

STANSTED PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 8 APRIL 2024
AT FAIRSEAT VILLAGE HALL AT 8.00 PM**

PRESENT: Cllr Jack Saunders Chairman
Cllr Kelly Curtis
Cllr Greg Whittaker
Cllr Peter Morris
Cllr Daren Sefer
Cllr Yvonne Tisson

Mr David Rice Clerk
Three members of the public

Item *Action point*
Minute no

1 CHAIRMAN

1 Cllr Saunders took the Chair.

2 APOLOGIES

2 Apologies were received from Cllr Brooker and also KCC Cllr Harry Rayner and also TMBC's Cllrs Martin Coffin and Robin Betts.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3 The Chairman noted his family relationship with the owners of the Stansted Lodge farm buildings.

4 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 4th MARCH 2024

4 It was proposed by Cllr Saunders, seconded by Cllr Sefer that the minutes of the meeting held on 4th March 2024 be signed as a true record.

5 MATTERS ARISING

5 There were no matters arising.

6 COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

The Chairman suspended the meeting to allow the Clerk to read the written report submitted by TMBC's Cllrs Coffin & Betts to update the Parish Council.

Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council has set a budget against the worsening financial climate, however, unlike many councils it is debt free and is possibly in a better position than many others in the country.

A new TMBC Chief Executive has been recruited to replace Julie Bielby in July 2024 who was retiring after working with the council most of her working life.

It was reported that the number of staff dealing with planning and enforcement matters at TMBC was increasing and it was expected that this would provide improved continuity for users of the services.

Progress was being made with clamping down on fining fly-tippers, and also those instructing removals, with the imposition of fines of up to £1,000.

TMBC has set up a community enforcement team to reduce anti-social behaviour throughout the borough and there is a six-month trial in place to assess whether it is effective.

The Chair thanked the Clerk for summarising the report and reconvened the meeting.

7 CLIMATE ACTION PLAN – Action 1 – Plant more tree and maintain hedges

7 The Parish Council agreed that planting more trees was an important action and it was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Mr Sefer that Mr Whittaker be the lead for this initiative. Various suggestions were made including a community orchard, tree sponsoring and ensuring that native trees were planted for each ash lost to die-back.

8 This was agreed that Mr Whittaker should make a plan of action for consideration by the Parish Council and that inquiries should be made into grants available for this purpose.

**Mr
Whittaker**

8 WAR MEMORIAL

9 The Parish Council discussed the damage to the war memorial and it was agreed that the Chairman should instruct the repair following the quote received at a cost of £375 plus VAT.

Chair

9 PARISH COUNCIL – SCHOOL SUB-COMMITTEE

10 Cllr Tisson reported that it had been noted that the Parish Council's key asset was ownership of the school building. Grange Park School was currently renting the property. It was proposed that a sub-committee of the Parish Council be established to manage the relationship with Grange Park with regards to rent payments, insurance and ensuring that repairs required under the tenancy covenants were carried out. A plan would also be discussed, for consideration by the Parish Council, to repay the original loan by the end of the current tenancy in 2038.

11 Cllr Tisson proposed and it was seconded by Mr Morris that the Sub-Committee be set up with Tom Sheldon as Chair, Cllr Tisson, Nick Williams and the Clerk. Mr Sheldon had been closely involved with the purchase and lease to the Grange Park School and Mr Williams has a financial background.

10 PARISH INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING

12 The Clerk noted that TMBC had contacted the Parish Council reminding it about the various channels available for funding infrastructure project which was noted.

11 MAINTENANCE OF LOCAL PATHS

13 The Chairman noted the list of local paths and stiles that required ongoing maintenance. The Chairman agreed that, where he was responsible for the footpaths, as tenant of the land affected, these would be attended to as soon as possible. *Chair*

12 HIGHWAYS

Traffic Plan, Highway Improvement Plan, Signage

14 The Parish Council had been notified that Demi Richards, Community Engagement Project Manager for Highways at KCC was the new contact for progressing projects and a meeting would be set up with her in the near future. *Clerk*

Other Highways issues

15 It was noted that Wydes Lane, past Oaktree Farm, had been eroded by rain and it was difficult to pass particularly for horses. It was agreed that the Clerk should investigate with KCC Highways to see what could be done to improve the surface of the path. *Clerk*

16 The siting of the village gates in Fairseat was discussed. Mary Yallop had agreed to the siting of one gate on her land and the other would be on the green bank by the bus stop opposite the old Vigo Inn ("Pint.tube.movies"). *Clerk*

17. The replacement 'Stansted' finger post for Turkins corner was being arranged. *Clerk*

18. The "Fairseat" village sign was agreed to be replaced and a new sign in an appropriate style would be sourced by Mr Whittaker. *Mr Whittaker*

14 PLANNING

a Applications

19. (i) **Land south of Goodman's Barn, Tumblefield Road, Stansted TN15 7PR 24/00299/PA Proposed stables x 4 with machinery and haystore**

The Parish Council had no objections.

b Decisions

20. (i) There were no decisions at the time of the meeting.

c Appeals

21. (i) There were no new appeals at the time of the meeting.

22. **d Enforcement**

- (i) There were no enforcement updates at the time of the meeting.

23. **e Other Planning matters**

There were no developments on other planning matters discussed at the time of the meeting.

15 FINANCE – Appendix A

24. **a Bank Balances**

The bank balances as listed on Appendix A and as shown on the bank statements were noted.

25. **b To approve payments made since last meeting**

Cllr Saunders proposed and Cllr Sefer seconded and it was agreed that the payments made since last meeting as Appendix A be approved.

26. **c Accounts for payment**

Cllr Saunders proposed and Cllr Tisson seconded and it was agreed that the accounts for payment listed on Appendix A be approved.

27. **d Nationwide deposit account**

The signatories to be updated as soon as possible.

e CCLA deposit fund

28. Following the setting up of the CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund account which was in progress, the Landlord's deposit monies would be moved to this account, subject to the discussions of the School Sub-Committee.

g. Other Finance issues

29. There were no other matters to note at the time of the meeting.

16 MANAGEMENT OF PARISH COUNCIL LAND AND PROPERTY

i Grange Park School

30. Matters would be discussed at the first meeting of the School Sub-Committee and any recommendations proposed to the Parish Council.

31 ii **Recreation Field**
There were no matters to note.

32 iii **Play park**
There were no matters to note.

33 iv **Browne's Field**
There were no matters to note.

34 v **Telephone box in Plaxdale Green Road**
There were no matters to note.

35 vi **Maintenance and handyperson**
There were no matters to note.

vi **Other issues**
36 The triangle of land on the corner of Plaxdale Green Road and Hatham Green Lane was owned by the parish and classified as 'village green'. The trees with ash die-back would need to be cut particularly where they were entangled with overhead power cables.

37 It was agreed to instruct Safe Excavation to clear out the soak-away adjacent to the Stansted Village Hall and the work would be completed as soon as possible. *Clerk*

17 **VILLAGE HALLS**

i **Stansted Village Hall**
38 There were no issues to discuss.

ii **Fairseat Village Hall**
39 There were no issues to discuss.

40 There was a discussion on the increased fee by Nurture Landscapes for the land maintenance work it carried out for the parish. It was agreed to investigate the number of mows carried out across the year. *Clerk*

18 **WILDLIFE CAMERAS & SIGNS**

41 It was noted that Cllr Brooker was hoping to progress the siting of the cameras but the instructions were not in English.

19 REPORTS FROM MEETINGS ATTENDED BY THE COUNCILLORS/CLERK

42 Cllr Tisson reported that the next KALC meeting would be held on-line on 18 April.

20 CORRESPONDENCE

43 It was noted, with great regret, that Hilly Withenshaw had submitted her resignation as Editor of the Parish Notes. It was agreed that an advertisement should be placed in the Parish Notes for a replacement to take over as soon as possible so that there could be some handover before Hilly leaves the role in August.

Clerk

21 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

44. The Parish Council understood that The Black Horse public house in Stansted was not currently registered as a “community asset”. The Parish Council considered that The Black Horse, as the only public house in the parish was, together with the church and the school, one of the centres of village life and that it should be protected for future generations. **IT WAS AGREED** that an application to TMBC should be made to investigate if The Black Horse could be preserved as a “community asset”.

45. The Chairman congratulated the team involved in arranging the memorial stone for Pilot Officer Colin Francis, who was shot down in Stansted in 1940. The service of dedication was held on Friday 22 March and was well attended. The stone and the new memorial bench have been well received by parishioners.

46. There was a discussion on whether to purchase a commemorative burner to be lit for future occasions including the forthcoming 80th anniversary of D-Day. It was agreed that the matter would be investigated.

PUBLIC SESSION

There were no issues subject for discussion.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.45 pm.

SignedChairman

Dated.....