

Chairman Nick Waldron

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## Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 21 January 2025 at 7pm, at Bossingham Village Hall

### 1. Attendance and apologies for absence

Attending: Chairman Nick Waldron, Cllr Rob Richardson, Cllr Angela Waldron, Clerk/RFO Clare Hamilton, CCC Cllr Mike Sole.

Apologies: Cllr Simon Warner, CCC Cllr Alister Brady.

### 2. It was resolved unanimously to accept the Minutes of the meeting held on 12 November 2024.

### 3. Members' declarations of interest on Agenda items

Cllrs Nick Waldron and Angela Waldron: Appendix 6.7c.

### 4. Public participation on Agenda items

Although not an Agenda item, a discussion regarding poor communication between the parish council and some city and county council departments took place. The Chairman expressed his concern that, as a parish council, we are not always acknowledged and listened to and it is felt the Parish Charter is not always being adhered to. KCC Cllr Mike Sole offered to further liaise on the PC's behalf.

Devolution and the creation of Unitary Authorities was discussed; this will bring changes to council structures county wide and we await further details.

### 5. Matters arising not covered by the Agenda None

### 6. Planning Applications

Planning applications may be viewed at Canterbury City Council's website [here](#)

Application received since Agenda was published:

#### CA/25/00002 Land East of Manns Hill, Bossingham CT4 6EB

Comments to CCC by 07.02.25

Single-storey detached dwelling following the demolition of existing outbuilding.

#### 6.1 Potential planning breach at land at Lime Kiln Lane

CCC investigating

No updates received for this meeting. This matter was first reported as a planning breach in 2022 and despite county and city councillors' liaison on the parish council's behalf, no response has been received from Planning Enforcement.

#### 6.2 Potential planning breach of container at property

CCC investigating

#### 6.3 CA/24/01867 Knotty Oak, The Street, Bossingham CT4 6DX

CCC GRANTED

First floor extension together with roof lights and windows to side elevation.

#### 6.4 CA/24/01475 Three Elms, The Street, Bossingham CT4 6DX

CCC GRANTED

Extension of existing vehicular access together with hardstanding.

#### 6.5 CA/24/01462 Walnut Tree Farm, Pett Bottom Rd, Lynsore Bottom CT4 6EG

CCC GRANTED

Front extension.

#### 6.6 CA/24/01382 Orchard House, Manns Hill, Bossingham CT4 6ED

CCC GRANTED

Retrospective application for single-storey rear extension together with porch, following demolition of existing porch.

#### 6.7 Outstanding planning applications affected by water quality at Stodmarsh nature reserve listed in Appendix. It is understood there is some progress with this matter.

- 7. Highways** Please report Highways matters directly to KCC [here](#).
- 7.1 a. Hedge on The Street: It was reported to the Nov meeting that the hedge bordering the new properties on The Street is overgrown on the road side. Highways Steward clarified the landowner has responsibility for cutting the hedge and has enquired with the Highways Definitions Team to clarify the status of the roadside used for parking. Hedge has now been cut.
- b. Catts Wood Road: Temporary Road Closure Catt's Wood Road Path, Lime Kiln Lane, 23 January 2025.
- c. The Street: 845234 multiple potholes on The Street between BVH and the oak tree corner reported to KCC.
- d. Parish-wide: 845161 lack of visible HGV signs reported to KCC.
- e. KCC road works notice: Hardres Court Road is listed for closure for surface treatment works between the junctions with Tapleys Hill and Lime Kiln Lane between 27 Feb-26 Aug. Awaiting further information.
- f. Manns Hill: emergency road closure 25 November 2024 for up to 7 days due to fallen tree after Storm Bert.

## 8. Reports

8.1 **City and County Councillors** see *Appendix*

### 8.2 Footpaths

- a. A representative from the Ramblers Association will attend the March meeting.

### 8.3 Trees

- a. **It was resolved** to accept quotation 2068 from Wraights of £430+vat to carry out the actions highlighted in the recent tree survey report, proposed by Cllr Rob Richardson and seconded by Cllr Angela Waldron. CCC has confirmed this cost can be met from CIL funds.
- b. Tree Officer vacancy: advertised in parish magazine.

### 8.4 Bossingham Village Hall

- a. **It was resolved** that on receipt of a VAT receipt, to reimburse the village hall committee for the purchase of the new dishwasher. This cost will be met from CIL funds.

### 8.5 Bossingham Playing Field

- a. Annual Inspection: to discuss report findings at March meeting - including trees removal, grass seeding, grasslok tiles installation, goal net fixing

## 9. Finance

9.1 Balance of Account at 21 January 2025: £33,987.94

Comprising: Current account £1,203.33. CIL £23,058.65; Restricted and Unrestricted Reserves £9,725.96. Funds need to be transferred from Restricted Reserves to the current account to meet running costs to year end. Therefore, it is necessary to vire the final £500 of Restricted Reserves for the parish grant fund to the current account for running costs. Proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Cllr Rob Richardson.

9.2 Receipts and Payments since last meeting and Bank Reconciliation: see *Appendix*

9.3 Expenditure due before next meeting:

HugoFox	Website hosting: monthly	£ 11.99	vat £2 pcm
BVH	Dishwasher reimbursement	£ 299.99	vat £59.99
C Hamilton	Salary January	£ 367.38	
	Travel exp Jan	£ 14.40	
	Salary February	£ 367.38	
Wraights	Grounds m'nance D, J, F, M	£1219.20	
	Work to trees	£ 516.00	vat £86.00

**It was resolved** unanimously to approve expenditure, proposed by Cllr Angela Waldron, seconded by Cllr Rob Richardson, approved by the Chairman.

## 10. CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) Neighbourhood Portion

To note approval of payment to village hall committee for dishwasher on receipt of VAT invoice.

## 11. Bus shelter

Parish Council noticeboard glass will be replaced with safety glass and then reinstated.

## 12. Highways Improvement Plan (HIP)

KCC Highways informed the clerk that the 30mph roundels have been painted; Chairman to check if location is correct.

A request for an update on the proposed village gateway was not received in time for this meeting.

### 13. Dog fouling

Signs received from CCC. Chairman checking with landowners if it is acceptable to install them.

### 14. Website

New website address [www.upperhardres-pc.gov.uk](http://www.upperhardres-pc.gov.uk) was confirmed by HugoFox on 10.12.24. This will continue to be linked to the previous domain until November 2025.  
Application for a £100 grant to change to gov.uk email address has been submitted.

### 15. Councillor Vacancy

There remains a vacancy for a Parish Councillor. To promote further via parish magazine and word of mouth.

### 16. For information

- Meeting dates 2025: Tuesdays at 7pm - 11 March, 13 May, 15 July, 16 September, 11 November.
- Next meeting: 11 March 2025.
- Meeting closed at 8.05pm.

Signed ..... Nick Waldron, Chairman, 11 March 2025

## Appendix

### 6.7 Long-term outstanding planning applications affected by water quality at Stodmarsh nature reserve:

Poor water quality levels at the internationally-important nature reserve in Stodmarsh have stalled housing developments across east Kent. The wetlands at Stodmarsh outside Canterbury, which are a haven for wildlife, are deemed to be suffering from high levels of nitrogen and phosphorous. Further information can be found here:

<https://www.canterbury.gov.uk/planning-and-building/stodmarsh-and-water-quality/>

The following planning applications are affected:

- |    |             |   |  |
|----|-------------|---|--|
| a. | CA/20/02857 | Court Lodge, Manns Hill CT4 6EB   | <i>Objection. Awaiting CCC decision</i>  |
|    |             | Erection of two-storey detached dwelling with associated parking, access and landscaping  |  |
| b. | CA/20/02785 | Homeside Farmhouse, The Street CT4 6DX  | <i>Acceptable. Awaiting CCC decision</i> |
|    |             | Erection of a dwelling and garage in rear garden together with alterations to existing dwelling including new single storey side extension following demolition of garage and chimney to enable formation of access |  |
| c. | CA/20/02237 | Two Acres, Hardres Court Road CT4 6EA   | <i>Acceptable. Awaiting CCC decision</i> |
|    |             | Erection of 5 no. detached two-storey dwellings with associated garages, parking and landscaping following demolition of existing dwelling.   |  |

### 8.1 County Councillor Mike Sole

Happy New Year! 2025 looks set to be a very busy year for local government in Kent. The Government have announced that the structure of local government across the country will change. Here we will see Kent County Council and Canterbury City Council replaced by a new unitary authority (probably covering East Kent) that carries out all of the functions currently managed by both authorities, with likely additional powers devolved from government, most likely under a newly elected Kent mayor.

KCC will be deciding in early January if it is seeking to be one of the first areas in the country to be reorganised. If so, it may decide to ask government for the KCC elections due to take place in May 2025 to be cancelled. There would be no more elections to Canterbury City Council, and elections to the new unitary authority council take place in 2026 or 2027.

I have many more meeting and briefings to attend about this in the coming weeks. At present there are many questions still unanswered. Carrying our business as usual whilst working on this huge reorganisation, in a short time frame, will be very challenging.

I believe that parish councils would need to play a much larger role when unitary councils are in place to help keep that local connection with a much larger council, particularly on planning issues. With parish councils also receiving differing levels of support from existing district councils, there would likely be changes to the ways that parish councils in the Canterbury area receive financial support under a new council.

During December I attended the annual meeting of the Little Stour & Nailbourne River Group and provided an update from a KCC and CCC perspective.

At the KCC full council meeting I raised the issue of road maintenance and passing bays in Ickham parish. I also spoke in debates about farming and electoral reform.

I have been following up with KCC and Building Digital UK (BDUK) the lack of progress in bringing reliable internet provision to some local areas, working with KCC on plans for bus stop improvements at Breach (Barham) and dealing with some National Highways issues.

8.3 Tree officer – position vacant

8.2 Footpaths

8.4 Bossingham Village Hall

## 9. Finance

Bank Reconciliation 13 November 2024 – 21 January 2025

Current Account:

£

*The net balance reconciles to the Cashbook (receipts & payments account) as follows:*

Balance brought forward at 13.11.24	36,676.40
ADD: receipts 13.11.24-21.01.25	0
LESS: payments 13.11.24-21.01.25	2,688.46
Closing balance at 21 January 2025	33,987.94

Total funds at 21 January 2025

£33,987.94

Receipts and Payments since last meeting, Cashbook extract:

Receipts Expenditure

Balance

NOVEMBER								
18	C Hamilton	Salary 8/12	Nov	SALARY		367.38	SALARY 8/12	
18	C Hamilton	Backdated salary	1.4.24-30.09.24	SALARY		114.66	SALARY	
18	C Hamilton	Travel expenses	Nov	EXP		14.40	EXP	
18	C Hamilton	Expenses 1/2	1.4.24-30.10.24	EXP		134.66	EXP	36,045.30
29	GoCardless	HugoFox website hosting	Nov	WEB		11.99	INV10244	
DECEMBER								
2	Play Insp. Co.	Annual playing field inspection		CFF		196.80	INV73377	
2	Wraights	Grounds M'nance	Aug Sep Oct Nov	CFF		1219.20	INV21.11.24	34,617.31
20	Philip Wilson Arb	Trees Inspection				250.00	INV1165	
20	C Hamilton	Salary 9/12	Dec	SALARY		367.38	SALARY 9/12	33,999.93
30	GoCardless	HugoFox website hosting	Dec	WEB		11.99	INV10946	33,987.94