



## ACOL PARISH COUNCIL

The Village Hall  
The Street  
Acol  
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### **Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at 8.10pm, 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.

#### **01/25-26 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

Cllr Richard Steel was nominated to be elected as Chairman for the forthcoming year, this was proposed by Cllr Gavin Winpenny and seconded by Cllr Corby, all were in favour.

#### **02/25-26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies had been received from PC Andy Howe.

#### **03/25-26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No interests declared.

#### **04/25-26 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

**RESOLVED:** To approve the minutes of the last Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2024 and the last meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

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

#### **05/25-26 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman had provided a detailed report during the Annual Parish Meeting, there were no additional matters to report. The overwhelming support for 20mph speed limits through the village was noted. The exclusion of Margate Hill was considered to be unsatisfactory and would therefore be challenged.

#### **06/25-26 CLERK'S REPORT**

The Clerk advised of the following:

- A quote to add an ANPR unit to the existing CCTV system had been received and would be circulated to members for consideration at the next meeting.
- Enquiries had been made with the Clerk from Birchington with regard to progressing the Neighbourhood Plan.
- The year end accounts and budget review had been completed.
- VAT reclaim submitted.
- Policies and procedures had been updated and circulated accordingly.
- The streetlight at Crispe Road had been reported for repair and was in hand.

#### **07/25-26 COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS**

**Cllr Sarah Corby** advised residents of the date for the next coffee, cake and chat afternoon – 24<sup>th</sup> May, 3pm in the Village Hall. Cllr W Winpenny would be approaching the wellbeing group for funding towards the refreshments.

**Cllr Wendy Winpenny** confirmed she would be completing the play area inspection.

Cllr Winpenny had attended the Birchington Health and Wellbeing Group, and encouraged residents to follow their facebook page for updates and information.

**Cllr Kate Ruranski** advised she had met with the Manager of Quex Farm Estates regarding the footpath. It was confirmed at the meeting that the path would be kept clear and maintained. A directional sign to indicate the pathway would be erected in due course, and a map posted on the Acol village facebook page and website.

**Cllr Gavin Winpenny** had attended the recent TAC meeting which had focussed on the devolution of local government, and hosted a presentation from TDC regarding the Community Resilience Plan. The next meeting was to be held on 19<sup>th</sup> May.

## 08/25-26 INDIVIDUAL OFFICER REPORTS

a) **County Councillor Derek Crown Brown** offered his congratulations to Cllr Steel on his re-election as Chairman. Cllr Crow-Brown advised he had met with the person in charge of the Airport who had confirmed, as part of the DCO, a roundabout would be put in place at the crossroads junction of Spitfire Way and Manston Road, this was supported by the Home Office.

Issues with road closures, particularly affecting local businesses at Garlinge, had been addressed.

The soft landscape team at KCC had bought forward they programme of works to cut back the verges in view of the overgrowth of the Alexandria weed.

Cllr Crow-Brown also advised of the successful retention of the members grant funding budget of £3600.

The recent incident involving a car falling over the edge of Crispe Road was reported. Cllr Crow-Brown would raise awareness of the issue, danger and frequency of this type of accident with the Highways Manager.

b) **District Councillor Abi Smith** advised that an update on the devolution plans was available on the KCC website. Cllr Smith had been invited to attend a site visit to the Immigration Reception Centre at Manston.

A pre-loved pop up shop was being opened for a day at the Household Waste and Recycling Centre at Margate on 27<sup>th</sup> April, 10am-12noon, no appointment necessary to attend.

Residents were reminded of the forthcoming elections on 1<sup>st</sup> May.

c) **PC Andy Howe** was unable to attend the meeting, however, he submitted the following report which had been circulated to members:

From the chart below there are not too many issues to worry about. The increase over the year on sexual offences are known and were dealt with. The small spike in drugs related calls were as a consequence of some proactive work by Kent Police resulting in arrests.

We've had a small increase in shoplifts which are historically very low. These relate to two in Minster and two at Farm Foods Westwood X.

With regard to Acol, there have only been 5 calls to Police during this period, all of which were traffic accept one call which related to flytipping.

Over the past month I have been spending a lot of time dealing with some nuisance and drug related issues around some of the other villages but have been directed towards keeping an eye upon Nursery Fields for potential drug drops, however I am yet to gain and ID or vehicles associated to this. I would welcome any additional information on this matter, such as registrations and timings of drugs drops.

Overall, It has been very steady during March and April. Hopefully I will see you at the next meeting with some more interesting updates.

## 09/25-26 HIGHWAYS

a) Speedwatch/Lorry Watch Scheme

b) Street Cleansing, litter, fly-tipping

c) Highways Improvement Plan

All of the above had been covered previously during the meeting. However, it was discussed and confirmed that the Lorry Watch Scheme would no longer be pursued. Infringement data would be collected via the CCTV and haulage companies would be contacted direct and advised to take any necessary action.

Cllr Steel advised of the necessity to replace the traffic mirrors with larger units in order to be more effective. This was discussed and approved.

**RESOLVED: To purchase replacement traffic mirrors - £165 + VAT.**

**Proposed: Cllr Steel, Seconded: Cllr G Winpenny**

## 10/25-26 FINANCE

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

**RESOLVED: To approve the monthly bank reconciliation for February & March (Proposed: Cllr Steel, seconded Cllr G Winpenny).**

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

S. Archer - Clerk's salary & expenses	£280.17
Hugofox - Website hosting fee	£11.99
Ionos - Email hosting fee	£3.00
Unity Trust - Service charge	£6.00
S. Archer - Clerk's salary & expenses	£368.54
Hugofox - Website hosting fee	£11.99
Ionos - Email hosting fee	£3.00
S. Archer - Clerk's salary & expenses	£368.74
KALC - Membership subscription	£196.00
HMRC - Employee PAYE	£246.80
Unity Trust - Service charge	£6.00

**RESOLVED: To approve payment of invoices included in the monthly payment schedule for April.**

**(Proposed: Cllr Steel, Seconded: Cllr Ruranski).**

c) The annual accounts for 2024/25 were to be audited by the appointed Internal Auditor – Tony Kilbee and would be presented at a separate meeting for approval.

d) The Clerk advised that the insurance renewal from Zurich had been received. An inflationary increase to £398.93 had been quoted. This was considered and agreed to renew the policy with Zurich for a further year.

**RESOLVED: To approve the renewal of the insurance policy with Zurich for 2025/26 at £398.93.**

**(Proposed: Cllr Corby, Seconded: Cllr Ruranski)**

#### **11/25-26 POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

The following policies and procedures were previously circulated to members for review and approval:

CCTV, Code of Conduct, Financial Regulations, Internal Control Statement, Risk Management Statement, Standing Orders, Publication Scheme.

No comments were made, therefore it was agreed to approve for 2025/26.

**This was proposed by Cllr Ruranski and seconded by Cllr W Winpenny.**

#### **12/25-26 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2025, 7:30pm, Acol Village Hall

The meeting was closed by the chairman at 21:15hrs