

Cliffsend Parish Council

The Village Hall, Foads Lane, Cliffsend, CT12 5JH
Email: clerk@cliffsendpc.org Telephone: 07849 160192
www.cliffsend-pc.gov.uk



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

Held on Tuesday 21st January 2025 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Meetings of the Council are recorded. AV recordings are retained only until draft minutes are adopted as a true record.

Present – Cllr Chapman (Chair), Cllr Harrison, Cllr Wilkinson, Cllr Corr, Cllr Rogers, Cllr Davis, Alison Willoughby-Browne (Clerk), 2 members of the public.

- 48/24-25 Welcome and apologies for absence** - Cllr Chapman welcomed those present and indicated emergency exits. Apologies received from County Cllr Shonk and Police Officer.
- 49/24-25 Declarations of interest and election of Officer(s)** - no declarations of interest. Clerk asked if there were any nominations for the position of Chairman; Cllr Rogers proposed Cllr Chapman, seconded by Cllr Davis, one Cllr in favour, two abstentions, motion carried. Cllr Chapman read and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, countersigned by Clerk.
- 50/24-25 Adoption of the minutes of 19th November 2024 as being a true record** - after one amendment the minutes were adopted and signed by the Chairman as a true record.
- 51/24-25 Matters arising from the above minutes -**
- Beat Officer would like to attend meetings when duty allows. If not on shift, he will send a report.
 - Cover placed on Viking Ship 3 weeks and one day after TDC had stated 2-3 weeks.
 - Chairman - hadn't seen published letter from Polly Billington MP re' Sea Link, Clerk advised under 'Announcements' on website. Chairman assured we had written permission to publish.
 - Update on planning permissions - 'Salty Seal' hasn't been decided; main reason is Environmental Health Dept has asked what they are doing with waste-water - they have containers - matter of showing that they have taken those measures.
- 52/24-25 Working Party & Councillor Reports -**
- County Councillor – CCllr Shonk continues to attend coffee mornings. He will report any concerns back to KCC if we put in writing.

District Councillor – Cllr Davis – Cottington Road planning application has gone in, Cliffsend received consultation letter that day but Minster received last week - allocated as Thanet Villages not Cliffsend and Pegwell, should be both parishes as $\frac{1}{4}$ Minster and $\frac{3}{4}$ Cliffsend. Not allocated in Local Plan, although had been put forward, field on south side a swamp. Chairman said another issue is access in and out, road gets very narrow there, almost impossible to walk out. Cllr Davis explained that developers want to widen Cottington Road from railway arch to access into new development. Ongoing appeal for Monson Homes development. Pegwell - Little Cliffsend farmer's behaviour under scrutiny.

Police Officer – written report; Police have successfully charged 13 offences which occurred in Cliffsend in past 3 months, includes those relating to the two youths who caused damage to Christmas lights in December, and 2 incidents of shoplifting. Conducted speed checks Cliffsend Road and Canterbury Road West following a number of reports of speeding. Will try and change shift patterns to coincide with meetings.

Meadow and Open Spaces – Cllr Rogers had taken photos of plaques/information boards at Hugin’s Green to show TDC, questioned who owned them, one so bad that no writing at all. If owned by TDC we could consider taking them on, renovate and maybe make an information trail. Meeting with officer Friday 24th January. Cllr Harrison had previously arranged to meet, had taken photos and offered to clean plaques. Also discussed granite one by Viking Ship - numbers missing, had contacted stonemasons, next will contact Cathedral stonemasons. TDC - very collaborative mood at the moment. Chairman explained that he had dug a trench at side of steps (to old Hoverport) as always very wet/muddy, water should come into trench, not completely dry but better. Had also spread bark chippings onto woodland walk pathways. TDC officer also visiting Earlsmead Green, to examine large and newer trees.

Finance and Youth – nothing to report.

Planning and Highways – Cllr Rogers; planning application for Cottington Road will be ‘called-in’ to TDC.

Communication and Events – Cllr Harrison spoke about VE 80 celebrations - 8th May 2025. Fish and Chip lunch with entertainment (appropriate band for era). Will issue tickets this year, to ask bugler again and beacon lighting, more information to follow.

53/24-25 Financial Matters -

Budget Monitoring – 3rd Quarter, bank balance at 31st December 2024 - £55,307.28. Cllrs had checked the bank statement against accounts and the current budget was compared with spend-to-date and forecast spend. Also part of budget/precept process. Income slightly higher than expected due to donations received towards events - we are grateful to Vattenfall Wind Power Ltd for their generous contribution of £1000 (received in November). Highways Improvement Plan still outstanding. Cllr Corr had verified that the accounts reconciled with bank statement.

All Cllrs had checked the payment schedule with supporting paperwork (circulated electronically). Contractual payments; Clerk’s salary, bought-in services. Italicised already paid. Quarterly checks and acceptance of payment schedule proposed by Cllr Rogers, seconded by Cllr Wilkinson, all in favour.

January Payments

Payee	Description	Invoice No	VAT	Ex VAT	Total
<i>Resident</i>	<i>Christmas Fayre 44/24-25</i>	-	-	125.00	125.00
<i>Air Ambulance</i>	<i>Grant 44/24-25</i>	-	-	500.00	500.00
<i>Thanet District Council</i>	<i>Estate Fees - Plaque</i>	<i>A7982744</i>	-	120.00	120.00
<i>E J Clough</i>	<i>Christmas Tree</i>	<i>1978</i>	22.00	110.00	132.00
<i>NJL BoxGreen</i>	<i>Meadow Cut November</i>	<i>18582</i>	30.00	150.00	180.00
Cllr Chapman	Travel/Parking Expenses	-	-	100.55	100.55
Clerk	Mobile Phone Top-Up	-	-	10.00	10.00
KALC	Councillor Training x 2	11277308123	20.00	100.00	120.00
KALC	Finance for Councillors 14-Nov	E7X94	14.00	-	-
Clerk	Councillor Training x 4	-	26.16	130.72	156.88
Total for Month			112.16	1346.27	1444.43

54/24-25 Planning Applications -

TPO/TH/24/1420 Land rear of 15 Earlsmead Crescent (English Oak – Fell)
 F/TH/24/1282 Land adjacent 1 Mansfield Villas, Windsor Road (erection of 2 x 3 storey semi-detached houses with parking)
 Tree Planning Order – outstanding, we don’t make decision but have requested treatment i.e. pollarding/reduction rather than fell. Roots under lawn and causing cracks under garage.
 17 Foads Hill - permission granted.

55/24-25 Current Topics -

Ongoing review of Council procedures – Risk Management Statement – regularly reviewed for emerging risks - no new risks identified.

Future events/capital expenditure – for discussion because of budget and precept considerations. Capital expenditure would impact budget. Cllr Davis - event on Hugin’s Green last year was so popular, would be good to do something similar but logistics might mean that we haven’t got time to do this year, but should allow in budget. Cllr Harrison suggested an event in the meadow, maybe connected with VE 80. Increased budget for re-wilding/maintenance.

Budget/Precept for 2025-2026 – Chairman suggested that the Finance Working Party should look at the draft budget (distributed by Clerk) in detail to format and come back with definite information and figures. Draft Council Tax Base for 2025-2026 = 863.77. Resolved to keep precept much the same as this year for various reasons, precept of £27,049 proposed by Cllr Davis, seconded by Cllr Wilkinson, all in favour. Clerk queried approval of draft budget, after a lengthy discussion Chairman reiterated that this would be looked at in detail by Finance Working Group, then to group as a whole. Cllr Corr - logically can't agree a precept if don't know what budget is.

Parish Council meetings – Clerk explained that necessary to inform/minute that likely to change our meeting day from a Tuesday to a Wednesday from May (AGM) onwards. Also, to change the time from 7.30pm to 7pm. Will need to change standing orders which are adopted at AGM. Proposed by Cllr Harrison, seconded by Cllr Davis, motion carried.

Allotments – a resident emailed to request allotment spaces in Cliffsend, a petition had been started on Facebook, 48 signatures. Advised that six independent requests in writing for Parish Council to investigate further. Cllr Davis suggested that mitigation for development might be some of land in Cottington Road for allotments.

56/24-25 Clerk's Reports -

- discussed opening an interest-bearing instant savings account, application ready for signing by two signatories, interest 2.5%.
- to consider whether we want to enter South East in Bloom, will be on agenda in March. Cllr Harrison said 'Open Gardens' might be a better option.
- Clerk to attend TRRG (Thanet Rural Regeneration Group) meeting 11th February as will be discussing a combined community resilience plan. Chair reminded that TDC have a plan for Thanet as a whole.
- our website is now a .gov.uk website, email addresses to be sorted imminently.

57/24-25 Correspondence Received -

Air Ambulance Charity – thank you for generous grant donation.

Resident – allotment spaces in Cliffsend; discussed.

Resident – volunteer opportunities for Duke of Edinburgh award; Chair - some activities would need adult/carer supervision e.g. litter-picking, also suggested helping at parkrun. Cllr Davis - possibly gardening groups such as Friends of Spencer Square. To follow up.

58/24-25 Public Questions -

Resident advised that sign for Sandwich Road had disappeared. Also, post to stop larger vehicles parking in area next to Jet Garage was missing - a lorry had parked there (already reported to TDC). Potholes in bus stop really deep now and no light in bus shelter. **Clerk to contact Stagecoach/KCC.**

Meeting concluded at 21:05