

MINUTES FROM LGVS MEETING HELD AT THE HARE, 30th MARCH 2026

In attendance;

Iain Combe (Chair – IC)

Ed Langridge (Deputy Chair – EL)

Neil Barrington – Johnson (Treasurer pro tem) (NBJ)

Geraldine Byrne (GB)

Nick Byrne (NB)

Lyn Dollimore (LD)

Lawrence Dollimore (LD)

Mark Gamble (MG)

Chris Smith (CS)

Emma Stevens (ES)

Anton Vamplew (AV)

Apologies from Helen Fuller.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Those new to the committee were introduced – GB, NB, AV.

A vote of thanks was given in his absence to Jeremy Stirling for all his efforts over the years – particularly to do with the proposed Gatwick expansion. Jeremy has decided to stand down from the committee after many, many years. Neil agreed to take on the **Gatwick** issue relating to potential impact to the village and immediate area. (NBJ)

The previous minutes were raised – a few questions were asked (NB) which were answered but did not involve any amendments.

In order to regularise the relationship between the Village Society and the Fete firmly established. Iain and Mark will meet and Iain will report back in due course. Mark did confirm that the VS Treasurer will be the counter signatory on the fete account. (IC, MG)

Allocation of activities. Emma to liaise with Nicci regarding **Social Media** including Facebook, but it was commented that Facebook is not the best choice currently. A proposal at the next meeting could set us on the right path. (ES)

Litter Picks. These will be properly structured and authorised – with insurance in place. It can be a dangerous exercise so all volunteers will be fully briefed and properly kitted out, following TWBC guidelines. ES reported that the church had some kit we could use. Possible co-ordinate with Thrive. (EL)

Website. Currently handled by Lawrence, but Anton offered to take it over. Both to liaise. (LD/AV)

Christmas Tree. No action yet – just to report that MG had offered to organise (MG)

Neighbourhood Watch. It was agreed that there could be a part for the LGVS to play but we need to determine if there is still a contact/structure in place at Kent Police. (LD/LD)

Bursaries. Lyn agreed to carry on organising this – probably two applications pa. The guidelines to be maintained to include a written report by/on behalf of the applicant upon completion.

Hanging baskets/ Planting. It was agreed to request Kent Highways to carry out a survey of the nominated lampposts – up to twelve for a sum of £1000. They might possibly do them a bit cheaper. When we have the clearance, we can then instruct. Ed's contact at Rusthall Council provided info on contacts to carry it out. (LD) Additional planting to be advised. (LD/LD)

Branding. To be discussed at a future date – no real urgency.

Parish Council Meeting, April 13th. Anyone who can attend to help at our table would be most welcome.

Open Gardens. It was agreed to support the Clarke's open garden event on 1st August by way of support through Langton Life (no cost implication) social media and a possible financial donation to Hospice in the Weald. To be decided on amount. (EL)

Quiz Night. It was agreed to restart the ‘infamous’ Village Society quiz nights. Committee member Anton – a past MC at these events is pleased to help to organise with Lawrence. (AV/LD)

Future consideration. It was suggested that a door to door leaflet drop may be considered as a way of increasing memberships and awareness of what the VS does.

Also, it was suggested that we go back to a formulated AGM with a guest speaker. Attendances of late have been low to virtually non-existent.

Next Meeting. 28th April, at LBJ house in Hither Chantlers. TBC.