

**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  
30<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 7:00pm in Monkton Village Hall**

**Present: Parish Councillors** Gilly Brown [GB] – Chair, Davina Ransom [DR], Steve Bennett [SB], Andy Kershaw [AK]

**In Attendance:** Sara Archer – Clerk, KCC Cllr Derek Crow-Brown, KCC Cllr Linda Wright, District Cllr Abi Smith, Richard Moore – Chair Resident's Association plus 4 members of the public.

**53/24-25      APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies had been received from Cllr Jason Button (holiday), PC Andy Howe.

**54/24-25      DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

No interests declared.

**55/24-25      PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

No concerns raised.

**56/24-25      MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS**

**It was resolved to accept the minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2024 as a true record. These were proposed by Cllr Bennett and Seconded by Cllr Ransom and duly signed by the Chair of the meeting.**

**57/24-25      CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Cllr Brown wished everyone a Happy New Year, all other items to report would be covered in the agenda.

**58/24-25      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 Ransom.**

Hugofox - Website hosting fee	£11.99
Unity Trust - Service Charge	£6.00
NEST - Clerk's pension	£60.64
SLCC - Unit referral CiLCA	£12.50
S. Archer - Clerk's salary & expenses	
ATS - Payroll Services	£72.00
Monkton Village Hall - Hire fees	£150.00
Hugofox - Website hosting fee	£11.99
HMRC - Employee PAYE	£407.33
S. Archer - Clerk's salary & expenses	
Nest - Clerk's pension	£47.27
Unity Trust - Service Charge	£6.00

**Receipts:**

KCC Community Fund Grant - CCTV Upgrade      £1,378.00

b) The banking reconciliations for November & December were approved.

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

c) The Clerk presented the annual budget which had been previously circulated to members. A proposed increase of approximately 10% to the precept was considered and agreed. A vote was taken and all were in favour to request a precept of £19,237 for 2025/26.

**RESOLVED: To approve the budget for 2025/26 and request a precept of £19,237 from TDC. This was proposed by Cllr Brown, Seconded by Cllr Ransom.**

d) The annual contribution towards the printing costs of the village newsletter was considered and approved.

**RESOLVED: To approve a contribution of £246.30 towards the costs of the village newsletter. This was proposed by Cllr Ransom and seconded by Cllr Kershaw.**

*Signed*..... *Date*.....

**INDIVIDUAL REPORTS**

To receive updates for the following:

a) County Councillor –

**Cllr Linda Wright** advised she was involved with Adult Social Care which took a significant amount of her time. Due to rising costs of the service, KCC are looking at ways to enable residents to receive care and remain in their own homes. Grateful thanks were extended to Cllr Wright for her generous grant contribution towards the upgrade of the village CCTV system.

**Cllr Crow-Brown** reported as follows:

The leaders of Medway Council and Kent County Council have written to the government to express an interest in joining the Devolution Priority Programme (DPP).

It comes after the KCC full council meeting last week where it was agreed to the request, along with Medway's unitary authority, to be included in the programme and to seek permission to postpone the KCC elections in May.

Reform of the current two-tier governance is long overdue and I generally welcome it. But as always, the devil will be in the detail.

So here is my best guess at what is likely to happen if the government's plans are enacted.

Parish councils in Thanet will remain unchanged, and might get more responsibility and funding.

Borough / District Councils including TDC will be abolished.

Kent CC and Medway Unitary Authority will be abolished.

The role Police and Crime Commissioner will be abolished.

New Unitary Councils will be created. This is the main debate - how many and where will the boundaries be? My personal feeling there will be three, these being:

East Kent: (Thanet, Canterbury, Ashford, Dover and Folkestone)

West Kent (Tonbridge & Malling, Maidstone, Sevenoaks and Tunbridge Wells)

North Kent (Dartford, Gravesham, Medway and Sittingbourne)

The exact boundaries might need to be adjusted to make the numbers balance.

The new Unitary Councils would take over most of the functions of KCC and the district/borough councils.

Under the government plans we would also have an Elected Mayor. A bit like Boris Johnson or Ken Livingstone in London (or indeed Andy Street in the West Midlands and Andy Burnham in Manchester).

The Mayor would have responsibility for Kent-wide services such as economic development, transport, police, fire, civil defence etc).

What are the pros and cons?

**PRO**

1. Around £1.5 million pa will be saved on reducing the number of councillors
2. Over 100 senior council officers across Kent earn over £100,000 a year. Many would no longer be required (though any savings in the early years would be offset by redundancy payments)
3. Councillors (and council officers) would face greater accountability, as the same council would be providing all the services without one blaming the other
4. There would be many opportunities for economies of scale (such as refuse and recycling and procurement)
5. The new Elected Mayor would have significant authority to promote economic development and improve infrastructure, along with new funding from the government.
6. Many council offices could be sold or repurposed

**CONS**

1. There would be a degree of upheaval in the early years as old councils are closed down and new ones created.
2. Any strong bonds that have developed between residents and their local council (in our case TDC would be lost and the new councils would cover bigger areas
3. Almost two centuries of tradition of Kent having a County Council would be lost

The government had indicated that these changes will be coming whether local councils like it or not, so I am glad to see Kent in the front line, shaping the debate and moving forward sooner rather than later.

b) District Councillors –

**Cllr Abi Smith** reported as follows:

KCC Consultation: Local Nature Recovery Strategy

The consultation closes on Wednesday 12th March. Find out more about the consultation, briefings and public events on the Making Space for Nature in Kent and Medway website:

<https://www.makingspacefornaturekent.org.uk>

Online briefings for community groups and members of the public, plus drop-in events, where people can find out about the strategy, and speak to members of KCC's Making Space for Nature team.

*Signed*.....

*Date*.....

Broadstairs Library, The Broadway, Broadstairs CT10 2BS - Wednesday 12 February, from 10am  
Cliftonville Farmers' Market, Walpole Bay Lawns, Margate CT9 3HF - date to be confirmed

c) Parish Councillors –

**Cllr Ransom** attended the CPRE meeting in which the devolution was discussed, along with the DCO application regarding the Sealink project at Minster Marshes.

**Cllr Brown** attended the TAC meeting, where the devolution and its effect on Parish Councils was discussed.

d) Kent Police –

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

Thanet Villages:

The only real stand out issue is the sexual offences rise of 100%, I have looked at these individually and they equate to reported stalking incidents across the entire Thanet Villages, with only one actually being in the villages (obviously the Villages also cover a large part of the new Westwood Cross Estates which has increased some of our crime types). What's interesting is that we have not seen a jump in Violence Against The Person across Xmas and New Year, which is usually the case.

Monkton:

We have only had 8 calls from Monkton of which none were crime related. Most relate to the fast roads network and a couple were concern calls for persons not associated to Monkton.

My Activity:

I have spent quite a lot of time during January keeping an eye on the poaching areas and last week PC England (Birchington Officer) and myself have at last caught someone in the act of hare coursing with the evidence present. This resulted in an arrest, seizure of property and charges being brought against that person. We were assisted by the Rural Task Force.

Actually, catching someone in the act is a very rare occurrence, so we are very happy with the result having spent the last couple of months hunting for these persons.

I have been assisting with calls to the greater area, including many weather-related incidents.

It was noted that a new Community Warden for the Villages had been appointed and was currently undergoing training. He would be invited to attend the next meeting accordingly.

**60/24-25**

**RECREATION GROUND & PLAY AREA**

a) A written inspection report had been completed by Cllr Bennett with no additional issues to note. Repairs would be needed on the Pavilion guttering.

b) The Clerk had contacted Playdale and requested a quote for repair to the fire damaged area. It was discussed and agreed for the Clerk to enquire whether the repair can be completed independently or whether this would compromise the guarantee. The Clerk would instruct the repairs at her discretion upon receipt of this information.

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

c) 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 and agreed. Temporary stud walls could be built to enclose the area. Quotes from professional builders to carry out the works would be requested.

It was suggested that the hiring of the facility was publicised more widely to promote its use for community use.

d) A number of options for the safety barriers had been considered. Discussion took place regarding the current position of the security of the Recreation Ground. It was agreed that a six month period of leaving the barriers unlocked would be trialled.

**61/24-25**

**HIGHWAYS**

a) Cllr Kershaw advised of the following updates:

- Defective streetlamp at the new Sunningdale development is due to be reconnected by UK power networks on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2025. This will involve a one day road closure.
- KCC would be jet blasting the blocked rainwater drains at Seamark Close and drainage ditch behind in due course.
- The unstable manhole cover near 48 Monkton Street has been reported to Southern Water for action once again.

*Signed.....*

*Date.....*

62/24-25

**PLANNING**

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

Richard Moore, Chair of the Resident's Association (RA) was invited to comment on the application. For a number of reasons, the RA would be opposing the application, a decision firmly supported by the Parish Council. The development site was outside the village confines and was unallocated on the Local Plan, despite attempts by the landowner to offer the site for inclusion. The Local Authority rejected the location as being unsuitable for development. The location was unsustainable, has no services, poor public transport network and few footpaths.

It was noted that the closing date for receipt of comments on the application was 21<sup>st</sup> February.

A meeting had been arranged by the RA to discuss the application in more detail, and offer advice on how to effectively object to the proposal.

Cllr Abi Smith was asked to call-in the application on behalf of the Parish Council who would be opposing the application.

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

It was noted this was a retrospective planning application. Concern that works have already been undertaken prior to receiving the relevant permissions would be expressed to the planning department.

b) **F/TH/24/1119 – WS Cole & Son, 116 Monkton Street, Monkton**

It was encouraging to note that the Ecological Advice Service had taken on board the suggestion to relocate the reptiles to the local Nature Reserve.

**F/TH/24/1067 – Brooksend Service Station, Canterbury Road, Birchington**

63/24-25

**COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PLAN**

Cllr Ransom confirmed that the Resilience Plan would be discussed at the next Thanet Rural Regeneration Group meeting. An update on the position would be available at the next meeting.

64/24-25

**COMMUNITY EVENT 2025**

A fireworks event would be organised by the Parish Council to be held on 10<sup>th</sup> May. Details would be finalised and an update reported at the next meeting.

65/24-25

**DATES OF THE NEXT MEETINGS**

Proposed dates for meetings 2025: 6<sup>th</sup> March, 1<sup>st</sup> May(subject to cancellation of KCC elections), 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 4<sup>th</sup> Sept, 6<sup>th</sup> Nov all to be held in the Village Hall, 7pm.

66/24-25

**EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC**

Under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public were excluded by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted during this item.

The proposals discussed during this item were considered and agreed as outlined in the supporting paper which was circulated to Councillors for information.

**Proposed: Cllr Brown, Seconded: Cllr Ransom**

The meeting was closed by the Chairman at 9:00pm.

*Signed*.....

*Date*.....