

Brookland Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 17th September 2025 at 7.15 pm in Brookland Village Hall

Present : Cllrs Kennedy (in the Chair), Rhys Jones, Bicknell & Yeo-Toft

In attendance : Mr. Eaton, Clerk to the Council, KCC Cllr Wimble, FHDC Cllr Martin, and three members of the public

Cllr Kennedy welcomed everyone to the Meeting and thanked them for attending

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr French

2 Declarations of interests

There were no declarations of interests regarding items on the Agenda

3 Acceptance of the Minutes of the previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 30th July 2025 were unanimously approved and signed

4 Co-option onto the Council

After a brief discussion Lisa Yeo-Toft was co-opted onto the Council and Lisa joined the Meeting.
Clerk to contact FHDC to advise them of the co-option

Clerk

5 Questions from members of the public / public participation

There was a general discussion regarding ownership of the Village Hall and the new lease. The member of the public, a former Village Hall Committee member, offered to provide her records to the Parish Council for review. Cllr Kennedy kindly offered to collect and review these records

Cllr Kennedy

6 Planning

There were no new planning applications to discuss

There was a brief discussion about the appeal against refusal of planning at The Pepperlands, Boarman Lane, TN29 9QU. This will now be adjudicated by the Planning Inspectorate

7 Reports from outside bodies

KCC Cllr Wimble, Cabinet member for the Environment, presented his first report to the Parish Council. David spoke about the various proposed solar farm projects covering the Marsh and the newly established Kent Solar Forum comprising all interested parties which will look at issues such as pollution and fire risks. Mention was made of the county wide Water Group to review issues such as sea pollution and water supply concerns. David was also part of a review looking at possible uses for 19 disused household waste sites, and was pleased to report that he had established and formally opened Kent's first 'Reuse Centre' which had raised £3000 for local good cause in its first 3 weeks

FHDC Cllr Martin reported on his recent meeting with representatives from Highways England regarding the A259 & A2070. Various issues were covered including speeding traffic, dangerous crossing places, and inappropriate signage. Highways England would be undertaking a safety review of the A259 which would cover these areas of concern and the various changes of speed limit which was felt to be confusing for drivers. Alan also spoke about the problem of fly tipping, especially when it occurred on private land and he was in discussion with FHDC officers about taking a more pragmatic approach to clearing such fly tipping

8 Finance

There were no accounts to be approved for payment

The finance report for the period 1st April – 31st August 2025, circulated by email, was discussed and approved

There was a brief discussion regarding the use of 'Scribe Lite' to produce the quarterly accounts and it was agreed, on the recommendation of the Clerk, that as spreadsheets were perfectly adequate for producing the accounts given the small number of monthly transactions, to terminate the contract with 'Scribe Lite'

Clerk

9 Highway Improvement Plan (HIP)

An email had been received from Kieran Doble, Kent Highways, stating that the works to extend the School 'Keep Clear' markings and the replacement Village Hall sign would be undertaken very shortly

10 Correspondence and other Council business

Members to discuss the playpark - It was agreed that FHDC had a responsibility to maintain the playpark to a safe standard. FHDC Cllr Martin kindly offered to chase this up with the relevant officers. Thanks were extended to The Bell Group who had kindly offered to refresh the MUGA

Members confirmed that they did not wish to take over ownership of the playpark from FHDC due to the potential high cost of maintenance and replacement of the equipment. FHDC Cllr Martin to ask FHDC officers if any funding was available to help with these costs

Members to discuss the vacancy on the Council - It was agreed that approaches be made to possible suitable candidates to establish if they would be interested in applying **All**

Members to discuss the Village Hall lease - Cllr Kennedy summarised the position regarding the Village Hall lease and it was agreed that some minor revisions were required. It was agreed that Cllr Kennedy would meet with the Chairman of the Village Hall Committee to agree final amendments to the lease. The amendments to be forwarded to the Solicitor to finalise the lease in readiness for signing

Cllr Kennedy

Members to discuss activities for the Brookland Parish Children – there was a full discussion about trying to find a suitable area for the local children to play and reduce the anti-social behaviour being experienced by some residents. Although some suitable areas had been identified for this use, various difficulties had been encountered making them no longer feasible

It was noted that a Social Club had been established in a barn on Rectory Lane near the Tractor Shed, although there was a limit on the numbers of days it could be used. This initiative was supported by the Parish Council who would work with other interested parties to try and develop the facility

Members to discuss residents' concern over the A259 & Rye Road – This was fully discussed as part of FHDC Cllr Martin's report (item 7 above)

11 Any future Agenda items

There was a discussion regarding the Burial Ground and concerns were raised about the accuracy of the Council's records, specifically that they appeared to be out of date. Various other issues were also raised and it was agreed that a separate Meeting should be held to discuss all these matters in detail prior to recommending an action plan for consideration by the Parish Council. Cllr Kennedy kindly offered to set up this Meeting

Cllr Kennedy

12 Date of next Meeting

It was agreed that the next Meeting would be held on 19th November 2025 at 7.15 pm in Brookland Village Hall

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 9.10 pm