



**Birchington Parish Council
General Purposes Committee
Minutes of the meeting held on Monday
31st March 2025 at 18.30 hrs
at the Parish Office, 2 Albion Road, Birchington**

Present:

Cllr Phil Fellows (Chairman)
Cllr Linda Wright
Cllr Colin Brown
Cllr Marcel Pooke
Cllr Max Houghton

Cllr Neville Hudson - Observer

Action:

GP/2024/32 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from the Clerk, Jane Bevan

GP/2024/33 Declarations of Interest

None

GP/2024/34 Chairman's Report and Public Participation

The Chairman referred to Speedwatch and said he had received an email from Alan Watson of Kent Police who said he had received feedback from a resident that the Parish Council had halved the funding for Speedwatch. The Chairman said he was not aware of the source of this information. He said he had recently spoken to the Chairman of Acol Parish Council with a view to borrowing their equipment. He said he would not want to invest in new equipment if there were insufficient volunteers.

The Chairman said he had recently attended a meeting of the Thanet Area Committee where there was a presentation by the TDC Emergency Planning Officer. Based on the information provided at the presentation, the Chairman said he would now be updating the Birchington Resilience Plan.

The Chairman said he was unable to attend the Parish Council Full Council meeting on 18th March but received an update on a new Parish Council website and the streaming of Council meetings. It had been agreed at Full Council to set up working parties to take these initiatives forward.

GP/2024/35 Minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 17th February 2025

The Chairman referred to the Full Council meeting of 18th March and asked for an update on the proposal to increase the number of Parish Councillors. Cllr Pooke said he had not received a response from TDC after he had contacted them to enquire if there was a formula

for requesting an increase in Councillors. The Chairman said it was important that the Parish Council was prepared particularly with the implications of devolution. He said an increase was not required in the immediate future but the Council should be planning ahead. It was agreed to make a recommendation at the next Full Council meeting that the Parish Council should formally request details of the correct protocol for increasing the number of Councillors. The minutes of the meeting held on 17th February 2025 were presented for approval and agreed as a true record. GP/2024/36 Update from Events Chairman VE Day The Deputy Clerk said he had circulated a list of tasks that had to be completed that he and the Clerk had drafted. Cllr Wright said that there were many tasks on the list that she had addressed. Regarding the Veterans Afternoon Tea, Cllr Wright said she was still identifying residents who met the criteria. Once they were identified she would then invite them to attend. There would be a limit of 80 attendees. Cllr Wright referred to the lighting of the beacon at Eppe Bay and said the Birchington Silver Band had been booked and that she was still investigating catering providers and the installation of a small stage. The Chairman suggested that some form of lighting was provided as it would be dark by the time the beacon was lit. Cllr Houghton said it was important that the finer details and logistics of holding the events were confirmed e.g. names of individuals responsible for each task. GP/2024/37 Update from Health and Wellbeing Sub Group Chairman Cllr Brown provided an update on the Helping Hands project following receipt of a grant from KCC for £1000 and said that he would be meeting with the Clerk to discuss how the funding would be spent. He said that a new Facebook page for the Health and Wellbeing group was progressing. He was also liaising with the new Everglades café/community hub in Station Road to look at ways of attracting and involving younger people. He reported that the Parish Magazine was now being podcasted. Cllr Brown also provided an update on Disability Awareness Birchington and their initiatives to improve access to shops for people with disabilities. GP/2024/38 Public Engagement The new Parish Council website and the streaming of meetings were covered under the Chairman's Report. Cllr Hudson provided an update on the Kent Association of Local Council's (KALC) awards and said that a Birchington resident had been chosen for an award for their service to Birchington and would be presented with the award at the Parish Assembly on 8th April 2025. GP/2024/39 Suggestions for Future Projects. To be discussed at the next meeting. GP/2024/40 Date and Time of Next Meeting To be confirmed. The meeting closed at 7.25pm Signed by Parish Clerk Jane Bevan Dated: 28th April 2025	Cllr Wright
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