

PLUCKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 4th February 2025 at 7.30 pm in Pluckley Village Hall

Present : Cllrs Washer (in the Chair), Dilley, Robinson, Pearson, Buchanan & Malpeli

In attendance : Mr. G Eaton, Clerk to the Council, Peter New Neighbourhood Watch, and Phillippa Howard Pluckley C/E School PTA

Action by:

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from ABC Cllr Bell

2 Declarations of Cllrs interests in items on the Agenda

There were no declarations of Cllrs interests in items on the Agenda

3 Minutes of the last Meeting & Matters arising

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 7th January 2025 were approved and signed

Cllr Washer updated on recent email exchanges with Southeastern Railways and reported that a Meeting had been arranged for 27th February 2025 at the Station to discuss parking and other issues

4 Co-option onto the Council

After a brief discussion Victoria Buchanan and Paula Malpeli were co-opted onto the Council and they joined the Meeting

5 Public discussion and Parishioners questions

Phillippa Howard, Chair of Pluckley School PTA, asked if the School could hold its annual 'colour run' on 5th June 2025 at the Recreation Ground; this was readily agreed. There was also a brief discussion regarding holding a summer fair to be held mid-June to early July

6 ABC Cllr Bell's report & Neighbourhood Watch report

There was no report from ABC Cllr Bell

Peter New spoke to his latest Neighbourhood Watch report, previously circulated by email, and concerned expressed about the continual lack of Police presence at Parish Council Meetings

7 Planning & Enforcement

2025/0053 – Listed Building Consent for the removal of internal wall, blocking up existing opening and create new opening

Saracens Cottage, Surrenden Road, TN27 0SA

Whilst the proposals might appear to be minor, without the benefit of the professional expertise and assessment of the Conservation Officer, it is very difficult for the Parish Council to properly understand and assess the effect that these changes will have on the listed building, and how they may impact on the understanding and significance of the building. Additionally, it is the Parish Council's view that the cumulative effect of the considerable number of applications on this site since last summer has, and will have, a negative effect on the integrity of the listed building. Pluckley Parish Council objects to the piecemeal applications which are being approved without any overview of these cumulative effects As ABC will be aware Saracens Cottage has, since 12/8/24 already benefitted from two development approvals

2025/0077 - Listed Building Consent for the removal of existing slates to main barn roof and porch, removal of failing bituminous paper membrane, replacement with breathable Proctor Air vapour and air permeable membrane, replace slates with Canadian Glen dyne slates. Removal of section of flat lead roof to RH rear roundel from barn roof and replace with lead roof

Munday Oast, Egerton Road, Pluckley, TN27 0PD

There were no objections to this application

TPO/2025/0001 – Tree Preservation Order

Land at Surrenden Pluckley Road, Little Chart, running along Swan Lane, Little Chart

The Parish Council gives its wholehearted support to the introduction of these TPO's and welcomes efforts to protect the trees that have been left. We have rarely received so many comments about the damage that has been done to an area

8 Finance Matters

The following accounts were approved for payment:

	£
D Heasman, street cleaning (Jan & Feb 2025)	216.00
J John, recreation ground tidying (Jan & Feb 2025)	108.00
Forvis Mazars, audit fee	378.00
Napier Technical Services, removal of Christmas tree	114.00

The Clerk's salary/expenses of £565.80, paid by monthly Standing Order, was noted and approved

9 Communications and correspondence

Email from Wealden Wheels thanking the Council for its donation of £1000 - noted

Email from KALC re Devolution update and possible implications for Kent - noted

Email re filming in Pluckley – Clerk had forwarded details to the Kent Film Office to issue the relevant permits

10 Traffic & Highways

Cllr Washer updated the Cllrs on his recent meeting with Highways regarding the Highway Improvement Plan and speeding issues in particular

- The issue of speeding in the Throne Estate was discussed and Highways will look at implementing traffic calming measures, to be partly funded by the Parish Council. Their detailed report and costings were awaited
- A feasibility study would also be undertaken by Highways looking at the installation of speed indication devices and vehicle activated speed signs on Smarden Road – the report and costings were also awaited

11 Recreation Sport & Leisure

There was a brief discussion about the new play park equipment and it was noted that the Council was awaiting the final plans and detailed costs from the Friends of the Recreation Ground. A public consultation event will be held seeking input from residents on the proposals

12 AOB and Diary items

It was confirmed that the Village Clean-up would take place on 22nd March 2025 between 1.00pm -3.00 pm. Cllrs Robinson & Pearson kindly offered to organise the event

Cllrs Robinson & Pearson

There was a discussion about seeking the views of parishioners about their priorities for the Village and what they think the Parish Council should be focusing on. Cllr Buchanan kindly offered to draft a questionnaire and circulate to Cllrs for comment

Cllr Buchanan

13 Date of next Meeting

It was agreed that the next Meeting would be held on Tuesday 4th March 2025 at 7.30 pm at Pluckley Village Hall

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 9.05 pm