

**Monkton
Parish Council**



PARISH CLERK: Sara Archer, 204 Monkton St, Monkton, Ramsgate, Kent CT12 4JN
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**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on
6th March 2025 at 7:00pm in Monkton Village Hall**

Present: Parish Councillors Gilly Brown [GB] – Chair, Davina Ransom [DR], Andy Kershaw [AK], Jason Button [JB]

In Attendance: Sara Archer – Clerk, KCC Cllr Derek Crow-Brown, PC Andy Howe, Jamie Smith - MFC plus 3 members of the public.

67/24-25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from District Cllrs Abi Smith & Sam Bambridge.

68/24-25 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No interests declared.

69/24-25 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No concerns raised.

70/24-25 MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

It was resolved to accept the minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting held on 30th January 2025 as a true record. These were proposed by Cllr Ransom and Seconded by Cllr Kershaw and duly signed by the Chair of the meeting.

71/24-25 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cllr Brown reported that unfortunately, Cllr Steve Bennett has taken the reluctant decision to stand down from the Parish Council due to pressure of work and other commitments.

Cllr Brown acknowledged Steve's invaluable contribution to the Parish Council and village affairs over the past 9 years. Steve was always a very practical Councillor, being fair and open minded and he will certainly be missed. On behalf of the village, Cllr Brown offered her thanks for his length of service as a Councillor and wished him all the best moving forward.

Subsequently, official notices of the vacancy have been published. As no call for election was submitted, the position can now be filled by co-option and will be advertised accordingly.

Kent County Council elections will be taking place on May 1st. It was encouraging to report that Cllr Derek Crow-Brown is standing for re-election for the Birchington & Rural Area. Derek has been incredibly supportive and helpful to Monkton Parish and individual villagers who have approached him for help. Cllr Crow-Brown was wished a successful campaign for re-election.

Cllr Linda Wright, also a County Cllr for the Villages, is unfortunately not standing for re-election, however, sincere thanks were also extended to her for her support of Monkton Parish Council.

Cllr Brown advised that a villager had been in contact with regard to the Football Club floodlights which appeared to have been facing towards the village and shining into their property. Monkton Football Club were contacted, who investigated the issue and advised it may have been portable floodlights which had not been positioned as normal. Assurance was offered that this was a one off incident and would not be repeated.

72/24-25 FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) Members resolved to approve the Schedule of Payments below, which had been previously circulated.

This was proposed by Cllr Brown and seconded by Cllr Kershaw.

T. Marsh - Christmas Tree repayment	£350.00
Commercial Services - Grounds Maintenance	£1,397.81
Hugofox - Website hosting fee	£11.99
ICO - Renewal fee	£35.00
Unity Trust - Service Charge	£6.00
Nest - Clerk's pension	
S. Archer - Clerk's salary & expenses	

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Commercial Services - Grounds Maintenance	£124.80
CPRE - Subscription renewal	£60.00
R. Jakeman - repair village stocks	£410.00
St Mary Magdalene - Newsletter printing costs	£246.30
S. Archer - Printing inks repayment	£68.14
Hugofox - Website hosting fee	£11.99
Unity Trust - Service Charge	£6.00
Receipts:	
MFC - Lease payment	£2,000.00

b) The banking reconciliations for January & February were approved.

This was proposed by Cllr Brown and seconded by Cllr Kershaw.

c) The Clerk had previously circulated the CCTV quotes for consideration. It was proposed that quote 527 supplied by WJ Sunstone should be accepted, and grant funding from the Awards for All, Lottery Fund should be explored. Thanet Earth had also been approached for support towards the project, however, they had not yet responded.

This was proposed by Cllr Brown and seconded by Cllr Ransom.

73/24-25

INDIVIDUAL REPORTS

To receive updates for the following:

a) County Councillor –

Cllr Crow-Brown reported as follows:

Farming

Last week at the KCC Economic growth meeting, we had two passionate speakers from the farming community, emphasising the importance of farming for the Kent economy.. The speakers mentioned the best and most versatile farmland in Thanet. I spoke that the government-imposed figure of 17,140 dwellings up to 2031 was scandalous, given we sit on a tight peninsula with few A roads. I was recently leaflet dropping in Valley Road Lydden near Westwood Cross last week and couldn't help noticing the new housing in Westwood on the horizon. I mentioned this at the meeting that developers are offering big sums of money to build on farmland. Fortunately, some of our farmers locally are passionate about their occupation, refusing to sale.

Highways

At KCC Cabinet recently, Neil Baker, Cabinet member for Highways announced that the Pothole Blitz fund for 2025 will be £14.5million DfT can withhold money if we don't spend it, however we will.

This is an increase of about 68% from the £8.6million Pothole Blitz 2024.

As those of you who are signed up to One.Network updates, as we move into March the amount of patching and other maintenance/repair work is escalating.

Overall spend on highways assets (pavements, lights, bridges, drains, etc) is set to be more than £80million - Pothole Blitz forms just part of that.

b) District Councillors –

Cllr Abi Smith was not in attendance, however, she had confirmed she had called-in the planning application by Guildcrest Homes on behalf of the Parish Council.

c) Parish Councillors –

Cllr Ransom and **Cllr Kershaw** had attended the Thanet Rural Regeneration Group meeting in which the focus was directed at Community Resilience Planning. Representatives from surrounding Parishes were in attendance, and the suggestion to collaborate and produce a joint Plan was welcomed. Further discussion outlining the requirements and ways to progress with the Plan would take place at the next meeting.

Cllr Brown would be attending the Thanet Area Committee meeting on 10th March.

d) Kent Police –

PC Andy Howe reported as follows:

As you will see, we have many types of crime showing reductions over the rolling year with only two types standing out as having risen.

The robbery does not concern me as it is an increase from 1 to 2 offences.

The sexual offences relate to the accosting's which I have previously briefed on resulting in the Community Protection Warning being issued to a male, and an incident at St Nicholas generating 4 crime reports and resulting in two arrests.. The more recent reports relate to stalking incidents that are not related to each other. So we are across these issues and have in the main dealt with them.

We did have a spike in Violence Against The Person offences but they have now fallen back to normal levels, these were largely domestic incidents.

Overall, we are very pleased with crime levels in the villages.

Monkton:

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Only one recordable crime during February which was domesticated incident. The number of calls to Police from Monkton were 16 of which 6 were traffic related and the remainder were mostly non crime incidents or information related.

As you may be aware, throughout February we had some increased traffic volume through the village due to the closing of Tothill St in Minster. This resulted in multiple reports of speeding traffic along the Monkton Road and Monkton Street.

I have conducted a collective 10 hours of speed checks and traffic stops along this road with the fastest speed recorded being 37mph in a 30mph limit. Numerous vehicles were stopped, and drivers spoken to. In the main, only advice was given to those drivers as all were receptive to that advice and the speeds recorded would not usually result in Kent Police prosecution.

There are plans for further local road closures which may also affect the two villages, I will monitor this and conduct similar road checks if necessary.

74/24-25

RECREATION GROUND & PLAY AREA

a) A written inspection report had been completed by Cllr Kershaw with no additional issues to note. The basketball hoop required a new net, or removal of the existing damaged net.

b) The proposal submitted by the Football Club regarding the dropped area in the Pavilion building, to be converted into a storage and changing area for the Referee was discussed. It was envisaged that works would be carried out on 22nd/23rd March. It was suggested the photographs and trophies were kept in one place in the building.

The increasing issue of dog waste being left both bagged and unbagged at the Recreation Ground was raised. A suggestion of highlighting the areas with fluorescent chalk paint was considered.

PC Howe advised that if a description of the offenders was available, it could be reported to the PCSO's and Dog Warden who would be in a position to issue a fine.

75/24-25

HIGHWAYS

a) Cllr Kershaw advised of the following updates:

- Reconnection of streetlamp opposite 58 Monkton St (Sunningdale development issue) which was planned for 6th March has been replanned for 14th April (2 days) due in part to the expected overrun of the Tothill Street road closure which in fact was reopened on 1st March.

- Blocked rainwater drains at bottom of Seamark Close after surface water run-off - KCC investigated after initial report in December 2024. KCC have agreed additional works to be scheduled in with the gully clearing team to involve jetting and checking pipework and discharge point into ditch has been completed in February.

- Loose noisy inspection manhole outside 48 Monkton Street re-reported to Southern Water as issue not resolved from 2024. Remains an ongoing issue as Southern Water confirmed they have still not accepted the infrastructure as theirs. (this was the issue in June 2024). MPC have engaged Councillor Derek Crow-Brown to try to resolve this issue and currently we have been advised that KCC has issued a s278 work order to the developer to make repairs. To be chased up by KCC.

- Mud on the road at the closed end of Monkton Street which form parts of the cycleway network has now been removed by the TDC road sweeper lorry.

- The closure of Tothill street for an extended period has caused several problems for us as a village. This led to a request to KCC to investigate what was going on as regards traffic volumes and flow through Monkton. In addition, the police were engaged to investigate incidents of speeding and anti-social actions of drivers.

- Two potholes which have become worse on Willett's Hill have been reported to KCC highways for repair.

- A fridge-freezer has been flytipped at the western end of Monkton Street – to be reported.

b) The Clerk presented the Highways Improvement Plan following her meeting with the Community Engagement Officer.

Minster To Acol – 50mph Speed Limit Reduction Request

HADMS data does not support the request for a speed reduction to be implemented on the road. The highway does not suit itself to being a lower speed limit - open road, not built up.

Highways advised they would find a suitable site to conduct a traffic speed survey to gain additional data. The Highways Manager would also visit the site to ensure the chevron signage is not obstructed from overgrown hedges, and report accordingly.

Willets Hill – Speed Limit Reduction To 30mph

Again, the highway is not conducive to a reduction in the speed limit. Concern was raised that if the speed limit was lowered, drivers would see the limit as a target rather than a limit.

HADMS data showed compliance with the speed limit and slower speeds than those perceived.

Highways to send a Speed Awareness Toolkit which would include wheelie bin stickers and a banner that can be displayed to reinforce the 30mph limit entering the village.

Willets Hill – Double Yellow Lines

The Engagement Officer will liaise with the traffic management team for advice, however, to implement double yellow lines is very costly. A traffic regulation order is £3000 (due to rise in April) plus the

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installation costs on top of this. A public consultation would be necessary and if not supported it would then have to go to the Joint Transportation Board – again – incurring additional costs.

76/24-25

PLANNING

a) No new applications received.

b) **OL/TH/24/1460 - Land South Of, Monkton Street, Monkton, Kent (Guildcrest)**

An encouraging 60 objections to the application had been noted, including objections from Minster Parish Council, KCC Highways and SUDS.

F/TH/24/1119 – WS Cole & Son, 116 Monkton Street, Monkton - PENDING

FH/TH/24/1422 - Cleve Court Farm House, Minster Road – PENDING

Amended plans have been submitted. It was proposed that due to the application being retrospective, the Parish Council would write to TDC and indicate we are in agreement with deferring to their decision in the matter.

77/24-25

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PLAN

This was previously discussed under Item 73/24-25 (c).

78/24-25

COMMUNITY EVENT 2025

A fireworks event would be organised by the Parish Council to be held on 10th May. The football club would be providing refreshments as per the previous fireworks evening. Resident's and their families and friends were invited to attend, however, parking would be limited to disabled/mobility issues only at the Recreation Ground. Finer details would be discussed outside of this meeting and reported back at the next meeting.

79/24-25

DATES OF THE NEXT MEETINGS

Proposed dates for meetings 2025: 1st May (Methodist Church), 3rd July, 4th Sept, 6th Nov all to be held in the Village Hall, 7pm.

The meeting was closed by the Chairman at 8:20pm.

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