

Minutes of General Meeting at 7pm on Wednesday 11th February 2026 at Broad Oak Village Hall

Present:

Cllr John Hogben, Cllr Steve Birch, Cllr Gill Betts agreed to take the minutes, Cllr Kathleen Warner, Cllr Dil Rai, and Cllr Ann Davies.
Ken Bullock Cemetery Superintendent and Alan Webster Caretaker
CCC Cllr Harry McKenzie

3 residents in attendance

19-26. Apologies for absence

Cllr C Gartland, Cllr A Dekker, Cllr A Bubb and Cllr H Taylor and Clerk K Dekker.

Public questions.

Before the remainder of the meeting, we will receive questions and statements from members of the public regarding items on the agenda. Any member of the public present at the meeting is entitled to speak for up to three minutes at this point.

None

20-26. To receive Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and any 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

21-26. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 14th January 2026.

Proposed by Cllr Birch and seconded by Cllr Davies all in agreement

22-26. Matters arising from minutes of the Parish Meeting on Wednesday 14th January 2026.

Cllr Davies stated that the deadline for the comments on the planning application for the Herne Bay Road to 13th February.

23-26. Chairman and Councillors reports.

Cllr Birch stated that all the bird, bat and owl boxes have been put up. Payback are filling up graves that have sunk.

Cllr Davies stated that she has had several compliments on the equipment in the dog walking area. She also stated that she had attended the Cabinet meeting at CCC.

Cllr Warner stated that Café Hope was well attended last Monday and that she had reported the blocked drains and all the potholes on Shallock Road

Cllr Betts stated that she and Cllr Birch had met with the defunct group called Green Saborgs, they as residents will support the new group who want to carry on with the work they have been doing under the new name of Blooming Lovely.
The calendar work has met with some hiccups and will be put on hold until the summer.

Cllr Hogben stated that he had attended a meeting along with Cllr Dekker and the Clerk with KCC regarding the future of the library. Cllr Dekker asked some very useful questions, and the outcome was that KCC are not going to sell the Library but would like the Parish Council to work with them on other ventures at the library.

On the 16th February at Sturry Social Centre Bretts are holding a consultation on what they are planning to do at a site along island Road, he has asked that Cllrs attend this event.

24-26. County and District Councillors reports.

No report from KCC

CCC Cllr H McKenzie reported the following

Council Tax Support Scheme

At the last Full Council meeting, we voted for changes to the Council Tax Support Scheme which will increase the maximum council tax relief from 90% to 100% for 4,600 of the poorest households in the Canterbury District and create a Care Leavers Allowance for 21–25-year-olds. This is fully funded and was supported overwhelmingly by a public consultation. It will reduce the cost of living for thousands of local families.

Homelessness motion

At the last Full Council meeting, we voted for a motion proposed by an opposition party calling on the council to adopt a child-centred approach to tackling homelessness with greater data sharing between agencies to improve public service support for homeless families and assurance that

all temporary accommodation units have cots.

Resident visit on Dengrove Park

Harry visited a resident in his home on Dengrove Park to discuss various issues relating to KCC and CCC matters. Following this meeting, Harry sent a letter directly to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Canterbury Highways Manager raising multiple serious problems on Shalloak Road and alerted CCC officers to various cases of fly tipping and littering around Broad Oak.

Water outages

All of Broad Oak and large parts of Sturry faced water outages due to poorly maintained infrastructure by South East Water over decades where funding was channeled to bonuses for the bosses instead. We are working with council colleagues on ideas for action to address this issue and prevent it happening again.

Power cut

On 16th January, there was a major power cut affecting parts of Sturry and Fordwich. We liaised with council officers and UKPN to keep residents informed. Franklyn House was affected by the power cut – residents at Franklyn House were supported by council staff who remained onsite overnight, welfare checks, a back up generator and maintenance checks were done as soon as the power came back on. No incidents occurred.

Community Governance Review

Cabinet have approved a CGR to go ahead depending on approval by Full Council and the funding being approved in the budget setting this month. A cross-party task and finish working group of Councillors will be appointed to work with officers on the CGR. We will keep you all informed on how the CGR unfolds and what it means for Sturry.

Broad Oak Reservoir

Harry attended the public engagement meeting with South East Water regarding the Broad Oak Reservoir hosted by the Canterbury Society. There was no new information that can't be found on the website, but they did reveal a range of public consultation events that have been sent to the Clerk alongside this report.

Annual Parking Review visits

Harry visited four residents on Park View to inspect and discuss

concerns regarding the proposed parking restrictions for the Annual Parking Review on that road. The consultation for the Annual Parking Review closes on Friday 13th February, please have your say on the proposals. The decision will be made on Tuesday 24th March.

Sewerage provision

At the last Scrutiny Committee meeting, Harry voted with fellow Councillors for:

- Cabinet to make a policy toolbox to tackle sewage pollution from development.
- The Head of Planning to create a training programme for water management.

And it was revealed that Councillors already have the ability to apply Grampian conditions that ensure sewerage is in place before dwellings are occupied in Planning.

- I am aware of the ugly and inappropriate fencing that has been erected outside the new homes next to the Tesco. I am working with the housing and planning teams and will update in next month's report.
- I spoke about the update from the planning enforcement officer on the Mototrials Park on Shalloak Road that I have sent to you separately.
- The government has launched the LGR consultation - [Local government reorganisation in Kent and Medway - GOV.UK](#)
- CCC has launched a consultation for our biodiversity strategy - [Draft Biodiversity Strategy - Canterbury Newsroom](#)
- CCC has launched a consultation for our housing strategy - [Draft Housing Strategy - Canterbury Newsroom](#)
- The Compliance Notice served to Dengrove Park previously has been withdrawn due to a legal challenge. I am pressing the officers to arrange a formal briefing for myself and Sir Roger Gale because if they are no longer going with a Compliance Notice, I want to know what they are doing to solve the issues on the site. An officer site visit is happening next month.
- We are working on arranging a meeting with Cllr Mulvihill to catch up on progress with the project to improve safety outside the primary school as much of the solution is KCC-related (highways). However, I have written to Paffard Court to request whether parking signs can be attached to the exterior of their fence since the school are reluctant to have signs on the pavement due to public liability.

25-26. Community Warden report.

No report

26-26. Village Caretaker's report.

- Litter pick park view
- Sort out garage and use donated shelving units
- Replaced broken pane of glass in office window
- Minibus supermarket run
- Removed Christmas lights from the High Street
- Removed decorations from the Christmas tree
- Maintenance in the cemetery
- Cleaned human excrement that had been spread over toilet and seat in the ladies toilet
- Removed old ashtray and replaced with new one outside the toilets
- Fitted new light outside the gents toilet
- Released and repaired the door to the gents toilet.
- Litter pick the paths within the Parish.

27-26. 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. So far, I have added 1131 (637) names of clergy. We have 171 Service providers (Ministers, Clergy etc.) in the database.

Cemetery Burials:

Since my last report, we have had one burial and one burial of cremated remains.

I have one further burial of ashes scheduled.

Cemetery Repairs:

This is still with our insurer and despite chasing, there has been no update.

Cemetery Other:

We have had one new monument erected in the Cemetery.

I have published the revised Cemetery fees as agreed by Council. These took effect on 1st Feb 2026. I sent notice to all Funeral Directors who regularly use the Cemetery and to local Stone Masons. All the new rates have been added to the database.

I have reviewed the Cemetery regulations, which has led to further amendments. I will be seeking the Council's approval (Agenda Item).

28-26. Clerks Report.

General enquiries dealt with from residents.

I have spent most of my time this month updating our Policies and Procedures, so far, I have done twenty and have another nine to do. There are several of these that will not be adopted by the Council as they have been prepared in readiness for LGR.

Attended the Full Council.

I have set a date with our internal Auditor for the 16th April 2026

Usual administration duties.

I was asked by the Chair to attend the meeting between SPC and KCC regarding the library, I will leave the report on this to the Chair.

I attended an online meeting between CCC, SPC and SABORA regarding the parcel of land off of the High Street. I was asked at the last meeting to find out from CCC how the license agreement works and the legality of it all. The outcome of the meeting was that SABORA must be registered to be able to take on the license, even if SPC were to take on the license and sub-let it to SABORA the same applies. The outcome of the meeting was that SABORA will now drop the project as they do not want to be registered.

There has been a couple of instances where a certain resident of the High Street has been harassing the staff in the office, and I have had to escalate this and made a harassment report to the Police.

29-26. Events Committee report.

No report as no meeting held

30-26. Finance.

a) Payments for approval.

Proposed by Cllr Rai and seconded by Cllr Davies all in agreement

£2027.12	Bourne to Garden	Grounds Maintenance
£31.84	Amazon	Grass seed for cemetery
£106.99	Amazon	Backpack blower
£24.63	Amazon	Cigarette bin for toilets
£59.99	Amazon	Handheld blower
£99.80	Amazon	Fluorescent tubes for office
£756	Mazars	External Audit fees
£555	Up & Out Platforms	Take down of Xmas lights
£177.30	Viking	Toilet cleaning materials
£38.40	Heron Workwear	Dog Walking area Signs
£20	David Hards	Mole catcher

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

Subject to Clerk's confirmation of legal procedure/vote

31-26. To Discuss and agree revised Cemetery Regulations and the cost of reprinting the booklets.

Ken Bullocck gave an update on why this is necessary as he has found out that there are several regulations missing.

Proposed by Cllr Birch and seconded by Cllr Hogben and all in agreement

32-26. To Discuss and agree appointment of a Planning Committee.

This item has been deferred.

33-26. To Discuss and agree Management Agreement between Sturry Parish Council and Sturry Social Centre.

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

34-26. To discuss and agree promoting Councillor activity and responsibility.

Cllr Betts stated that she had several ideas on this subject and she requested that Cllrs give her something to go with. To be brought back to a following meeting.

35-26. To Discuss and agree date for the APM 2026 (22nd April agreed with the school).

School yet to agree date.

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

36-26. To Discuss and agree quotes for the tree work in Centenary Woodland as per the Management Plan.

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

36-26. Planning Application.

Deferred

Exclusion of the Press & Public, pursuant of section 1 of the public bodies (Admission to Meetings) act 1960.

37-26. To discuss and agree the possibility of acquiring a specific piece of land (or pieces of land) for the benefit of the Community.

This item was not discussed as the Councilor who was putting this motion forward was not at the meeting.

Date for next meeting. 11th March 2026

Meeting close at 19:54