

Cliffsend Parish Council

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Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Held on Wednesday 16th July 2025 at 7.00pm in Cliffsend Village Hall

Present - Councillors: Chapman (Chair), Davis, Harrison, Rogers.
Alison Willoughby-Browne (Clerk), Grahame Birchall and 4 members of the public.

12/25-26 Welcome and apologies for absence - Cllr Chapman welcomed those present. No apologies received.

13/25-26 Declarations of interest and co-option of new Councillor -
No interests declared. Mr Grahame Birchall had attended an informal meeting with three Cllrs present, he had provided a written resume; circulated to all Cllrs. Mr Birchall provided a little of his background to full Council. Proposed for co-option by Cllr Rogers, seconded by Cllr Harrison.

Resolved: Grahame Birchall was co-opted as a Parish Councillor, he read and signed the declaration of acceptance, countersigned by Clerk (Proper Officer).

14/25-26 Adoption of the minutes of 21st May 2025 as being a true record -
Resolved: the minutes were approved as accurate after the Chairman had amended.

15/25-26 Matters arising from the above minutes -
Cllr Harrison contacted TDC about cutting back brambles by information boards on Hugin's Green, no reply as yet. Cllr Davis had reported fly-tipping on pathway from Clive Road to Thanet Parkway, cleared as far as aware. Weight restriction on Canterbury Road West confirmed as 7.5 tonnes, to ask our Beat Officer/KCC for advice as to what action could be taken.

16/25-26 Committee & Councillor Reports -
County Councillor - no update received. Cllr Davis reported that KCC's position on Sea Link is to object to the project. Parish Council also requested assistance re' roads; someone has to be killed or seriously injured before safety work is carried out. Highways Improvement Plan feedback from KCC received - the last personal injury crash at Foads Lane/Hill/Cliffsend Road was in 2018, the lack of crash history here does not suggest there is a safety issue. Cllr Harrison suggested chevrons coming down the hill, Cllr Davis explained that originally Foads Hill/Lane was one straight road and T junction where Cliffsend Road joined, as came to blind bend automatically slowed and stopped, maybe changed to attempt to slow traffic coming down the hill? KCC have refused to even put up a sign. Will continue to push on this, Thanet Area Committee motion to lobby KCC to change this and KALC has now adopted as a campaign going forward; principle to do something before someone is killed. Clerk to ask County Cllrs Shonk and Mole for an update on how they can help us.

District Councillor - Cllrs Rogers and Davis both happy to write to KCC as District Councillors to chase up need for highway safety in Cliffsend. Happy that Cottington Road development has been officially refused. TDC Open Spaces Manager has confirmed that shields to be placed back on Viking ship as soon as possible; amazing example of everybody pulling together, whole community. Cllr Harrison suggested a notice be put on railings that shields of no monetary value, they were taken off a few years ago but dumped when realised not made of metal. A suggestion would be anti-climb paint on points at top of railings.

Cllr Chapman had thanked residents on Sandwich Road for their help. Cllr Rogers had reported fly-tipping Hugin's Green by top of hoverport. Traffic problems at Chilton school, emergency vehicles unable to get through, to meet with the Head to see if they can update traffic plan. Port tunnel to open up shortly.

Cllr Davis chasing up report of acrid smoke from rear of Little Cliffsend Farm, and Environmental Services' failure to act. Fire Brigade very cooperative.

Police Officer - not present. Chair reported that Police are using photographs of two or three individuals who went in to the Viking ship and took off shields - to identify who they are with a view to take action. Cllr Birchall suggested a CPN – way of stopping individuals from doing things, if they go on ship again then they would be prosecuted. Police can issue CPNs but District Councils to do first. PCSO advised to phone 101 to report speeding as a Police matter, a Parish Council has no jurisdiction, alternative is logging on My Community Voice.

Finance and General Purposes - requirement to hold its meetings in public defeats the object of it being an advisory group to the full Council regarding confidential matters which shouldn't be in public domain.

Resolved: to dissolve the committee and deal with financial and general purposes matters as a full Council.

17/25-26 Financial Matters -

Budget Monitoring – 1st Quarter, combined balance of bank accounts at 30th June 2025 £59,441.81. Cllrs had checked the bank statement against accounts and the current budget was compared with spend-to-date and forecast spend. Cllr Rogers reconciled the accounts to the bank statements.

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 Rogers, seconded by Cllr Davis.

Resolved: the following approved for payment (italicised already paid).

Payee	Description	Invoice No	VAT	Ex VAT	Total
KALC	<i>Subscription 2025/26</i>	9345	151.39	756.96	908.35
NJL BoxGreen	<i>Meadow Cut May</i>	19352	14.00	70.00	84.00
KALC	Planning Conference	12576245543	14.00	70.00	84.00
Cllr Chapman	Stationery/Travel Expenses	LA6716863	11.32	65.43	76.75
Clerk	Mobile Phone Top-Up	-	-	10.00	10.00
Cllr Chapman	Travel Expenses	-	-	78.30	78.30
SLCC	CiLCA Qualification	-	-	450.00	450.00
Total for Month			190.71	1500.69	1691.40

18/25-26 Planning Applications -

Chair advised that the developer of proposed 200 houses either side of Cottington Road has put in an appeal, disappointing but not unexpected. When appropriate will put in submission to Planning Inspectorate. Robust reasons for it being refused including Cottington Road safety issues.

Cllr Harrison asked a previous contractor to provide a price to cut back the overgrowth on Cottington Road. This issue, with others, had been reported to KCC and has come back as completed, not convinced. Needs to be done regularly. If KCC's responsibility it is Parish Council's job to ensure they do it properly not to do their job for them, shouldn't be using residents' money to pay for something they pay for via precept. Issues with roads or pavements can be reported via KCC portal (www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-or-track-a-problem-on-the-road-or-pavement). Ownership of land adjacent to Foads Hill discussed – Riveroak?

Sea link – registration with Planning Inspectorate has now reopened 18/7/25 – 18/8/25 due to a problem with paperwork submitted by National Grid.

19/25-26 Current Topics -

Ongoing review of Council procedures - grant application documents and Risk Management Statements. No new risks apparent. Grant application forms are identified on the website as under £500 and £500 and over, Chair suggested this should appear on the actual documents.

Local Government Reform - danger is that implemented without proper consultation taking place, important that we make sure our voices are heard. Need to work collaboratively, to enable people to be represented. Cllr Davis suggested that we take advantage of any resources/training available. KALC are working very hard to liaise with Parish/Town Councils. Concern for effect it could have if badly implemented. Chair; Thanet Area Committee Chair will ask TDC and KCC to list the main assets for each parish, including Cliffsend, and to provide the costings to maintain/run them. With experience and knowledge of what has happened elsewhere, a strong likelihood of assets being 'given' to a parish without any idea of what would cost to maintain, this cost then ought to be associated with an amount of money. Cllr Birchall explained that we are not going to stop the process of directly elected mayors, for some regions it will be a good thing, but we have to try and influence as best we can.

Highways Improvement Plan - online meeting with KCC to discuss, disappointing response. No proposals from KCC for improvements. We will progress this, not very satisfactory from our point of view. Apparently, no appropriate road markings for junction of Foads Hill/Lane/Cliffsend Road. Most recent data supplied for Sandwich Road was 2022-2023. To discuss commissioning further speed surveys on Sandwich Road and other roads in Cliffsend with issues. No further measures available to add to Sandwich Road, not even repeater signs as the street lighting indicates that it is a 30mph road.

Interpretation boards - Cllrs Chapman and Rogers have been progressing with TDC and Kent Wildlife Trust, now getting into details of what to put on boards. To reuse the existing plinth on Hugin's Green and replace board. Grants are being sought by Kent Wildlife Trust, will be brought to full Council if funding is required. TDC have offered to produce a landing site for QR codes/links on boards.

Resolved: to continue researching and implementing the project.

Storage solutions - Cllr Harrison to visit contractor in Manston to work out how to get a container in far corner of Marjorie Chapman meadow. Also, to investigate some sort of insulation to prevent contents becoming mouldy.

20/25-26 Clerk's Reports -

- VAT claim submitted for £1109
- Period of Exercise of Public Rights finished

21/25-26 Correspondence Received -

Resident – broken glass in alleyway, caretaker or TDC?; cleared

Resident – trees Earlsmead Green, Thanet Parkway access; TDC have identified two trees which can be relocated on Earlsmead Green, also added trees to regular watering round. Will place some signage and review management of grassland areas to ensure they align with ecological advice. Parish Council also informed of a notice placed on cars on Earlsmead Crescent re' parking for Thanet Parkway use.

Resident – Canterbury Road West foliage obstructing view; reported to KCC, has been cut.

Resident – Hengist Way traffic noise, ?speed camera installation; Clerk to ask Beat Officer for advice.

Resident – deteriorating planters outside Village Hall; a couple kindly look after and maintain the flower planters outside the Village Hall, they purchased new planters to replace the two that are falling apart. Current not on Parish Council's asset register - purchased by previous Hall Management. Section 137 expenditure limit for Parish/Town Councils 2025/26 is £11.10 per elector. Receipt(s) required. Cllr Chapman proposed that the Parish Council reimburse the residents, seconded by Cllr Birchall, all in favour. (Local Government Act 1972, Section 137)

Resident – damage to Viking Ship; discussed.

Resident – concern re' speeding traffic on Sandwich Road; discussed – Current Topics.

22/25-26 Public Questions -

Resident had received verbal abuse from drivers when Foads Lane was closed for Southern Water repairs, motorists used residents' driveways to pass by the trench.

Meeting concluded at 8.43pm

Date of next meeting - 7pm, Wednesday 17th September 2025