

Cliffsend Parish Council

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

Held on Tuesday 18th March 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 Corr, Cllr Rogers, Alison Willoughby-Browne (Clerk), 2 members of the public.

- 59/24-25 Welcome and apologies for absence** - Cllr Chapman welcomed those present and indicated emergency exits. Apologies received from County Cllr Shonk, Cllrs Harrison and Davis.
- 60/24-25 Declarations of interest** - no declarations of interest.
- 61/24-25 Adoption of the minutes of 21st January 2025 as being a true record** - proposed by Cllr Corr, seconded by Cllr Rogers, signed by the Chairman as a true record.
- 62/24-25 Matters arising from the above minutes** - none other than to be discussed.
- 63/24-25 Working Party & Councillor Reports** -
County Councillor - CCllr Shonk had referred complaint about potholes to KCC.

District Councillor - Cllr Rogers reported that there had been a very good briefing at TDC - now a dedicated officer who responds to emails. This officer will visit Cliffsend to see if any issues, and will bring relevant officers with her. If emails from District Cllrs not answered within five days, then escalated. TDC issued a paper print out organisation chart to District Cllrs. Still waiting for Cliffsend planning applications to come up.

Police Officer - Cllr Corr had contacted but no response.

Meadow and Open Spaces - two new goals installed in play area, concrete foundations in place for exercise machines, court markings planned for Thursday 20th March. Chair had been investigating interpretation boards - permanent structures with information about the local area - he had met with Kent Wildlife Trust, the Chair of Pegwell District Association, a resident, Broadstairs Town Council, to gather information - both technical and likely content. No costing yet, will depend on size and type. Thoughts are that content would be themed; 1. back in the day; local knowledge, people used to holiday at Cliffsend, lavender farm etc. 2. defending our shores; tunnels under Hugin's Green, ammunition dump etc. 3. wildlife. 4. ancient history - where Julius Caesar landed, Anglo-Saxons/Viking burial grounds, Bronze-Age settlement etc. Chair had informed TDC that the cover on Viking Ship has a rip on one side, when cover comes off in Spring this year TDC will use as a template and put a new cover on in the Autumn. Resident mentioned about a missing pennant.

Meeting at Earlsmead Crescent to discuss mature trees; TDC have cut back large branches and tidied up. Saplings planted last year seem to be OK, TDC will monitor to see if they need to be moved during dormant period. Marjorie Chapman meadow hedging has been cut.

Finance - Working Party had met twice, notes circulated to other Councillors. Chairman gave breakdown of Council Tax allocations.

Planning and Highways - Government pushing forward very strongly to build houses and Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) e.g. Sea Link, not concerned with preserving areas. Cllr Corr - to arrange meeting with KCC to review Highways Improvement Plan, Clerk to email. HIP was on hold because of proposed developments (Canterbury Road West), S106 monies for pathways with KCC. Chairman explained the need to approach developers re' S106 contributions when outline application is submitted - a robust case should be put forward.

Youth - Chairman advised on funding that Youth Club had received.

Communication and Events - see current topics.

64/24-25 Financial Matters -

Budget Monitoring – 4th Quarter, bank balance at 28th February 2025 (last statement) £52,884.52 (£40,000 in new savings account). Taking into account the outstanding payments, estimated balance at year-end approximately £50,500. Cllrs had checked the bank statement against accounts and the current budget was compared with spend-to-date and forecast spend. Each category under-budget/forecast, except subscriptions (music licence from PPL/PRS additional) need to budget well in this category as KALC renewal fee of £908 for 2025/26. Forecast outturn higher than actual spend as Highways Improvement Plan funds unspent and expected capital purchases put on hold - still looking at storage options.

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

March Payments

Payee	Description	Invoice No	VAT	Ex VAT	Total
Clerk	Poppy Wreath	-	-	20.00	20.00
NJL BoxGreen	Hedging Cutting	18825	90.00	450.00	540.00
Clerk	Mobile Phone Top-Up	-	-	20.00	20.00
Clerk	Meeting Expenses - parking	-	-	3.90	3.90
Cliffsend Village Hall	Meetings 2025-26	-	-	180.00	180.00
Cliffsend Village Hall	VE Day 80 Lunch	-	-	60.00	60.00
Clerk	NALC Training	11973536913	6.54	32.68	39.22
KALC	Training - AI		20.00	100.00	120.00
Clerk	Home Working Allowance	-	-	312.00	312.00
St Laurence-in-Thamet	Printing	-	-	4.10	4.10
Total for Month			116.54	1182.68	1299.22

65/24-25 Planning Applications -

OL/TH/24/1473 Land adjacent St Augustine's Cross and North and South of Cottington Road (outline application, erection of up to 200 dwellings)

FH/TH/24/1429 Lamorna, Arundel Road (single storey rear extension) - granted permission.

FH/TH/25/0201 65A Sandwich Road (erection of two single storey side extensions) Parish Council commented on the fact that extensions each side are right up to borders; foundations may impact neighbouring properties (building regulations rather than an objection).

Chairman had spent a longer time on OL/TH/24/1473 than usual as a hot topic for village and a lot of people, no decision made at the moment. 144 documents submitted so far - see TDC website. Interesting submission from English Heritage re' St Augustine's Cross, raising concerns about the application - the openness of the area was of significance for the original meeting between Augustine and King Ethelbert. King Ethelbert chose to meet in open in account of the missionary's potential magical powers, therefore, the openness of the land around the cross is of value for modern visitors' understanding of historical setting at time it was erected. English Heritage hope that agreement on detail of design would be a condition of planning consent. Parish Council has objected to this application, based on five principles; 1. site not sustainable for further expansion. 2. houses in excess of local plan. 3. unsustainable transport proposals. 4. unacceptable impact on highway safety. 5. destruction of best and most versatile agricultural farm land. In excess of local plan not such a strong argument now as two key measures that Government use - five year land supply and housing target, TDC is not meeting required target figures.

F/TH/24/1282 Land Adjacent 1 Mansfield Villas Windsor Road - granted permission.

66/24-25 Current Topics -

Ongoing review of Council procedures - Risk Management Statement - regularly reviewed for emerging risks, annual review with format changes to allow easy identification of risk. Proposed for adoption by Cllr Chapman, seconded by Cllr Corr, resolved. Cllr Corr commented on the fact that we have working parties, which are really committees, to consider before AGM.

Budget for 2025-2026 - previously circulated, also notes of the Finance Working Party, proposed by Cllr Rogers, seconded by Cllr Corr, motion carried. Cllr Corr reiterated that the Parish Council precept hasn't increased.

Council insurance - information circulated, comparable to 2024 - £638.19 - proposed for acceptance by Cllr Chapman, seconded by Cllr Rogers, Cllr Corr in favour.

VE Day 80 celebration - 8th May 2025, Cllr Harrison has been working very hard, she has a list of people who would like to attend the fish and chip lunch. This will be free for all those 80 and over, and for couples where only one is 80 or above. A bugler has been arranged for the lunch and for the beacon lighting at 9.30pm (lighting the beacons with flames of peace: a global tribute). Mile-High Scaffolding have again offered to load the brazier. Ukulele band is booked. Jamie Cox and Son have helped Cllr Harrison with further silhouettes for the village. Fish and chips ticketed this year (contact Cllr Harrison 01843 594094 or Clerk) D-Day 80 - 65 portions, a very good day.

Devolution/Asset transfer - a long discussion was held on devolution/Government reform and the need to consider which assets are important to preserve. Kent is no longer on the fast track for devolution but KALC suggested that talks re' assets should be started sooner rather than later, some Town/Parish Councils have already approached Borough/District Councils. Chair stated that no one quite sure what total impact will be, there are risks and opportunities for Cliffsend services and assets. Finance Working Party to pursue.

67/24-25 Clerk's Reports -

- Clerk attended TRRG (Thanet Rural Regeneration Group) meeting, mainly discussed community resilience plans, probably left with more questions than had answers to e.g. insurance impact when working with volunteer members of public.
- Parish Councillors and Clerk now have .gov.uk email addresses (see header).

68/24-25 Correspondence Received -

Thanet District Council - wildflower patches Hugin's Green; discussed. TDC had filled in hole by entrance to Hugin's Green, and planted six trees.

Resident - potholes Foads Hill; highlighted for action by KCC, multiple potholes reported.

Resident - hedging scheme; advised about Woodland Trust whips, resident offered help.

Residents - objections to housing proposal, petition; discussed, Cllr Rogers emphasised that petitions only count as one response so would encourage people not to only use this method of objection. Any comments need to have clear planning objections.

Resident - yard sale safari - not really Parish Council matter but will try to facilitate.

Resident - tank traps and pill box information; Historic England contacted in 2023, and the Conservation Officer in Dover. If we now have a Conservation Officer in Thanet, might be willing to help. Cllr Rogers to check the organisation chart.

Residents - planting of whips Earlsmead Crescent; discussed, whips (small shrubs) planted by residents around garage area where it was very boggy, thorny species - and issue. Temporary blocking-off of area where whips were planted but we received reports that some people who used that path to station had trampled plants - disappointing.

69/24-25 Public Questions -

Proud manhole cover in car park next to Jet Garage, to advise TDC. Clerk had reported the potholes in bus shelter and had telephoned Stagecoach to report no lights in the shelter.

Resident had read minutes of meeting, no date of next meeting stated. Details are on website and outside Village Hall, will ensure on next set of minutes.

Meeting concluded at 21:03

Date of next meeting - **7pm, Wednesday 21st May 2025 (AGM)**