

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, 18 June 2025 at 1930hrs

Shepherdswell Village Hall

MINUTES

To receive reports from the County and District Councillors, Community Warden, Community Beat Officer & Shepherdswell Green Spaces Group. Public questions and comments on non-agenda items (this section will be limited to 15 minutes or otherwise at the discretion of the Chair)

Juliette West, Community Warden provided a brief update on happenings within our villages which include nuisance dogs off leads, welfare referrals, road closures and disruption following the recent storm.

Nigel Baker, Chair of Shepherdswell Green Spaces Group briefly addressed the meeting. Minutes of their last meeting have been circulated and will be available on the Parish Council website.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

A resident asked whether the ROSPA inspection of coldred pond has been carried out yet – this will be done in the next month, as soon as payment has been made.

191/2025 IN ATTENDANCE & APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Present: Cllrs Mark Watson (Chair), Barry Crush, Lyn Symes, Sindy Denyer, Keith Roberts, Sue Taber, John Bulaitis and Aidan Softley. DDC Cllr Maria Mamjan

18 Members of the public

Clerk: Jan Rousell

Apologies: Cllrs Bradley Stauffer-Kruse (Vice Chair), Elgar, Hunt & White. KCC Cllr Paul King

192/2025 MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON THE 16 APRIL 2025

Minutes of the meeting held on 21 May 2025 were **AGREED** to be a true and accurate record proposed by Cllr Roberts seconded by Cllr Denyer. **All AGREED**

193/2025 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Watson declared an DPI/OSI on agenda item 201.02.

194/2025 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION LIMITED TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA – 15 minutes in total.

A resident introduced himself as one of the volunteers hoping to establish the new youth football team – agenda item 201.04. There has been a lot of interest from both younger and older boys and girls. He explained that the football would be held on the upper pitch. The request from the team regarding funds will be an item on the agenda at the next meeting.

A resident spoke in relation to agenda item 199 - Vexatious Complaints and Correspondence Policy, raising concerns that the policy could potentially deter residents from engaging with the Parish Council on matters of concern. And also how will the policy be policed? This was echoed by an additional resident.

195/2025 PARISH CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk reported that the annual audit has been carried out by the internal auditor. The Clerk has attended the Rural Network Meeting at Dover District Council along with other Parish Clerks. Reports of Anti Social Behaviour have been received regarding electric motobikes being used at the Recreation Ground. A meeting was held at the recreation ground with interested parties, regarding the protection of the cricket square.

196/2025 FINANCE

196-01 To approve payments.

Balances as 11 June 2025	£
Current A/C	1185.63
Business A/C	154666.85
INCOME	
M Wright – Rent (06/06/2025)	260.00
Cemetery Plot C34	140.00
Cemetery Plot C32	140.00
EXPENDITURE TO RATIFY	
Hugo Fox – Website (inv 14997)	23.99
Clerk's Wages (June)	1123.02
NEST – Clerk Pension	60.23
Service Charge	6.00
EXPENDITURE TO APPROVE	
Small Works Contractor (inv 331)	450.00
Clerk's Expenses	241.69
Village Hall Fees	55.00
Harmers (inv 25127)	819.79
HMRC	155.34
Coldred Forum	211.75
Satswana (inv M3461)	180.00
Laptop Station (Cllr Crush)	159.00
Rospa Inspection	1479.60
	3752.17

Cllr Roberts commented that he was shocked that the invoice for the Rospa Inspection was so expensive. Cllr Watson temporarily suspended the meeting to allow a resident to comment.

Cllr Roberts proposed that the schedule of payments be accepted, seconded by Cllr Denyer. All AGREED

196.02 Annual Governance and Accountability Returns

- i. The meeting **CONSIDERED** the report from the Internal Auditor. Cllr Bulaitis commented that the report stating that a Councillor acting unilaterally was not true. Clerk to address this with the Auditor.
- ii. **Cllr Roberts proposed that the statement of internal control should be APPROVED, seconded by Cllr Taber. All AGREED**
- iii. **Cllr Roberts proposed that the meeting APPROVE the Annual Governance Statement for 2024/25, seconded by Cllr Denyer. All AGREED**
- iv. **Cllr Roberts proposed that the Accounting Statements for 2024/25 be APPROVED, seconded by Cllr Denyer. All AGREED**
- v. **Cllr Roberts proposed that the meeting APPROVE the appointment of Internal Auditor for the forthcoming municipal year, seconded by Cllr Denyer. All AGREED**

197/2025 PLANNING COMMITTEE

Cllr Roberts reported following the Planning Meeting held this evening. Please see relevant minutes.

198/2025 LIVE STREAMING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

Cllr Symes requested that the meeting consider implementing live streaming of meetings. Other Councils felt that this was important, if not a necessity, in order to engage with residents who were unable to attend meetings. **Cllr Symes proposed that the Communications Working Group investigate further and bring to next meeting, seconded by Cllr Taber. All AGREED**

199/2025 VEXATIOUS COMPLAINTS & CORRESPONDENCE POLICY

Councillors to email their suggested amendments to the Clerk so the Policy can be approved at the next meeting.

200/2025 WORKING GROUP REPORTS

- 200.01 Carbon Footprint Working Group – will have a proposal for the next meeting
200.02 Highway Improvement Plan Working Group – No report
200.03 Communications Working Group - Cllr White has been co-opted onto this group.

201/2025 COMMUNITY

- 201-01 Shepherdswell Green Spaces Group - the meeting **ACKNOWLEDGED** the minutes of the SGSG meeting held on 02 June 2025 and the attached report on Meadow View.
- 201-02 Community Fun Run – **Cllr Watson proposed that the meeting APPROVE funding the purchase of 50 medals at a cost of £25, seconded by Cllr Bulaitis. All AGREED**
- 201-03 Meadow View – **Cllr Denyer proposed that quotes were obtained to replace the fencing on Eythorne Road at Meadow View, seconded by Cllr Crush. All AGREED.** Cllr Bulaitis would like the future use of Meadow View to be investigated – could the land be used better?
- 201-04 Shepherdswell Youth Football Club – **Cllr Roberts proposed that Council allow the team to use the upper field at the recreation ground for football training, seconded by Cllr Crush. All AGREED**
- 201-05 Reed Meadow Car Park – Cllr Watson suggested that the resident be advised that they can use the car park at East Kent Railway.
- 201-06 Recreation Ground Plantation – **Cllr Denyer proposed that the quotation for £108 for consultation services supporting the tree replanting/regeneration project be APPROVED, seconded by Cllr Roberts. All AGREED**

202/2025 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 16 July 2025 on Coldred Village Green at 1830hrs.