

Minutes of Extraordinary Meeting

7pm on Wednesday 8th July 2026 at Sturry Social Centre.

Present:

Cllr John Hogben, Cllr Steve Birch, Cllr Gill Betts, Cllr Kathleen Warner, Cllr Dil Rai, Cllr Heather Taylor, Cllr Chris Gartland and Cllr Ashley Bubb.
Ken Bullock Cemetery Superintendent

119 -26. Apologies for absence

Cllr Ashley Bubb, Cllr George Spence

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.

120 – 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

121 - 26. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 10th June 2026.

Proposed by Cllr. Hogben and seconded by Cllr. Warner.
Cllr Gartland and Cllr Rai abstained as they were not at the meeting. All other Councillors in agreement

122 - 26. Matters arising from minutes of the Parish Meeting on Wednesday 10th June 2026.

None

123 - 26 Chairman and Councillors reports.

Cllr Birch stated that he had changed the solid pole across the dog jump with a large rope and that payback had restarted the footpath work in the dog walking area.

Cllr Warner told Council that she was manning a table for the Parish Council at the forthcoming SABORA event and asked if anyone had photos to please send them to Ken Bullock for her.

Cllr Hogben informed Council about the TEAMS meeting to be held with Bretts/Hume regarding the football pitches at Westbere Butts. All Cllrs welcome to attend in the Parish Office.

The Chair reported that the path in the dog park was only 12 metres from being completed. He thanked the Staffing Committee for their work so far.

124 -26. County and District Councillors reports

CCC Cllr H Mc Kenzies report

Councillor Report for Sturry Parish Council (08/07/2026)

Councillors Harry McKenzie and Keji Moses

Park and Ride Performance

Data from a Scrutiny Committee meeting at the beginning of June showed that total usage across all three park and ride sites has gone up by 12% in the last 12 months, and Sturry Road has outpaced the total with an increase of 18%. At the same time, parking acts in Canterbury are down by 3.7% but footfall is up by 1.2%. This indicates that our bus-first transport strategy is working.

Buses for Broad Oak

At the last Joint Transportation Board meeting, Stagecoach finally confirmed that a bus service will be restored through Broad Oak in September. It is unlikely to be the original number 7 route as Stagecoach intend to use their existing network; it is likely to be a reroute of the 602. However, this is still very positive news and a huge thank you goes to everyone involved. We did our bit to make this happen by running a petition, survey and holding a meeting with the commercial director of Stagecoach.

Shelford Landfill Site

In the first few weeks of June, we attended a public engagement event in Hales Place where we listened to what residents had to say to the Environment Agency who were present to take questions. The week after that was the Community Liaison Group meeting with Valencia where we held them to account directly on points such as fencing around the site, pollution of the Stour and more. A big outcome of that meeting was that Valencia has now agreed to a newsletter for residents.

Renewed Planning Enforcement Policy

Cabinet voted to adopt the renewed Planning Enforcement Policy in June and we wrote to them to welcome the policy which is pretty straightforward but also ask questions about how appeals will be managed, where funding will come from, how it will be objectively decided whether to act and what the enforcement process could look like. We have been promised further guidance and training to be released for councillors and parish councils later this year addressing each of these points and more.

Consultations and Funding Opportunities

- The Draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy is out for consultation – the consultation closes in September and we welcome your views.
- Biodiversity grants are open until 24th July. In the last round, the Sturry and District United Church got funding to improve their memorial garden and Sturry Parish Council got funding to improve Centenary Woods and the cemetery.

New Adopted Housing Strategy

Cabinet have now accepted a recommendation from the Overview Committee to adopt the new housing strategy. Harry voted in favour of this in that Overview Committee meeting. It is a realistic and grounded strategy that has ambition within what the council is able to deliver to meet specific housing needs. There are a lot of elements to this strategy – some key points include tougher action to bring long-term empty homes back into use, mechanisms in the Draft Local Plan to increase social housing and more.

Alongside our housing strategy, the government has also announced a social housing bill which will reform Right to Buy and make it easier to evict domestic abusers.

New Council Homes on East Street

11 new council homes are being built on East Street just off Sturry Road. This is a stone's throw away from this ward and residents here will be eligible to bid on these homes on Kent Home Choice. They will be chalet bungalows that will have disability adaptations and sustainable features such as solar panels. Harry voted for these new council homes on the Planning Committee last year and funding has been received from the Social and Affordable Homes Programme run by Homes England.

Sewage Spill on Sturry Hill

A few weeks ago, Keji supported local residents to report a sewage leak on Sturry Hill to Southern Water to help get it sorted out. It was an environmental health hazard.

Community Safety Partnership

In the last Scrutiny Committee meeting, Harry asked council and police officers about what is being done to tackle illegal parking across the ward, when we can expect a new youth hub in Canterbury to delivered after it was approved over 2 years ago and what is being done about dirt bikes vandalising football fields, as seen in Sturry recently. We are following up on each of these points as officers did not have information to hand.

Bin Collection Changes

Due to exceptionally hot weather, bin collections have been made earlier so they start from 6am to protect workers from the heat and help them to do their jobs safely.

World Cup Campaign

Many of us are enjoying the world cup, however, it is important to recognise that it is not fun for everyone as data shows that domestic abuse increases by 38% when England lose and 26% when they win. The council has launched an information campaign to raise awareness of this and tackle domestic abuse, not just now but always.

As for the world cup, officers are identifying council-owned venues across the district that would be suitable to open up for public viewings of remaining England matches.

Cllr Mark Mulverhill Report

The highways 'Number 7' bus is to be reinstated.
Meetings are planned with Stagecoach to discuss the possibility of including Hoath in the new route.

The Link Road engagement meetings held at Broad Oak Hall and Sturry Community Centre were well attended and the ariel views of the site were considered excellent and very helpful.

Part funding was being provided for the Outdoor Cinema event.

125 - 26. Community Warden report.

No report

126 - 26. Village Caretaker's report.

Adjusted door to office (jamming)
Fitted new memorial plaque to wall in cemetery
Oiled the memorial bench for Peter Wenham
Opened/Closed public toilets and toilet cleaning

Litter picking in Park View
Emptied bins in Park View
Cleaned office toilet and kitchen
Minibus shopping run
Marked out grave in cemetery

This month is a short report due to me having to return to Scotland to sort out my mom's financial business after she had died and also to attend her funeral.

This concludes my report.

127 - 26. Cemetery Superintendent's Report.

Admin Work:

I have continued to support the resolution of general enquiries.

Cemetery Database:

BAU updates (new records) only this month

St Nicholas Churchyard:

I have been in contact with the Church Warden and the person responsible for faculty applications at the Diocese so I can progress the necessary monument repairs. I am still waiting a response and have chased, as I cannot progress this further without a faculty.

Cemetery Burials:

Since my last report, we have had one new burial. I also have one burial of cremated remains scheduled.

Cemetery Repairs:

Despite me contacting the insurance assessor again, I still have no progress on this matter. It is still with the underwriters.

Cemetery Other:

I am continuing to work with councillor Birch and Payback to further tidy up the cemetery.

Cemetery Summary:

<u>Cemetery Report</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2026</u>	<u>This Report</u>
Burials	9	18	5	1
Cremated Remains	4	9	2	0
ERoB Transfers	3	17	3	0

Deed Purchases Monument Applications	8	9	5	1
	7	18	2	0

128 – 26 Report from the Events Committee

Cllr Gartland reported plans for Cinema In The Park.

- ☐ A Management Plan and Risk Assessment had been completed.
- ☐ A grant from Cllr Mulvihill for £1,200 had been gratefully received.
- ☐ A license for showing the films had been applied for.
- ☐ Refreshments had been sourced from local companies. The Scouts/Guides will bring popcorn and sweets and offered to provide a source for electricity if needed.
- ☐ The posters had been created and were ready to be put up when the temporary events notice had been received.
- ☐ It was agreed that advertising would be local as this event was aimed for residents of the Parish.
- ☐ The screen and films had been sourced.
- ☐ Toilets would be onsite. The Scouts and Guides will be asked if these could be placed just inside their grounds so that after the event they could be safely situated in a locked area until collection on Monday.
- ☐ A generator would be provided for electricity if necessary,
- ☐ There would be a first aid/medical team on site which had been arranged with Cllr Mulvehill.
- ☐ Tables from the Social Centre had been offered by Cllr Davies and Cllr Birch would collect these.
- ☐ Letters would go out to nearby residents about the event.

Thanks were extended to the Events Committee .

129 - 26. Finance.

Payments for approval.

Proposed by Cllr Hogben, seconded by Cllr. Warner.
All in agreement

£2027.12	Bourne to Garden	Grounds Maintenance
£132.85	Wesley Hire	Cemetery Toilet
£21.98	Amazon	Fixings for football goal
£13.99	Amazon	Dog Poo Bags

£19.73	Viking	Printer Paper
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Cllr Betts has agreed to change her designation at Unity Bank to enable payments and salaries to be paid until a new Clerk/RFO is appointed.

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

130 -26. To discuss and agree the appointment of a new Parish Clerk / RFO.

Cllr Birch left the meeting at this point while discussion about interviews and applicants took place.

Cllr Taylor, as Chair of Staffing Committee reported that 7 application forms had been sent out of which 5 had been returned.

4 candidates had been agreed for interview, 1 of these did not attend for interview, later explaining that their circumstances had changed.

Three people were interviewed.

After the interviews all candidates were discussed at length. The final choice was between two of the applicants.

Mr David Gordon-Young was brought to the Council as the successful applicant.

Proposed by Cllr Davies Seconded by Cllr Hogben All in agreement.

Cllr Taylor said that the contract, if agreed, would be for 5 hours a day, Monday to Friday, allowing the office to be open every week day.

Following the meeting the Chair would contact Mr Gordon Young and offer him the position.

Cllr Birch returned to the meeting.

It was also acknowledged that in the absence of a Clerk the Cemetery Superintendent, Ken Bullock, was doing additional work to aid the work of the Council.

It was agreed that he should record these hours which would be paid at his current hourly rate.

Proposed by Cllr Taylor Seconded by Cllr
Hogben All in agreement.

Date for next meeting.
9th September 2026 7pm at Sturry Social Centre.

Meeting closed at 20.05

Signature:  _____ Date: 09/09/26