

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, 19 February 2025 at 1930hrs

Shepherdswell Village Hall

MINUTES

To receive reports from the County and District Councillors, Kent Police Neighbourhood Beat Officer, Shepherdswell Green Spaces Committee, Speed Watch, Neighbourhood Watch and Community Warden. Public questions and comments on non-agenda items (this section will be limited to 15 minutes or otherwise at the discretion of the Chair).

Cllr David Beaney (KCC) addressed the meeting. KCC were not selected by the government for its Devolution Priority Programme. Concerns were raised by a resident at the end of last year regarding parking outside the Co-op, there is an onsite meeting next week with KCC Highways to attempt to address this issue. The Stagecoach Connect is currently funded by Section 106 monies which will soon run out, the district needs to consider funding for the future utilisation of this facility. KCC budget is in a good position, however Council Tax rates will go up by the basic rate of approximately 5%. The Dover Fast track bus service from Whitfield to the town centre has been in operation since November last year, usage is good but needs to increase as time goes on.

Nigel Baker, Chair of Shepherdswell Green Spaces Committee informed the meeting that the Committee have now adopted a Constitution. A Chair, Treasurer and Secretary have been appointed and the Committee will now be able to establish a bank account and start to look for funding opportunities. There is a report later in the meeting (available on the website).

Mike Pascall spoke on behalf of the Approach Rd & Hill Avenue Residents Association to thank the Parish Council for their contributions to the repair of the tarmac on Approach Road. The association would also like the Council to consider a contribution to the repairs of Hill Avenue – a written request will be submitted for consideration at the March meeting.

The Chair thanked everyone for their contributions.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

None

141/2025 IN ATTENDANCE & APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Present: Cllrs Mark Watson (Chair), Bradley Stauffer-Kruse (Vice Chair), Barry Crush, Lyn Symes, Sindy Denyer, Marien Elgar, Terry Hunt, Carole White, Keith Roberts, Sue Taber, John Bulaitis and Aidan Softley

06 Members of the public

Clerk: Jan Rousell

Apologies: Cllr Jamie Pout (DDC)

142/2025 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 15 JANUARY 2025

Cllr Hunt proposed that the minutes of the meeting held on 15 January 2025 were agreed to be a true and accurate record, seconded by Cllr Symes. **Agreed with one abstention**

143/2025 MATTERS ARISING

None

144/2025 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

145/2025 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION LIMITED TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA – 15 minutes in total.

None

146/2025 CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair reported that a very successful 'catch up' meeting had been held between Councillors and one result of that was the need to remind everyone about meeting Etiquette. Councillors can refresh their knowledge by reading page 19 of The Good Councillor's Guide and referring to our Standing Orders.

For complete transparency and public knowledge, if items are not on an meeting agenda they cannot be voted for by Councillors. Please make sure that a report is forwarded to the Clerk for any items that you wish to receive a decision on.

147/2025 CLERK'S REPORT

A delivery of salt has now been delivered and EKR have kindly offered to store this one behalf of the Parish. This salt can be used to top up any salt bins that are owned by the Parish Council. Residents are encouraged to report any public salt bins that need refilling to KCC Highways.

Tree Surgeons have been contacted with regard to seeking quotes for the works to be carried out on Parish Council owned trees, as a result of the recent Tree Inspection. This will be on the March agenda.

The Clerk and Chair (Cllr Watson) met with Coldred Forum. Moving forward, all contact with Adonis Blue – the environmental consultants – will now be direct with the Clerk or Cllr Watson. Works are expected to recommence when the weather improves.

The Clerk has recently completed a training session on Burial Law & Management. The Cemetery Working Group have recently met. Proposals will be brought to the March meeting.

The Clerk and Cllr Hunt met with our tenant in The Old Telephone Exchange. The tenant is currently paying for the light which illuminates that area of the car park. Works are required on the window frames of the building. Proposals will be brought to the March meeting.

Following the report received from the Play Inspection Company regarding the equipment at the recreation ground a quote has been sought from Playdale, the manufacturers of the play equipment for the parts required to carry out the repairs to the play equipment. Playdale has specified that 'as long as installation instructions are followed so the equipment stays compliant with safety standards.' Clerk to order parts and then Council to consider requesting an interim inspection from the Play Inspection Company.

148/2025 FINANCE

149/2025 Balances as 11 February 2025	£
Current A/C	4273.07
Business A/C	88696.20
INCOME	
M Wright – Rent (31/01/2025)	260.00

EXPENDITURE TO RATIFY	
Hugo Fox – Website (inv 10197)	23.99
Clerk's Wages (February)	1124.62
NEST – Clerk Pension	60.23
Service Charge	6.00
EXPENDITURE TO APPROVE	
Clerk's Expenses	110.39
Village Hall Fees	97.50
Harmers (inv 24566)	792.06
HMRC	99.02
Parish Online	115.20
Kent County Surfacing (Village Hall Driveway & Drain)	964.80
KCPFA Subscription	20.00
	£2198.97

Cllr Roberts proposed the schedule of payments be approved, seconded by Cllr Elgar. All Agreed

149/2025 PLANNING

Ref: 25/00046

Location: 21 Hazling Dane Shepherdswell CT15 7LS

Proposal: Fell to ground level two Sycamores (T1 and T2) and one double stemmed Beech (T3), all the subject of Tree Preservation Order No 1 of 1962 and followed by the planting of one 10ft Silver birch tree and one 10ft Oak tree.

Cllr Roberts proposed that this application be referred to the Tree Officer, seconded by Cllr Hunt. All Agreed

150/2025 SMALL WORKS CONTRACTOR

Cllr Hunt proposed that the agreement between the Parish Council and the Small Works Contractor be approved, seconded by Cllr Roberts. All Agreed

151/2025 WORKING GROUP REPORTS

151.01 Carbon Footprint Working Group – report circulated and available on the website.

151.02 Highway Improvement Plan Working Group – there will be a report at the next meeting.

151.03 Reed Meadow Working Group – there will be a report at the next meeting.

151.04 Communications Working Group – there will be a report at the next meeting.

152/2025 COMMUNITY

152.01 Request from The Terrace Residents Association

Cllr Roberts that this request is not supported, seconded by Cllr Denyer. 5 in favour, 6 against and 1 abstention. Not carried

Cllr Hunt proposed that more information is sought from the RA and presented at the next meeting, seconded by Cllr Softley. Agreed with 6 in favour, 1 against and 5 abstentions

152.02 Request from Shepherdsweil Village Green Association

This item will be added to the March agenda following more information being received from the VGA.

152.03 Village Hall

Cllr Hunt proposed that the quote received for the remedial works in the small hall be accepted, seconded by Cllr Crush. All Agreed

152.04 Recreation Ground - to consider Green Spaces Committee Report

The subject of replanting trees was discussed, this is to be brought forward as a proposal at the March meeting.

152.05 Reed Meadow – to consider a proposal from WW Martin

Cllr Roberts proposed that the Council choose option two but seek clarification from WW Martin that area to be repaired is topsoil and turf, seconded by Cllr Crush. All Agreed

153/2025 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

This will be on Wednesday 19 March 2025 in Shepherdsweil Village Hall at 1930hrs