

Brenzett Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on Friday 17th January 2025 at 11.00 am in Brenzett Village Hall

Present : Cllrs Webb (in the Chair), Beeching, Thompson & Bartelt

In attendance : Mr. Eaton, Clerk to the Council, and one member of the public

1 Apologies for absence and approval of reason for absence

There were no apologies for absence

2 Declarations of Councillor's interests regarding items on the agenda

Cllrs Beeching Webb & Bartelt declared an interest in matters relating to the Village Hall, although each had an approved voting and decision-making dispensation in place

3 Minutes of the Meeting held on 29th November 2024 and Matters Arising

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 29th November 2024 were unanimously approved and signed

There were no matters arising of note

4 FHDC Cllr Report

There was no report to note

5 Public discussion

The member of the public expressed concerns about the proposed solar farm in Old Romney, especially the loss of high-grade agricultural land. Concerns were also expressed about the Devolution White Paper which he felt would weaken local democracy and lead to greater centralisation

6 Chairman's report

Cllr Webb read her report –

Happy New Year to you all, and welcome to individuals and families who have moved into Brenzett since the last Parish Council Meeting in November 2024. I hope you enjoy Brenzett and take an active role in the community and join in with activities. Clubs and other information can be found on the Brenzett Parish Council website www.brenzettparishcouncil.uk. Other information can be found in the Village monthly news magazine 'The Marsh Harrier' which is delivered by a small army of dedicated volunteers

The Parish Council was pleased to welcome PC Steve Putland and PC James Hockless to our last Meeting. Amongst updates around the Marsh, they shared information about Police surgeries held monthly across the Marsh, giving residents the opportunity to discuss concerns face to face. The next surgery will be held on 24th January at Dymchurch Parish Council Office, from 1.00 pm – 2.00 pm. Although on a first come first served basis, I am reassured you will be seen unless they have a prior appointment in which case they will do their best to arrange to see you another time. Please take this opportunity to bring concerns or positive feedback to them as building a safe and caring community is everyone's responsibility. Everyone matters

The Village Hall continues to thrive. Thank you to all those who supported the Hall with bookings, others who use the grounds to walk dogs or children learning to ride their first bikes in a safe environment, or just sitting and finding some peace. Thank you also to the Committee members for their commitment to running the Hall and its ongoing maintenance. Last but not least, thank you to the Community Payback service for their hard work over the last year. I look forward to seeing the 600 daffodils they planted bloom in the spring. Hopefully, it will be a wonderful sight for years to come

The Parish Council looks forward to welcoming you to their Meetings – next Meeting to be held on 28th March 2025 at 2.00 pm in Brenzett Village Hall

7 Correspondence

Letter from parishioner expressing an interest in joining the Parish Council – to be invited to attend the March 2025 Meeting to be co-opted onto the Council

Email from Kent Highways regarding Highway Stewards - noted

8 Finance Matters

The following account was approved for payment:

	£
Clive Stanley, webmaster services	49.50
HMRC, Clerk's tax (four months)	260.00
Brenzett Village Hall, hall hire (for 2024)	90.00

The monthly Standing Order for the Clerk's salary/expenses of £286.03 was noted and approved

9 Planning & Enforcement

There were no new planning applications to consider

10 Ownership of the Village Hall (VH)

Cllr Beeching updated the Cllrs on recent developments regarding ownership issues of the VH, and possible implications for the Parish Council. As the Council's solicitors had advised that title and ownership of the VH rest with the Council the Clerk was asked to contact Land Registry to ask them to update their records and transfer ownership to the Parish Council

Clerk

11 English Devolution White Paper

There was a general discussion regarding the English Devolution White paper and the possible implications for local democracy and local government. It was noted that Kent County Council had requested the Government they be 'fast tracked', which could see the postponement of the May 2025 elections. The Paper's proposals involve the creation of a number of unitary authorities in Kent and Medway and the election of a Mayor. Concerns were expressed about the possible loss of local democracy and greater centralisation of power, although some commentators had suggested that the powers of Town and Parish Councils would be increased

12 Proposed Solar Farm in Old Romney/questions for Marsh Forum presentation

Cllr Webb reported that she would be attending the forthcoming Marsh Forum where there would be a presentation about the proposed solar farm in Old Romney. Possible questions to be asked by Cllr Webb were discussed and a number of points of concern noted

Cllr Webb

13 Highway Improvement Plan (HIP)

The email from Highways with possible dates for the virtual HIP meeting was discussed and it was agreed that Cllrs Webb and Beeching would attend. The preferred date was 13th Feb at 10.00 am. Clerk to reply accordingly

Clerk

There was also a discussion about the benefits of the Police holding some speed checks in the Parish– Clerk to contact PC Putland

Clerk

14 Any other business

There was discussion about holding an event to commemorate VE Day 80th Anniversary on 8th May 2025. Cllr Webb to contact Brenzett Aeronautical Museum

Cllr Webb

15 Date of next Meeting

It was agreed that the next Meeting would be held on 28th March 2025 at 2.00 pm in Brenzett Village Hall

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 12.15 pm

DRAFT