



Minutes of the Dymchurch Parish Council held on at 7pm on Monday 4th September 2023 at the Parish Council Offices Orgarswick Avenue Dymchurch

MINUTES

Present-

Cllr. D Young (Chair)

Cllr. M Wright

Cllr. C. Cooper

Cllr. C. McCreedy (Vice Chair)

Cllr. L. Finch

Cllr. C Young

Cllr. A. Pegler

Also, in attendance-

Mr J Lawrence- Parish Clerk, Mr A Lawson Finance and Projects Officer

District Cllr. T. Cooper

- 1. APOLOGIES.** Members are reminded of the need to tender apologies with the reason for absence direct to the Clerk if they are unable to attend.
Cllr. A Weatherhead
- 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
 - a.** To declare any personal interests in items on the agenda and their nature.
 - b.** To declare any prejudicial interests in items on the agenda – any councillors with prejudicial interests must leave the room for the relevant items.

No declarations made-

- 3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING-** held on the 3rd of July 2023 to be agreed by members present.

The minutes of the previous meeting held on July 3rd, 2023, were proposed for acceptance by Councillor McCreedy and seconded by Councillor Young. The minutes were then signed by the Chair.

4. CHAIRMANS REPORT

The Chair will provide an update on any additional Council activities and meetings attended.

- Attendance at a recent Church Service at New Romney Town Council
- He wished the nominations for the election to fill the Casual Vacancy at Dymchurch well on the 28th of September- Vanessa McCreedy, Patrick McNamee and Ian Meyers.
- He discussed the issues of dogs on the beach and suggested that perhaps extended use of the beach wardens could be considered-

The clerk informed members that he had contacted the District Council for additional visits by the enforcement officers especially with the recent good weather.

- The recent newsletter had proved to be successful, and he thanked those who produced it and assisted with its delivery- It was noted that this had generated interest in the Twinning Association
- **He reported that he had had correspondence from the developers of The High Knocke Farm Estate which had been rejected by the District Council.**

They have asked if they could meet with the Parish Council to discuss their new plans-

The offer of a meeting was rejected unanimously by all present and the Clerk was instructed to reply siting that there is a planning process which should be followed.

5. COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Members will update the Committee regarding any meetings or events attended on behalf of the Parish Council.

Cllr Pegler raised the issue of allotments which had been present in Dymchurch 20 years ago on the edge of High Knocke Farm and Marshlands Estate-

The Clerk was requested to investigate this.

6. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

a. KCC COUNCILLOR

No report this month

b. DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr T Cooper supplied the report which can be obtained from the Parish Clerk- The following is a summary of his work this month-

District Councillor Report - Dymchurch Parish Council (4 September 2023)

- I. Green Business Grant Panel: I participated in the Green Business Grant Scheme panel, but I can't disclose the recipient due to confidentiality. Interested businesses can contact the council for details.
- II. Marshlands Barrier: The issue persists and is with the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Housing. If necessary, I will refer it to the Local Government Ombudsman.
- III. Ward Grant Request: A community group has requested a Ward Grant, and I plan to meet with them soon.
- IV. Village Walkabout: In early August, I walked the village with the Parish Council Chair and identified some issues.
- V. New Bins: Three new bins are being replaced by the district council in various locations.
- VI. Streetlight Request: We've asked the KCC Member for a streetlight on St Annes Road and removal of obstructive telegraph poles.
- VII. Burial Ground Maintenance: District's staff shortage affects grass cutting.
- VIII. Service Level Agreement: There's potential for the Parish to cut remaining grass in the burial ground.
- IX. Streetlight Issue: We're addressing a streetlight problem in the Tower Estate, seeking a solution from UK Power Networks.
- X. Parking Concerns: Parking issues, especially on holidays, are being investigated by the Civil Enforcement Team.
- XI. High Knocke Car Park Sign: I've requested a sign directing motorists to the High Knocke Car Park when others are full.
- XII. Summer Holiday Delays: Due to staff holidays, some planned actions are delayed.
- XIII. Standards Deterioration: Concerns about declining standards in the village will be discussed with the Director of Place and Head of Grounds Maintenance.
- XIV. Council Business: I've attended training sessions, Planning Committee meetings, and full council meetings.
- XV. District Council Name Change: I asked about changing the District Council's name to include Romney Marsh, but costs are a consideration.

- XVI. Council Service Improvement: I'll discuss with the council Leader ways to improve services for residents on Romney Marsh.
- XVII. Tourism Support: I'll inquire about district council plans to support and promote tourism on the Marsh in 2024.
- XVIII. Ward Surgeries: Monthly Ward Surgeries are ongoing and well-attended.
- XIX. Community Grant Funding: The government has provided funding for community groups; if you know of any in need, please inform me.
- XX. High Knocke Car Park Toilet: The Ladies Toilet ceiling has collapsed, but alternative facilities are available.
- XXI. Former Sands Motel: The site is in Administration, and plans will be revealed soon. I'll attend a Design Review Panel meeting in September.

In response to this report the following

ACTIONS- Clerk to contact District Council regarding a Service Level Agreement to cut the grass at the Dymchurch Burial Ground
 Clerk to arrange a meeting with CEO of District Council and Grounds Maintenance Officer regarding fall in standards of grass cutting or verges and planted areas.

**c. KCC WARDEN
 No report this month**

7. MATTERS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE WHICH HAS BEEN CIRCULATED TO MEMBERS:

The following is a summary of correspondence full details can be obtained from the Parish Clerk:

Youth Misuse of Rec on St Mary's Road:

PC Taylor raised concerns about youth bonfires.
 Request for investigation and wooden post replacement.

ACTION- Clerk instructed to obtain prices for removal of wooden posts which were formerly the sandpit.

Kent County Council's Local Transport Plan:

Consultation on Emerging Local Transport Plan for Kent.
 Secured £400m for transport schemes previously.
 Seeking opinions on ambition, policies, and objectives.
 Two-stage consultation for stakeholder input.
 Closing date Mid-September.

Thanks to District Councillor Cooper:

Acknowledgment of effective efforts.
 Addressed concerns on Marshlands Estate.

Deteriorating Bus Stop and Phone Box:

Complaint about deteriorating bus stop (Marine Avenue).
 Concern about open phone box and untidy conditions.
 Inquiry about responsibility (Dymchurch Parish Council or Folkestone & Hythe).

ACTION- Clerk to obtain full ownership details of bus stops in the Parish and supply quotes for refurbishment or replacing bus stops.

Lack of Maintenance in Dymchurch:

Untidy verges, lack of floral planting.
Ignored residents' bulb planting initiative.
Importance of maintaining tourism entrance.
Relates to District Council Maintained areas.

ACTION- Meeting to be arranged with the District Council regarding lack of maintenance and loss of planting beds.

Appreciation for Living History Workshop:

Positive feedback on well-organized workshops.
Gratitude for mobile workshop during sandfly issue.

ACTION- Clerk to arrange workshops for next year.

Police and Crime Commissioner's Annual Survey:

Request to share anonymous survey on Kent Police performance and crime levels.
Data used for accountability and understanding local crime.
Appeal for wider dissemination among Kent residents.

Removal of Flower Bed at Junction:

Disappointment over flower bed removal (St. Mary's Road and Eastbridge Road junction).
Comparisons to blooms in other areas.
Request for reinstating the flower bed.

ACTION- Meeting to be arranged with the District Council regarding lack of maintenance and loss of planting beds.

8. CLERKS REPORT INCLUDING UPDATE-

Beach Wardens' Success: New beach wardens have been successful, and feedback on their performance is being collected for an upcoming meeting.

Increased Workload: Beach wardens have increased responsibilities for the Clerk and Mr. Lawson, requiring them to be on call daily, mainly for advice.

Future Plans: A comprehensive report is being prepared for the Council meeting, discussing staff re-employment for summer 2024 and addressing beach accessibility for people with disabilities.

Transportation Concerns: Stagecoach bus cancellations are under discussion due to financial issues, with efforts to restore services.

Pavilion Survey: A basic pavilion survey will be discussed in detail during the Council meeting.

Election: An election for a vacant post is scheduled for September 28th.

Bi-Election Funding: Efforts are being made to secure financial support for bi-elections, with a proposal from the Kent Association of Local Councils Joint Parish Meeting.

Bus Shelter Responsibility: Ownership and actions for bus shelters are being clarified, with a report in the next meeting.

Burial Ground Management: The clerk received burial ground management training funded by the Council.

Improved Website Experience: Mr. Lawson improved the user-friendly parish council website, adding a dedicated page for the village hall.

Website Transition: Consideration will be given to choosing a package from Hugo Fox, the current website provider, which is introducing charges.

Grass Cutting Tendering: The Council is preparing to tender the grass cutting contract starting in March 2024 for four years to ensure consistent service and avoid disruptions during elections or council transitions.

ACTION- Clerk instructed to obtain quotes for a drop kerb to be installed at the memorial garden at the slip way to make access easier for those with mobility challenges.

9. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION/PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Members will propose to adjourn the meeting to allow Public Participation- Standing Orders provide the opportunity for members of the public to speak at Council Meetings- The allotted time for Public Participation is 15 minutes and each person may speak for no longer than 3 minutes. This is however, at the discretion of the chair. At the end of the Public Participation section the Council meeting will resume

No Questions received.

10. TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE ASSETS AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 15TH AUGUST 2023

Noted and accepted.

11. TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE ASSETS AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE

- a. To reject the estimate for landscaping (Planters) at the land adjacent to the toilets Orgarswick Avenue junction with Hythe Road and consider quote for new recycled planters.**

It was proposed by Cllr Wright and seconded by Cllr McCreedy to reject the estimate for landscaping. This was agreed unanimously by those present.

It was agreed unanimously to purchase planters to the value of £1900.

- b. To refund the cost of the Flood Risk Survey carried out at the Pavilion Recreation Ground by the Friends of Dymchurch Recreation Ground Charity. The cost is £900.00.**

It was agreed unanimously to refund the cost of the flood risk plan to the Charity.

- c. To instruct the Clerk to create a timetable for various tendering processes- To include grass cutting and Seawall Licences.**

Agreed by members.

d. To create an Events Working Group to support the Parish Council in delivering events for the Parish.

It was agreed that the creation of working groups should be agreed by the Assets and Amenities Committee as and when required.

12. PLANNING

REFERENCE	ADDRESS	DETAILS	Comments
23/1154/FH/TCA	5 Sycamore Gardens, Dymchurch, Romney Marsh, TN29 0LA	Rolling consent to undertake work in a Conservation area comprising of 1 x Lime crown reduction by 3 metres and laterally by 6 metres	NOTED
23/0789/FH	37 High Street, Dymchurch, Romney Marsh, TN29 0NH	Variation of condition 2 (opening times) of planning permission Y17/0017/PA to revise opening times.	It was agreed unanimously to support the applicant to extend their operating hours to 9 pm. It was noted that this had not been dealt with by the Planning Officers and a request was made to call this in for a decision by the Committee through the District councillor.
23/1188/FH	9 Salbris Close, Dymchurch, Romney Marsh, TN29 0HW	Front & rear dormers to existing pitched garage roof	No Objections Carried Unanimously

13. FINANCE

- a.** Breakdown of expenditure/income since last meeting
No matters raised.
- b.** Authorisation of Payments - Members will review the list of invoices for payment and identify two Councillors to authorise the payments online.
Payments agreed See appendix 1.
- c.** Additional items requiring authorisation.
Charges for hosting of Parish Council Website- New Charge

It was agreed that the basic level package would be obtained from the website provided currently charged at £9.99 (+Vat)

14. STANDING AGENDA ITEM- DYMCHURCH PAVILION AND RECREATION GROUND- LATEST UPDATE:

Cllr McCreedy explained that the Pavilion is being assessed due to evidence of their being a bat roost- This will need further investigation over the next year.

This may impact on the planning application for the new Pavilion.

A report compiled by the Clerk was reviewed- Following actions were agreed.

Clerk to arrange for repairs to the roof of the Pavilion to prevent deterioration.
Clerk to arrange quotes for height barriers at the entrance along with resetting the pedestrian gate.

Concerns were raised about the time taken to progress the project and the deterioration of the current building- It was agreed that regular updates are required.

15. TO CONSIDER OPTIONS FOR THE JUNCTION OF ST ANNES ROAD AT ITS JUNCTION WITH MILL ROAD.

ITEM ADJOURNED – awaiting further information.

16. TO CONSIDER REQUEST FROM ROYAL BRITISH LEGION TO NAME DYMCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL AS EVENT ORGANISERS FOR REMEMBRANCE DAY PARADE AND SERVICE.

It was agreed unanimously for the Parish Council to be named as event organisers with Matthew Burford making arrangements for the event.

17. TO CONSIDER THE BT OPENREACH PROPOSAL FOR THE REMOVAL OF THREE PUBLIC PHONE BOXES- Marine Avenue, Opposite Chapel Road and Brockman Crescent.

It was agreed that the Public Call Box should be retained if possible at the opposite of Chapel Road.

ACTION- Clerk to respond to consultation.

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING- To be held on Monday 2ND OCTOBER 2023 at 7pm at the Parish Council Offices Orgarswick Avenue Dymchurch.

Noted- Meeting concluded at 2100hrs.

APPENDIX 1

Dymchurch Parish Council PAYMENTS LIST

Voucher	Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Cheque No	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
161	Beach Entertainment	25/08/2023		Unity Trust Bank		Beach workshop	Living History Workshops	X	3,000.00		3,000.00
162	Salaries	11/08/2023		Unity Trust Bank		Salaries	Dymchurch Parish Council	X	725.28		725.28
163	Salaries	18/08/2023		Unity Trust Bank		Salaries	Dymchurch Parish Council	X	743.28		743.28
164	Salaries	25/08/2023		Unity Trust Bank		Salaries	Dymchurch Parish Council	X	2,974.94		2,974.94
165	Electricity	15/08/2023		Unity Trust Bank		Electricity	British Gas	L	72.65	3.63	76.28
166	Water, Electricity & Sewage	15/08/2023		Unity Trust Bank		Electricity	British Gas	L	65.01	3.25	68.26
167	Utilities	21/08/2023		Unity Trust Bank		Electricity	Valda Energy Ltd	L	48.37	2.42	50.79
168	Water & Waste	29/08/2023		Barclays Bank Current		Waste Disposal	Veolia Env Serv UK	S	23.00	4.60	27.60
Total									22,008.73	1,183.08	23,191.81