

MINUTES
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF
COLLIER STREET PARISH COUNCIL
Orchard Room, St Margaret's School
Monday 3rd MARCH 2025
commencing at 19.00PM
In attendance

Cllr Andrew Papas [AP] Chair	Parish Clerk – Michelle Rumble [MR]
Cllr Jack Highwood [JH] Vice-chair arrived at 19.15pm	
Cllr Deborah Papas [DP]	Borough Councillor – Claudine Russell [CR]
Cllr Charlie Cooper [CC]	Borough Councillor – Mike Summersgill [MS]
Cllr Kelly Rigden [KR]	Borough Councillor – Grace Couch [GC] left the meeting at 19.30pm

25.03.01 APOLOGIES	County Councillor Lottie Parfitt-Reid	
25.03.02 DECLARATION OF INTEREST	There were not any Declarations declared in any item on the agenda	
25.03.03 MINUTES	MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 3RD FEBRUARY 2025 TO BE APPROVED.	
	It was RESOLVED by all members present to accept the minutes as a true and accurate record of the meeting, they were therefore signed by the Chair of the meeting.	
25.03.04	EXTERNAL REPORTS MBC Members Report from Cllr Claudine Russell Dated: March 2025 Budget Our budget amendment failed, and we were subjected to calls that we didn't value Violence against women and girls as we sought to remove the money from the citizens assembly. Nothing could be further from the truth; we have other current ways within the council to debate and investigate subjects such as the overview and scrutiny committee, so we didn't see the need for the new citizens assembly at this time as we move forward towards a unitary council. Car parking charges in Maidstone are set to rise, Mote Park car parking charges will raise by 50%. There will be the creation of a citizen's assembly, and the money put towards the evidence gathering and reports that would be required in order to start thinking about the Leeds Langley Relief Road has been removed from the capital budget. The new Leisure Centre capital budget has been kicked into	

	<p>the long grass and no clear commitment to the rebuild of this facility in Maidstone is now shown.</p> <p>Ward Work</p> <p>MARDEN – I have been helping with a number of housing queries. The dog bins in Marden were overflowing and residents contacted me about them, so I contacted street scene to get them cleared.</p> <p>NETTLESTEAD – I have managed to get MBC to the point where they will hand over the title deeds for the piece of land in Bishops/Bryants for parking to Golding, but they would need to develop the actual car park themselves. Golding are currently unwilling to do so. I wonder if any more pressure can be applied via tenant routes or via the parish council? The Nettlestead bin is broken, was removed and is being replaced and I have asked about the other missing bins.</p> <p>YALDING – I am still chasing Golding to get the hedges and trees in The Nook pruned to the resident's satisfaction, they have been out a number of times but there is still work to do.</p> <p>COLLIER STREET – I have been assisting with planning queries and fly tipping reporting.</p> <p>HUNTON – An assisted bin collected had been repeatedly missed and I have chased the team and arranged for a full site clearance and the supervisor to visit the property and check that it is being emptied as required.</p> <p>As always, if you need my help, please do not hesitate to email me at claudinerussell@maidstone.gov.uk</p> <p><u>Green Party Councillors' Report of February 2025, for Marden & Yalding Ward Parishes –</u></p> <p>In a very busy period within the Borough Council, the Budget for 2025/26 and the new Corporate Strategy were 'signed off' by Full Council on 19th Feb, with a debate taking place on three amendments to the Budget (which were not passed). Matters continue being complicated by the new Government, as it seeks to introduce significant Planning changes (with more housing numbers) next month and the 'surprise' news that there would be KCC elections in May. This means that, with election 'purdah', some Borough business has to be completed through Cabinet next month, or it waits until June. Only the monthly Planning Committee and a Scrutiny committee will meet in April.</p> <p>At Cabinet on 5th February, the medium-term financial strategy through to 2030 was discussed, but little other new business; the Cabinet Agenda for 19th March is much longer as it is including some items that would have gone through to April. Within that Agenda are Mike's projects on the updated Biodiversity & Climate Change Strategy (now split into two strategies) and an update on Biodiversity Net Gain sites</p>	
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	<p>in the Borough; the Decarbonisation project is being costed and reviewed.</p> <p>With the Budget for 2025/26 now set, there will be new matters coming forward, including a Citizens' Assembly on the topic of Violence against Women & Girls (VAWG), and a Nature Recovery Fund has been set up to improve our green spaces and potentially add new ones. There are already works going on in Jubilee Square in town to improve and 'green up' the environment. Grace has been liaising with Marden Wildlife and Natural England about improving the rural environment too.</p> <p>Updates for Newsletters/Sharing with Residents:</p> <p><u>Covid Memorial Tree Planting</u></p> <p>MBC is planting 633 trees on Tuesday 4th and Wednesday 5th March to commemorate the number of people who died across the borough of Maidstone because of Covid, five years ago. The trees will include a combination of Oak, Birch, Hawthorn & Field Maple and will be placed in a variety of locations across Maidstone including Allington Open Space, where people can visit, stop, remember and take time to reflect on those impacted since the pandemic started. Maidstone residents are being invited to volunteer and take part in the tree planting to be part of the commemoration.</p> <p><u>Maidstone's 'Big Day Out'</u></p> <p>Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) is inviting everyone to get out and enjoy our amazing parks and open spaces, and to be part of the first community-led 'Big Day Out.' Being held on Saturday 14 June 2025, this inaugural one-day festival is celebrating outdoor areas to be found across the borough.</p> <p>Organisations, local businesses, Parish communities and all the residents of Maidstone are invited to take part in the 2025 festival and register their interest by emailing: Maidstone@BigDayOut.info</p> <p>To find out more about the Maidstone Big Day Out, to register your event as part of the day and how to take part, please visit the website: https://bigdayout.info/</p> <p><u>Parish Matters –</u></p> <p>Collier Street – nothing to report, apart from noting a couple of new planning appeals in the Parish.</p> <p>Hunton – Liaison continues with upset residents over noisy construction activity on a large 'agricultural' site, and heavy traffic movements causing verge damage on the minor roads.</p>	
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	<p>Marden – Mike has been dealing with a couple of resident queries on highways and accommodation problems; assistance from other Councillors (KCC & MBC) has been important in dealing with these.</p> <p>Nettlestead – request from a resident for a litter pick on Hempstead Lane & Station Road; scheduled for this week. Mike is also liaising with the local SpeedWatch co-ordinator to help re-energise it. Approved 600 trees for planting on private land in Nettlestead Green, as part of MBC's 3000+ planted this, Winter; applications for further tree planting initiatives are welcome – see MBC website</p> <p>Yalding –The Repair Café event in March is gaining strength, and Mike spoke about this at the Parish Council Environment Network meeting in Sutton Valence on 26th Feb, then met the organiser after. On that same day, Mike attended the planning Appeal for 3 houses on Vicarage Road, which he had called in back in May – several residents spoke at the Appeal, plus MBC & KCC, and we wait to hear. Mike also visited the Syngenta/YEP site on 27th, to discuss aspects raised with the Developers/MBC, related to new applications but also to see if the flooding nearby in January had affected the site.</p> <p>Borough Councillors Grace Couch & Mike Summersgill – 28th February 2025</p> <p>Emails: michaelsummersgill@maidstone.gov.uk, gracecouch@maidstone.gov.uk</p>	
	<p>COUNTY COUNCILLOR Cllr Lottie Parfitt-Reid was not in attendance, and no report was received prior to the meeting.</p>	
<p>25.03.05 PUBLIC FORUM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC QUESTIONS There were no members present at the meeting.</p>		
<p>25.03.06 PLANNING NEW PLANNING APPLICATIONS</p> <p>APPLICATION REFERENCE 25/500448/AGRIC LOCATION: Little Cheveney Farm, Sheephurst Lane, Marden PROPOSAL: PROPOSAL: Prior notification for the erection of an agricultural building with an attached enclosed secure storage building and hard standing. For its prior approval to: siting of the excavation or deposit.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED by all members to OBJECT to this application. Cllr Highwood will write up a statement of OBJECTION outside of the meeting.</p> <p>APPLICATION REFERENCE 25/500288/FULL</p>		

ADDRESS: Den Farmhouse, Den Lane, Collier Street.

PROPOSAL: Erection of 2 agricultural barns. Installation of gates and new permeable surface.

It was **RESOLVED** by all members present to a NEUTRAL STANCE

APP/U2235/W/25/3359851

Notification of Appeal Lodged with the Planning Inspectorate

Proposal: Erection of an agricultural storage barn with solar roof panels on roof, and improvements to existing driveway.

Location: Cherry Gardens Collier Street Tonbridge

Please note you must do this by 19 March 2025.

It was **RESOLVED** by all members present that the Parish Council Objections still stand, and that Cllr Highwood will attend the Appeal Hearing. Clerk to inform the Planning Officer

Cllr Ward asked if the Parish Council can have updates on Planning Enforcements. Cllr Summersgill stated that he would email the Clerk with the link to the Spreadsheet which has all the Enforcements on.

25.03.07

PLANNING

DECISIONS BY MBC

None

25.03.08

PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE

There was no planning correspondence.

25.03.09

HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

[DP] The Give way sign opposite the school is down to be re-painted. Also, the repeater signs along Green Lane have also been reported to Highways. Cllr Barham also asked if there was an update on the Longends Lane. [DP] stated that there was no update.

Green Lane will be closed from the 17th to the 19th of March – diversion in place

There were no further reports.

25.03.10

CIL MONIES

[DP] updated that amount of CIL Monies available is £34,516.31 - £16,132.05 must be spent by 06/11/2025.

No income received since the last meeting.

25.03.11

FINANCE

25.03.11.01 BANK RECONCILIATION – It was **RESOLVED** by all members present to accept the Bank Reconciliation for January.

25.03.11.02 BANK STATEMENTS - It was **RESOLVED** by all members present to accept the Bank Statement for January.

25.03.11.03 TRIAL BALANCE TO DATE

It was **RESOLVED** by all members present to accept the Trial Balance Report

25.03.11.04 BUDGET REPORT YTD

It was **RESOLVED** by all members present to accept the Budget Report YTD.

25.03.11.05 PAYMENTS FOR FEBRUARY

It was Proposed by [DP] seconded by [KR], and **RESOLVED** by all members present to approve the Following payments-

25.03.12**RECREATION FIELD & CAR PARK****PLAY AREA INSPECTION**

The Clerk forwarded the latest Play Inspection to all Councillors prior to the meeting and discussed the Medium Risk items in the Report.

Cllr Rigden will seek some quotes for the new surface for some of the play equipment and will also look at what Grants might be available for this and report back to the Council.

MAINTENANCE AND INSPECTIONS

Cllr Highwood stated that Adam one of his employees would be interested in attending a Play Equipment Inspection course when it was available. The Play equipment would need to be inspected every week. This item will be added to the next agenda.

CAR PARK**Description of the Works to be carried out by UK Power Networks:**

Installation of a new two or three phase 100-amp underground supply connected from an overhead pole.
Excavation and reinstatement of the trench with new cable installation Unmade.

Excavation and reinstatement of the trench with new cable installation.

Road closure for the duration of work.

The charge for a temporary traffic regulation order (TTRO).

Installation of parking cones for the suspension of areas not officially designated as parking bays.

Notification of work on the highway to neighboring residents

New cable installation within an existing trench.

It was **RESOLVED** by all members present to accept the above work and the quote below. The Clerk will inform the contractor.

For the purposes of the Terms and Conditions the following elements of the Works are**"Diversionary Works"**

Total Excluding VAT	£8,743.00
VAT @ 20%	£1,748.60
Total (including VAT)	£10,491.60

25.03.13**FLOODING UPDATE**

[JH] gave an update on Flooding.

His Report

Cllr Highwood has been in contact with the Southeast River Trust, and they are in process and working towards restoring ponds and ditches in Collier Street.

The Upper Medway have carried out a lot of work with the ditches in Longends Lane.

25.03.14**CORRESPONDENCE**

EMAIL FROM KALC Minutes

EMAILS FROM KALC – Free Community Resilience Planning Workshop on the 3rd of April 2025

EMAIL FROM KALC – The Emergency Planning System.

25.03.15**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

[AP] confirmed that the next full Council meeting will be, in The Orchard Room, St Margaret's School on 7th APRIL 2025 at 19.00pm

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.58pm

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

PG 6 SIGNATURE..... DATE.....

