

**Harrietsham Parish Council
Environmental Committee**
Minutes of meeting held on Monday 10th November 2025

1. **Present:** Cllrs Brown (Chair), Dayes, Dean, Donley Luck, Mrs S Amos, M Cuerden (RFO/Amenity Manager)
2. **Apologies:** None **Members of the public:** None
3. **Minutes of the last meeting** (8th September 2025) were signed (without amendment) at the following Council meeting, another copy was signed for our records.
4. **Disclosures:** Cllr Brown declared an interest in the item on Allotments as he is a tenant.
5. **New Burial Ground:** MC reported that the church's repairs to the north churchyard wall (our joint boundary with the church) have now been completed, and seems to be a good job. There was a brief discussion about the name of this parcel of land – New Burial Ground seemingly being inappropriate as that use has now been ruled out. “Old Burial Ground” and “Saxon Burial Ground” were both considered, before councillors settled on a **Recommendation to Council** that the area be renamed as “Millenium Field” (as it was purchased around 2000).
6. **Garden of Remembrance:** All looking neat and tidy.
7. **Glebe Field:** All was looking neat and tidy – we are awaiting the height reduction work on the trees bordering the old rectory site.
8. **Medical Centre & Church Road:** MC reported that the contractors have been given the go-ahead for the hedge to be repaired; we are now awaiting the work. The surrounding raised beds now seem to be clear of brambles etc. The council has agreed to offer the Practice £4,000 towards their Pharmabox project, which should also result in a renovation of the Centre's front, which is looking very sorry for itself at the moment.
9. **Woodlands Walk:** MC reported that the area was looking well kept. Cllr Dean asked about the clearing of fallen leaves. MC checked the contract, and it seems they are not mentioned specifically, but it is implied by some of the other terms. MC said he'd contact the contractor to ask them to ensure the paths are clear, and we should ensure that there is a specific reference to this when the specifications are reviewed in a couple of years time.
10. **Allotments:** MC informed the meeting that it looks as though we may well shortly have a number – 5 or 6 – allotments vacant, and we need to consider how to maintain them. He suggested having them regularly sprayed with weed-killer as strimming them seems to only serve to spread weeds further, as suggested by the contractors and reported at the last meeting. The meeting felt that chemicals should be avoided, and it would be better to cover them with weighted tarpaulins. MC said he would seek further advice from the contractor responsible for the allotments and report back. In the meantime Cllr Dean suggested an article in Network and the other outlets we use to see if anyone else wants to take one on.

The question of annual rent for the allotments was then considered. The council currently charges £27 per annum, and MC noted that we usually increase it by one or two pounds per year. On that basis, he suggested a new rent of £28. Councillors then discussed the matter, and settled on a **Recommendation to Council** that the new rent be £30 per year (being a nice round figure), proposed Cllr Dean, seconded Cllr Luck, with all in favour except Cllr Brown, who abstained.
11. **Benches:** All the benches covered by the contract appear to be in good shape. Cllr Brown asked if we could have one placed in the War Memorial garden. MC replied by saying that he thought there was already one – possibly two – there, but that they were towards the back, so anyone sitting on them during, say the memorial service, would be behind the main service. He said he's have a look to see if there was a suitable position at the front of the garden and to get a price. The idea was accepted in principle (subject to cost and location) for recommendation to council, proposed Cllr Brown, seconded Cllr Dean, all in favour.

12. War Memorial: All looked neat and tidy.

13. A20 Verges: The verges we look after are all looking neat and tidy. Cllr Luck noted that there are some weeds growing up along the edge with the road, and wondered if we could / should do anything about them. It was agreed that this was really KCC's responsibility (as, indeed, is the whole of the verge!), and that we didn't want to start asking the contractors to do more work along this fairly lengthy piece of land.

14. Saxon Place Amenity Land: The Amenity Land is looking neat and tidy – even though we have received a complaint about it being rubble-strewn. It was noted that this rubble pre-dates the building of the flats and houses, being derived from the CTRL workings, and is almost entirely sub-surface.

MC noted that he had contacted Brogdale to seek general advice on the orchard, but has yet to hear.

Following the decision to rename the New Burial Ground, there was then a similar one about the Saxon Place Amenity Land – which, it was felt, is a bit of a mouthful. It was decided that there should be a **Recommendation to Council** so that in future we should just call it Saxon Field.

15. Teers Meadow: Cllr Luck reported that the cattle had recently (just a week ago) been removed. MC noted that we had been advised by our consultant to cut the field every two years, and that is was done last year – which means we don't need to do it this year. He also reported that the Medway Valley Conservation Partnership were booked to do their usual two days of maintenance work in the Meadow on 24th and 26th February 2026.

16. Items for future work: At this point, the situation is unchanged. The village sign continues to require some work, which will probably be best done in conjunction with the bench by the stream, in that they will require some building-type work. Essentially, we need either a good odd-job man or a builder. MC was provided with a couple of possible contacts at the last meeting, but had yet to follow them up – however, he now also has the details of the builder who did the church wall, who seems to deal with this sort of thing.

17. Date of the next meeting: Monday 12th January in the Parish Office at 7:30pm.

Meeting closed at 8:20pm.