



ACOL PARISH COUNCIL

The Village Hall
The Street
Acol
Kent CT7 0JA

e-mail: clerk@acolparishcouncil.org.uk

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 17th April 2025 at 7.30pm, Acol Village Hall

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

In Attendance: Sara Archer – Clerk, KCC Cllr Derek Crow-Brown, District Cllr Abi Smith, plus 3 members of the public.

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 18th April 2024.

These were proposed by Cllr G Winpenny, seconded by Cllr Corby, all were in agreement and therefore signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cllr Steel provided the following report summarising the Council's activities during the last year.

- Household Survey Completed
- Freedom of Parish Honours Board erected in Village Hall
- Annual review of Highways Improvement Plan – aim for 20-mph speed limits included
- Olivia House car dealings/ street racing dealt-with
- Kate Ruranski co-opted to fill vacancy after Cllr Butterworth resignation
- New Speedwatch Team members
- Learned most recent HADMS survey indicated compliance with 20-mph criteria.
- New bench provided in Recreation Ground Playground
- Nomination Committee established for annual Freedom of Parish nominations
- Original finger signpost at Plumstone Rd. junction, damaged in hit & run accident, repaired & reinstated
- Acol Speedwatch participated in annual Police Day of Action
- CCTV upgraded
- New Years Eve Party (+ Children's & Reindeer Drive etc.)
- Village Welcome Pack launched for new residents
- Community, Coffee, Cake & Chat events successful
- Analysis of Household Survey results published
- Following passing of Jon Inchley, monthly Parish Council Report moved to Birchington free ads. magazine
- KCC Highways propose extents of 20-mph zone for Acol, however, Speedwatch data used to object. Cllr Steel suspended Speedwatch participation
- Acol PC website address changed to www.acol-pc.gov.uk
- Thanet Health & Wellbeing Group formed with Cllr Wendy Winpenny representing Acol
- Thanet Villages plan to work together on their Community Resilience plans
- Wrote to Police & Crime Commissioner (ongoing)
- Extension of footpath to Quex agreed with Quex in meeting with Cllr Ruranski
- Following new survey, revised extents of proposed 20-mph zone drawn-up by Highways, excluding Margate Hill Community Consultation requested by KCC shows over 96% in agreement with scheme, but bewilderment at exclusion of Margate Hill

Thanks were extended to all who regularly support our Parish Council meetings, to the KCC Councillors for financial support with grant funding towards the new park bench, CCTV and village planters; Acol Village Hall Management Committee, for their contribution towards the community events.

Cllr Steel was also thanked for his hard work and support to the Parish Council since his appointment.

3. FINANCE REPORT

The Clerk presented the budget report and financial position for the last year. There were no significant variances from the previous year to report. An overspend on the CCTV budget was noted, however, this had largely been offset with grant funding. The accounts would be formally audited by the Internal Auditor – Tony Kilbee, and then brought to an extraordinary meeting to be approved by the Council. As income and expenditure are below the threshold of £25,000 they are declared as being exempt from external audit.

All documents will be made available for public inspection and published on the website accordingly.

4. VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE REPORT

Sheila Bransfield – Chairman, was unable to attend the meeting, however, the following report on behalf of the Village Hall Committee was read by Cllr Steel:

It is very sad to begin my report with the untimely death of our Chairman, Jon Inchley.

He passed away in September leaving us all so very aware of how much he will be missed. He had been Chairman of the Committee for 20 years, overseeing all that has been undertaken to ensure the condition of and the continual usage of the Hall. Our thoughts are with his wife Barbara. She has joined the Committee as a member- we very much hope she will continue with us.

We are pleased to report that the Village Hall diary is, once again, very well booked. Our funds do, of course, mostly depend on earnings from hiring. Regrettably, we are also faced with increased costs particularly for utilities, but we hope that our hiring charges will continue to reflect the excellent facilities that we provide.

The Childrens' Party was held again, this time in November. It was a great success once again and it is hoped that this will continue to be an annual event. Our thanks to Jessica Adams for undertaking the arranging.

It was decided to combine with the Parish Council to hold a New Years Eve Party – this was a very well attended event and enjoyed by all. The annual Reindeer Drive was again held – it was pleasing that attendance increased on last years.

There have been no major maintenance projects undertaken this year.

The Committee funds are “healthy” but it is important to stress the need to not only hire the Hall but also to attempt to fund raise. We can only do this by holding events which we hope will be well attended. We would welcome suggestions from anyone.

The Committee would be unable to discharge its responsibilities half as well without the invaluable efforts of our Treasurer and Secretary, Iris Osborne. We are very much beholden to her, as she facilitates everything we do. We should also acknowledge the efforts of David Hayfield and William Yeoman, who willingly tackle the many tasks, large and small that ensure the Hall is maintained in good order and is prepared for key events during the year. We are also grateful for the additional help that we have received on many occasions from other residents of the village.

We are looking forward to another successful year in 2025 and we hope to continue with the support of all those who have joined in our events, but we also look forward to seeing new faces. We operate the Hall for the benefit of the village and hope that with the support of everyone our Hall will continue to be the hub of the village.

Chairman
Sheila Bransfield

5. ACOL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY REPORT

Theresa and Steve Ling were welcomed to the meeting and reported the following on behalf of the Horticultural Society:

Acol Horticultural Society is now in its 58th year and still has a good number of members.

Meetings

We have meetings on the first Tuesday of each month in the Village Hall (apart from January and December) with speakers on a variety of topics ranging from gardening to plant hunting and being kidnapped in Colombia and fabulous floral art demonstrations.

Shows

We have 2 main shows now in the Spring and Summer and the Spring Show a couple of weeks ago was very well attended. The number of exhibitors is dwindling year by year, but we will continue with the shows for as long as possible.

The Spring Show is held in the Village Hall and the Summer Show in a marquee in David and Sheila's garden. We also have a Rose Show on the first Tuesday in June every year as part of the monthly meeting and are looking to hold a similar event for Dahlias in 2026 around September/October.

Social Events

We have a number of social events throughout the year from a Valentine's Afternoon Tea, Quizzes and a Race Night. These are all open to members and non-members.

Membership

Single membership is £4 for a year and a joint membership is £7 for the year. This allows free entry to all our meetings throughout the year.

Sadly the vast majority of our members and supporters are not Acol residents, although many have been in the past. It would be great to have some more Acol residents taking an active part in the Society as it is not all just about gardening. It is a great way for people to meet others from the village and take part in some fun events.

6. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Members of the public were given the opportunity to make any comments or raise any concerns to be considered. No issues to note.

The meeting was closed by the chairman at 20:05hrs