

Meopham Parish Council

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A Civility & Respect
Pledge Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 8 July at 7:00pm at the Meopham Cricket Pavilion, Meopham Green, DA13 0DQ

Members Present: Cllr S Buchanan
Cllr D Bramer
Cllr R Collings
Cllr D Fisher
Cllr S Gofton
Cllr P Haslam – Vice-Chairman
Cllr J McNamara
Cllr D Sims – Chairman
Cllr B Wade – **arrived 7.43pm**
Cllr P Watson

In Attendance: L Winter – Clerk
9 members of the public

Meeting commenced 19:00

Item 1: Apologies for Absence: To receive and accept apologies

F.C. 41 Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr D Johnson (away) and Cllr S Johnson (away).

Item 2: Declarations of Members' Interests: To receive declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests for this meeting

F.C. 42 None declared.

Item 3: To approve minutes of the of the meeting held on 10.06.2025

F.C. 43 RESOLVED that: The minutes of the full Council Meeting of 10.06.2025 be agreed.

Item 4: Public Session & External Reports

4.1 Public Session

Disclaimer: The statements made during the Public Session reflect the opinion of the speaker(s) and are not necessarily accurate or factual information.

F.C. 44 A trustee of Meopham Cricket Pavilion stated that the basal on the tree near the fire exit had grown back and that all the trees had basal which was encroaching on the road and pathways. The Clerk

advised that a quote for the basal work at Meopham Green, Hook Green and Edmund Green had been requested from Elite Tree Care.

A member of the public queried the schedule of meetings on the website being blank. The Clerk was to address this.

Meopham Community Initiative were in attendance and requested that the proposal put before Councillors 16 months ago be brought to the attention of the new Councillors. Following a question from a Councillor, they stated that it did not need to be Judson's, any venue would be acceptable, as the need is increasing. The Clerk to send out the original paperwork to all Councillors.

A member of the public stated that they had been able to book a meeting at Judsons. The Clerk advised that they too could book a meeting for next week at Judsons, but the problem was, that the schedule of meetings and venues are booked over a year in advance and the legal requirement to publish agendas with three clear working days, requires block booking through a booking form and payment in advance, and we still await this system to be up and running.

A member of the public asked if there was any update on the public toilets. The Clerk gave an update.

Another member of the public asked if it was worth appointing a sub-committee for the public toilets, but the Chairman advised that, at this stage, there was insufficient reason to and could potentially slow things down as the details would still need to come before a full council meeting.

A member of the public asked how many Freedom of Information requests had been received in the last 24 months, how frequent these were and by how many different individuals and what the costs were, not only in relation to financial, but staff hours?#

4.2 Borough Councillor and County Councillor

F.C. 45 There were no Borough Councillor or County Councillor present.

4.3 Police

F.C. 46 There were no Police present. Councillor Watson advised that PC Jo Hammond was holding a Public Engagement meeting on Friday 11 July 2025 10.30 – 12 at St Johns Centre. All welcome to attend.

Item 5: Standing Orders: To review and approve the Council's Standing Orders for the 2025/2026 municipal year

F.C. 47 This agenda item was deferred.

Item 6: Membership – Planning: To elect members to the Planning Applications Working Group as per the agreed terms of reference (CH plus 7)

F.C. 48 The current membership was Cllr Fisher, Cllr Haslam, Cllr Sims (as Chairman of Council) and Cllr Watson.

RESOLVED that: Cllr R Collings, Cllr S Gofton and Cllr J McNamara be added to the Planning Applications Working Group membership.

19:43 Cllr B Wade arrived

Item 7: Financial Matters

F.C. 49 Councillors considered the documentation presented.

RESOLVED that:

7.1 The schedule of payments since the last meeting up to 30 June 2025 be agreed.

7.2 The receipts and payments report for the same period be received.

7.3 The bank statements and supporting Bank Reconciliation be received.

7.4 The council reserves statement be received.

Item 8: Remembrance Event: To agree arrangements

F.C. 50 Cllr Haslam requested volunteers to plan and organise. A number of councillors offered to help with the administration and organisation and Councillor Haslam to coordinate.

Item 9: Carols on the Green/Christmas Tree: To agree arrangements

F.C. 51 Cllr Haslam requested volunteers to plan and organise. Councillor Wade and Gofton offered to help with the organisation along with Councillor Haslam coordinating.

The Clerk advised that item 10 had been rejected and removed from the agenda.

The meeting ended at 20:15.