



KINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council

Held on Monday 12th May 2025

Present: Cllr Paul Chatley (Chair); Cllr Davina Martin (vice-Chair); Cllr Val McWilliams; Cllr Jerry Cook; Cllr Steve Reeves; Emily Arnold (Clerk) and four members of the public.

- 1? Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman for the Council year 2025/26:** Cllr Chatley was proposed as Chairman by Cllr Cook and Seconded Cllr McWilliams? all in favour. Cllr Chatley proposed Cllr Martin to be Vice-Chairman and was seconded by Cllr Reeves?all in favour.
- 2? Chairman opening remarks, apologies, and approval of absences:** Cllr Chatley welcomed everyone present and thanked them all for attending the meeting. Apologies were received and approved from Cllr Spencer.
- 3? Minutes of the previous meeting:** The minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 7th April 2025 were approved as a true record?proposed Cllr McWilliams?seconded Cllr Reeves they were signed as a true record.
- 4? Declarations of Interest:** None
- 5? Public Forum:** Thanks were given to Cllr Chatley for the swift movement of the notice board. Finger post in Fagg Alley seems to be missing Cllr Reeves to check. Reported by Cllr Chatley in February to PROW?Clerk to check. 30mph by Nailbourne Cottage so to slow the traffic by The Black Robin pub was asked for? Cllr Chatley explained it had been investigated before and it did not meet the specifications needed. It was asked if we could look at getting a sign 'No Footpath' put up on the corner of Valley Road and Covet Lane. The reason the trees by the bus shelter had been cut back when and why was explained. The trees were hitting the buses?the trees had not been correctly reduced when previous work had been completed?they were checked for any signs of nesting birds. The trees will come back but Cllr Reeves recommends looking at removing the smaller of the two trees (field maple). Bank balance is not showing incoming precept.
- 6? Reports from Kent Police, County and City Council members:** Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator resigned fading out mid-May. There has been some doorstep fraud mainly aimed at the elderly including fraudsters dressing up as police officers?the notices that Cllr Cook receives about these should go up in the notice boards and also investigate starting a resilience WhatsApp group for getting information out and helping the more venerable if the matter arises.
- 7? Matters arising: (if not already on the agenda)** The pruning of the trees by the bus shelter had received some negative comments on FB but the comments had been anonymous so Cllr Chatley did not comment?all correspondence should

come via the Clerk email. Cllr Sole had copied Cllr Chatley in on a letter that had been sent regarding planning and some concerns about building regs on a property in Kingston but the reply was that everything was being done correctly. Previously it had been agreed that two local tradesmen to fix the bus shelter Clerk to contact them now to book in. Check with Andrew Sage when he is due to cut the path on The Embankment. The VE Day afternoon tea had been very successful with lots of new faces coming along.

8 Finance: Bank Balance as of 6th May was £29642.63 (which includes a reserve of £11000) the 2025/26 precept has been paid.

Noted all payments made in the last month. Invoices for payments Hart Lee £3360 (VAT £560) Hart Lee £552 (VAT £92) Envisage £186 (VAT £31) proposed Cllr Reeves seconded Cllr Cook all were in favour. To approve internal auditor proposed Cllr Reeves seconded Cllr Cook all were in favour.

9 Planning: CA/25/00694 Avoca Black Robin Lane – No objections. CA/25/00649 Whitecroft Covert Lane – No objections. CA/23/01235 Hilltop Farm The Street – No objections.

10 Miscellaneous Parish Council Matters: Kingston Brooch not checked yet but now the weather had improved it will be checked. Cllr Storey resignation; CCC had been informed to place an advert in magazine to try to co-opt. Holding of Village Society funds; this can only be done if gifted to KPC but can be with proviso that the money is for village events only. It would remain ringfenced. Clerk to get drinks and nibbles for the Annual Village meeting. Car in bushes on Bonny Bush Hill not in our parish.

11 Highways, Footpaths and Trees: Woodland management plan had been sent over that day by Cllr Spencer so would now go live on the website. Marley Lane signs; still ongoing. Embankment: Cllr Reeves to identify trees and mark them. Tree work Nailbourne Close Bonny Bush Hill and CB275 all completed. Barham to Kingston Footpath is out for consultation. Bushes at Black Robin Pub the council agreed to spend up to £600 as the quote from Kingston tree care but was still waiting to hear back from Stonegate as to whether they would contribute towards the removal. Works would not go ahead until late autumn. Clerk to check with Barham about the Valley Road footpath we presume it is not happening now. PROW/CC/446 check legislation for bridge safety if the footpath is opened. Queens Tree: a new Weeping Beech to replace the dead tree works to be completed in October The Clerk to have the plaque redone as the plaque wording had been done incorrectly. To state 'HER MAJESTY'. Millennium Bridge: Clerk to get it looked at and quoted. The Clerk to contact KCC councillors from the Elham Valley and the other parishes to look at getting works done all at one time.

12 Matters for future discussion: None.

13 Date of next meeting: 2nd June 2025 at The Barn, Kingston at 7.30pm

Meeting closed at 20:25

Signed _____
(Chairman)

Date _____

Please note these Minutes remain as draft Minutes until they are approved by the Parish Council at their next Parish Council meeting on 2nd June 2025

Future Meeting Dates

07/07/2025 01/09/2025 06/10/2025 03/11/2025 and 01/12/2025