

MINUTES
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF
COLLIER STREET PARISH COUNCIL
Orchard Room, St Margaret's School
Monday 7th JULY 2025
commencing at 19.00pm
In attendance

Cllr Andrew Papas [AP] Chairman	Cllr Ben Ward [BW]
Cllr Jack Highwood [JH] Vice-chair	Cllr Charlie Cooper [CC]
Cllr Deborah Papas [DP]	Borough Councillor. Mike Summersgill [MS] arrived at 19.30pm
Cllr Steve Barham [SB]	
	Michelle Rumble – Clerk [MR]

25.07.01

To receive apologies and reasons for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllr Rigden, Borough Councillor Russell and Borough Councillor Grace Couch.

25.07.02

To receive declarations of personal, prejudicial, and disclosable pecuniary interests on items on the agenda and updates to members' register of interests.

None declared from any member

25.07.03

Public Forum – Time limit 15 minutes

No members of the public present.

25.07.04

County Councillor and District Councillor Reports.

Borough Councillor Russell was not in attendance, but their report was circulated prior to the meeting.

Borough Councillor Mike Summersgill and Grace Couch also sent a report prior to the meeting.

MBC Members Report from Cllr Claudine Russell

Dated: June 2025

Council

The leadership at MBC are determined to spend a large amount of money – now £7.7million to refurbish the Maidstone House offices. I fail to see how this represents value for money on a number of reasons, notably it is more than the asset is worth. I have called the item in to Overview and Scrutiny for proper consideration.

Overview and Scrutiny

We have chosen the topics that we will be starting with this year, namely an empty property review, an exercise in examining public trust of MBC and to pick up a review of the CIL charging schedule as the leadership have decided not to review this now.

Ward Work

MARDEN –I was pleased to see that there was a resolution of a longstanding planning enforcement issue within the ward and the inspector found fully in favour of MBC and the structures will need to be removed. I have been trying to get the fly tipped waste outside of the Ballards Close flats removed, it is on private land and is not Golding Homes, but I continue to try to secure its removal.

NETTLESTEAD – I have shared the petition as far and wide as possible. I continue to work with Cllr Hudson, and I have been in contact with the waste team to ensure they are aware of the road closures and to pre-emptively make sure that they will be accessing Gibbs Hill to collect the waste.

YALDING – No casework this month.

COLLIER STREET – No casework this month.

HUNTON – No casework this month.

As always, if you need my help, please do not hesitate to email me at claudinerussell@maidstone.gov.uk

Green Party Councillors' Report of June 2025, for Marden & Yalding Ward Parishes –

Things continued to be busy again within the Borough Council after the (KCC) election 'purdah', and Cabinet have been rapidly catching up with projects and proposals that had been 'on hold' during that period, setting out the priorities for Year One (April '25 – March '26) that needed to be emphasised from our approved Programme for 2025-29, so they are addressed right now and don't fall victim to any central government 'halt' to forward financing of projects (which could happen!).

We had a public Cabinet meeting on 18th June, after three Policy Advisory (PAC) reviews earlier in the month (Grace is vice-chair of one of these), and that looked at last year's financial outturn (a £100,000+ surplus, unlike last year's deficit), took forward the future budget planning, looked at community safety activities, approved Mike's Action Plans for Biodiversity & Climate Change up to 2030, and also discussed a project to refurbish Maidstone House (which has been 'called in' for more scrutiny). The next Council meeting is due on 16th July, which will be chaired by the new Mayor, Cllr. Martin Round of Headcorn (who was this weekend hosting the Battle of Britain festival at the aerodrome); after that, another Cabinet meeting is being held on 23rd July with none due in August.

Updates for Newsletters/Sharing with Residents:

Please check out www.visitmaidstone.com/whats-on for details of things happening in and around the town; there is an Arts Carnival on 12th July, with a town procession and a musical event in Brenchley Gardens and a new Titanic exhibition at the Museum from 12th July.

Do not forget the River Festival in town on July 26th, and there will be Bandstand concerts on Sundays from 20th July, and Art in the Park on Fridays, in Brenchley Gardens all Summer. For other musical interests, there is the Maid of Stone rock festival in Mote Park and Blue Reef in Linton, both in July.

Parish Matters –

Collier Street – All Councillors (+ MP) had an email from resident about problems on Benover Road.

Hunton – Traffic concerns (another crash outside the school) and school-time parking issues.

Marden – Mike has been involved in residents' concerns about illegal land use near StileBridge.

Nettlestead – Mike & Grace publicised the zebra crossing petition to the wider M&Y Ward (again).

Yalding – The monthly Repair Café events are proving very useful; much praise needs to go to all the local community members 'staffing' this initiative. Grace has been liaising between Kenward Trust staff and our

beat PCs, re. anti-social behaviour support work in the Summer. MBCs emergency response team are still trying to liaise with Trooli about landline issues, after Laddingford problems.

Borough Councillors Grace Couch & Mike Summersgill – 29th June 2025

Emails: michaelsummersgill@maidstone.gov.uk, gracecouch@maidstone.gov.uk

25.07.05

Approval of minutes

To approve the minutes of the parish council meeting held on 2nd JUNE 2025 as a true record. Resolved: as proposed by DP, seconded by JK, and reached unanimous approval the minutes were approved.

25.07.06

Planning

No new planning applications

25.07.06.01

Planning decisions made by Maidstone Borough Council

No decisions

25.07.07

Correspondence List

The Correspondence list was circulated prior to the meeting and AP will draft a reply to the correspondence received from the resident.

The Clerk was also asked to contact Collier Street Primary School regarding the ownership of the Flagpole, as this was mentioned in the correspondence from the resident.

25.07.08 Finance items for decision

25.07.08.01 To receive the bank Statements for May and June 2025

25.07.08.02 To receive the bank reconciliations for May and June 2025

25.07.08.03 To receive the RBS finance reports for June 2025

25.07.08.04 To note Income received since the last meeting.

- Bank Interest Money Manager £255.62
- Parish Services Scheme first instalment £1048.60

25.07.08.05 Payments made since the last meeting.

Payment list for July 2025

25.07.08.06 Email received from HSBC to state that the £8.00 monthly fee has now been removed from the account.

Resolved: as proposed by DP, seconded by SB, and reached unanimous approval the updated June 2025 payment list and the July 2025 payment list were approved.

Action: CLERK to administer payments via BACS.

25.07.09 Policies

The Clerk circulated prior to the meeting the social media Policy and the Guidelines, this a NALC Standard Policy.

SB stated that the Policy did not really fit with the Parish Council, and he will amend this and circulate prior to the next meeting in readiness to be adopted at the September Meeting.

ACTION SB – SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY.

25.07.10

CIL MONIES

[DP] there has not been any further spend since the last meeting but stated that there will be over the next few months some more spend on the Electrical connection.

25.07.11**HIGHWAYS – HIP and GENERAL**

- Two large 7.5t vehicle restriction signs made for each side of the Bridge for Long ends Lane have commenced
- Signs erected but they are width restrictions instead of weight limit
- Two damaged reflector posts on B2162 (southbound) just before Haviker Street
- Works completed
- Post and sign bent / twisted on B2162 northbound before car park
- Works under investigation
- Two reflectors bent and flattened on B2162 northbound just before car park
- Works under investigation

It was also noted that Greg McNichol the contact for the HIP is leaving and his replacement will not be in post until September.

ACTION [DP]

25.07.12**Recreation Ground and Car Park****25.07.12.01**

Village Green Electrical Connection

Report from Cllr Ward, he stated that Road Closure notice has been submitted again to Kent County Council as the first one was refused. If it is approved UK Power Networks will carry out the works from the Monday, the 15th of September to Friday the 19th of September.

Cllr Ward has also got a quote from Parker Building Supplies for the concrete slab which the Electrical Box needs to be placed on this must be completed before the connection is complete.

JH stated that as this is coming from CIL Monies we need more than one quote and that applies to all purchases from CIL Monies.

ACTION BW

25.07.12.02

Play area update on repairs/replacements and on Playground Inspections going forward.

The Clerk emailed the Playground Inspection Template report, the Councillors will use this to do a monthly inspection and forwarded to the Clerk.

ACTION ALL COUNCILLORS

There is no other update on the moment on the Play Equipment repairs/replacement.

BW then asked the question if the Parish Council would require planning permission to relocate the play equipment to another part of the Field. He will look at the Planning on this.

ACTION BW

25.07.12.03

It was noted that the ROSPA Annual Inspection will be carried out in July/August

25.07.13

Flooding Report.

[JH] reported.

Very dry month, nothing to report.

25.07.14**To resolve to go into closed session and to exclude the press and public at item 25.07.15**

Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 in accordance with standing order 10 (xi) for consideration of matters relating to the recreation ground (contract)

25.07.15

Closed Session

Recreation Ground (contract)

This did not take place.

25.07.16**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Monthly Meeting Monday, 1st September 2025 at 7pm

Please note there is no meeting in August.

[There being no further business, the meeting closes at 19.57pm]

All members of the public are welcome to attend and are reminded that this is a Parish Council meeting held in public, not a public meeting.

The meeting will be adjourned to allow members of the public to ask questions. Anyone wishing to address the Council on any subject, should note the following details:

- Any question must be sent as a transcript, at least seven days prior to the meeting, to the Clerk at clerk@collierstreetparishcouncil.gov.uk
- If more than one person wishes to speak about the same item, a spokesperson must be nominated
- All questions should be courteous, and the speaker must not deviate from the subject
- This is an opportunity to ask questions, not to raise complaints against the Council or any Councillor
- Councillors may decide to answer the question at the meeting, or add any item to the agenda of a later Parish Council meeting

Prepared by | Michelle Rumble - Clerk | Collier Street Parish Council