



SEAL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

Minutes of the Annual Assembly Meeting of Seal Parish Council held on Thursday 22nd May 2025 at 7.30 pm, at Seal Memorial Pavilion, Seal Recreation Ground, High Street, Seal TN15 0AF.

Present: Cllr Haslam Chairman, Cllr Michaelides, Cllr Talbot, Cllr Bourne, Cllr Kay and Cllr Fettes

Also Present – Kassia Estrada-Castillon - Clerk
District Cllr Julia Thornton
KCC Cllr Marc Logen
Tarmac Representative -
UVA Association- Miles Hayward & Robert Talbot

- 1. The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees.**
- 2. Apologies for absence received from:**
Cllr Hogarth
Cllr Bullied
Cllr Bourne
Cllr Rattcliffe
- 3. The minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting were signed by the Chairman.**
- 4. Chairman's Report-** The Chairman's report will be circulated and appended to the minutes.
- 5. Planning- Chris Haslam- Planning Chairman-** To be circulated separately. Thanks were extended to Cllr Stiasny for her diligence in overseeing planning matters.
- 6. Finance- Andrew Michaelides,** Finance Chairman Accounts will be circulated at the meeting
 - Cllr Michaelides, Chair of the Finance Committee, presented the finance report and thanked Cllr Stiasny for her support.
 - The main source of income remains the precept (a share of council tax). The precept was increased by 2.8% for 2024/25.

- Additional income comes from hiring out the field to the football club and leasing the old fire station to the dentist.
- Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) income was received and is restricted to improvements within the parish for public benefit.
- In 2024/25, the council opened a CCLA investment account, which is expected to yield approximately £10,000 annually.
- Expenditure primarily includes staffing (Parish Clerk and part-time caretaker), Pavilion maintenance, and grounds upkeep.
- A surplus of £50,000 was reported for the year, increasing reserves to £350,000. These reserves may be used to support infrastructure such as roads.

7. Introduction of New County Councillor- Marc Logen

- Cllr Logen introduced himself and expressed his desire to remain updated on local matters. He is currently undergoing onboarding as a new KCC councillor.
- A resident raised concern about the absence of cabinet representation from West Kent (Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells, Sevenoaks).
- Cllr Logan, who holds a full-time tech role and oversees 10 parishes, explained that committee roles take ~40 hours/week and cabinet roles up to 60.
- He emphasised improving resident engagement, particularly via social media and surveys.
- He welcomed ideas on how to make West Kent's voice heard and acknowledged the East/West Kent divide raised by Cllr Thornton.
- Road issues should continue to be reported to Kent Highways.
- Questions were raised about the legitimacy of emergency roadworks, especially those relating to Southeastern Water.

District Councillor Report- Julia

- Resident query regarding local government reorganisation.
- Julia confirmed Kent and Medway are not in the fast-track devolution wave.

- KCC elections have concluded. From SDC's side, any reorganisation is unlikely before May 2028.
- Noted that some SDC colleagues have left the Conservative group and now sit as West Kent Independents.
- There are discussions about transferring assets.
- Budget: A 10-year financial plan has been delivered.
- Changes to waste: black and reusable sacks withdrawn. Government is pushing for a separate weekly food waste collection, with alternating black bin and recycling collection.
- Sevenoaks currently does not separate food waste weekly; this may change.
- Julia is no longer overseeing the Local Plan.
- A resident asked why granted planning permissions are not always actioned—Compulsory Purchase Orders were briefly discussed.

8. Tarmac and Scouts Development Update

- Joseph (main contact for SPC and STC) provided an update.
- A steering group exists comprising the Scouts, KCC, and Parish Councils.
- The Oast House project (within Town Council boundaries) has been approved; work to be completed by August.
- S106 agreement has been signed, and the development is moving to the reserved matters stage.
- The Sevenoaks Scouts are working with Tarmac to develop the East Side for use by all 11 Scout groups in the district and the wider community.
- So far, £500,000 has been raised, with a final target of £1–1.5 million.

Call to arrange a future meeting with the KCC representative and District Councillors.

9. Informal update from the Underriver Village Association and Know your neighbours.

Introduction to Councillors and Roles:

- Cllr Talbot – Staffing, Underriver, HIP, Bridleway Improvements
- Cllr Boorman – Underriver, Wildflower Meadow, CIL Planning

- Cllr Michaelides – Finance, Planning, Staffing, Longest Serving Councillor
- Cllr Penn – Stone Street
- Cllr Fettes – Planning Committee, Communications, recently moved from Broadstairs
- Cllr Kay – Planning, Fly-tipping, Policing Background

Underriver Village Association (UVA) Update

- A positive year: increased hall bookings and well-kept grounds.
- SPC grant supported a new audio hearing loop system.
- Events: wine tasting, proms, annual quiz, and “U Fest” featuring local performers and bands.
- Soup & Puds events well attended.
- Issues with Southeastern causing damage to the green.
- Potholes remain a problem in Underriver.
- Thanks expressed to SPC and councillors for continued support.

10. Other community updates:

Seal Petanque Club

- Celebrating its 50th anniversary.
- Oldest club in Kent, second oldest in South East England

Meeting Closed: 8:50pm

Chairman

Date