

Harrietsham Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on
Wednesday 29th July 2026 at 7.30pm in the Booth Hall

Cllr Powell welcomed all present to the meeting.

Present

Cllr E Powell (Chair), Cllr C Roots, Cllr S Brown, Cllr G Dean, Cllr S Luck, Cllr R Welham, Cllr S Donley, RFO
Mr M Cuerden (Covering for Parish Clerk)
10 Members of Public

Public Discussion

The majority of the public had attended because they wished to know what was happening about the bridle path just north of Teers Meadow and access for dog-walkers. They had a perception that the Parish Council wasn't doing anything. Cllr Powell assured the meeting that the Council had taken immediate steps and were currently waiting for legal advice from solicitors. The Council was then asked if a statement to that effect could be posted, as there was currently felt to be a communications void. Cllr Powell said something could be placed on the website and Facebook page. He also reminded the public of the Planning Enforcement presentation before the September meeting - emphasizing that any Q&A will be non-site specific.

The majority of the public then left the meeting, leaving four.

A resident spoke regarding the blood donation vehicle which visits Lenham, asking whether it could also come to the village. Cllr Powell responded that he would ask the Clerk to investigate. **ACTION: Clerk**

1 Apologies for absence

Cllr T Griffiths, Cllr T Sams, Cllr J Sams, Cllr R Dayes, Mrs A Broadhurst (Parish Clerk)
Borough Cllrs M Nedelcheva, C Houlihan, S Povey, County Cllr S Emberson

2 Minutes of the last meeting

Parish Council Meeting 24th June 2026: The minutes were proposed as accurate by Cllr Roots, seconded by Cllr Dean; with 6 in favour, 1 abstention.

3 Disclosures and confidential items

Changes to the Register of Interests

There were no changes to be noted.

Declarations of Pecuniary Interests

Cllr Roots: Agenda Item 8.1 - Highways Improvement Plan - as he is the Treasurer of the Scouts Group.

Requests for Dispensation

No requests had been submitted.

4 Items to be taken in Closed Session

It was agreed by all present that Agenda Item 14 would be deferred, as no update was available.

5 Planning

5.1 The outstanding planning applications were noted.

5.2 The approved applications were noted.

5.3 Other Planning Matters

- Resident's Enforcement Training Session: Details of the session were noted.
- Cllr Powell indicated that there is a change coming in the rules regarding calling applications into Planning Committee, whereby it will not be possible to do so for applications of 9 units or less.

6 Environmental

6.1 Other Environmental Matters

- Outstanding Allotment Invoice: The RFO reported on the status of the Small Claims action in pursuit of an outstanding debt. The CCJ has been awarded, but further action at the moment seems to be precluded by a non-functioning section of the government Money Claims

website. Assuming that Councillors wish to pursue the matter, (which they unanimously indicated they did), then he would endeavour to resolve the issue and continue the process.

7 Finances

12.1 Income and Expenditure spreadsheets: The finance sheets were proposed as accurate by Cllr Roots, seconded by Cllr Luck; with all in favour.

12.2 Minutes of the Meeting held on the 9th July 2026: The minutes of the meeting were proposed as accurate by Cllr Luck seconded by Cllr Dean; 4 in favour (those present at the meeting)

12.3 Other Financial Matters

The RFO reported that the Parish Council had received payment of £75,800 for the sale of the charity land held in the Council's name by the Stede Charity. Cllr Roots provided some additional background and asked that the RFO confirm the exact amount. He would then advise the RFO on where the money should be paid.

8 Highways

There was no report circulated for the meeting.

Cllr Roots said that the recent traffic survey had been received, but he had not yet had time to analyse it. He hoped to produce a report for the next (September) meeting. Cllr Luck raised a concern over the bollards on the A20, which she reported as unlit, dirty and dangerous. Two had been demolished, one some time ago and one in the recent fatal accident. She felt that they should be removed, or at the least fixed and made more prominent. Cllr Powell said he would refer the matter to the Clerk, as she had the necessary contacts in KCC Highways. **ACTION: Clerk**

Cllr Powell then read the email from KCC regarding the access to the Scout hut in Station Road, concluding by noting that the solution is a dropped kerb, to be paid for by KCC from the HIP funding.

9 Glebe Medical Centre Replacement First Floor Window Units

Cllr Donley reported that he now had three quotes for replacement glass, ranging from £600 to £1300 (presumably ex-VAT), but he was expecting a fourth imminently, possibly with a slightly different specification. Cllr Roots noted that there are 2 months before the next meeting, and proposed that, given the expected order of magnitude for the price, Cllr Donley and the Clerk be given delegated powers to pursue the replacement windows rather than having to wait. Seconded by Cllr Dean, with all in favour.

ACTION: Cllr Donley & Clerk

10 Autumn Litter Pick

It was agreed to defer this item.

11 Future Events

22nd August - Bingo Afternoon (Village Hall 2-5pm)

26th September - Bingo Afternoon (Village Hall 2-5pm)

30th September - Planning Enforcement Resident's Presentation (Ambrose Hall - 7.30pm)

5th October - HIB AGM

17th October - HIB Quiz Night

1st Tuesday of each month - Harrietsham Games Club (Booth Hall - 2-4pm)

12 Items for Future Consideration

- Village Christmas Event - *Cllr Griffiths (September agenda)*
- Harrietsham Village Fete - *Cllr Griffiths (to be confirmed)*

13 Date of Next Meeting - Wednesday 30th September 2026 in the Ambrose Hall. The meeting will begin immediately after the MBC Planning Enforcement Presentation for Residents, which will commence at 7.30pm.

14 Parish Council Land Matter

Deferred until the next meeting.

With no further matters to discuss the meeting was closed at 8.25pm.