

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HASTINGLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL
ON 14th JANUARY 2025 HELD IN EVINGTON VILLAGE HALL**

Present:

Cllr Day (Chair)
Cllr Helmer
Cllr Jakeman

Cllr Dryland
Cllr Hill

Cllr Betty and the Clerk.

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| 1. | To receive and approve apologies for absence. |
| | There were no apologies for absence. |
| 2. | To receive declarations of interest (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Other Significant Interests). The nature as well as the existence of any such interest must be declared. |
| | There were no declarations of interest. |
| 3. | To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 12th November 2024 |
| | The minutes were signed as a true record. |
| 4. | To discuss matters arising from the above minutes not covered by the agenda. |
| | Cllr Dryland agreed to undertake the repair of the footpath map legs. The Clerk is to contact someone she knows with a spraying licence to see if he would spray some of the invasive grasses that have seeded near the pond. |
| 5. | To receive reports from the Borough Councillor |
| | Cllr Betty had circulated his report and explained the Devolution white paper. |
| 6. | Public Session: To receive questions and comments from the public on any agenda item |
| | There were no members of public in attendance. |
| 7. | Financial matters: |
| | To approve the following financial documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. To note the Parish Council's financial position, Chair to initial bank statement. The financial position of the Parish Council was noted. ii. To authorise any payments The payments were authorised in line with the payment schedule. . |
| 8. | To consider any changes to the Risk Assessment. |
| | The Parish Council considered the Risk Assessment and there were no changes to be made. |
| 9. | Planning matters: to authorise a response to any application(s) and to note any recent planning decisions by Ashford Borough Council or any correspondence on planning matters |
| | There were no planning applications to note. |
| 10. | Any Other Business (for information purposes only): |
| | Cllr Helmer reported that she attended the Highways Seminar in Maidstone on Wednesday, 20 th November. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Pothole Blitz had concluded on 31st October. 2. Preparations had been made for the gritters and teams to be ready to ensure that the roads in Kent remain as safe as possible when and if snow and ice arrived. 3. Additional funding had been promised by central Government which would enable Kent County Council to support buses for an additional year, however, details were yet to be received. Whilst the funding was welcomed, it would probably only provide the Council with |

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| | <p>the ability to maintain the current network. Eagerly awaited is an anticipated White Paper from Government on an Integrated Transport Strategy</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. The European Entry/Exit System (EES) due to come into force in November had been delayed due to concerns of readiness raised by several EU member states, including France, Germany and the Netherlands. There had been no further announcement on the new proposed date of implementation. 5. The importance of strong working relationships with local tiers of government were stressed. Future meetings would take the form of workshops to share best practice. 6. The consultation for the Local Transport Plan 5 had closed and was due to be presented to Full Council in December 2024. The document presented KCC's vision for the future in terms of what was needed in Kent in light of the unprecedented amount of change expected. It provided the basis for discussions to be held with the Department for Transport (DfT) and others on modes of transport and how to keep the road networks flowing. KCC now a mere consultee, would no longer be in control! The Commission for Kent will unify what KCC has control over – their powers being much diminished. 7. KCC are unable to advise about many road closures because they are not advised by utility companies until after work is completed, ie repair of water leaks. 8. The Highways department feel that Operation BROCK is the worst possible solution to the problems of traffic passing through to the Channel Tunnel and Dover Port. The decision is made by Police but then Highways have to solve the problems transferred to local roads. 9. There are 1.6 million people in Kent and 1 million cars with just under 10,000 kms of local roads for KCC to look after. In addition, there are 3 million HGVS going to Europe each year, of which 85% cross through Kent, making it a unique county, very different from Norfolk or Cumbria! 10. PCs' help is needed to identify places for charging stations to be installed – 7000 more needed by 2030 (currently 955), particularly quick-charge stations. 11. Vision Zero is still on the KCC website. – There are on average just over 45 deaths on Kent's roads each year. Kent County Council (KCC) is setting the target of zero, or as close as possible, fatalities and life changing injuries by 2050 with a 50% reduction by 2030 and a target of no more than 39 traffic fatalities by 2026. To achieve these targets PCs are asked to make suggestions for speed limit changes, road safety schemes (e.g. Improvements to junctions), new pedestrian crossings, public transport infrastructure improvements (bus lanes/stopping points), signage and lining schemes to improve visibility and legibility, cycle ways, traffic calming and 20mph schemes in their area if they feel any of these would be helpful. 12. Bus Services (particularly those to schools) have been saved as a result of Bus Service Improvement Plan funding. The National Bus Strategy is still in place, but a Better Bus Bill is due to be discussed in Parliament. 13. Highways Update – To maintain what's already there requires £100 million - they actually get £50 million! Potholes - the Online reporting tool is the best way of reporting these. 14. There has been extra work carried out on weed control over many verges. 15. Works Teams try to minimise disruption when carrying out work on roads and verges. 16. KCC is trying to work closely with utility companies. <p>Cllr Helmer reported that she had received a letter from the Pensions Regulator and would fill it in stating that the Clerk does not earn enough to require a pension.</p> |
| 11. | Determining the time and place of ordinary meetings of the Council up to and including the next annual meeting of the Council. |
| | <p>Tuesday 11th March 2025</p> <p>Tuesday 13th May 2025</p> |

Signed:

Date: