

ST JAMES, ISLE OF GRAIN, PARISH COUNCIL

M I N U T E S

2nd SEPTEMBER 2025

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD
IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 19:31

Present:

Councillor P Blakeley (Chairman)
Councillor A G Jones
Councillor H Ogunfemi
Councillor Mrs G Sands
Councillor Ms H von der Holle

In Attendance:

Mrs Christine Gurr – Parish Clerk
4 Members of the Public

Recording, filming and broadcasting of the meeting:

- No requests received.

Apologies for absence (received and accepted):

Councillor Mrs C Hardingham - On holiday
Councillor Ms J Sharp - Work commitment
Councillor T Sands - Unwell

(To avoid possible disqualification under the 6-month rule, Councillors must provide a reason for non-attendance)

Declarations of disclosable pecuniary Interests (DPIs):

- A member need only disclose at any meeting the existence of a disclosable pecuniary interest (DPI) in a matter to be considered at that meeting **if** that DPI has not been entered on the disclosable pecuniary interests register maintained by the Monitoring Officer.
- A member disclosing a DPI at a meeting must thereafter notify the Monitoring Officer in writing of that interest within 28 days from the date of disclosure at the meeting.
- A member **may not participate** in a discussion of or vote on any matter in which he or she has a DPI (both those already registered and those disclosed at the meeting) and **must withdraw** from the room during such discussion/vote.
- Members may choose to voluntarily disclose a DPI at a meeting even if it is registered on the council's register of disclosable pecuniary interests but there is no legal requirement to do so.
- Members should also ensure they disclose any other interests which may give rise to a conflict under the council's code of conduct.
- In line with the training provided to members by the Monitoring Officer members with also need to consider bias and pre-determination in certain circumstances and whether they have a conflict of interest or should otherwise leave the room for Code reasons.

The following DPIs were received:

- None

(A Councillor who declares a DPI must withdraw from the room unless a dispensation has been obtained from Medway Council's Monitoring Officer)

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Urgent matters by reason of special circumstances

- A member of the public asked two questions of a personal nature that required an urgent response and was discussed as a private and confidential item.

19:33 Exclusion of the Press and Public

The Parish Council resolved that under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting for the consideration of the following items on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

25.108 Questions from the public

There was a confidential discussion of questions raised by a resident.

Action/Comments Agreed:

A confidential letter to be sent to the resident.

19:38 The Meeting was re-opened to the press and public

25.109 Review of Bank Account Signatories

Members reviewed the following documents:

- Extract from Minutes of PC meeting held on 15th July 2025;
- List of Proposed Bank Account Signatories as at 15th July 2025;
- List of Proposed Bank Account Signatories as at 2nd September 2025:

Action/Comments Agreed:

The following changes were agreed on proposition by Councillor Ogunfemi and seconded by Councillor Ms von der Holle:

- Additions:
 - Councillor Mrs C Hardingham
 - Councillor Mrs G Sands
 - Councillor Mr T Sands
- Removals:
 - Councillor Mrs V Cordier (office term ended 09/05/23)
 - Councillor J Driscoll (resigned 21/02/20)
 - Councillor D Warrington (resigned 24/06/25)

The Clerk will prepare the Santander documentation for each new signatory, to be returned with appropriate photocopied ID.

25.110 Renewal of Local Councils Insurance Policy

Members discuss the following correspondence and the

- Email dated 1st August 2025 from Zurich Municipal quoting:
 - 1 Year: £6,575.43
 - 3 Years (LTA): 6,088.32
- Zurich Municipal Policy Schedule effective from 12/09/24;
- Clear Councils email dated 26th August 2025 quoting:

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- 1 Year: £4,247.46
- 3 Years (LTA): £4,064.79
- Clear Councils quotation dated 26th August 2025;
- Clear Councils Summary of Cover;
- Verbal report from Councillor Blakeley and the Clerk highlighting that the Clear Councils quotation did not offer sufficient cover, particularly in respect of motor insurance.

Action/Comments Agreed:

It was proposed by Councillor Blakeley, seconded by Councillor Mrs G Sands, and agreed, to accept the following quote:

- Zurich Municipal quote dated 1st August 2025 for the first-year premium of £6,088.32 for a 3-year LTA.

25.111 Report from Fete Committee

Members reviewed the following emails from the Secretary of Grain Fete Committee and their very generous donation of a food hamper during a pre-meeting presentation:

- Dated 31st July 2025 giving a full report of the event on Saturday, 19th July 2025;
- Dated 4th August 2025 confirming attendance on 2nd September 2025 at 18:45.

Action/Comments Agreed:

It was proposed by Councillor Ms von der Holle, seconded by Councillor Ogunfemi, and agreed:

- Whilst members were very grateful to the Fete Committee for the donation, they felt it inappropriate to distribute the contents to individual members;
- The hamper should be donated to a local voluntary group or organisation;
- Members were asked to suggest suitable recipient/s as soon as possible.

25.112 Authorisation of Payments of Accounts

Schedule of cheques, BACS and Direct Debit payments for August 2025 for approval:

- Revenue Account: £11,535.22
- Capital Account: Nil
- **TOTAL PAYMENTS: £11,535.22 (inclusive of VAT)**

Action/Comments Agreed:

It was proposed by Councillor Ms von der Holle, seconded by Councillor Ogunfemi, and agreed, that the schedule of payments, as per Appendix 1, was approved.

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25.113 Revenue and Capital Receipts Report

Schedule of receipts during July 2025 for information:

- Revenue Account
 - Cash/cheques: £214.48
 - BACS deposits: £660.66
- Capital Account
 - Cash/cheques banked: Nil
 - BACS credits: Nil
- **TOTAL RECEIPTS: £875.14 (inclusive of VAT)**

Action/Comments Agreed:

It was proposed by Councillor Blakeley, seconded by Councillor Mrs G Sands, and agreed, that the schedule of receipts, as per Appendix 2, was approved.

25.114 Consideration of Planning Applications

The following application was examined, discussed, and comments thereupon agreed upon proposition by Councillor Blakely, and seconded by Councillor Mrs G Sands:

MC/25/1338

Land to the East of Grain Road/South of Power Station Road

- *The construction and operation of a BESS of up to 249 megawatts electrical capacity, associated site access and cable route with connection point at an existing National Grid substation, with associated work on land south of Power Station Road*

Comment/s agreed:

Members have no objection in principle to this development but point out that the new housing development currently being constructed adjacent to Edinburgh Road will be closer to the other housing shown on the Indicative Layout plan provided.

20:21 *There being no further business, the meeting was closed.*

Signed:



Date:

7/10/2025

APPENDIX 1

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LIST OF PAYMENTS AGREED/APPROVED - AUGUST 2025

Cheque Number	Supplier/Payee	Amount £	VAT £	Total £	Expenditure Category
Revenue Account					
S/Orders	Salaries & Expenses - see below			0.00	Salaries
123261	Cancelled				
123262	Salaries & Expenses - see below			0.00	Salaries
123263	Salaries & Expenses - see below			0.00	Salaries
123264	Salaries & Expenses - see below			0.00	Salaries
123265	Boys Electrical Ltd	110.00	22.00	132.00	V/H M&R
123266	B N Pumps Ltd	270.00	54.00	324.00	General M&R
123267	Lifeline Security Ltd	162.00	32.40	194.40	V/H M&R
123268	Viking Direct	156.61	31.32	187.93	Stationery/Equip
123269	Zurich Municipal	6,088.32	0.00	6,088.32	Insurance
	Salaries & Expenses	3,679.07	6.00	3,685.07	Salaries
	Total - Cheques/BACS	10,466.00	145.72	10,611.72	
Revenue Account - Direct Debits					
31/07/2025	Veolia ES (UK) Ltd	390.37	78.07	468.44	V/Hall M&R
01/08/2025	Bluerag Networks Ltd	20.00	4.00	24.00	Administration
	Business Stream	0.00	0.00	0.00	V/H Water
	Business Stream	0.00	0.00	0.00	Water
23/08/2025	EE Broadband	54.32	0.00	54.32	Telephone
06/08/2025	Crown Gas & Power Ltd	84.95	4.25	89.20	Gas
11/08/2025	Crown Gas & Power Ltd	147.15	7.36	154.51	V/H Electricity
11/08/2025	Crown Gas & Power Ltd (Pavilion)	63.85	3.19	67.04	Electricity
11/07/2025	Crown Gas & Power Ltd (MUGA)	31.31	1.57	32.88	Electricity
11/08/2025	Crown Gas & Power Ltd (W/Shop)	31.53	1.58	33.11	Electricity
	Total - Direct Debits	823.48	100.02	923.50	
TOTAL REVENUE PAYMENTS		11,289.48	245.74	11,535.22	
Capital Account					
				0.00	Capital
TOTAL CAPITAL PAYMENTS		0.00	0.00	0.00	
TOTAL PAYMENTS FOR AUGUST 2025		11,289.48	245.74	11,535.22	

APPENDIX 2

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REVENUE & CAPITAL RECEIPTS REPORT

REVENUE ACCOUNT

Cash/Cheques	Receipt No 6785 to 6787
~ Garages	£35.88
~ Village Hall Lettings	£178.60
~ Wayleaves	£0.00
~ Other	£0.00
TOTAL: £214.48	

BACS Deposits	Bank Statement 008/2025
~ Garages	£504.66
~ Village Hall Lettings	£156.00
~ Playing Field Rent	£0.00
~ Other	£0.00
TOTAL: £660.66	

CAPITAL ACCOUNT

Cash/cheques	Receipt No 6785 to 6787
~ Other	£0.00
	TOTAL: £0.00

BACS deposits	Bank Statement 008/2025
~ Other	£0.00
TOTAL: £0.00	

TOTAL RECEIPTS FOR JULY 2025:

£875.14