

Harrietsham Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 29th October 2025 at 7.30pm
in the Booth Hall

Cllr Powell welcomed all present to the meeting.

Public Discussion

A resident reported that The Weald of Kent Rotary Club had now planted 1,000 purple crocus bulbs on the West Street green to highlight their mission to eradicate polio. A plaque has been added if anyone wishes to make a donation.

A resident raised concerns that the A20 and Church Road had flooded again. County Cllr Emberson queried whether this had been reported and the Clerk highlighted that this has been an ongoing issue for approximately 20 years, but all remedial works had been unsuccessful. Cllr J Sams added that it needs KCC to carry out the drain/gully cleansing as promised historically, but this is never completed.

A resident commented on the responses to the Tongs Meadow planning application (25/503929). Cllr Powell then explained the process going forward, adding that the application will be reported to the MBC Planning Committee for them to make the final decision. The Borough Councillors informed all present that they have been discussing the application and will be submitting responses.

The newly elected Borough Councillors then individually introduced themselves.

Present

Cllr E Powell (Chair), Cllr T Sams, Cllr J Sams, Cllr C Roots, Cllr S Brown, Cllr G Dean, Cllr S Donley, Cllr S Luck, Cllr T Griffiths, RFO/Amenity Manager Mr M Cuerden and Parish Clerk Mrs A Broadhurst
County Cllr S Emberson, Borough Cllrs S Povey, C Houlihan and M Nedelcheva
5 Members of Public

1 Apologies for absence

Cllr R Dayes

2 Minutes of the last meeting

Parish Council Meeting 24th September 2025: The minutes were proposed as accurate by Cllr Griffiths, seconded by Cllr Roots; with all in favour.

3 Disclosures and confidential items

Changes to the Register of Interests

There were no changes to the register.

Declarations of Pecuniary Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

Requests for Dispensation

No requests were submitted.

4 Items to be taken in Closed Session

There were no items on the agenda to be discussed in a closed session.

5 Planning

5.1 The outstanding planning applications were noted.

5.2 The approved applications were noted.

5.3 The refused application was noted.

5.4 Other Planning Matters

Councillors confirmed that the Tongs Meadow planning response was ready to be submitted.

ACTION: Clerk

After brief discussion it was proposed by Cllr T Sams to revert to Planning meetings commencing at 9.30am, seconded by Cllr Dean; with all in favour.

6 Environmental

6.1 Other Environmental Matters

- Transfer to Parish Council of MBC's 1/3 of Glebe Field: The Clerk reported that a letter had been sent to Mr Green (MBC's Director of Finance & Resources) in July requesting that the

leased portion of the Glebe Field be transferred to the Parish Council ahead of the Local Government restructuring. No acknowledgement or response had been received and two further emails chasing a response were sent on the 11th August and 8th October, the latter copying in our newly elected Borough Councillors; however, still no response had been received. As MBC has now adopted a new Asset Transfer policy, there was no reason for a delay in entering into discussions, therefore the Clerk asked whether Councillors wished her to write to Alison Broom (CEO), ahead of submitting a formal complaint, if no progress is forthcoming. Borough Cllr Houlihan offered to speak with Mr Green first, in the hope that a response would then be received.

ACTION: Borough Cllr Houlihan

- Medical Centre Hedge: The Clerk reported that the Housing Association had now settled the invoice for the replacement hedge, however the planting had still not been completed by the contractor. The Amenity Manager to chase JB Landscapes. **ACTION: Amenity Manager**

7 Finances

7.1 Income and Expenditure spreadsheets: The finance sheets were proposed as accurate by Cllr Luck, seconded by Cllr T Sams; with all in favour.

7.2 Other Financial Matters

- Medical Centre Entrance: The Clerk reminded all present of the plans for The Glebe Medical Centre to install a Pharmabox within the existing porch. The Practice Manager was keen to progress with the project before the prices rise in January, but they do need to apply for planning permission. Mrs Moles had queried the situation with the replacement doors, which are desperately needed. There was discussion regarding the Parish Council either purchasing a new door and replacing the blown window units, or contributing the equivalent amount towards the project, so that the builder could make the necessary changes as part of the Pharmabox installation. After discussion Cllr T Sams proposed that the Parish Council contribute up to £4,000, if planning permission is approved, seconded by Cllr T Griffiths; with all in favour.

ACTION: Clerk

8 Highways

There was no report to note.

Cllr Roots then read out the following statement:

Harrietsham Parish Council was deeply saddened to learn of the tragic death of the motorcyclist, Darren Hollies, on the A20 earlier this month. The Council extends its sincere condolences to his family, friends, and all those affected by this devastating incident. The Parish Council will continue its ongoing discussions with Kent Police and Kent County Council regarding safety concerns along the A20. In particular, the Council remains committed to pressing for improved road safety measures, including the reintroduction of average speed cameras, to help prevent further tragedies on this stretch of road.

Cllr Roots then reported on data subsequently requested from KCC Highways. They had stated that, having reviewed the crash data currently available (up to 31st March 2025), over a three-year period, there had been two slight collisions, 1 was due to vehicle in course of crime and the other was a motorcycle suddenly breaking and losing control and 2 damage only. Latest telematic data suggests that the 85% traffic speed through the A20 is below 30mph this was from data collected from 15th September - 15th October." Cllr Roots stated that Speedwatch results showed that 5% of road users speed and there was the need to try to progress the average speed cameras being reintroduced. County Cllr Emberson was updated on this scheme and the Clerk offered to send her the details of the Officer who had been involved.

ACTION: Clerk

The Clerk then reported that she had received an email asking whether the Parish Council would like a 1 tonne bag of salt for the winter. It was noted that this is not to be used for private properties, it is to ensure there is additional salt available in bad weather. The Clerk reminded all present of the issues seen with a previous delivery where part of the hedge in the Village Hall car park had been killed, due to the salt being placed too close to the boundary. After brief discussion it was agreed that a bag should be ordered and Cllr T Sams will mark out the exact location for the lorry to deliver to.

ACTION: Cllr T Sams & Clerk

9 Recruiting New/Additional Parish Councillors

Cllr T Sams updated Councillors on the proposed leaflet to promote the Parish Council, which would likely be delivered in the Spring. A company had been found to produce the leaflet at a cost of £300 (+vat) who was able to produce a draft for discussion. It was then proposed by Cllr T Sams to progress with the draft, seconded by Cllr Griffiths; with all in favour.

ACTION: Cllr T Sams

10 Santa's Grotto & Sleigh

Cllr Griffiths updated all present on the two forthcoming events, which will be supported by The Weald of Kent Rotary Club:

Santa's Grotto is to be held on Sunday 30th November 12.00 - 4.00pm, with refreshments and stalls.

Santa's Sleigh, which will be a red Morgan car, will drive Santa around the village, following the route of the original sleigh. This will be on Tuesday 16th December, starting at the Village Hall at 4pm.

The Clerk reminded Cllr Griffiths that the deadline for December's Network is the 1st November.

ACTION: Cllr T Griffiths

11 Future Events

15th November - Community Litter Pick (9am-11am - meet on West Street Green)

30th November - Santa's Grotto (12-4pm Village Hall)

5th December - Kettle Concertina Band (7pm in the Church)

Cllr T Sams informed all present that he would be taking down the football goal post imminently, to be reused next Summer, as it remained in good condition.

12 Items for Future Consideration

Post Office Closure - *Cllr Roots*

13 Date of Next Meeting - Wednesday 26th November 2025 at 7.30pm in the Booth Hall

Cllr Povey, on behalf of the newly elected Borough Councillors, thanked Cllrs T & J Sams for all their work in the Ward over the years.

Cllrs Brown and Griffiths both gave apologies for the November meeting.

With no further matters to discuss the meeting was closed at 8.41pm.

On conclusion of the meeting, there was a discussion regarding the flags which have been installed on the streetlights on the A20. The Christmas light permit had been issued by KCC; however it came with the caveat that any flags must be removed beforehand, otherwise the lights cannot be installed. County Cllr Emberson offered to be there when the flags are removed, to deal with any backlash, however the Clerk did not feel that it was appropriate for the contractor to have to be involved in a potentially volatile situation. The general view of Councillors was that KCC should issue a press statement making residents across Kent aware of this new clause. County Cllr Emberson offered to discuss the possibility of a press release with KCC, adding that the flags would need to be removed, as they would be a safety hazard.

ACTION: County Cllr Emberson

The Clerk was asked to draft a post for Facebook to make residents aware of the possibility that the Christmas lights may not be able to be installed this year.

ACTION: Clerk