



## ACOL PARISH COUNCIL

The Village Hall  
The Street  
Acol  
Kent CT7 0JA

e-mail: [clerk@acolparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@acolparishcouncil.org.uk)

### Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2025 at 7.30pm, Acol Village Hall

**Present:** Parish Councillors Richard Steel – Chairman [RS], Sarah Corby [SC], Gavin Winpenny [GW], Wendy Winpenny [WW]

**In Attendance:** Sara Archer – Clerk, Gary Groombridge – KCC Community Warden, Aaron Klubienshadl – KCC Community Warden Supervisor, plus 3 members of public.

Cllr Steel advised attendees that a recording of the meeting would be made, for the purposes of using AI to produce a summary. All information collected in the recording would be processed in line with GDPR regulations.

#### 19/25-26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

KCC Cllr Luke Evans, PC Andy Howe, Cllr Kate Ruranski (unwell)

#### 20/25-26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests declared.

#### 21/25-26 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

**RESOLVED:** To approve the minutes of the last Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2025. These were proposed by Cllr S Corby, seconded by Cllr G Winpenny, all were in agreement and therefore signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

#### 22/25-26 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cllr Steel explained he had recently attended training regarding the use of AI, and would be experimenting with recording the meeting to produce a summary of the meeting. The progress would be reported at the next meeting. Cllr Steel confirmed he would be withdrawing from Speedwatch. As no successor had been identified, it was proposed that the equipment was offered to Birchington Parish Council in the first instance. Cllr Steel would contact Cllr Linda Wright for advice on how to efficiently dispose of the cameras etc... suggesting a contribution of £1000 is paid.

#### 23/25-26 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk advised she had contacted Matt Elmer, TDC, with regard to the street cleaning and requested the gullies were cleaned which had now been completed.

A meeting was being arranged with representatives from Birchington Parish Council to discuss the Neighbourhood Plan process.

Grants for the CCTV were being explored, no success to date.

The annual playground safety inspection had been booked and was due to be carried out in July.

#### 24/25-26 COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

**Cllr Corby** reported that the Community coffee afternoon had been well attended. The next date had been arranged for 26<sup>th</sup> July. Cllr Steel would include this on the website calendar, and invite the Horticulture Society to add the dates of their 'Nosh & Natter' event. The availability of grant funding towards the expenses of the coffee afternoon was discussed and would be explored. All of the volunteers who contribute to the coffee morning were thanked.

The textiles group were thanked for their input with regard to the village hall planters.

**Cllr W Winpenny** advised the wellness walk in Birchington will be signposted. An increase in dog fouling in the Park had been noted and the situation would be monitored.

**Cllr G Winpenny** confirmed the materials for the sleeper planters had been received, and design/location discussed with the Nursery Fields Committee. It was hoped the build project would commence in early July.

The disappointment of the non-attendance of the newly elected District and County Councillors at Parish Council Meetings was noted. The support of the previous Councillors was hugely appreciated.

#### 25/25-26 INDIVIDUAL OFFICER REPORTS

a) No report received.

b) **Cllr Abi Smith** advised of the current Public Space Protection Order consultation being held by TDC. The Villages were not included in the consultation, however, it was suggested that feedback was made to raise awareness that Villages can still be subject to anti-social behaviour. Comments could be made online via 'Your Voice'.

- The Housing Allocations Policy consultation was welcoming online feedback via 'Your Voice'. Closing date for comments 15<sup>th</sup> June.
- Sealink – National Grid development. There is a QR code to enable residents to sign up and submit comments on the proposal, which would have a significant impact on the local area. A public meeting is to be held, details of which would be available on [mistermarshes.com](http://mistermarshes.com)

c) **PC Andy Howe** was on leave, however, he submitted the following report:

With regard to Thanet Villages:

There have been 129 calls to Police for the Villages which have been a range of traffic related issues, a few domesticated calls and what seems to be an increase in nuisance calls relating to kids in the Minster area. We also had quite a few calls relating to the severe weather and its aftermath.

I have responded to the increases in nuisance calls with a greater presence in the areas where young persons frequent and some more interactions with the likely problem children. I have conducted three home visits and will be revisiting a couple of youths again.

I have obtained some intelligence relating to drugs from multiple locations (sorry cant be too specific) this will develop and I have already gained some positive results from the work but hope for even more success over the next couple of months.

With regard to Acol:

Only 4 calls were made to Police from Acol and all were traffic related (broken down vehicles, ANPR hits)

I have not been able to spend hardly any time at Acol with much of my time being drawn to Minster and Manston who are suffering some minor ASB. I have also been abstracted to the Dreamland Events at the weekends which sadly is something that can't be avoided.

We will be undertaking some traffic activity on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of July and Acol will be one of our target locations, so we will be hoping to get some results to feedback to you on that.

I will be on leave from 23/06/25-09/07/25 so if you have any concerns that need more immediate attention, please call us on 101.

d) **Community Warden Gary Groombridge** and his Supervisor **Aaron Kliubenshadl** were welcomed to the meeting and introduced themselves.

Gary explained he had now completed his probationary period, and would be a regular visible presence in the community, offering assistance, welfare checks, referrals to social services and supporting residents in his capacity as liaison with multi-disciplinary teams. Gary promoted the importance of positive wellbeing, and would be a link to encourage lonely and isolated individuals back into the community. Gary explained that, as such, he would be pleased to attend any wellbeing groups in the village, and connect with the community as much as possible. A number of events to promote the Community Warden Service were being held across the district, offering information and services to the public.

## **26/25-26 HIGHWAYS**

- This had previously been mentioned and would be removed from future agendas.
- The lack of drain maintenance was noted. Following the recent flooding incident, highways had been contacted and the roads swept by TDC, however a regular schedule of drain clearance was required. This would be raised with KCC.
- The 20mph scheme plans were awaited. This would be followed up by the Clerk to enquire about the progress.

## **27/25-16 FINANCE**

- The Clerk presented the monthly bank reconciliation between the cash book and bank accounts.

**RESOLVED: To approve the monthly bank reconciliation for April & May (Proposed: Cllr Corby, seconded Cllr W Winpenny).**

- The Clerk presented the monthly payment schedule which included the following payments:

Hugofox - Website hosting fee	£11.99
Unity Trust - Service fee	£6.00
Ionos - Email hosting fee	£3.00
Hugofox - Website hosting fee	£11.99
S. Archer - Clerk's salary & expenses	
Barriers Direct - Traffic mirrors	£141.70
Hughes & Son - Grass Cutting	£160.00
Ionos - Email hosting fee	£3.00
ATS Accounting - Payroll service fee	£60.00
Monkton PC - 1/3 Clerk's stationary	£45.48
Hughes & Son - Grass Cutting	£192.00
S. Archer - Clerk's salary & expenses	
Unity Trust - Service fee	£6.00

**Receipts**

TDC - Precept £5,552.50

Unity Trust - Bank Interest £115.93

VAT reclaim £613.16

**RESOLVED: To approve payment of invoices included in the monthly payment schedule for June.**  
**(Proposed: Cllr W Winpenny, Seconded: Cllr Corby).**

**28/25-26 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> August 2025, 7:30pm, Acol Village Hall

The meeting was closed by the chairman at 20:35hrs