



Minutes: Leysdown Footpath, Properties and Greens Meeting
Tuesday 12th August 2025 at Leysdown Village Hall at 7pm

Present: Cllr. Switters, Cllr. Bidgood, Cllr. Partis, Emily O'Neill - Clerk

Members of the Public: 2 parishioners. Cllr. Sandle.

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Welcome and Apologies for Absence

Cllr. Bidgood welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Cllr. Noe sent apologies.

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Public Session as per our Standing Orders 3 f, g & h and shall not exceed 30 minutes unless directed by the chairman of the meeting. An individual member of the public shall not speak for more than 3 minutes unless directed by the chairman of the meeting. The chairman of the meeting may direct that a written or oral response be given

A parishioner raised that she had recently contacted the Parish Council about the state of the roses on the Spinney, and how Swale Borough Council had not maintained them appropriately over the summer. The parishioner noted that they have now been cut back, but that it is unfortunately too late for the roses to bloom again this year.

Cllr. Switters noted that the Parish Council is always happy for parishioners to weed the Parish Council-planted shrubs.

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For Members to make or receive declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Interests in regard to any items on the agenda under the Council's adopted Code of Conduct

Nothing to note.

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Approval and Adoption of Minutes

The minutes from the previous Committee meeting on 24th June 2025 were reviewed. Cllr. Switters proposed that the minutes were an accurate representation of the meeting

and that they be approved. Cllr. Partis seconded. **All agreed. Resolved.**

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Photographs to upload for the Assets: Civic+ly

Cllr. Partis updated the Committee. He has taken pictures of the Village Gateway Signs, Village Sign, Tranquillity Sign Harty Ferry Road. The 'Birds and Bees Sign' seems to have been removed.

Cllr. Partis also provided the Committee with details of the costings of the village sign; it cost £5,000 to produce and install the sign.

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Defib Update on purchases of battery and pads

The Clerk provided an update on the current situation. The Assistant Clerk had got the project to the point where we should have been able to order battery and pads.

The Clerk, on purchasing them, noted that the battery and pads for the defibs that the Parish Council own are part of a global recall and are not being produced at the moment. In testing, it appears that the battery and/or pads may not work when needed. It has also transpired that the Parish Council's actual defibs could also be part of a global recall. The Clerk is to ascertain whether the defibs are part of the recall.

The Committee noted that the defibs continue to remain out of action. Seal Calibration noted that there is no point in registering the defibs on the Circuit until the issue is resolved. Cllr. Partis asked if there were other defibs available for purchase and Cllr. Switters confirmed yes.

The Committee will await the results of whether the defib is due to be recalled before making a decision on next steps at the September Committee meeting.

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Bus Shelter Update – Clerk

The Clerk outlined the Parish Bus Shelter Grant from Kent County Council, whereby Parish Councils can apply for match funding for a new bus shelter, or for one to be repaired.

The Clerk is to seek confirmation that the Bus Shelter is on Kent County Council land. The application needs to be submitted by 31st October 2025.

Cllr. Switters proposed that the Parish Council apply for funding. Cllr. Partis seconded. **All agreed; Resolved.**

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Footpaths within the Parish (PROW)

The Clerk disseminated the printed bundle of footpath maps that the RFO had provided. The Clerk is to ascertain whether the maps are also available electronically.

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Christmas Lights – Update

The Clerk outlined the costs to Kent County Council for the street lighting permit and load testing. The permit is £139.

For 1-12 streetlights to be load tested, the cost is £900. From 13-20, it is £70 per streetlight.

The Clerk outlined the process of applying for a permit. The Christmas Lights working party will present their suggestions to the Extraordinary Meeting at the end of August.

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Planters – Update

Nothing to note.

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Storage Requirements – Update

The Clerk confirmed that the Village Hall are happy for the Parish Council to install a small storage shed into the outside area. The Clerk is to bring quotations to the next Footpaths Committee for review.

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Litter pick – Update

Cllr. Switters noted that the last litter pick was not very well attended by members of the public, perhaps due to the wet weather. However, a lot of litter was picked successfully. The next litter pick is Saturday 20th September.

Fly tipping at layby before Harty Ferry Road

Cllr. Switters noted that there has been more fly tipping in the layby. The Committee discussed the difficulties in clearing the layby. The layby is not part of Leysdown, but is part of Eastchurch. Cllr. Switters noted that Swale Borough Council had suggested that they would support closing the layby. A discussion was then held outlining the options available to the Parish Council.

Cllr. Sandle asked whether the closure of the layby could be added to the Council Meeting on 28th August. Cllr. Switters noted that that meeting is not a Full Council meeting, but instead an Extraordinary Meeting to primarily review the Christmas Lights and Christmas Meal provision.

The upcoming 'Meet the Parish Council' event being held on the Spinney was also discussed. Cllr. Sandle asked for

clarification about what would be discussed. Cllr. Switters noted that issues such as the Highways Improvement Plan, the Christmas lunch and Christmas lights, the layby, could be discussed.

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Bandstand Lease - Update

The bandstand lease has not been registered since the bandstand was erected. The last contact from the Parish Council with Kent County Council's legal team was in 2023.

The Clerk will liaise with Kent County Council's legal team to take registering the bandstand lease forward.

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Observation and queries from members

Nothing to note.

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Correspondence

The Clerk had received a message from a member of the public to say that the graveyard maintenance is being completed and that it is looking great.

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General matters raised by Councillors for discussion

No matters to note.

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Recommendations to next Full Council

- Closure of layby before Harty Ferry Road.

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Dates of Next Meeting

23rd September 2025 at 7pm.

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Closure of Meeting

Meeting closed at 8.08pm.