

SELLING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held at Selling Village Hall on Thursday 20th March 2025 at 7.00pm

Present: Cllr Kevin Hobson (Chair), Cllr Andy Day (Vice-Chair), Cllr Garry Evans, Cllr Sue Henderson, Cllr Sally King, Cllr Jonnie Reeves, Cllr Rich Lehmann (KCC) (until agenda item 9), Bex Ratchford (Clerk)

Public: 3

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Gould (SBC).

2. Declarations of interest

Cllr Hobson declared an interest in agenda item 8 as the Chair of the board of governors. Cllr Henderson declared an interest in agenda item 7 as a member of the village hall committee.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 20th February 2025.

The minutes were **agreed** as an accurate record of the meeting and were signed and dated by the Chair.

4. Clerk's report

- a. Action 1: letter sent to residents and work completed. There have been four responses to the letter: one resident does not wish to contribute as they feel the lights benefit the whole community; one does not wish to keep the lights; one feels all residents of Selling Court should contribute and one has sent a donation of £180 towards the cost.
- b. Action 2: dates for police surgeries remain to be confirmed.
- c. Action 3: proposal sent to SER; response received that it is now too late to look at it this financial year but it may be considered next year.
- d. Action 4: VHC informed regarding purchase of play bark.
- e. Action 5: VHC and speaker informed regarding change of date for the APM; the speaker can still attend and has provided updated posters.
- f. Action 6: move to Unity Trust Bank is in progress; agenda item 11b.
- g. Action 7: planning comment submitted.
- h. Action 8: pothole issue raised with Cllr Lehmann.

5. Reports from borough and county councillors

Cllr Lehmann (SBC & KCC) gave a report covering the last few months: the waste collection route was revised last autumn but didn't take into account differences in geography so was revised again in December, mostly successfully. The Highsted Park application was called in to the Secretary of State and the enquiry has just started. The Green party left the SBC

coalition which then dissolved. Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) is necessitating many meetings: Kent's interim proposal including potential geographies is going to central government this week. The KCC pre-election period starts this week. KCC is taking part in a government review of ways to improve the management of road closures. Cllrs asked if there would be consultation with PCs on LGR; it is hoped this will take place in June/July. The issue of a jump created over the road at Perry Wood was raised; Cllr Lehmann will raise this again with SBC. It was noted that some verges are protected by Kent Wildlife Trust.

Due to the arrival of PC Tancock, the meeting was adjourned for his report. One incident was reported of youths at the station with a suspected weapon, but when officers attended and searched the area no one was located. With no evidence, no follow up was possible. There are no surgeries this month but they will hopefully take place again in April. It was noted that the Sondes would be available for surgeries, with a private area if necessary; this was further discussed under agenda item 7.

A report from Cllr Gould (SBC) was read out: SBC received an update on the water cycle study which noted that Swale is classified as a highly water-stressed area, faces significant concerns regarding water stress and water quality and increasing built infrastructure poses challenges to mitigate water stress and water quality pollution. **Action 1: Clerk to forward report.**

6. Public session

Residents raised issues as follows:

- the need for police surgeries to take place in the village hall was emphasised as it is a community building, on neutral ground where people would feel safe.
- thanks were expressed to Cllr Day for chairing the previous meeting.
- parking at the school causes daily difficulties for residents as people don't use the car park. The PC was requested to ask the school to produce a travel plan, consider requesting KCC to install parking restrictions and ensure there are no issues with the access path from the car park. This was further discussed under agenda item 8.

7. Police surgeries

Possible locations are the White Lion, The Sondes and the village hall, which would charge £12 per hour. It was noted that a previous surgery at the Sondes had been well attended and one at the pub slightly less so. It was noted that the PC already gives significant financial support to the village hall and the cost of surgeries is not in the budget so would have to be found from elsewhere. It was noted that the PC can accept donations and Cllr Reeves offered to fund the cost of one surgery at the village hall. It was **agreed** to accept this offer and provide one surgery at the village hall and then review the situation. **Action 2: Clerk to inform PC Tancock and liaise to arrange a date.**

8. Parking at school

The school is currently working on a travel plan which will encompass various issues, not just parking, and residents could be consulted with as part of this. It was noted that

approximately 85% of children come from outside the village and car sharing is encouraged. A quote is being obtained for some more parking spaces within the car park. The restrictions outside the school apply from 8-9.30am and 2.30-5pm and are enforceable. It was suggested that the Headteacher should require staff members to use the car park, even if they park outside the school temporarily to unload. It was noted that the school is responsible for maintaining the lights on the path up from the car park. It was **agreed** that the PC would write to the Headteacher asking that staff be requested to use the car park. **Action 3: Clerk to write to Headteacher.**

9. ICO fee

It was **agreed** to renew the data protection fee and to pay it by direct debit, saving £5.

Action 4: Clerk to set up DD once possible with new bank account.

10. Training

It was **agreed** to book training for the clerk on the three AI workshops provided by KALC at a cost of £100 on total, to be shared with the clerk's other council. **Action 5: Clerk to book training.**

11. Finance

a. The financial statement and bank reconciliation were reviewed and accepted.

Account	Balance as of 28/02/25
Reserve account	14,983.77
Current account	14.62
Total	14,998.39

b. The move to Unity Trust Bank is in progress; documentation and a cheque of £500 needs to be sent to complete the account opening and then cllrs will need to send identification documents to be added to the mandate. The transfer from the NatWest reserve account to the current account has taken place but only after Cllr Day went into the bank in person. This means all outstanding cheques can be raised as well as the transfer cheque. The charge for the bounced cheque will be £48.

c. Payments were **agreed** as follows:

Ref	Payment	Net	*VAT	Total
D/D	SSE – energy supply (Feb)	50.94	3.48	54.42
1564	Selling VHC – reissue of cheque 1545	310.00	-	310.00
1565	Clerk's salary and office rental	754.40	-	754.40
1566	Clerk's expenses (mileage)	13.05	-	13.05
1567	SEE – Chairing skills course	120.00	24.00	144.00
1568	Vision ICT – domain and email fee	105.00	21.00	126.00
-	ICO data protection fee – to be paid by DD as per minute 9			

* VAT to be reclaimed

12. Planning

- a. 25/500786 – Dane Court Farmhouse, Kit Hill – Conversion of existing outbuilding to remove the garage and enlarge the facilities ancillary to the pool. Erection of a single-storey extension to side of outbuilding together with external alterations, including new fenestration. It was felt that the application is very sympathetic to the existing building and **agreed** to comment in favour. **Action 6: Clerk to make planning comment.**
- b. 25/501001 – The Green, Hogbens Hill - TPO application to crown reduce one Fagus Sylvatica 'Purpurea' (T1) from height of 17m to 14m and radial spread from 9m to 7.5m on all sides. It was **agreed** to comment in favour. **Action 7: Clerk to make planning comment.**

13. Highways

A car parked opposite the Sondes which hasn't moved for some time does not have a current MOT certificate. **Action 8: Cllr Evans to report.**

14. Reports from parish councillors

Cllr Reeves attended the new cllr training and found it informative.

Cllr Hobson attended Chair's training and the Chair's conference and found them interesting with some helpful tips regarding social media. A report will be circulated.

Action 9: Cllr Hobson to circulate report.

Cllr Evans reported that seven residents are willing to make a statement about historical and continued use of the footpath between the station and Fox Lane and four have already done so. Once the remaining three have been received they will be sent to KCC.

15. Correspondence

All correspondence was noted.

- a. Apparently a page on the website has the wrong postcode for the village hall but it was unclear which page. **Action 10: cllrs to check and inform clerk so it can be changed.**
- b. The model Financial Regulations have been changed; these will be reviewed at the annual meeting.
- c. A meeting with neighbouring parishes and SBC regarding planning process has been arranged for 17th June; it was **agreed** to send a representative, to be agreed nearer the time.
- d. An invitation to a meeting with SBC regarding LGR has been received; it was **agreed** to send a representative, to be agreed once the date is known.

16. Close and date of next meeting

The meeting closed at 8.34pm.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 17th April 2025 at 7.00pm.

Signed.....

Date.....