerk to the Council), Clare Wilsdon (Assistant Clerk), Cllr Abi Smith (TDC), Cllr Luke Evand (KCC)

138. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence: Cllrs Andrews, Ingleton, Cllr Peter Evans (TDC), PC Owen Crush, Gary Groombridge (Community Warden)

139. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 7th July 2026 be approved.

140. MEMBERS INTERESTS

No members interests noted.

141. POLICING AND COMMUNITY WARDEN REPORT

PC Owen was not present but had provided a report as follows:

Calls to Minster: 55, these were a real mix of calls, with no trends or crime types that are cause for concern.

Items of note:

- Dealt with reports of damage and nuisance behaviour in the area of Station Rd. This involved a group of youths repeatedly targeting properties by throwing stones and other items. The investigation is ongoing, and thanks to the Assistant Clerk who assisted with CCTV enquiries. Residents raised the possibility of adding a light to the lych-gate at the entrance to the church,
- Dealt with various reports from residents ranging from neighbour disputes to parking issues and have held several surgeries which gave me a good opportunity to speak to those in my wards.
- Have been placing a particular focus on road traffic enforcement as this has featured strongly in complaints from councillors and other residents. I have posted several updates on My Community Voice around these, but the summary is: Seizure of a high-powered e-bike that had earlier made off from colleagues and I, with traffic tickets issued. I saw a suspicious moped where the rider was caught and arrested for drug driving, with the moped seized for no insurance.
- Arrested a male on suspicion of drink driving. This followed a proactive stop of a car seen driving in a dangerous manner, and the driver failing a roadside breath test.

- On 21/08/26, I was on the beat in my wards when I was made aware of a male in possession of various weapons threatening members of the public. I was able to be on scene within minutes where the suspect made off but was safely detained in a nearby address. I arrested the male for numerous offences. CPS authorised charges for offences including threatening with an Offensive weapon and assault on an emergency worker, and the male was remanded to prison awaiting appearance at Crown Court.
- Recently organised a retail crime day of action following a local store being persistently targeted by thieves. As a result of this, we were able to arrest two separate shoplifters on the same day. Both will be charged to court.
- Assisted colleagues in CID with identifying the suspect of a sexual assault, who was promptly located and arrested the same day by my colleagues and I.
- Made 8 further arrests of persons wanted for a variety of offences, with the majority of these coming as a result of proactive foot patrol.
- Attended 38 calls for service in the last month, so as you can see it has been an exceptionally busy period!

I'd also like to express my thanks as always to the council for their support and assistance, there's been some really helpful information passed to me and your support is appreciated!

Community Warden Gary Groombridge was not present but had provided a report as follows:

- Continues to be a visual presence within the village.
- Reported again more nitrous oxide cannisters along the old top road to TDC Street Scene enforcement. Has requested they carry out regular checks there.
- Reported more potholes
- Supported and attended the Birchington, Minnis Bay Dip Events, Run by Scripture Union, part of the duties was traffic management, keeping the families safe.
- Attended and helped organise and facilitate, a multi-agency event at Dog-acre in Birchington on the 15th August. This was well attended by the agencies and the residents.
- Spoke to some local children following a report from a resident of them messing around in the CO-OP.
- Acted upon a report from a resident who was concerned that car had been abandoned outside his house. Liaised with PC Crush who reported the car was not abandoned.
- Attended and supported the Summer Blast Sports activities event the last couple of days, over at Dane Valley, Dane Park. Margate. I've been helping to support the local children and families attending the event.
- Supporting several elderly residents through the positive wellbeing programme.

142. COUNTY COUNCILLOR & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Cllr Peter Evans (TDC) was not present but had sent a report as follows:

- Waste and Recycling update

The current driver shortage has had an impact on paper and cardboard recycling collections. Crews have still prioritised general waste and food but anyone with a paper collection this week is being asked to leave it out. Crews will return to collect wherever possible. Crews will be out over the weekend catching up on collections, including missed paper and card.

- Active Travel Corridor

There were three drop-in sessions held last week about the two proposed accessible routes to link Margate and Ramsgate. In total, the team spoke to approximately 100 residents. Around 50 to 60 people visited the Westwood Cross event, and approximately 40 people attended the sessions in Margate and Ramsgate.

Cllr Abi Smith (TDC) provided a report as follows:

- Warding arrangements for new East Kent Unitary Authority: Manston PC will now join Westgate, Westbrook, Garlinge & Manston, while Cliffsend and Pegwell will join Birchington and Villages in three-councillor wards.
- F/TH/25/1169 - Agricultural Land Adjacent The Haven: developer granted further extension to 30th September but planning officer is on leave until 7th September.
- The Council is beginning work on the new Local Plan and welcome comments as part of the consultation process.
- Thanet Trust Association: Go to [TheThanetTrustAssociation.org.uk](https://www.thanettrustassociation.org.uk) for links to Facebook, YouTube, etc.
- David Peerless has led his legal campaign against 'rogue' landlords selling to housing developers.
- The association needs to fundraise to £10k minimum and source legal support. The deadline is November for Judicial Review and four x GRCs.
- National Grid drone survey at Pegwell Bay: Investigative work will be carried out at Pegwell Bay in relation to its proposed Sea Link project. This includes walkover surveys, the collation of photographic and video based records and the completion of drone-based surveys. To retain oversight of this activity, a licence has been issued between Kent Wildlife Trust, Thanet District Council and National Grid, after consultation with the Pegwell Bay National Nature Reserve Steering Group.
- Residents have also reported investigative activity on the Minster Marshes site, but despite allegations it is difficult to establish any specific breach of permissions at this time.
- Heritage Open Days: The annual events return to Thanet from Friday 11th to Sunday 20th September 2026, offering residents and visitors the opportunity to explore local history, hidden gems, and historic landmarks free of charge. Aligned with the national theme, 'Everyday Histories', this year's programme features 36 free events, tours, and exhibitions. Find full details at <https://www.thanet.gov.uk/heritage-open-days-celebrating-local-history-with-free-events-across-margate-broadstairs-and-ramsgate/>
- Southern Water bills reduced for qualifying households: TDC has partnered with SW by securely sharing 5,250 household details, so that these households will automatically switch to the 'Essentials' tariff, saving an average of £346 a year, a minimum discount of 45% on their bills. Southern Water will write directly to every resident who is transitioned. For more information, visit Southern Water's dedicated webpage: [What If I Can't Pay My Bill?](#) or the TDC [newsroom](#).

Cllr Luke Evans (KCC) provided a report as follows:

- Reported that the decision about bus routes had been leaked by a Councillor. Routes No. 9 and 32 have been saved and there is another route that is hoped will be saved. Regent buses have taken over the No. 11 route.
- The Thanet Way is back to 70MPH speed limit following recent repairs.
- KCC are keen to retain Minster Library and are in negotiations with the new owners and hope to renew the lease.

143. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

Cllr Quittenden reported as follows:

- The Pride In Place funding appeared to have increased to £137,000 in grants to Parish's. Minster being successful in their bid for £20,000 towards the 3G Pitch mat replacement. The Chairman thanked the Clerks for overseeing the 3G pitch mat replacement including the HGV movements to the site.
- Minster Show was a success this year.
- Attended the 140th Anniversary of the Salvation Army here in Minster and the Civic service at St Johns Church Margate to welcome their new Mayor and to bless the new RBL standard..
- Attended the memorial service for Roger Latchford ex KCC Councillor.

144. REPORT OF THE CLERK

The Clerk reported that the 3G pitch mat replacement is completed and the Pride in Place funding has been received. We are awaiting the results of the pitch testing to FA standards before 2.5% of the retention is released with the final 2.5% following a final pitch review in 12 months.

145. DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION

None.

146. PLANNING, HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

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

Cllr Bates reported as follows:

Awaiting enforcement at 3 Church Street.

147. FIREWORKS FRIDAY 6TH NOVEMBER 2026

Quex Fireworks display has not been scheduled this year and it is expected that this will mean a significant increase in attendees at our display. Members considered whether the event should still go ahead and also considered a request that if the event is to go ahead, could bucket contributions be put towards additional lighting on the village Christmas tree.

AGREED: The display should go ahead as planned, with contributions collected to go towards lighting on the Christmas Tree.

Cllr Jones voted against the decision to go ahead with the display.

148. **THE FUTURE OF THE PROVISION OF CRICKET AT MINSTER RECREATION GROUND**

Following the review of the cricket use last September, the Assistant Clerk provided an updated summary of usage and costs for this season.

The Clerk reported that a request had been made by a local resident, to install ball-stop fencing, following two incidents of a cricket ball entering his property and on one of these occasions he was struck by the ball.

Members considered whether the pitch should remain at the recreation ground and whether consideration should be given to installing a fence.

Meeting closed at 19.59pm to allow Mark Lewis from Ramsgate Corinthians to address the council.

Meeting reopened at 8.03pm

RESOLVED: Provision of the Cricket square for hire should continue in 2027 and this should be reviewed in September 2027.

A suggestion was made to meet with the teams currently using the pitch to see if they have any way to encourage additional usage.

Cllr Evans may be able to provide £1000k from his Combined Members Grant in 2027/2028 towards cricket costs.

149. **MOTIONS FOR KALC AGM WEDNESDAY 25th NOVEMBER 2026**

Members considered the proposed motion below at the KALC AGM on Wednesday 25th November 2026. Motions must be submitted by Wednesday 30th September 2026.

Proposed Motion:

Following the substantial water supply issues within Kent again this year and noting the recent comments from the Rt Hon Steve Reed, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government on 26 June, that **"new homes "will not be built" if the infrastructure to provide them with drinking water is not in place"**, Minster Parish Council requests that there should be a moratorium on the approval of all future major development or Local Plan allocations across the County unless or until absolute assurance can be provided that fully funded infrastructure delivery plans will ensure all necessary infrastructure identified through the planning processes is provided as prior development commitments.

RESOLVED: that the above motion be submitted for consideration for the KALC AGM agenda.

150. **REPLACEMENT OF COUNCILLORS LAPTOPS**

The laptops currently in use by councillors are eight years old and run Windows 10 which is no longer supported. Members considered options for purchasing new laptops.

The Clerk reported that there is currently a provision of £3300 in earmarked reserves for replacement laptops.

RESOLVED To purchase 11 x Lenovo V15 G4 Ryzen 5 8GB RAM 256GB SSD 15.6 Inch Windows 11 Pro Laptops including Microsoft office Professional Plus 2024 from Laptops Direct at a cost of £4298.46

151. INSURANCE RENEWAL

Members were asked to review the insurance renewal 1/10/2026 – 30/09/2027 for the Parish Council for the ensuing year. However, the Clerk reported that the renewal documents had only been received today.

It was AGREED that the Clerk will review the documents and circulate for approval and defer this item for ratification at the October meeting.

152. INSTALLATION OF BOLLARD IN THORNE ROAD

Following the recent replacement of the 3G pitch mat, it became apparent that cars are using the former entrance to houses on the Cheney Estate as a parking space. This hinders access to the pitch and bowls club for large vehicles. Members considered erecting a wooden bollard in this space to keep it clear. There are other bollards further up the path. Minster Parish Council took ownership of this path from Mr Spanton.

RESOLVED: that a bollard be erected and the Clerk has discretion to install another if necessary to fill the gap.

153. COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Members received reports from representatives of the following bodies:

TALC – Cllr Quittenden reported that no meeting had been held and the next meeting is scheduled for 7th September

Minster School – Cllr Webzell had nothing to report.

Village Hall. – Cllr Smith had nothing to report.

154. 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 2026 be approved.

155. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC/ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

Time concluded: 8.28pm

6th October 2026