



## ACOL PARISH COUNCIL

The Village Hall  
The Street  
Acol  
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### **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at 7.30pm, Acol Village Hall**

**Present:** Parish Councillors Richard Steel – Chairman [RS], Sarah Corby [SC], Gavin Winpenny [GW], Wendy Winpenny [WW]

**In Attendance:** Sara Archer – Clerk, KCC Cllr Luke Evans, District Cllr Peter Evans, plus 2 members of the public.

#### **1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

**RESOLVED:** To approve the minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2025.

These were proposed by Cllr G Winpenny, seconded by Cllr Corby, all were in agreement and therefore signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

#### **2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Cllr Steel regrettably reported of the recent resignation of Kate Ruranski. Cllr Steel offered his sincere thanks to Kate for her support to the Council during her time in office, on behalf of the residents and Parish Council.

Cllr Steel provided the following report summarising the Council's activities during the last year.

- Taken steps to ensure that our Council complied with "Assertion 10" - a new governance requirement for councils being implemented from 2025/26 onwards. It mandates councils to confirm they have taken proper steps to ensure digital and data compliance. Among new requirements for Acol, we needed to provide our Parish Clerk with a government email address ([clerk@acol-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@acol-pc.gov.uk)). We had already switched to a government website address ([www.acol-pc.gov.uk](http://www.acol-pc.gov.uk)).
- The Clerk, has achieved CiLCA (Certificate in Local Government Administration) qualification, enabling our Council to adopt the "General Power of Competence", enabling it to do anything that an individual may lawfully do.
- The village centre CCTV system had been upgraded to ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition) capability, providing 24-hour monitoring.
- Investment in improving the visual amenity, with flower planters around the village sign and at the Village Hall, and further improvements planned.
- A village wide 20-mph scheme had finally been agreed by KCC Highways, and the PC had commissioned and paid-for its implementation, although this, sadly, is being delayed until mid-summer by Highways contractual changes.
- Continue to work with Quex to maintain and improve pedestrian access to the Estate.
- The playground at our Recreation Ground needed refurbishments, which are in progress to ensure a safe play space for children. A gate will also be installed at its southern entrance to reduce the likelihood of young children running into the road.
- The bi-monthly Saturday "Bites & Banter" social events at the Village Hall continued to prove popular.
- Following some flooding in the village, last year, the PC had addressed concerns about inadequate drain and culvert maintenance by Kent County Council and will continue to monitor the situation.
- Endeavours to improve our website usability and content have continued with, for example, a calendar of village events and additional historic information, and we welcome any suggestions for its further improvement.
- Gary Groombridge, the new Community Warden who joined Thanet Villages, last year, is regularly to be seen around Acol and has been especially active in helping to prevent social exclusion, which we warmly welcome.

Looking ahead, among other matters, the PC will be setting up the Lorry Watch scheme approved at the last meeting to deter heavy goods traffic through the village and will detail plans for community use of the 'Phone Kiosk being acquired from BT following the removal of the payphone.

Cllr Steel, along with Cllr Winpenny and the Clerk, attended a briefing presentation from KCC regarding the proposed North Thanet Link Road. The presentation was extremely informative, and further details about the proposal will be made available following the consultation with other Parishes.

The website continued to attract between 300-400 hits per month which was encouraging, however, suggestions on how to improve the content were welcomed.

The Neighbourhood Plan had been suspended, however, a meeting was being arranged with Birchington Parish Council to discuss the process and gain an understanding of the process.

Cllr Steel was also thanked for his hard work and support to the Parish Council since his appointment.

### **3. FINANCE REPORT**

The Clerk presented the budget report and financial position for the last year. There were no significant variances from the previous year to report. An overspend on the CCTV budget was noted due to the purchase of the ANPR cameras, and an overspend with the 20mph scheme. The accounts had been formally audited by the Internal Auditor – Tony Kilbee, and would be approved by the Council in the meeting to follow. As income and expenditure are below the threshold of £25,000 they are declared as being exempt from external audit.

All documents will be made available for public inspection and published on the website accordingly.

All were in agreement to adopt the General Power of Competence for a further year.

### **4. VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE REPORT**

Cllr Steel advised that the Village Hall Committee were looking to attract additional members to join the management Committee. This had been promoted on the website and social media pages. Younger people in particular were encouraged to join.

### **5. ACOL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY REPORT**

There was no report available for the meeting, however, it would be circulated upon receipt.

### **6. PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

Members of the public were given the opportunity to make any comments or raise any concerns to be considered. No issues to note.

The meeting was closed by the chairman at 19:45hrs