



**Birchington Parish Council
General Purposes Committee
Minutes of the meeting held on Monday
16th June 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 Nick Blankley
Cllr Max Houghton

Cllr Marcel Pooke – Observer

Jane Bevan – Parish Clerk

GP/2025/01 Apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence

GP/2025/02 Declarations of Interest

None

GP/2025/03 Minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 31st March 2025

The minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 31st March 2025 were agreed.

GP/2025/04 Chairman's Report and Public Participation

The Chairman referred to the 2023 Parish Council Election. The Clerk said that this would be presented by the Chief Executive of TDC on Monday, 23rd June 2025. He also referred to the updated valuation of the library building. The Clerk said this was an agenda item for the Finance Committee meeting on 1st July 2025. The Chairman said that TDC were providing compulsory training for Councillors on Diversity and GDPR. He had asked if this would apply to Parish Councillors but was informed it was only for TDC Councillors. The Chairman said that due to other commitments with TDC he would be stepping down as Chairman of the General Purposes Committee. The Clerk said that the election of a new Chairman would have to go on the agenda at the next scheduled meeting.

GP/2025/05 Review of Standing Orders

The Committee **agreed** the current standing orders.

Action:

GP/2025/06 Update from Events Chairman Cllr Wright said she did not have an update but understood that the Clerk would provide one. Cllr Wright referred to the VE Day afternoon tea event and said she was disappointed that there were not more Councillors in attendance, in particular the Parish Chairman and Vice Chairman although they did both attend the beacon lighting. Cllr Houghton responded that had the event been properly planned several months previously he would have been available to attend the afternoon tea. Cllr Blankley added that he had emailed Cllr Wright twice to offer his services as a volunteer but did not receive any responses. The Chairman asked what arrangements had been made for the VJ event on 15th August. The Clerk said the arrangements were as previously agreed and that she had received confirmation that the W.I. would assist. The Chairman asked Cllr Wright to get in touch with all the residents who would be invited to attend refreshments at Church House. Cllr Wright referred to the proposed farmers market and sought agreement in principle for a farmers market to be held on Dog Acre. The Chairman said the Parish Council should not be involved in the running of the market but to only facilitate the hire of the land. He asked Cllr Wright to liaise with the organisers. GP/2025/07 Update from Health and Wellbeing Sub Group Chairman Cllr Brown provided an update and said his report had been circulated to members. He added that there was now health and wellbeing ‘pop-in’ in the Heart of the Community shop on 18th July for people who felt alone. The Chairman asked for an update on Sea Walk. Cllr Brown said work was ongoing to provide notices, QR codes and funding. Cllr Brown also said that the parish magazine was now being podcast. GP/2025/08 Public Engagement The Chairman asked for an update on a new website. The Clerk said there had not been any progress to date. Whilst there was funding in the budget the intention was to form a working group to consider requirements. The Clerk referred to new laptops and said this was with the Finance Committee. There was discussion about using the Parish Council’s desk in the Heritage Museum for dealing with residents queries but there had been no further progress on this. GP/2025/09 Suggestions for Future Projects. There was discussion about identifying vulnerable people in the parish but it was felt that this should be in the remit of qualified professionals but Councillors should pass on information to the authorities if they became aware of residents in need of help. GP/2025/10 Date and Time of Next Meeting Monday, 11th August 2025 in the Parish Office. The meeting closed at 7.25pm Signed by Parish Clerk Jane Bevan Dated: 24th June 2025	Cllr Wright Cllr Wright
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