

Minutes of General Meeting at 7pm on Wednesday 12th November 2025 at Sturry Social Centre

Present:

Cllr John Hogben, Cllr Steve Birch, Cllr. Gill Betts, Cllr Anne Dekker, Cllr Kathleen Warner, Cllr Dil Rai, Cllr Heather Taylor, Cllr Ann Davies, Cllr George Spence and Cllr Chris Gartland
Ken Dekker Clerk, Ken Bullock Cemetery Superintendent and Alan Webster Caretaker.
2 residents in attendance

216-25. Apologies for absence

CCC Cllr H McKenzie, KCC Cllr M Mulvihill, Community Warden R Lithgow and Cllr A Bubb.

Public questions.

None.

217-25. To receive Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Other Significant Interests and Voluntary Announcements of Other Interests on any agenda items and a reminder to think of any changes to the DPI register held at CCC, such as change of job or home.

None

218-25. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 8th October 2025.

Proposed by Cllr Davies and seconded by Cllr Warner and all in agreement.

219-25. Matters arising from minutes of the Parish Meeting on Wednesday 8th October 2025.

None.

220-25. Chairman and Councillors reports.

Cllr Davies informed the Council that past Councillor Peter Wenham had passed away last Monday. Condolences would be sent to his family.

Cllr Birch stated that he has been working with the payback team and they have planted 1000 Bluebell bulbs in Centenary Woodland.
He will be installing some of the bird and bat boxes this weekend.

Cllr Taylor asked if Cllr Birch will be covered by our insurance whilst doing this work, all Cllrs are covered on the insurance.
She attended the AGM of SABORA which was not that well attended. She stated that the minutes would be available on their website.

She requested to have an item on next months agenda regarding the land behind Franklin House which SABORA have a temp license to improve.

Cllr Dekker stated that she had attended the service of Remembrance at Sturry Church and then onto the Cathedral in Canterbury for the service there. She will pass on the invitation to the Holodomor being arranged by C4U.

Cllr Hogben reported that he had attended the service of Remembrance and laid the wreath on behalf of SPC.
He will be attending a teams meeting regarding the Shelford tip.

221-25. County and District Councillors reports.

CCC Cllr McKenzie.

Regulation 18 – Overview

Last month, the Cabinet agreed another round of Regulation 18 consultation for new proposals in the Draft Local Plan. There was only one new proposal in this ward and that is in Hersden. At an Overview Committee meeting, Harry was called in as a substitute to share feedback from residents on the consultation, and he spoke about increased traffic pressure on the A28, concerns about whether people will be listened to and rural representation in the process. Leo Whitlock has agreed to meet with Parish Councils.

2026/27 Budget Consultation.

The Cabinet have approved a consultation period for the next budget that will take place at Full Council in February. All proposals in the Draft Budget are publicly available on the council website, and you will soon be able to respond to the consultation. We encourage you to make your views known and let us know what you think, too. At this stage, we are in listening mode and will not be commenting on the proposals.

We will ensure the links and information are circulated to anyone who needs them.

Local Government Reorganisation.

- On Wednesday 19th November, there will be an important all-councillors briefing.

- The next day, there will be a Full Council meeting followed by a Cabinet meeting.

The submission that Canterbury City Council makes to the government on LGR will be decided by those meetings. In the council leaders' words: 'The submission will be Full Council-led, and the Full Council will be resident-led'.

This is our opportunity to represent you on this issue, and we will be taking a lot of time in the next few weeks to prepare. We actively invite your views on the matter – tell us what you want from LGR, so we can consider it in our preparations.

Milner Court Crossing

We are opposing Network Rail's proposal to shut the Milner Court Crossing. We have written to them to object and demand more information for residents. Correspondence tells us they are doing this in anticipation of the population increase expected with the new housing development and primary school around there that was approved in 2021.

They have reached out to the Clerk of Sturry Parish Council to send a representative to attend a meeting and provide greater details. We are still not satisfied with their reasoning and will keep fighting your corner – there must be alternatives to shutting the crossing entirely.

Shelford

Valencia have applied to the Environment Agency to double the amount of waste processed on the Shelford Landfill Site. We know that residents are already plagued by foul odours and huge trucks hurtling through Broad Oak, we also know that there is a real environmental health risk, risk of fires and risk of landslides.

We are opposing this application and have sided with colleagues from St Stephens who put together a petition to oppose it. Earlier today, Harry got Valencia to agree to extend the consultation period that was due to close on 10th November to give us more time to canvass views from residents. If anyone would like to help us take physical petitions to doorsteps in Broad Oak, please let us know.

We are also working on arranging a community steering meeting with Valencia.

222-25. Community Warden report.

During October I have been Deputy Team Leader for Canterbury and Thanet's KCC Community Wardens and conducted visible presence across my two wards. I have also taken a considerable amount of annual leave during this month due to fitting in with my new warden role which starts next month.

I need to make you aware; this will be my last Community Warden Report for the time being, as I am on a Team Leader Secondment for Ashford and Swale team between December 2025 – to the end of March 2025. I will no longer be contactable as your warden during this time. My colleague Keeley Taylor (who covers Nailbourne Ward) will be dealing with any calls for your ward area. Keeley will be working in her own areas and as we

Highlights of October are:

Sturry Parish Council Office – request I review lack of reflective stripes on black bollards outside the motorcross site at the bottom of Shallock Hill, Sturry. KCC Highways contacted for them to review. Reference: 905354 Refers.

Resident concerned about work needed on Public Right of Way Stiles in at points near Bus Shelter at Sweechgate on Herne Bay Rd and Popes Lane opposite Hillbrow Ave, Sturry. Referral sent in by me to KCC's Public Rights of Way Team – currently awaiting allocation for site visit.

Witnessed faulty rear brake lights and indicators on local bus Herne to Sturry – reported it to Stagecoach during office hours. I was thanked for letting them know.

Ford Kuga (Black) in Cedar Rd, Sturry - Kent Police Vehicle Recovery Team contacted to find out the vehicle's location as I had made enquiries about it weeks earlier. I then liaised with Mobility Finance who owned the vehicle, and they arranged for recovery as it had front end RTA damage.

Heath Close, Sturry – resident rang about the state of the pathway outside multiple houses at the end of the road. I attended, met resident. I contacted KCC Highways to review on reference 909945.

Coffee Morning at St Nicholas' Church, Sturry – I attended where possible during this month.

Sturry Parish Council Office – I visited to see if there were any community issues to deal with.

223-25. Village Caretaker's report.

From 09/10/2025 to present.

- Minibus run to the supermarket.
- Litter picking Park View
- Litter pick various footpaths around the Parish.
- Opened and closed public toilets.
- Putting notices in the noticeboards over the month.
- I have found that there is a lot of dog mess in the playpark recently.
- Removed the damaged drop-down bollard from the Church yard entrance as it was a trip hazard.
- Office maintenance.
- Leaking skylight in minibus repaired.
- Minibus for Café Hope.
- Removed damaged door on notice board at Barretts estate also requires new locks.
- Removed UN flag and reinstalled Union Jack.
- Cemetery maintenance.
- Safety Checks on gravestones with K Bullock

224-25. Cemetery Superintendent's Report.

Admin Work:

I have continued to support the resolution of general enquiries.

Cemetery Database:

I continue to identify missing or incorrect information in the database.
I have been entering the details of the clergy carrying out the service, where this is available and missing from the database.

Cemetery Burials:

Since my last report, we have had one burial of cremated remains.
I currently have no other burials progressing.
I have completed two transfers of Exclusive Right of Burial via probate.

We have completed monument testing for the first part of section B in the cemetery (113 grave spaces).

Cemetery Repairs:

The loss adjuster has passed our case back to our insurer and we await their response.

Cemetery Other:

NTR.

Other:

I have continued to manage the applications for stalls at the Christmas fayre and completed several other tasks in support of the event as reported to the Events Committee.

225-25. Clerks Report.

General enquiries dealt with from residents.

I have found a supplier for the new wooden posts for the two village signs as the original supplier has gone out of business. The top will have to be slightly altered so that the sign can be fitted. This is an agenda item.

I attended the UN flag raising on 24th October, the flag remained up for the weekend and was replaced with the Union Jack on the Monday.

Attended the Full Council and Finance Meetings.

Usual administration duties.

With regard to the signs for the new post office, this is an agenda item.

Researched and ordered the Santas Grotto Gazebo

All accessories for the Gazebos have been sorted out (weights and Lights).

226-25. Events Committee report.

Cllr Gartland reported that they had met last week and discussed having a further push on getting stall holders for the Xmas Fayre.

He also requested from the Council volunteer to be marshals at the Fayre. They had also discussed next years events.

Cllr Taylor would like to thank Coffee Corner for donating the cost of the lights for the tree in the cemetery.

227-25. Finance.

- a) **Payments for approval.** Proposed by Cllr Hogben and seconded by Cllr Warner all in agreement.

£2027.12	Bourne to Garden	Grounds Maintenance
£16.39	Amazon	Air freshener refills
£247.31	Amazon	Bird and Owl boxes
£21.90	Amazon	Fire exit and safety signs
£57.02	Mustang Washrooms	Toilet refreshers
£261.42	Westleyhire	Toilet hire and clean. X 2 months

- b) Accounts for approval and signature.** Two Cllrs signed.
- c) Finance Committee Report.**

Cllr Davies reported that the committee had reviewed the budget up to September of this year and we are on track with our spend in fact we are a little under. The committee are going to meet again at the end of this month to finalise next years budget and bring it to next months meeting for Councils approval and from this the Precept will be set.

228-25. Update from Staffing Committee with regards of meeting with Office staff.

Cllr Betts stated that she and the Chair have not yet been able to have the meeting with the two staff in the office due to the Chairs work commitments and that they would try and arrange a date before the next meeting in December.

229-25. To Discuss and agree proposals for the Dog Walking area.

Cllr Gartland explained what the proposal was and circulated the quotes for the Cllrs to look at. Cllr Taylor wanted to know if he had contacted a training expert for advice on what to put in. There was an in-depth discussion by the rest of the Councillor who then put the motion forward to go with suggestion 'A'

This was proposed by Cllr Davies and seconded by Cllr Warner all in agreement with the exception of Cllr Taylor who was against.

230-25. To Discuss and agree purchase of new posts for village signs.

The Clerk explained that he has been trying to locate the original supplier but to no avail, he has sourced two new posts from East Kent timber and asked that the Council agree to the purchase.

Proposed by Cllr Hogben and seconded by Cllr Betts all in agreement.

231-25. To Discuss and agree going ahead with the purchase of signs for the Post office.

KCC have provided the fees for the signs and it was proposed that we ask the shop and the Post office to contribute to the cost of these signs and to bring it back to the next meeting.

232-25. Update on Centenary Woodland.

It was reported that several things have been completed and that we are now ready for quotes for the second part of the tree work to go ahead. Cllr Davies suggested that she and Cllr Birch along with the tree surgeons conduct a walk around.

233-25. Report on Grounds Maintenance.

Cllr Davies reported that she had done a check on all the sites and that there are several items that have not been done. The Clerk suggested that they have a meeting with the contractor to explain the deductions for next months invoice.

234-25. To Discuss and agree if SPC are to help with refreshments at the LGR meeting on 27th November and also weather to ask neighboring Councils.

After some discussion it was decided by 7 votes to 4 that as this had been arranged by SABORA who had included the Council in their advert without the Councils knowledge, the Council felt that they should have been included from the start as it will be the Council who will require the information about LGR for the future.

235-25. Events Calendar update and to discuss and agree costs.

Cllr Betts explained that she and Cllr Spence have been contacting several printers for costs, Cllr Spence also stated that we could use a QR code on the calendars linked to our web page, but this would have to be researched some more to see if it is compatible. The Clerk also stated that he is working with our IT people to get the calendar on the web page working again. This item to be brought back to next meeting with costs.

236-25 To Discuss and agree to carry on with the LinkUp page.

There was a short discussion on this subject, and it was decided to keep going with it. Cllr Betts asked the Councillors to provide her with items for the page and that she was happy to carry on. This was proposed by Cllr Birch and seconded by Cllr Spence all in agreement.

237-25. To Discuss and agree hiring a multi-use temporary toilet cabin for the summer in the playpark.

Cllr Birch explained that this was only for the summer holidays, it was decided that Cllr Birch was to do more research on the cost of this and to bring it back to the next meeting.

238-25. To discuss and agree the purchase of a Rowan Tree for the cemetery.

K Bullock explained the reason for the purchase.

Proposed by Cllr Betts and seconded by Cllr Davies and all in agreement.

239-25. To Discuss and agree change to the cemetery regulation in respect of temporary memorial.

K Bullock explained the reason for the change in the regulations and that there would be minimal costs involved.

Proposed by Cllr Betts and seconded by Cllr Dekker an all in agreement.

240-25 To Discuss whether to put back on the agenda Reports of special interest.

Cllr Taylor explained why this item is to be returned to the agenda. The Clerk informed the Council that as we already have a section for Councillors reports that if a Councillor had any items of a special interest they could do it at this time and then request that it be put on the agenda as a motion, the legal team at KALC stated that having this item on an agenda is the same as AOB which is legally not correct.

Date for next meeting. 10th December 2025

Meeting close at 2050 Hrs