

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE ABOVE PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON TUESDAY 11<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY  
IN THE DURLING HALL STARTING AT 6.30PM**

**016/25 To Record those Present and list any Apologies**

Those Present: Councillors, S Parish – Chairman, J Tritton, S Instance, K Gipson, L Cronin, D Haining and N Fursdon; also present was Cllr S Carey – KCC, two members of the public and the Proper Officer (PO) of the Council.

Apologies were received from Cllrs J Hollingsbee and E Martin and accepted.

**017/25 To Declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI), Other Significant Interests (OSI's) or a Voluntary interest relating to items on the agenda.**

None were declared.

**018/25 To note and agree the Minutes of previous meetings as follows**

a) Minutes of January 14<sup>th</sup>

Having been previously circulated these were agreed and signed.

b) Minutes of February 3<sup>rd</sup>

Having been previously circulated these were agreed and signed

**019/25 To note items raised by the public prior to the meeting.**

1. A member of the public asked if there was going to be a some sort of memorial for the Late Stanley (Pip) Bull. He suggested an Oak Tree, or to the name the Clock on The Lees in his honour. The PO replied that she and other councillors had been thinking about this, but reminded everyone that it was Stanley who had purchased The Tommy that is standing by the Memorial Hall.
2. A member of the public asked about the when the budget is going to be published/updated. This should be in the near future.

**020/25 To receive reports from District and County Councillors**

- a) Cllr S Carey – Kent Councillor. Cllr Carey highlighted items in her report.
  - b) Cllr E Martin – Folkestone & Hythe Cllr – Noted.
  - c) c) Cllr J Hollingsbee - Folkestone & Hythe Cllr – Noted.
- All reports received are on the website.

**021/25 To note the following 2 planning applications and agree any comments**

- a) 25/0030/FH, 1 Swan Lane. Works to trees subject of TPO No. 2 of 2013, 10 Sycamore Trees to cut back to previous pruning levels and by approximately 3.5 metres

**This application was supported**

- b) 25/0061/FH, Leafield. Erection of rear and side extensions.

**This application was supported**

## 2/25 Finance

### a) To agree and/or ratify the payments as listed

Sellindge V/Hall	Invoice 25/019 Hire of hall	£20.00	Bacs 12/02/2025 40920040
	Invoice 25/018 Electric	£447.04	Bacs 12/02/2025 40920025
Microshade	Invoice 20381	£389.09	Bacs 12/02/2025 40920062
Rialtas	Invoice 32146 Data entry	£1,044.00	Bacs 12/02/2025 40920088
N J Apps	Invoice 5246 Tree works	£2,028.00	Bacs
Mazars	Invoice 2464482 External Audit	£504.00	Bacs 12/02/2025 40920157
Cascade	Inv SINC00936260 Ink for PO	£99.16	Previously listed
	SINV00936259 Paper for office	£20.22	Previously Listed

### c) To note the reconciliation for November 2024

This was noted and signed by Cllrs Parish & Gipson.

## 023/25 To receive and note project updates/reports

### a) Neighbourhood Plan

The next visioning meeting is on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> All are welcome and the more the merrier.

### b) New Office

See the report as annexed to minutes; plus, it was agreed that a meeting on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> to discuss the plans that have been drawn up will be considered. Any changes & suggestions can be made and will be further discussed at a later meeting.

### c) Tree work at St Mary's Church

See the report as annexed to minutes.

### d) D. Day event

See the report as annexed to minutes; plus, a detailed a debate took place; which included the following comments;

- There has been no budget set aside for the event
- Are there enough people to help on the day?

- Previous events have been poorly attended. The PO replied that this was due to the event only being given minimum attention with only the Her and the Deputy arranging things at short notice.
- The Afternoon tea, arranged for the Queens Jubilee, in the hall was well attended.
- The Bonfire beacon and events should be registered the Pageant Master Bruno Peek – this will ensure we get sent a certificate to show that the parish took place.
- An 80<sup>th</sup> VE day flag should be flown from 9.00am on the actual day – this was agreed and the Village Hall will share the costs of the flag with the Parish Council
- Parish & Town Councils are being urged to have events on the early May Day Bank Holiday. The PO will investigate costs urgently, and report back.

#### **024/25 Matters of General Interest**

Cllr Worthy had been on an online training event about Community fund raising and reported that a suggestion for crowdfunding was a useful idea to raise funds. He thought this would be a good idea to help take the Community Garden forward.

#### Dog poo bags.

A short debate took place regarding the distribution of free dog poo bags. This practice has been going on for some while; at the beginning staff and Councillors would ensure that the people being handed the bags actually lived in the parish, but when Covid-19 arrived this was not possible and over time there has been some abuse of the free bags and they have been collected for family and friends that do not live in the village. The PO has now restarted the practice of getting names, and further decided to issue only one pack of 50 bags per dog per month.

#### **025/25 To exclude members of the public under the Public Bodies (Admission To Meetings) Act 1960, para 2, and the Local Government Act 1972 ss100a**

This was agreed.

#### **026/25 Date of next meeting and close of public session**

The next meeting will be on 11<sup>th</sup> March, the public section of the meeting closed at 7.45pm

#### **027/25 To hear an update and/or discuss the internal changes taking place within the Council.**

The PO gave a verbal update on the issues surrounding the various changes that are taking place within the structure of the Council. This included changes:

- To the way procurement will now be carried out.
- The way in which the audit takes place – now we have increased out income.
- How staffing is to be managed.
- What projects are still needed to be monitored?

The chairman explained that if Councillors can spare time to pop in to the office it would allow them to understand what and how the office staff are working on projects and where appropriate, perhaps be able to offer some assistance.

#### **028/25 Close of meeting** There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30pm