

Harrietsham Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 26th March 2025 at 7.30pm
in the Booth Hall

Cllr Powell welcomed all present to the meeting. He then announced the sad passing of Cllr Fred Stanley and asked everyone to join him in a minute's silence to remember a valued and hard-working colleague.

Public discussion

Residents in attendance remarked on the sad loss of one of the Parish Council's colleagues. Cllr Roots asked that a letter be sent to Mrs Stanley offering the Council's condolences. **ACTION: Clerk**

1 Present

Cllr E Powell, Cllr J Sams, Cllr C Roots, Cllr S Brown, Cllr G Dean, Cllr Griffiths, Cllr Donley, Cllr T Sams (arrived at 7.50pm), RFO/Amenity Manager Mr M Cuerden and the Clerk Mrs A Broadhurst
2 Members of Public

2 Apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllr R Dayes and Cllr S Luck.

3 Minutes of the last meeting

Parish Council Meeting 26th February 2025: The minutes were proposed as accurate by Cllr Roots, seconded by Cllr Dean; with 3 in favour and 4 abstentions.

4 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.

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

Cllr J Sams reported on the Brett pre-application presentation which was held recently in Lenham regarding the proposal to extract soft sand for the next 16 years at Lenham Heath; located within the proposed Heathlands development. After completion, the site will be reinstated to agricultural land. As the site is allocated in KCC's Minerals and Waste Local Plan document, it is likely that the planning permission will be approved. There are currently 150 lorry movements at the nearby Burleigh Farm Quarry and this will increase to 180 a day at the new site. There is a further consultation event on Thursday 3rd April, 4-8pm, in Lenham Community Centre. Cllr T Sams added that the Heathlands promoters have not held any discussions with Brett, although it will affect their development and the access point.

There was a brief discussion regarding the old school site and Cllr J Sams suggested that a letter be sent to the owner to ask how they are going to make the site fully secure, as there has been ASB and the building is dangerous. **ACTION: Clerk**

6 Environmental

6.1 To Approve the Minutes of the Environmental Committee Meeting held on 10th March 2025: The minutes were proposed as accurate by Cllr Brown, seconded by Cllr Dean; with 2 in favour (those present at the meeting)

6.2 Recommendations from the Environmental Committee:

- Outstanding Hedge Cutting Payment: The Clerk reported that there was one outstanding payment from the 2024 scheme. This resident had been nearly 5 months late paying for their hedge cutting in 2023 and had been chased twice since December. In the last letter they had been informed that payment must be received by the 3rd March, but the RFO had

confirmed that the £50 was still outstanding. As detailed in the Environmental Committee minutes, it was felt that such a small sum was not worth pursuing, however the recommendation was that no further cut should be undertaken unless the outstanding £50 is received with upfront payment for any future work. It was proposed by Cllr Powell to accept the recommendation, seconded by Cllr J Sams; with all in favour.

6.3 Other Environmental Matters

- Annual Litter Pick: Cllr J Sams suggested that the annual village litter pick should be held on Saturday 10th May (9am - 11am meeting on the West Street Green), which was agreed by all present. Cllr J Sams will make the necessary arrangements with MBC and arrange promotion of the event. **ACTION: Cllr J Sams**
- Hedge Damage at the Medical Centre: Following a brief discussion at the previous meeting, the Clerk had circulated a report updating Councillors on the current situation. Since then, the Housing Officer has been in contact asking for further information. The tenant had been given until the 1st April to reinstate the metal boundary fence and to plant replacement 10ft saplings to fill the gap in the mature hedgerow, otherwise the matter would be passed to the Parish Council's solicitor. The work has not commenced and the tenant has emailed a short response which does not indicate that they intend to complete the work. It was proposed by Cllr Dean to refer the matter to the solicitor after the deadline, seconded by Cllr J Sams; with all in favour. **ACTION: Clerk**

7 Finances

- 7.1 Income and Expenditure Spreadsheets: The finance sheets were proposed as accurate by Cllr Roots, seconded by Cllr Griffiths; with all in favour.
- 7.2 Other Financial Matters
There were no further matters to discuss.

8 Highways

A highways report had been circulated prior to the meeting, which was noted. This detailed a recent Joint Transportation Board meeting, where roadworks relating to utility companies were discussed. Cllr Roots reported that Speedwatch now only has 5-6 volunteers and that further are required. It was noted that the group generally only records one person speeding during an hour-long session.

9 VE Day & Big Lunch Events

Cllr Dean gave an update on both events.

VE Day (8th May): The Invicta Orchestra has produced a poster which will be used to advertise the event. The Clerk was asked to make various sized copies. **ACTION: Clerk**

Cllr Dean reported that she has purchased bunting for outside the Parish Office and asked Cllr Griffiths to arrange this. Cllr Donley offered to assist. **ACTION: Cllrs Griffiths & Donley**

Big Lunch (22nd June): Cllr Griffiths will pass the rosettes to Cllr Dean. **ACTION: Cllr Griffiths**
Posters and flyers were discussed, and the Clerk will produce enough copies when finalised.

ACTION: Clerk

10 Community Resilience/Emergency Plan

Cllr Roots reported on the public meeting which was held on the 25th March. It had been agreed to form a working party of 9 people to discuss what help can be arranged following a critical event, rather than creating an emergency plan to assist in the event of an incident occurring.

The need to follow GDPR was briefly discussed and Cllr Roots asked for the relevant documents to be emailed across, for completion by anyone involved in the working party. **ACTION: Clerk**

Cllr T Sams commented that the loss of electricity, possibly through a cyber-attack, would be one of the issues that would be most likely to occur, causing the most disruption, as it would affect phones and Wi-Fi etc.

11 Annual Parish Meeting

The Clerk reported that, to date, she had not received many reports for the booklet and the closing date for submission was the 5th April. The various Committees were reminded to send over their reports before this date.

It was noted that the usual April Parish Council meeting will commence at the slightly earlier time of 7.15pm, with the Annual Parish Meeting being held at 8.00pm.

12 Future Events

28th March - Friends of St John's AGM 7pm in the Church

5th April - HIB Annual Quiz (Village Hall)

7th April - Harrietsham Village Hall Trust AGM - 2pm in the Booth Hall

4th May - Heart of Kent Hospice's Bluebell Walk

8th May - VE Day Invicta Orchestra Band & Beacon to be lit on Glebe Field from 7pm

8th June - Weald of Kent Rotary Club's North Downs Walk

21st June - Kettle Bridge Concertina Band Concert in the Church

22nd June - Big Lunch on the Glebe Field 12-4pm

13 Items for Future Consideration

No items for consideration.

14 Date of Next Meeting - Wednesday 30th April 2025 at 7.15pm in the Booth Hall, followed by the Annual Parish Meeting at 8.00pm

With no further matters to discuss the meeting was closed at 8.25pm.