**GRAVENEY with GOODNESTONE PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES of PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT GRAVENEY VILLAGE HALL**

**On Monday 14th July 2025 at 7:00pm.**

**PRESENT**

Cllrs Catherine Wilkinson acting as Chair, Teresa Bowles, Lesley Lound, Tom King and Footpath Warden.

1. **Apologies for Absence.**Received from Cllr Mike Newman, Alan Stewart, Clare Boggia and the Parish Clerk.
The parish council unanimously agreed at the parish council meeting held 9th June 2025 that Cllr Catherine Wilkinson would chair the July parish meeting.

Absent: Cllr Alastair Gould (SBC) and Cllr Rich Lehmann (SBC & KCC)
2. **Declarations of Interests.**No declarations.
3. **Kent Police Beat Officer – Crime Report/NHW Update.**A call was received on 6th June 2025 notifying of a commercial burglary on Head Hill Road where tools were stolen from a vehicle. No anti-social behaviour was reported.

1. **Cleve Hill Solar Park Development update.**

Colin confirmed that the solar completion should be completed by end of July. Construction has been completed with some minor fence panels still to complete.
The operational management team will be attending a handover meeting this week to hand over from construction to an operational and maintenance schedule. Grass cutting, over seeding and planting will be taking place. Colin confirmed that Cleve Hill are producing a significant amount of energy. The batteries are moving forward quickly, and the construction is complete. The reservoir is now also complete, and all safety processes and fire checks are taking place.
There are currently 96 x 20ft containers.
Colin stated that the parish council are welcome to attend for a walk around. Brian Jefferys has attended the site. The footpath warden asked for contact details.
Colin confirmed that Brian Jefferys attended the site last week and would be attending again in the coming week. Brian Jefferys informed the parish council that Keith Gaines had confirmed that the final stages of the community benefit fund with an initial £500k will be administered by Grantscape. The total funds for the Community benefit will eventually equal 1 million pounds. Brian Jefferys wanted to highlight this to the parish council to discuss the community benefit further. Cllr Catherine Wilkinson requested that Brian send his correspondence to the clerk to enable this to be added as an agenda item at a future meeting for discussion. Brian confirmed that he had spoken with Cllr Mike Newman and Cllr Alan Stewart.

1. **Skylark - Update.**Cllr Catherine Wilkinson notified the parish council that Cllr Alan Stewart had circulated a quote from Alison Eardley. The parish council unanimously agreed that the parish council need to do all within power to make our submission and it was proposed that Alison Eardley at a rate of £80 per hour plus VAT be appointed to assist the parish council as a consultant. Cllr Catherine Wilkinson proposed this motion which was seconded by Cllr Teresa Bowles.
2. **To approve the minutes of the Monthly Parish Council meeting held Monday 9th June 2025.**Cllr Teresa Bowles proposed the minutes which were unanimously agreed to be a true representation of the meeting and were signed by Cllr Catherine Wilkinson.
3. **Community Resilience Plan.**Deferred to the September meeting.
4. **New Bank Account.**Deferred to the September meeting.

**Action 61: Clerk to add New Bank Account to September agenda.**
5. **Equal Opportunities Policy 2025.**Cllr Catherine Wilkinson proposed that the original Equal Opportunities Policy amended for 2025 be uploaded to the parish website as KALC have confirmed that there are no updates to legislation presently and are unable to offer any further advice, this was seconded by Cllr Teresa Bowles.

**Action 62: Clerk to upload current equal opportunities policy to the parish website.**
6. **Reserves and Biodiversity Policy.**Deferred to the September meeting.

**Action 63: Clerk to add Reserves and Biodiversity Policy to September agenda.**

1. **Information Board on land adjacent to Village Hall – Quote.**Deferred to the September meeting.

**Action 64: Clerk to add information board on land adjacent to Village Hall quotes to September agenda.**
2. **Footpath Warden.**The Footpath Warden informed the parish council that the shears that the parish council had previously purchased 18 months ago had been replaced with a new set free of charge by the supplier as the original set had fallen apart.
The footpath at the top of Culmer’s that runs straight across the field has had polytunnels erected alongside home made footpath signs which has been reported to KCC.
3. **Matters arising (for information only).**Action 139c – Ongoing.
Action 52a – Ongoing.
Action 64b – Ongoing.
Action 182c – Ongoing.
Action 190 – Ongoing.
Action 14a – Complete.
Action 14b – Currently being looked into further by KALC.
Action 28 – Complete.
Action 34 – Ongoing.
Action 35 – Complete.
Action 36a – Complete.
Action 36b – Complete.
Action 36c – Ongoing.
Action 38 – Complete.
Action 39 – Complete.
Action 40 – Complete.
Action 41 – Complete.
Action 46 – Complete.
4. **Highway Improvement Plan – Update.**Cllr Teresa Bowles informed the parish council that a meeting was attended last Monday with Cllr Clare Boggia. Cllr Clare Boggia had sent Sarah Goodhew details regarding verge cutting for Sandbanks Lane and Broom Street for next year, no response has been received to date.
A letter was being drafted by Cllr Clare Boggia regarding yellow lines to assist residents at the Four Horseshoes Park to circulate to the clerk for approval and distribution.
A price had not to date been received for the Gateways.
Monitoring of speed had taken place by the School and was recorded as between 26.6mph and 25.2mph. It was determined that it would not be possible to lower the speed restriction to 20mph however, it was agreed that the parish council need to highlight that most Schools have a 20mph limit imposed.
The speed monitor between Monskhill Road and Denley Farm was 31.6mph and 31.4mph. A request to reduce to 30mph was made however, a response had not been received to date. Cllr Rich Lehmann (SBC & KCC) was also included within the request.

**Action 67: Clerk to follow up letter with Cllr Clare Boggia regarding the yellow lines and parishioner’s addresses. Letter to be added to next agenda for approval.**
5. **Correspondence.**19 Items received.
6. **Finance.**a. Financial statement and bank reconciliation – approved and signed by Cllr Catherine Wilkinson.
b. Budget Variance Report – April, May and June 2025 – The budget variance report was reviewed, and it was agreed that the parish council were within budget however, it was noted that S.137 expenditure was higher.
c. Alison Eardley Planning Consultancy Fee – The parish council discussed using Alison Eardley for Consultancy and unanimously approved and agreed the consultancy fee of £80 per hour plus VAT.
e. Payments:
i. SSE Footway Lighting July and August 2025 (for info only – paid by D/D)
ii. Clerk Salary – July Salary - £259.44 – Proposed by Cllr Catherine Wilkinson and seconded by Cllr Teresa Bowles.
iii. HMRC – PAYE Payment for July - £188.16 – Proposed by Cllr Catherine Wilkinson and seconded by Cllr Tom King.
iv. Clerk Salary payment August 2025 - £259.44 – This payment was not signed at the meeting as was not aware a cheque could be signed that was future dated. It was agreed that the cheque would be passed to Cllr Alan Stewart and Cllr Tom King to approve and sign in August. The cheque was raised ahead of August as the Clerk is paid salary monthly and the parish council do not hold a meeting in August. As the payment is salary based through payroll the payments are made monthly and kept to monthly for paye and audit purposes.
v. HMRC Month 6 August 2025 - £188.16 - This payment was not signed at the meeting as was not aware a cheque could be signed that was future dated. It was agreed that the cheque would be passed to Cllr Alan Stewart and Cllr Tom King to approve and sign in August. The cheque was raised ahead of August as the Clerk is paid salary monthly and the parish council do not hold a meeting in August. As the payment is salary based through payroll the payments are made monthly and kept to monthly for paye and audit purposes.
vi. Graveney with Goodnestone Village Hall – Invoice 037 - £117 – Payment was proposed by Cllr Catherine Wilkinson and seconded by Cllr Tom King.
vii. Graveney with Goodnestone Village Hall Donation - £133 – Payment was proposed by Cllr Catherine Wilkinson and seconded by Cllr Teresa Bowles.
viii. Cllr Teresa Bowles Expenses - £24 – Proposed by Cllr Catherine Wilkinson and seconded by Cllr Tom King.
ix. Per Pro Services Ltd – Audit Invoice £122.50 – Proposed by Cllr Catherine Wilkinson and seconded by Cllr Lesley Lound.
7. **Planning.
REF 23/505533/EIHYB – Land at South East Faversham between A2 Canterbury/London Road and M2 Faversham Kent ME13 9LJ.**The planning details were reviewed by the parish council, and it was noted that the details online were not helpful.
Cllr Catherine Wilkinson shared the response submitted by Sheldwich, Badlesmere and Leaveland Parish Council. It was agreed that a response needed to be submitted to include the points outlined by Sheldwich, Badlesmere and Leaveland Parish council in addition to Love Lane and Brenley Corner. The burden on the roads is cause for concern.
Further contemporary research is required. Cllr Catherine Wilkinson will draft an email with details to share with the parish clerk to send a submission on behalf of the parish council. Cllr Tom King proposed this action which was seconded by Cllr Catherine Wilkinson.

**REF 25/502130/FULL – 4 Ewell Barn, Ewell Farm, Graveney Road, Faversham Kent ME13 8UP.**The parish council reviewed the application, and it was agreed that insufficient information was provided to enable the parish council to either support or object to the application.
The comments regarding noise pollution were endorsed by the parish council and it was believed that the chiller units serving the existing new packhouse are already audible from property located some 200 metres away and so there is concern that this noise will be increased by additional machinery. There were also concerns regarding light pollution. It was agreed that more information was required in relation to water management.
The parish council agreed that a draft response would be formulated by Cllr Catherine Wilkinson to be submitted to the planning portal by the parish clerk.
8. **Graveney with Goodnestone Trust.**Cllr Lesley Lound confirmed that the School Car Park legal enquiries were still underway and that there were no further reports at present.
9. **Reports from Parish Councillors.**Cllr Teresa Bowles noted the various potholes within the parish and has reported them. Network Rail have been contacted with regards to the overgrown bushes on the bridge. It was also confirmed that the railway bridge is looking poor and tired.
Cllr Lesley Lound – Nothing to report.
Cllr Tom King – Nothing to report.
Cllr Catherine Wilkinson – Informed the parish council that the footpath between the old hop field is difficult to walk through at present and has been reported by both Cllr Catherine Wilkinson and the Footpath Warden.
10. **Reports for Borough and District Councillors (if present).**
Not present.

1. **Any other business (for information only).**The Footpath Warden highlighted that there is business being carried out at a property next to Hilderbrands. There were polytunnels erected which have since been removed however, there are nine vehicles on the drive.
2. **Date of next meeting – Monday 8th September 2025.**
3. **Close of meeting.**The meeting was closed by Cllr Catherine Wilkinson at 8.47pm.

**Signed………………………………………………………………….Date …………………………………..**