

**Monkton
Parish Council**



PARISH CLERK: Sara Archer, 204 Monkton St, Monkton, Ramsgate, Kent CT12 4JN
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**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held on 6th November 2025 at 7:00pm Monkton Village Hall**

- Present** **Parish Councillors** Gilly Brown [GB], Davina Ransom [DR], Jason Button [JB]
- In Attendance** Sara Archer – Clerk, District Cllr Abi Smith, Community Warden Gary Groombridge, David Mills – Manager MFC plus 10 members of the public.
- 37/25-26** **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
Apologies had been received from Cllr Kershaw (Away), Cllr Were (Work Commitment), PC Andy Howe, District Cllr P Evans, KCC Cllr L Evans.
- 38/25-26** **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**
No interests were declared.
- 39/25-26** **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**
- Concern was raised regarding the speed and frequency of motorbikes accessing the Village via the restricted end of Monkton Street. Signage at the western end of the Street indicated that access was for pedal cycles and pedestrians only, unless in an emergency, thus suggesting the motorbikes were breaking the law. It was suggested that the existing entrance was restricted further, to prevent motorcycles from using the access. This would be raised with PC Andy Howe and included on the HIP for consideration.
Action SA
- Antisocial behaviour from footballers urinating in the perimeter of the Recreation Ground rather than using the toilets was discussed. David Mills was in attendance and confirmed that he had raised this issue with the Managers of both Home and Away teams. He confirmed he would escalate the matter with the League, and reiterate to Managers that this conduct is unacceptable. It was also suggested that Referees should be in a position to enforce the behaviour.
- Concern with regard to the recent conduct of representatives from the Foxhunter Caravan Park was raised by a resident, following a doorstep incident which escalated into a verbal conflict. Objections to the frequency of bonfires, noise disturbance and planning application were noted. It was confirmed that the Parish Council had submitted a robust objection to the Planning Officer against the planning proposal, and had supported the on-site provision of parking for commercial vehicles.
The Community Warden suggested that all such occurrences were recorded and monitored for future evidence should it be required.
- 40/25-26** **MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS**
It was resolved to accept the minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting held on 4th September 2025 as a true record. These were proposed by Cllr Ransom and Seconded by Cllr Button and duly signed by the Chair of the meeting.
- 41/25-26** **FINANCIAL MATTERS**
a) Members resolved to approve the Schedule of Payments below, which had been previously circulated.
This was proposed by Cllr Brown and seconded by Cllr Ransom.
NEST DD - Clerk's pension
S. Archer - Clerk's salary & expenses
SNS - Domain Hosting £40.54
SNS - Domain Hosting £243.24
CS Heating - Boiler Service £153.00
Methodist Church Grant - Window Repair £350.00
Landscape Service - Grounds Maintenance £3,410.44
Hugofox - Website hosting £11.99
NEST DD - Clerk's pension
Unity Trust - Service Charge £6.00
HMRC - Employee PAYE
S. Archer - Clerk's salary & expenses
Hugofox - Website hosting £11.99

Signed.....

Date.....

Unity Trust - Service Charge	£6.00
Receipts:	
TDC - Half Agency & Half Precept payment	£10,527.00
Unity Trust - Bank Interest	£160.95
MFC - Lease payment	£836.00

b) The banking reconciliations for September & October were approved.
This was proposed by Cllr Brown and seconded by Cllr Ransom.

42/25-26

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cllr Brown offered her sincere thanks to everyone who wished her well following her recent hip operation, and acknowledged the support of the community in Monkton.

Cllr Brown advised of the recent passing of Peter Attwell, in early October, following his brave fight against cancer. Peter was a lifelong resident of the Village and will be greatly missed. Sympathy and love were extended to Sara and her family.

Further information regarding the Sealink Converter Station at Minster had been received, however, Cllr Abi Smith would expand on this during her report.

43/25-26

INDIVIDUAL REPORTS

To receive updates for the following:

a) County Councillor – **Cllr Luke Evans** was not in attendance, however he submitted the report which is appended to these minutes, following the meeting.

b) District Councillors – **Cllr Abi Smith** reported as follows:

- I attended the first day of the St Augustine's Cross development appeal process.
- I will also speak for up to six minutes at the Sea Link DCO process next Weds.
- TDC is going ahead with a 999-year lease and a £4m grant agreement with Westwood One Theatre to take over the Margate Winter Gardens, with a very positive response since the announcement. The aim is to create more of a 'community hub' than just a theatre.

- TDC annual residents' survey is live. Postcards will be sent to 7,000 randomly selected households inviting them to share their views. TDC is keen for as many residents as possible to share their views.

There is also an 'open' version via this link open until 24th November.

- TDC Garden Waste Service subscribers who have more than one bin are being sent a letter or an email advising of a refund. This follows overcharging for additional bins.

- TDC 'leafing bin' scheme relaunched last week and will run until Christmas, following a highly successful trial last year.

How it works:

Request a bin from leafingbin@thanet.gov.uk.

Fill it up: Use the bin exclusively for fallen leaves.

Request a collection: Once the bin is full, notify the Waste and Recycling team, by email. They will aim to collect it within 48 hours for composting.

- The Park Life event in Ellington Park, Ramsgate was hosted by the Thanet Community Safety Partnership on Wednesday 22 October. Offering free advice & support for young people on important topics from wellbeing, drugs, alcohol, mental health, healthy relationships, and careers. Kent Police, Kent Fire and Rescue, RISE, Oasis, RNLI, Porchlight, St John's Ambulance, Sports Connect and Kent County Council. The event was well attended by visitors of all ages.

Cllr Peter Evans was not in attendance, however, he submitted the report appended to these minutes.

c) Parish Councillors – **Cllr Kershaw** was not in attendance, however he passed on the following report:

- I attended the KALC (TAC) meeting in Westgate on 29th September as Gilly unable to attend.

Full minutes will be issued in due course. As a summary;

The S106 Q&A with TDC was interesting but I did not have anything to input, it seems that there had been a TDC hosted 'Thanet Villages forum' in recent weeks which seemed to have discussed S106 leading to questions already being addressed.

Of interest on other matters is that Acol PC have been given the go ahead by KCC to implement their proposed 20mph speed limit in the village but funded by the PC (at least they seem to be having some success in getting highway improvements implemented).

Secondly, Birchington PC are going to be introducing a Community Speedwatch trial using Acol equipment.

Cllr Were was not in attendance, however, he passed on the following report:

1. A general meeting was held between MPC & MFC on 23rd September 2025

2. The meeting was productive for both parties & identified opportunities for funding which will benefit local children attending the club & improve the ground condition for users of the recreation ground. There is an additional benefit, where the mowing contract currently managed by MPC has potential to be reduced as a result.

Signed.....

Date.....

3. The Club is in a "good state of health", subscriptions are up on last year & finances are robust. It appears to be well managed.
 4. The Club has agreed to change the frequency of its lease payments from an annual single payment to monthly, creating a stable cash flow for MPC.
 5. A further meeting (Date TBC) with MFC has been agreed to follow up on maintenance of the pavilion.
 6. The club has done a good job of managing parking & traffic of late, with no complaints from residents noted since the last PC meeting in September. It has also installed additional signage to aid this. Thanks to David Mills & MFC for this.
 7. I also note the MFC bin has been replaced & has been stored inside the gated compound – this will reduce the arson risk, fly tipping & mitigate overfilling of the bin.
 8. There is an opportunity for local residents to volunteer at the club (café, fundraising etc). If anyone would like to help, please contact Councillor Button or Councillor Were.
- The Football Club were encouraged to advertise in the monthly Village Newsletter.

d) Kent Police – **PC Andy Howe** submitted the following report:

Monkton:

There were 11 calls to Police from Monkton Village during October, these included traffic incidents and a disturbance at the Foxhunter Park. There was nothing of any great note or of any public interest.

We do continue to have increased levels of fly tipping especially on the farm tracks around Monkton and I have been liaising with Street Scene (TDC) for this to be investigated and cleared. Street Scene have contacted me and advised me of some success in identifying the perpetrators. We have used ANPR cameras and evidence from the waste to ID two of these people who will be prosecuted.

There has been a small increase in poaching activity in Thanet, where we have enjoyed a long period of their absence. The incursions relate to a black Suzuki Vitara and a black Ford Transit, both have been seen in the Birchington area but are likely to venture nearer to Minster. One of the vehicles was pursued by a Police response vehicle but was lost when it went off road.

Lastly, just some crime reduction and safety advice:

On the run up to Xmas, please ensure that you keep your homes and vehicles secure with no valuables on show. Also be very careful around the fireworks safety especially if you are having home events.

e) KCC Community Warden –**Gary Groombridge** advised of the following:

- Continuing to do Information drop-ins at Minster Library. sessions Booked in.
- I am working with Heart in the community a Wellbeing Charity. The new wellbeing group has started in Minster at the Salvation Army Hall on the 17th October, We have had two sessions now 10.00-11.00 I've got some advertising out everywhere for that, the GP surgery, The Vets, Local notice boards, The premier Shop, in the Coop.
- I'm also still trying to get a wellbeing group started for residents at Minster Library, the staff are keen to get things going as soon as possible. I have two possible people to move it forward.
- I continue to do Visual Presence in the Villages, continuing to get out and meet residents around the villages, deal with any concerns that arise.
- Deal with any resident queries or concerns, I'm still visiting a resident who can't get out now, she is part of one of my wellbeing groups. Sorted out her prescription at the Doctors surgery.
- Deal with Referral visits that come in from other agencies.
- I continue to attend the Monkton Village Hall wellbeing group, help and continue to support the residents, who attend, I've held a couple of quizzes. I've also held a scam talk presentation with Trading Standards to the group on the 15th October.
- I Continue to attend and support the Man Shed in Minster, a group of mainly retired Men who get together to use their practical skills to support each other and the community.
- I attend and support the St Nicholas at Wade Men's wellbeing group.
- Information Drop-ins at St Nicholas at Wade, in the Church. Support the residents with any queries or problems. Pass the information to the police and other agencies, if needed. The next drop in is this coming Thursday 6thth November.
- I continue to Report in Fly-tipping, to the Street Scene Enforcement Officer (TDC) Two lots recently at St Nicholas at Wade, some also in Minster.
- Another Scam talk in Acol at the village hall has been organised for the local Horticultural society for next February.
- Support the Residents at the Coffee/Wellbeing group in the Bell Meadow Pavillion, St Nicholas at Wade. A Scam talk presentation was carried out on the 20th of October. We handed out safety freebies, which included personal attack alarms. I'm now out of personal alarms. Need some more.
- Support and talk the Residents at the Coffee/Wellbeing group in the Sun Inn, St Nicholas at Wade. Deal with any issues or queries they may have.
- I've helped a couple of residents from the group with advice on money coming out of their bank account, they are setting up a new bank account with Nationwide, new bank card etc.
- Just helped a resident with advice on what to do with a nuisance neighbour, she has now phoned 101 and has got a crime reference number. She has been logging what has been going on in a diary. She has

Signed.....

Date.....

already contacted orbit housing to log the complaint. So hopefully things can move forwards if the problem continues.

- I'm continuing to use Manston Village Hall on Wednesdays from 13.30-17.30, I have now three Community drop-in dates. I've put in the diary, so moving forwards with community engagement over there. Supported two residents with suspect activity on their bank account, they have changed their bank card and are changing their bank account.

- I've recently carried out a stranger awareness presentation with a fellow Community Warden for the children at group in Westgate at Christ Church.

- I recently attended a multi-agency event in Ramsgate at Ellington Park. We had the gazebo up promoting the service. We also Spoke to many people on the Day, advice given out along with safety scam leaflets, trading standards checked. Again, personal safety alarms and other safety freebies.

- In talks with Monkton Primary school to do some safety presentations with the Children, nothing has been arranged as of yet.

- Other query this week, Speak to somebody about parking over a resident's driveway in Monkton.

44/25-26

PLANNING

a) To note any new Planning Applications.

F/TH/25/1162 – Barn Studio, Gore Street, Monkton

Variations of conditions, discussed, no objections noted.

b) To receive an update on previous applications:

F/TH/25/0697 – Foxhunter Caravan Park, Monkton

PENDING

OL/TH/24/1119 - W S Cole And Son, 116 Monkton Street, Monkton

PENDING

OL/TH/24/1460 - Land South Of, Monkton Street, Monkton, Kent

PENDING

Recent surveying activities have been noted on and around the site, but no updates have been submitted on TDC's Planning Portal

F/TH/24/1067 - Brooksend Service Station Canterbury Road

PENDING

45/25-26

RECREATION GROUND & PLAY AREA

a) Following a visual inspection report, missing bolts and caps had been noted and ordered and the spinner had been decommissioned and was also awaiting spare parts and repair.

b) The Clerk advised she had been in touch with the landscape company regarding the damaged fencing at the rear of the Recreation Ground. They would be replacing the fencing by the end of the month.

c) A request from the family of Peter Attwell to place a memorial bench at the Recreation Ground was considered and agreed unanimously.

It had been noted that Peter had been instrumental in setting up the first Monkton Football Club and founded the Monkton Recreation Ground. It's a legacy that has, and still provides so much for the village he loved. Cllr Brown therefore proposed that a trophy was sponsored in his memory.

Discussion also took place regarding a charity football match. Monkton Football Club and the Parish Council agreed to fund the trophy.

Proposed: Cllr Brown, Seconded: Cllr Ransom

46/25-26

MONKTON FOOTBALL CLUB

The grant proposal to the Football Foundation to be submitted by the football club had been circulated for consideration. David Mills offered an explanation of the process and expectations of the grant funding.

This would be considered further and discussed at the next meeting.

It was agreed that signage could be installed to promote the area was monitored by the Community Warden.

47/25-26

HIGHWAYS

a) Cllr Kershaw advised of the following updates:

Nothing significant to report other than the previously noted issues with blocked rainwater drains on the Willett's Hill and Seamark Close. Despite as requested submitting detail's locations and photographs to KCC Luke Evans there has not been any response to the submitted reports. But there has now been some activity in the last two weeks to the drains in Seamark Close but nothing has been done as regards Willett's Hill and Monkton Street roundabout.

It was requested that the drains at the Monkton Roundabout were inspected, as there remained a significant amount of flooding on the roundabout which was hazardous.

Action SA

48/25-26

DATES OF THE NEXT MEETINGS

The proposed dates of the next Parish Council meetings for 2026:

15th Jan, 5th Mar, 7th May, 2nd July, 3rd Sept, 5th Nov, to be held at 7pm Monkton Village Hall

The meeting was closed by the Chairman at 8:30pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

APPENDIX

REPORT FROM KCC CLLR LUKE EVANS

LGR

5 Proposals are going forward for the Government to make the final decision on.

KCC's option is 1a and it proposes 1 unitary authority and 3 regional assemblies.

1a is the cheapest option to deliver by approximately £6m and the implementation costs will be recovered through the savings after only 3 year. The other proposals have extended recovery times of up to 15 years so yet again our option is the best for the residents of Kent. The cumulative impact of 1a is +£457m after ten years which is £330m more than its closest opponent proposal. The Government will not be paying for LGR so they expect tax payers to pay for it through increased council tax.

Thanet Way

Road is over 30 years old so is at the end of its current lifespan but KCC does not have the funds to resurface it all. Based on this the most likely outcome will be patch repairs but this will not be known until the engineers reports comes back. In the meantime the road will stay as a restricted 50mph road for safety reasons.

Goodwin Sands Conservation Trust

Myself and Cllr David Wimble had a productive meeting with the trustees of the Goodwin Sands Conservation Trust. It was a very informative meeting and on the back of it we have decided to do whatever we can within our limited powers to help protect and conserve the sands. A big PR event around this will be happening in the spring time but I cannot divulge what exactly just yet.

Debt reduction

We have now reduced KCC debt down from £732m to £650m through a combination of efficiency savings and paying a long standing loan off 50 years early. By paying the loan off early we made an immediate £5.5m saving as we negotiated a discount with Barclays. Further savings of £670,000 per year for the next 50 years will be made by this deal.

SEND Surgery

If any residents have SEND children and they need assistance then I will be operating a SEND Surgery by appointment only at the Bouncing Bomb Café in Minnis Bay. I have 25 years experience working in SEND settings and recently qualified as a Headteacher so I can offer a range of assistance in this field if required.

REPORT FROM DISTRICT CLLR PETER EVANS

- £1.5 million Pride in Place Impact Funding Grant from Central Government.

Cllr Vera Duckworth says: -

Community Spaces, Refurbished buildings will be bought back into use to create welcoming spaces for shared activity.

Public Spaces, Improve green spaces and leisure facilities.

Hight Street Re Vitalisation, Make shopping areas more attractive and welcoming.

- TDC Annual Residents Survey, to be sent by post card to 7000 houses inviting them to take part. Residents will be asked their views on some of the councils 30 services. The survey should take less that 10 minutes to complete.

- Winter Gardens, Thanet District Council is going ahead with a 4-million-pound grant to upgrade and refurbish the Winter Gardens. They will be awarding a 999-year lease to 'Westwood One Theatre', who will be their preferred partner to take the scheme forward and reopen the Winter Gardens. This will include: -

- Upgrading the main concert area, The Queens Hall.
- A Rooftop Bar and Restaurant.
- 4 additional bars.
- A 100-place drama school.
- A Vocational Learning Centre.
- A 100 Ofsted Certificated Nursery

Signed.....

Date.....