

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

Present: Parish Cllr Robert Hubble (Chairman)
Parish Cllr John Haffenden (Vice Chairman)
Parish Cllr Ann Day
Parish Cllr Laszlo Dudas
Parish Cllr Garry Watts
Parish Cllr Elizabeth Philips
County & District Cllr Susan Carey (for part of meeting)
District Cllr Jenny Hollingsbee (for part of meeting)

Lee Jones, Internal Auditor (for part of meeting)
Gail Hubbard, Clerk to the Council
There were no members of the public present.

Prior to the meeting Elizabeth Philips signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office form, having been co-opted at the previous meeting and then joined the Cllrs.

The Chairman then read out the statement on filming and recording during the meeting and then welcomed everyone to the meeting, with a special welcome to Cllr Philips.

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 from Cllr Smith (isolating). Cllr Hollingsbee and Cllr Carey to arrive late (attending another PC meeting first)
- 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

The minutes from the previous meeting on 28 September and the extra Ordinary meeting on 4 October had been circulated and read. They were AGREED as a true record of both meetings. The minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were none.

ADJOURNMENT

There was none.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

- 4.1 Consultation on The Draft Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) This had been circulated to Cllrs.

4.2 Police and Crime Commissioners Annual Policing Survey 2022. Circulated to Cllrs to take part.

4.3 KCC Grant funding monitoring and evaluation form – Clerk has completed the form and returned the necessary information from Flagpole project.

4.4 South East Water – invitation to consultation webinar on draft plans to secure future water supplies- 29th Nov 2.30-4pm.

Other correspondence noted.

5. PLANNING

5.1 There were no new applications to DISCUSS.

5.2 NOTED decisions by the planning authority since the last meeting

22/1352/FH	Installation of 22 ground mounted solar panels to the rear of the property. Longacre, Stone Street, Stelling Minnis CT4 6DD	Approved with conditions
22/0810/FH & 22/0921/FH	Listed building consent for proposed internal alterations, new guttering, repair of the front garden wall/gate with new estate rail fencing and restoration of the chimney with new clay pots. Butts Farmhouse, Pony Cart Lane CT4 6AU	Approved with conditions
22/0890/FH	Proposed new ground mounted solar panels at the land to the rear of Butts Farmhouse Butts Farmhouse, pony Cart Lane CT4 6AU	Approved with conditions
22/1345/FH & 22/1346 Listed	Proposed extension, outdoor swimming pool and car barn with associated landscaping works. Butts farmhouse, Pony Cart Lane CT4 6AU	Approved with conditions
22/1387/FH	Installation of four solar panels to front south facing roof elevation. Sherwood, Crown Lane, Stelling Minnis CT4 6AT	Approved with conditions

5.3 NOTED PROW applications

HE13/HE14/HE15	Diversion of public footpaths Land at High Chimney Farm in the area of Curtis Lane and Stone Street	No objections to raise from SMPC and footpath warden. Comments made regarding maintenance and surface of footpaths. Response submitted prior to meeting as deadline 28/10/22
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There was some discussion about the maintenance of the above diverted footpaths, as they had been created with a hardstanding base by the developers of Radstone Gate, as part of the planning conditions. It is already in a poor state in places which doesn't encourage its use. It was felt that the maybe this should be included in the Radstone Gate Management Committee fees: to strim this whole route twice a year. Chairman to speak with Quinn Estates as an initial line of enquiry, then a letter could be drafted by the clerk.

6. VILLAGE MATTERS

DEFIBRILLATOR PROVISION AT THE VILLAGE HALL

Cllr Hubble reported that Steve Moore's had confirmed that the second defibrillator is available for SMPC to use and position at the village hall.

Cllr Smith had provided information on the costs involved in setting this up

Battery @ £290 plus VAT (new one needed)
Lockable outdoor case between £500-£585
Pads & spare set @ £42 plus VAT per set
Signage @ £30
Total cost @ £971 plus VAT

There would also be the cost to attach the cabinet to the wall and wire up to the electrical supply.

It was unanimously AGREED the initial outlay for the project should be funded and should come out of the CIL budget.

Clerk to add suitable figures for replacement pads and batteries into the precept budget for next year so both Defibs are covered.

Lee Jones arrived at 8.20pm

PARISH SURVEY/QUESTIONNAIRE

The Clerk had prepared a report on the responses received from the questionnaire.

- Posted out questionnaires to 227 properties from the electoral register
- 69 received back so a 30% return

Residential development

Those not wanting to see any further development 27% The other 63% have indicated they would be happy to see some development; thus being limited, infill, small, affordable, for young and elderly.

Commercial development

24% of those responding didn't want to see any commercial development

Infrastructure

39% of respondents would like to see mains drainage
42% would like better broadband

Amenity

Most popular answer a children's playarea with 20% of respondents asking for this.

Renewable energy

A very mixed response on this one.

Communication

Not a great engagement with this question, many chose to leave blank but a few suggestions

Disappointment was expressed by the Councillors as to the lack of response to this questionnaire, it seems doing a more in depth one would not be worthwhile. It was felt SMPC should write to the village and notify them that we would not be carrying out a further survey due to the lack of response. Cllr Day felt a review of the Village Appraisal would not be worthwhile due to the level of response.

The Chairman asked Cllr Philips to take away the full survey results and see how we progress from here for the next meeting.

No letter or actions to be taken at this stage.

Thanks, was given to the clerk for the work on this questionnaire.

Cllr Carey and Cllr Hollingsbee arrived at 8.45pm.

There were some discussions about the cost of mains drainage verses septic tanks, Stelling Minnis are not on mains drainage and this was a popular choice under the infrastructure question. How does the cost compare for a household that is on mains drainage per annum? Some research to be done into the cost of mains drainage rates.

7. REPORTS

7.1	Website/Facebook reports	Cllr Smith
7.2	Kent County Council	Cllr Carey
7.3	FHDC	Cllrs Carey/Hollingsbee
7.4	Stelling Minnis Tree Warden	Cllr Smith
7.5	Stelling Minnis Village Hall	Cllr Dudas
	The Committee is pushing forward with the Cinema Club scheme.	
7.6	Windmill	Cllr Hubble
	The Windmill is now closed for the winter.	
7.7	KALC	Cllr Dudas
	Previously circulated minutes to Cllrs.	
7.8	FHDC Joint Committee	Cllr Dudas
	Previously circulated minutes to Cllrs.	

Full reports can be found in the Appendix at the end of the minutes.

8. FINANCE

8.1 NOTED receipts of income

None	
TOTALS £0.00	

8.2 AUTHORISED payments

CHQ400	Stelling Minnis Village Hall – meeting room hire for the year 2022	95.00
CHQ401	Clerks salary September & October	515.20
CHQ402	The Hardres and Stelling News – Clerks copies for the year	19.50
CHQ403	Clerks expenses – Sept & Oct	32.78

TOTALS £662.48

The above payments were proposed by Cllr Haffenden and seconded by Cllr Day then AGREED for payment.

8.3 RECEIVED the bank reconciliation and budget expenditure report to 31st October.

It was suggested that a savings bank account is looked into for the next meeting. Clerk to look into the options available and the interest paid on these accounts.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.

Dates of future meetings: 11 January, 8 March, 17 May, 24 May APM, 12 July, 13 September, 8 November 2023.

Signed..... (Chairman)

Date.....

APPENDIX

STELLING MINNIS REPORTS NOVEMBER

Stelling Minnis Community web site

Individual page maintenance and requested revisions made as required.

In the middle of October Simon Wood carried out an upgrade to the server, resulting in a temporary home page being shown for a few days on visiting the site – refreshing the screen overrode that temporary page.

No other problems with the site observed or reported.

Nick Smith – Webmaster for the community site.

1 November 2022

Tree Warden Report

A tree has snapped and the top half has fallen onto to the Minnis. It is just on the Northern side of the area where visitors often Park off Bossingham Road (west side) and opposite both the Southern end of the original trial area and Butts Farm House.

Nick Smith – Tree Warden

1 November 2022

District Councillors' Report

BT Telephone Box – Jenny will give an update on Planning issue at the meeting.

Cost of Living – resulting from the Cost of Living Summit organised by the District Council, a leaflet is due to be published shortly with details of core services and support. On 12 November there will be a 'Cost of Living' event at FOLCA where statutory and voluntary services will be available to give advice and help – there will also be details on 'warm spaces' and winter coats will be available (if anyone has spare coats and would like to donate them, they can take them to Folkestone Community Hub at Age UK South

Kent Coast Shaftsbury Avenue Cheriton). Further details on all schemes can be found on the Council website.

Household Support Fund – as part of Round 3, the Council has been allocated about £200,000 to support vulnerable local residents. Further details on criteria have yet to be received but as soon as this is available the application form will be on the website.

Hythe Pantry – just a reminder that the Hythe Pantry is now open and residents can become members – pay £5 per visit and receive between £20 to £25 of food. For further details see www.rainbow-centre.org/our-services/hythepantry/

My Community Voice – the Police are keen that more people sign up for My Community Voice as it is a way of hearing what is happening locally and can be used to communicate with Officers – it is not a platform for reporting problems, these must be reported either on-line or on 101.

Otterpool Park – keep an eye out for free events that are planned for Westenhangar Castle over the next few weeks, details can be found on the website.

Ward Grants – we have funds available to support small projects, please do contact us or complete an application form which can be downloaded from www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/community/community-funding/ward-budget

Ukrainian guests – the scheme is currently asking for more hosts – further details can be found under the KCC Report.

Cllr Hollingsbee & Cllr Carey

KCC Report to Stelling Minnis Parish Council

The County Council has been hard hit by inflation and the latest forecast is that we'll be £70m over budget by the end of this financial year. We are likely to need our emergency reserves. When we set our budget for 2023/24 we must by law set a balanced budget including the replenishment of reserves. We have always had financial challenges as demand for services, especially social care, is high but I've never known a year like it and it will lead to some difficult areas of savings.

Despite our own financial troubles we do still have Government grants to help individuals and families affected by the cost of living. Kent families with children who receive free school meals were once again provided with food vouchers by KCC to help them during the Autumn half-term and will be again over Christmas, the Spring half-term and next Easter. The vouchers will be available through the youngsters' school or college. A £50 energy voucher will also be available

Here are some of the other ways KCC is working with partners to help residents. KCC's Digital Kent www.digitalkent.uk website has information on discounted broadband packages known as social tariffs for eligible households. Routers and laptops are also available. KentTogether (developed to help people during Covid) continues to be available at [03000 41 92 92](tel:03000419292) and will direct people to financial and other advisory services. KCC has just launched ReferKent for organisations that provide help to use for making and tracking referrals. There's also our Kent Support and Assistance Service (KSAS) which provides help for those experiencing a short term crisis. It's intended to be there when all other possibilities have been exhausted.

There are currently two KCC consultations under way – one about Kent's Country Parks (our nearest is Brockhill Park in Saltwood) and the Kent & Medway Minerals & Waste Plan (looking for new sites for ragstone extraction). If you'd like to give your views then you can do so at letstalk.kent.gov.uk

KCC is trialling some re-use projects at a few of its Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) and, if these are a success they'll be extended to all 19 sites. The trials are for furniture and books. 55% of waste taken to the HWRCs is recycled with what can't be recycled turned into energy except for asbestos which must by law be deep buried. Less than 1% of Kent's waste is sent to landfill.

This is the latest situation with the Ukrainians in Kent as part of the Homes for Ukraine scheme. Many of the original hosts are now reaching the end of the 6 month agreement but the war in Ukraine continues and the Ukrainian Government has asked that refugees do not return until after winter. Up to 12 October there have been 4,000 matched applications with 1703 sponsors in Kent which is the highest number of any county in the UK (361 in the Folkestone & Hythe district). To encourage hosts to continue to offer accommodation over the winter, KCC is offering increased payments to March 2023. Refugees are arriving at the rate of 1 or two every day and we need more host families. If anyone is interested in becoming a host, or wishes to host again, please email ukraine@kent.gov.uk or call 03000 412424.

Finally, you will have seen in the media that all leaders of KCC's councils (KCC, Medway and the district/borough councils) have written to the Government about the continuing and unacceptable pressures on Kent from the out of control situation with those entering the country illegally. We have as yet received no response.

Cllr Susan Carey