

Minutes of General Meeting at 7pm on Wednesday 10th December 2025 at Broad Oak Village Hall

Present:

Cllr John Hogben, Cllr Steve Birch, Cllr. Gill Betts, Cllr Kathleen Warner, Cllr Dil Rai, Cllr George Spence and Cllr Chris Gartland
Ken Dekker Clerk, Ken Bullock Cemetery Superintendent and Alan Webster Caretaker.

4 residents in attendance

241-25. Apologies for absence

CCC Cllr H McKenzie, Cllr Dekker, Cllr Taylor and Cllr Davies.

Public questions.

None.

242-25. 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

243-25. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 12th November 2025.

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

244-25. Matters arising from minutes of the Parish Meeting on Wednesday 12th November 2025.

None.

245-25. Chairman and Councillors reports.

Cllr Betts stated In response to ongoing concerns about traffic and pupil safety outside Sturry Primary School, I attended a meeting on Friday 5th December with Cllr Harry McKenzie, Connie Nolan, (the cabinet member responsible for community safety), Michelle Mannings, Sturry Primary School headteacher and the school's PSA.

We stood on the corner of Ince Road from 8:15 until about 9:00, observing what happens every morning. Harry and Connie walked along the road to

look at the entrance to Paffard Court and the junction at Link Road. There were a few conversations with parents.

It was noted that the double yellow lines were not being respected or enforced.

Parental drop off time was variable and illegal parking contributed significantly to the problem.

It was suggested that Paffard Court could be approached to permit signage on their fence – but it was felt that this would probably be ignored.

Mrs Mannings explained how children enter school in the mornings and that T.A.s do not begin work until 8:45am.

The idea of reinstating a Walking Bus was suggested and met with a favourable response – one from the area by the shops on the estate, the other possibly from the Tesco area – but there were major traffic implications with the suggestion of a new crossing being necessary.

Moving forward, the favoured idea proposed was a temporary time specific 1 way system from the top of Link Road – a Walking Bus could be a possibility from the top of Link

Councillor Nolan felt that the one-way system was the one most likely to get approval. She will contact Mark Mulvihill and Richard Hall (KCC) to take these ideas forward.

She also said there would need to be 'blitz enforcement' to any system introduced. She also said that 'we' would need to get the PC on board.

Personal Comment:

Whereas these concerns are not new, the situation has grown considerably worse over many years and the attendance of police officers to enforce traffic regulations has only ever had a very short-term effect.

Cllr Gartland stated that the benches have been installed in the dog walking area, the dog agility equipment is arriving on Monday and Cllr Birch and I will hopefully install this on Thursday.

Cllr Birch stated that we now have a permanent probation officer for payback, so he will try and extend the work to the roads around the estate.

Cllr Warner stated that she is still running Café Hope as a volunteer and they are having their Christmas dinner on Monday.

Cllr Spence posed the question on who is to be contacted to get the road drains cleared and also the road signs that require repair or cleaning.

Cllr Hogben stated that the Christmas event went well and thanked the events committee with special thanks to the staff in the office.

He has arranged a meeting tomorrow and asked who would like to attend along with him and Cllr Davies.

246-25. County and District Councillors reports

CCC Cllr Mckenzie reported the following:

LGR

On 20th November, we supported the 4d Model for LGR at Full Council and the 4d Model passed with a majority of votes from councillors and has been submitted to the government as Canterbury's business case.

We supported the 4d Model because we believe it balances local representation with efficient service delivery. That is because:

- It keeps the elector-councillor ratio relatively low.
- It keeps the council area fairly compact and very well connected.
- It would allow for the creation of a combined authority and mayor to drive investment in the region and coordinate strategic service delivery.
- It would allow for collection and redistribution of revenue over a larger area.

The government will launch a public consultation and make a decision in the new year; we will keep you informed about the consultation.

Budget consultation

There is still time to respond to the consultation for the next council budget – it closes on 6th January. We have sent a link to the consultation documents to the clerk.

Shelford Landfill

- 1) We attended the Community Liaison Meeting with Valencia on 26th November and raised issues including the sheer size of vehicles entering and leaving the site. We are waiting for the minutes and recording to be released (this has been chased), so we can compare our notes before writing a full report on it for you.
- 2) We co-signed a letter to the Environment Agency with fellow councillors from St Stephens objecting to the environmental permit variation application until:
 - A full and transparent assessment is done on the source and volume of additional waste.
 - A traffic and pollution assessment is carried out.
 - Mitigations are outlined to prevent deterioration of air quality and

community well-being.

- 3) At the Scrutiny Committee meeting on 26th November, Harry got the Chair of the Committee to agree to call in Valencia for scrutiny over the Shelford Landfill Site at the next environment themed Scrutiny Committee meeting in March.

Remembrance Sunday

We attended the ceremony and service at the Canterbury Cathedral on Remembrance Sunday to pay our respects to all the men and women who gave their lives or put themselves at risk to serve and protect our country, and all those who still do today.

Parliament Week at Sturry Church of England Primary School

We joined Sir Roger Gale MP at the school to talk about each of our respective roles as MP, Lord Mayor and Ward Councillor to the children and take their questions. It was great to speak with very energetic and curious children who made the most of the talk.

Walking Bus at Sturry Church of England School

Harry went for a meeting with the Head Teacher and PSA on 6th November to discuss ideas for a new walking bus to assist with parking capacity and traffic safety. Work is ongoing with finding new ideas for safety improvements outside the school.

Riverview Fly tipping

We reported fly tipping on the corner of Riverview and got it logged with CANENCO to be dealt with. Ref numbers: FLT019887 / FLT019888

Dog park benches

It is great to see the new benches up and being used in the dog park now.

Canterbury Moto Trials Park

Planning enforcement action is still underway and we are submitting evidence to the investigating officer as we receive it from concerned residents. Progress is continually being made. We will update you when we hear more from the officer.

No report from KCC Councillor

247-25. Community Warden report.

No report

223-25. Village Caretaker's report.

Good evening, everybody.

- Plant checks on various items for the Christmas fayre.
- Took delivery of the Christmas Tree
- Erected tree and made safe and secure and then decorate the tree.
- Marked out graves for burial with K Bullock.
- Installed Christmas lights along the High Street, checked operation of all lights and set timers.
- Drove minibus for the supermarket run.
- Updated the notice boards
- Planted new saplings in the cemetery.
- Repaired slow puncture on the minibus.
- Assisted the set up for the Christmas Fayre and also the clear up afterwards.
- Drove minibus for Café hope.
- Assisted in the halve yearly tail lift inspection.
- Levelled the ground on a new grave as requested by a resident so that it could be decorated for Christmas.

248-25. 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.

I have analysed our current grave spaces, output below.

Grave Space	Count
Unusable	327
Deed	121
Burial	987
Spare	593
Cremated	
Remains	124
St Annes	
Convent	82
Ghurka	55
Grand Total	2289

Cemetery Burials:

Since my last report, we have had no burials.

I currently have 1 burial and one burial of cremated remains scheduled.

I also have a request to scatter ashes (agenda item)

I have reviewed Cemetery fees, last updated in Jan 2024 and will present my findings to the Council in January.

Cemetery Repairs:

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

Cemetery Other:

I have updated the Cemetery web page with a new photo and updated templates.

The replacement hedge plants for 15 bushes that had died in the cemetery, were planted to plug the gaps in the new hedge.

I have updated the Cemetery regulations as agreed by Council and published the new version on our website.

Christmas Fayre:

Work on the Christmas Fayre has taken up a lot of my time. I have continued to manage stall applications. Provided CCC with the information they need for the Temporary Events notice. I have hand delivered letters to all impacted residents, for the road closure notice and the hanging of the Christmas lights. I contacted Junior Kings, who were kind enough to allow us to offer parking for stall holders in the Swan Inn car park and the private part of the Hammels.

249-25. Clerks Report.

General enquiries dealt with from residents.

I have spent some time searching and arranging for the tree survey, the survey will encompass the Cemetery, Centenary Woodland and the Closed Churchyard.

I have ordered the two new lengths of wood for the village signs.

Attended the Full Council and Finance Meetings.

Working with the Finance committee to get the budget finalised in time for this meeting.

Usual administration duties.

With regard to the signs for the post office counter, I am still waiting for a reply from the Post Office, and I have not been able to contact the owner of the shop.

Attended the Christmas Fayre.

I have been working on the events calendar on our website.

250-25. Events Committee report.

Cllr Gartland stated that the Christmas Fayre was held last Sunday and would like to thank all who came early to help including several Gurkhas

and the two guys from Payback to get everything set up.
Footfall was slightly down on last year because of the weather but come time for the switch on the High Street was packed.
He stated that the expenditure for the event came to £1994.17p

251-25. Finance.

- a) **Payments for approval.** Proposed by Cllr Betts and Seconded by Cllr Gartland all in agreement.

£2027.12	Bourne to Garden	Grounds Maintenance
£89.08	Amazon	Batteries, water weights
£78.04	Amazon	Diary, poo bags and 1 st class stamps
£107.79	Amazon	Office supplies and walkie talkies.
£252	Safety Inspections Ltd	Tail lift inspections
£555	Up and Out Platforms	Installation of Christmas lights

- b) **Accounts for approval and signature.** Signed by two Cllrs.

- c) **Finance Committee Report.**

To discuss and agree to the setting of the budget for the year 2026/27 which sets the Precept demand for the same period.

The report from the Finance Committee was discussed and several items were explained on how the figures were reached.

It was also explained that if the Council proceeded with the employment of a trainee Clerk then the precept would have to be increase by at least £16500.

The budget was proposed by Cllr Warner and seconded by Cllr Hogben and all in agreement. This means the precept for the year 2025.2026 will be £115969.

252-25. To Discuss and agree the purchase of a memorial bench in memory of past Cllr Peter Wenham.

Cllr Hogben stated that he had spoken to Cllr Wenham's family and they pleased that The Council wanted to remember Peter in this way.

Cllr Hogben stated that he would donate his honorarium to the Council to help cover the cost of the bench.

This was proposed by Cllr Birch and seconded by Cllr Warner and all in agreement.

253-25. To Discuss and agree the purchase of one backpack blower and one hand held blower for payback to use.

There was a short discussion on this and Cllr Birch explained that Payback have most of their own equipment now but do not have these items.

It was proposed that the Council purchase them and that our caretaker would make use of them as well.

Proposed by Cllr Birch and seconded by Cllr Gartland all in agreement.

254-25. To Discuss and agree to be able to scatter ashes in the cemetery.

The Cemetery Superintendent explained that our regulations state that ashes could be scattered in exceptional circumstances and that law states that they can be scattered anywhere in the UK with the landowners permission. It was suggested to update our regulations to cover this.

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

255-25. To Discuss if Cllrs could hold surgeries.

Cllrs discussed this item and as they used to hold surgeries before, and all agreed that it would be a good thing to hold them again. Cllrs to arrange when and where to hold them.

256-25. To Discuss Capital projects.

Cllrs were asked to go away and think of any capital projects that might be done in the year 2025/2026 so that the Earmarked Reserve figures can be set ready for April.

257-25. To Discuss and Agree purchase of shelving units for the mortuary for the storing of the Gazebos.

As we now have four new gazebos these need to be store in the Garage rather than in the loft of the office, it was proposed to purchase a shelving unit for the time being and maybe another one later on.

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

258-25. Events Calendar update.

Cllrs Betts and Spence explained what had been done so far and passed around the draft calendar for the Council to see, this is to be finalized before the new year. Clerk will contact the IT company for instruction on how to link the QR code to the website calendar

259-25. To Discuss whether the Council should work with SABORA on the land off the High Street Sturry.

A member of SABORA explained exactly what they require from the Council and this is to help with the final steps for the issue of the license for them to use the ground from CCC. The Clerk will endeavor to get this sorted with CCC

260-25. To agree to contact Lionel Robbins for the internal audit in April.

It was agreed for the Clerk to arrange for L Robbins to conduct this years internal audit.

261-25. Planning Applications.

Permit Variation Application EPR/XP3434HX - Shelford Landfill Site.

Data Centre Planning Application CA/25/02094 - Shelford Landfill Site.

The Clerk explained that the Variation document has a link for all to comment on and he would be sending this to all Cllrs. He also stated that the planning application for the Data Centre should be reviewed by the Cllrs and any comments should be fed back to him to be able to send in the Councils comments against the planning application.

Date for next meeting. 14th January 2026

DRAFT