



HORTON KIRBY AND SOUTH DARENTH PARISH COUNCIL
Parish Office, Village Hall, Horton Road, South Darent DA4 9AZ

14th July 2025

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 7th July 2025 in the Village Hall, South Darent at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr I Blackamore Chair, Cllr T Moyle Vice, Cllr N Gurr, D Hollands, D Mitchell, C Page, D Wakefield, A White

Sevenoaks District Cllrs L Ball, A White

Members of the Public: 4 including M Dunn, DRiPS

In Attendance: L Johnson Parish Clerk

49 Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Page and Gurr. Cllr Wakefield was not present.

50 Declarations of Interest

Any updated completed Disclosable and Non-Disclosable Pecuniary Forms to be given to the Clerk. (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012 (SI 2012/1464) Localism Act 2011
None received

51 Minutes

To confirm the Minutes of the last meeting held 16th June 2025.

52 Clerks Report

64 Matters Arising

Minute 131: Strip of land at East Hill/Paddock Close. Awaiting Cut-off date given to solicitor as 30 June 25 as July 2025 will be beginning of 5 years since fist letter wrote. Contact Chair and secretary directly to ask if SDMC still wished to continue. Deadline of September 2025.

68 Correspondence

Clerk to complete new Highway Information Pack for extra bollards, The Street and dropped Kerb, Station Road. Nigel Rowe KCC to assist.

Clerk to arrange meeting with new Community Mobilisation Officer Megan Glen

119 Public Questions

Clerk to write to Laura Trott regarding petition for more services at FNR and to advertise on website. To be actioned.

134 Clerks Report

Part of Horton Woods now covered by TPO – PC confirmed they are happy to pursue getting the rest of the ancient woodland covered. To be actioned.

153 Report from District Councillor

A resident has requested installing a defibrillator at the pavilion in Westminster Field. TBA.

155 Prow SD151 River Darent Path

Bicycle inhibitors installed at Westminster field and Station Road end of June. Fence at Westminster end was ripped up 1 week later. KCC to come out 28 July to concrete in and make more resilient

183 Police Matters – Clerk to arrange (hybrid) meeting with other Kent Police re. lack of staff/ASB. Chief Inspector Elizabeth Jones will attend September Parish Council meeting Westminster gate vandalism Thursday 12th June – Clerk still waiting for police to contact the office to secure CCTV footage.

53 Police Matters

PC's Guest and Collins were unavailable. Email received regarding S34 dispersal order to start 11th July and last for 48 hours. District Cllr White.

54 Report from District Councillors

Cllr Alan White. *Appendix 1*

Cllr Ball informed the Councillors that the new leaders of Kent County Council had requested an extension to the Devolution process as they would prefer a national referendum to take place prior to any decisions area finalised.

55 County Councillor for Sevenoaks North & Darent Valley

Cllr Marc Logen had sent his apologies.

56 Questions from the Public and Correspondence

There were no questions.

Correspondence

Local resident asked if the Parish Council would publicise dog walkers to pick up after their dogs as there seemed to be a big increase in the amount of dog poop on the paths, in Westminster field, The Heathside and 100 Year wood.

Action: Clerk to inspect dog/rubbish bins, report to SDC and advertise on social media/notice boards to clean up.

57 Events Working Group Report

Clerk advised Councillors that after speaking with Danny Goldsborough from The Bull Public House, Horton Kirby, he offered to deliver, install and then remove from site, crowd barriers for the Fireworks evening on the 2nd November 25 at no cost to the Parish Council. This would reduce costs by approximately £1,600.

This was welcomed by all Councillors. Cllr Mitchell requested to receive Danny Goldsborough's offer in writing.

Action: Clerk

Clerk asked if Councillors would agree to spending £3,000 on fireworks, as per the working groups report, as current invoice was for £1990.00. Given that the figure for fireworks had not increased in the past four years but the cost to produce them had, this would influence the length of the display.

Decision to be made once written confirmation from D Goldsborough was received.

Action: Clerk

Cllr Hollands told the council that sufficient volunteers had been recruited and training sessions would be undertaken in the months prior to the 2nd November.

Cllr Hollands advised that new fence posts for defining specific areas for all Parish events were required and this expenditure would come under section 137, community benefit.

Action: Cllr Hollands to investigate further to bring to the next suitable meeting.

The working group had provided full council with a detailed report and 'to do' list.

Expenditure for the event to date:

Firework display	£3,000.00
Extra insurance	£1,044.44
St John's ambulance	£ 500.00

Advertising	<u>£ 60.00</u>
Sub-total	<u>£4,604.44</u>
Hire of Barriers* etc.	<u>£1,600.00</u>
Total	<u>£6,204.44</u>

* To be confirmed, subject to offer as above.

Actions: Working group 'To do' list.

58 Environment Centre, School Lane

Clerk had discovered that Kent County Council had plans to enter the Environment Centre, School Lane into auction in September as it was now surplus to KCC requirements. Clerk asked the Council if they would like to continue completing the 'Community Right to Bid Nominations' form for submission.

The Right to Bid gives voluntary and community groups and town and parish councils the opportunity to nominate local land and buildings to be included on a list of 'assets of community value'.

For an asset to be listed, it will be necessary to demonstrate that its main use now, or in the recent past, contributes to the social wellbeing or cultural, recreational or sporting interests of the local community – and that this use will continue.

If successfully listed, the sale of the asset is paused for an initial period of six weeks, (a moratorium) during which time an Intention to Bid can be submitted. The moratorium will then be extended to six months, giving us the time to prepare a bid and get a business plan together. Any sale, after the six-month period, takes place under normal market conditions and the owner is under no obligation to sell to a community group. Equally, community groups which have registered an interest are under no obligation to bid or purchase. The Parish Council had listed Wide Horizons Centre, adjacent to the Village Hall in Horton Road when it became vacant but were unable to raise the necessary funds.

Cllr White agreed that the Centre in School Lane had been popular and that the Parish Council should submit an application. Cllr Moyle will send further information on the history of the site.

Action: Clerk to complete form.

59 Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) Membership

An invitation to become a member of the Sevenoaks District Committee of the above charity group, was received. CPRE campaigns to protect rural England with the Sevenoaks branch involved in parish level concerns such as Solar farm proposals and planning infringements. Cllr Blackamore proposed to join with Cllr Moyle seconding. With two Councillors in favour the vote was carried and therefore

Resolved: that the Clerk would submit application forms to join CPRE.

60 Financial Matters

Schedule of Accounts *Appendix 2*

The schedule of accounts was received for May, for the sum of **£25,575.14**. Cllr Mitchell and Moyle to authorise electronic payments to be made

Budget Monitoring *Appendix 3*

Detailed Income & Expenditure by budget heading to 31st May was received by Councillors. As per financial regulation 5.6

61 Planning

24/03471/OUT

1 Bexley Cottages
The Street
Horton Kirby

Kent DA4 9BYU

Development: Outline Application for the erection of a two-storey detached house with some matters reserved.

Action: Objection.

The Parish Council acknowledges the applicant's further response and the expanded reasoning regarding the impact on the Horton Kirby Conservation Area and the setting of Croft House. The Council also agrees that although the site currently has limited visual value, the proposed dwelling introduces a gable-fronted design not seen in the immediate terrace. While the additional comments and the submitted Heritage Statement are noted, the Council still believes the proposal does not clearly show that it would preserve or enhance the character of the Conservation Area, therefore the Council cannot support this application in its current form.

25/01245/LDCEX

Beeches Farm Kennels
Canada farm Road
South Darenth
DA4 9LA

Development: Lawful Development Certificate to confirm, the mixed commercial use for dog kennelling and dog walking, commercial horse livery and horse grazing.

Action: No objection/comment

An update was received from Cllr Hollands regarding the public hearing for Chimmens Solar farm at Sevenoaks District Council offices in Sevenoaks.

Cllr Hollands attended the public hearing as a member of the public with Clare Wadey, resident of Saxon Place. The appeal deadline had been extended so that all stakeholders could examine a new document released on the 30th June by the Government 'UK Solar Farm Roadmap' Cllr Hollands felt that the Inspector heard their submissions and took full account of all their concerns.

District Councillors commended both Cllr Hollands and Ms Wadey for the time taken and dedication to compile a detailed response to the appeal.

Action: Clerk to write to Ms Wadey on behalf of the Parish Council to acknowledge and thank her for undertaking the project with such professionalism.

Further information available in Appendix 1.

June Parish Council meeting, Minute 36, Jacobs Lane. Clerk had written to enforcement department, SDC, to enquire why Condition 4, installation of combined hard kerb and drainage channel, had not been carried out as part of planning application 22/02599/FUL.

Planning Enforcement Officer replied that they would investigate the alleged breach and report back with their findings.

Action: Clerk

62 Committee Resolved Minutes

Were received from ROS Committee February and April 2025 for information only.

63 Newsletter/Events/Social Media

Clerk reported that some Newsletters had been dropped to volunteers. Clerk and Assistant would deliver to remaining volunteers by the end of the week.

64 Date of Next Meeting

Monday 1st September. Full Council in recess for August



Lisa Johnson, Clerk to Council

Appendix 1

Resident Complaints

Franks Lane

A resident alerted me to a comment on the HK&SD Facebook page. Images were posted anonymously on the community Facebook and appear to have been since removed.

It relates to an incident that appears to have occurred on Saturday 5 July. A tractor and container stopped and were blocking the road for circa 20 mins.

This activity appears to have been to abstract water from the River Darent. Such activity does require an Abstraction License to be provided and for the Environment Agency to be alerted beforehand.

I have shared the resident's concern with SDC, shared details with PCs Guest and Collins, and alerted the Environment Agency.

Lombard Street

A number of residents raised the issue of a large shipping container being driven along Lombard Street, past houses and cars, which is rather narrow for a vehicle of this size to manoeuvre itself.

The shipping container was then unloaded near the entrance of Oakview Stud Farm Completely blocking the footpath and partially resting on the road.

This is the third such occasion this activity has taken place. It was to allow tyres to be moved from OVSF into the container.

The matter was reported to Kent Highways as well as SDC.

There are still an incredible number of vehicles along Lombard Street which often necessitates vehicles reversing a considerable distance to allow on-coming vehicles (as well as horse and carts) to pass by.

This is causing frustration for many residents and no doubt to the drivers of the 414 bus.

River Darent

River Walk - 27 June

This walk went well. Mark Gallant, KCC and North West Kent Countryside Partnership Malcolm Dunn, DRiPS, Cllr Ball and reps from both Parish Councils attended.

The purpose of the river walk is to review the flow, vegetation and the wildlife along the section of the river within our ward.

Concerns were raised over the vegetation and health of this important chalk river. The overall view was that it's a question of balance and the natural flow of the water. The reed vegetation At Farningham was discussed and it was explained that removal of the vegetation would be a repeated cycle event as regrowth is strong in the area. And by removing the vegetation would effectively lower the water levels at that particular spot due to the width between the two banks. A previous survey at the location had identified nesting area of water voles. Which is another reason for not cutting the growth back Overall, the flow of the river was strong and the water clear so it is in relatively good condition.

Planning

Chimmens Hearing

Clare Wadey and Cllr Hollands presented at the planning inspectorate hearing (2days) and gave an extremely good presentation as to why the Solar Farm should be refused. The planning inspector was Mr. Woodward. I felt he allowed views to be fully heard by Miss Wadey and Cllr Holland.

A site inspection took place of the area and the views from residents' properties in Saxon Place that directly back on to the area.

We now await the decision outcome in due course.

Neighbourhood Policing

Franks Bridge, Horton Kirby and Riverside, Eynsford

As a result of a number of antisocial behaviour incidents being reported to Kent Police, two dispersal orders were arranged and ran from Friday (27th) evening to Sunday (29th) evening.

I have not been made aware of any significant incidents over this weekend. This may be a result of the dispersal order publicised via My Community Voice or the heat.

Anecdotal feedback I received from residents was favourable.

Many thanks

Cllr Alan White

Sevenoaks District Councillor for Farningham, Horton Kirby and South Darenth (9th May 2023)

Appendix 2

Date: 07/07/2025

Horton Kirby & South Darenth PC Current Year

Page 1

Time: 13:07

Unity Trust Bank**List of Payments made between 01/06/2025 and 30/06/2025**

<u>Date Paid</u>	<u>Payee Name</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Authorized Ref</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>
02/06/2025	Sevenoaks District Council	SDC	180.00	LGA1972 s 133	VH business rates
16/06/2025	Castle Water Limited	CASTLE	93.69	PubHlth1936 s 125	WF Water 3849
16/06/2025	Hugo fox	HUGOFOX	23.99	LGA 1972 s 133	15371 Website/emails IT
16/06/2025	Adobe Systems software	LLOYDS	13.14	LGA1972 s 133	9774 02 Jun - 01 Jul 25
16/06/2025	Amazon	LLOYDS	16.49	LGA1972 s 133	TFHI Black bin bags
16/06/2025	Amazon	LLOYDS	25.58	LGA1972 s 133	ABEI A4 Copy paper
16/06/2025	Amazon	LLOYDS	9.08	LGA1972 s133	W6ZI stationery
16/06/2025	Amazon	LLOYDS	13.42	LGA1972 s 133	Laminating pouches
16/06/2025	AA Signs & Installations	LLOYDS	13.28	LGA 1972 s 133	Fly powder for halls
16/06/2025	Amazon	LLOYDS	10.99	LGA1972 s 133	HP replacement ink
16/06/2025	Lloyds Credit Card	LLOYDS	3.00	LGA1972 s 133	monthly card charge
23/06/2025	British Gas	BRITGAS	282.02	LGA 1972 s 133	5723 VH Electricity
23/06/2025	Sevenoaks District Council	SDC	62.00	LGA 1976 s 19	Pavilion Rates
26/06/2025	British Gas	BRITGAS	49.02	LGA 1976 s 19	Pavilion Electricity
26/06/2025	TalkTalk	TALKTALK	41.89	LGA1972 s 133	1496 phone/wifi
27/06/2025	Wages	WAGES	4,056.85	LGA1972 s 133	June 2025
30/06/2025	Sevenoaks District Council	SDC	180.00	LGA1976 s 19	License 7924
30/06/2025	Sevenoaks District Council	SDC	312.00	Litter Act 1983 sub	dog bins Apr-Jun 8480
30/06/2025	Lonsdale Direct Solutions	LONSDALE	473.00	LGA1972 s 142	March Newsletter 2755
30/06/2025	L Mills	MILLS	278.40	LGA 1976 s 19	VH hanging baskets
30/06/2025	MI Payroll & Bookkeeping Servi	MIPAY	69.00	LGA1972 s 151	3541 fixed price
30/06/2025	HMRC	HMRC	1,368.56	LGA 1972 s 151	June wages
30/06/2025	NEST Pensions	NEST	291.01	LGA 1972 s 151	June wages
30/06/2025	Kent Association Local Council	KALC	220.32	LGA 1972 s 133	9479 Vat only element
30/06/2025	NALC	NALC	42.00	LGA1972 s 133	0487 alternative sales
30/06/2025	J Turnbull	TURNBULL	2,428.11	LGA1972 s 133	3454/5 Pav cctv,2 x pc,1 x lap
30/06/2025	LothLorien Landscape Services	LOTHLORIEN	6,004.86	os1905 s 9/10 PHlth1	44/25 Maintenance contracts
30/06/2025	Sports Ground Services Ltd	SGS	1,370.00	PubHlthAct1890s	Inv 0122 June
30/06/2025	Society of Local Council Clerk	SLCC	300.00	LGA 1972 S 151	254364 annual membership
30/06/2025	Kent Pest Management	KPM	84.00	LGA 1972 s 133	5897 Jul visit
30/06/2025	EDR Electrical Ltd	EDR	4,785.12	LGA1972 s 133	0965 Hall Electrical test/upda
30/06/2025	ZA Pristine Property Services	ZAPPS	2,022.00	LGA1972 s 133	022/23 Cleaning
30/06/2025	British Gas	BRITGAS	181.10	Iga1972 S133	4725 vh gAS
30/06/2025	Unity Trust Bank	UNITY	36.75	LGA1972 s 133	Monthly service charge/handlin
30/06/2025	Valda Energy	VALDA	234.47	PC Act 1957 s 3	0186 Streetlight electricity
Total Payments			25,575.14		