



Minutes of the Dymchurch Parish Council meeting held at 7pm on Monday 8th January 2024 at the Parish Council Offices Orgarswick Avenue Dymchurch

MINUTES

PRESENT

Cllr. D. Young (Chair)

Cllr. V. McCreedy

Cllr. M Wright

Cllr. C. McCreedy (Vice Chair)

Cllr. A. Peglar

Cllr. L. Finch

Cllr. C. Young

Cllr. A. Weatherhead

Also present:

Mr J Lawrence (Parish Clerk)

- 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. Members will confirm acceptance of the reasons for absence.

Cllr. C Cooper- Unwell

Cllr. A Peglar informed the meeting that she would be submitting apologies for the Council meetings between March and September as she will be abroad visiting family- This was noted and accepted by members.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- To declare any personal interests in items on the agenda and their nature.
- 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

- 3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING-** held on the 4th of December 2023 to be agreed by members present.

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted by members and signed by the chair.

4. 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 members of the public were present at the meeting and no questions had been submitted prior to the meeting.

5. CHAIRMANS REPORT

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

The chair reminded members of the importance of reporting the facts of decisions made within parish council meetings rather than their own interpretations of the decisions made.

6. MEMBER REPORTS

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

Cllr. A Weatherhead- Attended a meeting of the Kent Association of local councils prior to Christmas. nothing to report in relation to Dymchurch.

Cllr C McCreedy- Attended the mayor of New Romney Christmas reception which was very pleasant.

Phase one of the work has been completed at the area of land by the toilets. He would like to thank the District Council for their assistance in moving the planters and the fittings from the existing planters which has saved the parish a huge amount of money.

Colin Walker who funded the circular bench met with his family and members of the history society and were present when Terry Preston blessed the bench. Once the planters have been installed there will be an official opening of the area in the presence of the parish council.

Cllr. C. Young- Wanted to thank all those who had attended and helped with the Carol singing event prior to Christmas. She wished to ensure that arrangements for next year's event are started earlier.

Cllr. V McCreedy- Correspondence has continued with southern water to identify the locations of the pumping stations in the parish. The pumping stations in the area of Lower Sands are going reviewed to identify if they were a contributing factor to the recent flooding incidents in the area of lower sands. The councillor will work with the Clerk to create a map of all of the locations of the pumping stations for easier reference in future.

The Councillor attended a meeting with District Councillor Rich Holgate with thanks to district Councillor Tony Cooper for arranging. As a result of the meeting a district council booklet showing an old picture of Dymchurch will be updated. The following subjects were covered within the meeting and will be considered in the future:

A better website advertising the areas attractions, additional parking suggestions, using public transport to come to the parish with the suggestion that this is advertised in Folkestone town centre, quick time graffiti removal, publicising of the village webcam. Concerns were also raised that with the reduction in available money in the budget that support for street and toilet cleansing and litter clearance would continue in Dymchurch.

ACTION- CLERK INSTRUCTED TO CONTACT CLLR HOLGATE TO CONSIDER FUNDING OF THE ILLUMINATED SIGN FOR THE KIOSK.

7. CLERKS REPORT

Budget Proposal 2024-2025:

Published Budget on Website

Parish Council Precept 2024-2025:

Contacted District Council to make the order for the Parish Council Precept of £83,000

Pumping Stations Map:

Identified a way to map all of the pumping stations working in conjunction with Cllr V

McCreedy- Although I was requested to include this in the January meeting, I felt it would be best to have a finalised map before proceeding with this topic.

Parish Council's Response to Letter from Environment Agency:

Awaiting a response from the EA after letter/email sent regarding identifying the source of contamination.

Highway Improvement Plan - Dymchurch Parish:

See item 11.

Finance:

Donation sent to Food bank as requested this has prompted item 12.

Grass Cutting Tender 2024-2028:

Implemented the decision on the preferred contractor for grass cutting.

Flood Risk Management Strategy consultation:

completed the response on behalf of the Parish. In addition the Clerk reported that a Section 19 investigation by the KCC may take place regarding the latest flooding event at Uden Road as 5 houses were flooded.

The Clerk was instructed to liaise with Cllr Finch for details of the homes that were affected.

Seawall Information sign:

It was identified that planning permission was required for this sign and I have completed the application. I have not heard back from the planning department. We have not purchased the sign as yet pending the decision form the Planning Department.

Drop Kerb Installation:

The dropped kerb installation at the slip way **has** been arranged for the end of January.

8. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

a. KCC COUNCILLOR – No present

b. DISTRICT COUNCILLORS-

Apologies received from Cllr Cooper- Full report at appendix 1-

Clerk instructed to contact district councillor to confirm the definition of rural areas in the Rural Prosperity Fund comments.

c. KENT POLICE- PC PUTLAND

Unable to attend- Newsletter from PC Putland was reviewed.

d. KCC WARDEN- No response

9. MATTERS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE WHICH HAS BEEN CIRCULATED TO MEMBERS PRIOR TO THE MEETING

10. PLANNING

REFERENCE	ADDRESS	DETAILS	Comments
23/1875/FH	12 Crimond Avenue Dymchurch	Demolition of existing garage and construction of detached garage	No Objections carried unanimously

11. HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN- DYMCHURCH PARISH-

Members will discuss the current Highway improvement plan and discuss further areas for inclusion.

After discussion the following matters were identified for inclusion on the Highway Improvement Plan for Dymchurch

- a. To reinvigorate the project at The Fairway for a crossing or reduction in speed limit along the A259 to increase safety for pedestrians when crossing the main road.
- b. Kingsway A259- To push for a reduction in speed limit for those entering and leaving the estate- The suggestion is for a public petition to be managed through social media and newsletters.
- c. Roundabout Mill Road/High Street Dymchurch- To identify strategies to prevent vehicles parking illegally.

The following matters were identified for actions by the District Council-

- I. Seasonal Parking restrictions to support residents/pedestrians walking along Eastbridge Road up to Bethany Lodge.
- II. Seasonal Parking restrictions to support residents along St Mary's Road from the Railway line to Dymchurch Camp Site.

12. TO APPROVE GRANT FUNDING POLICY FOR 2024-2025

The above policy was approved unanimously by members-

The Clerk was instructed to publish the policy and ensure regular promotion of the policy throughout the year.

13. TO CONSIDER INCREASE CHARGES FOR CARPARK PERMITS

It was agreed unanimously to increase the seasonal carpark passes for the Parish Council Car Park as follows-

Residents permits- £30.00.

Employers/employees- £35.00

The clerk was instructed to update the information. It was confirmed that sales for permits would start in February 2024.

14. FINANCE

- a. Breakdown of expenditure/income since last meeting
No comments raised.
- b. Authorisation of Payments - Members will review the list of invoices for payment and identify two Councillors to authorise the payments online.
The list of payments shown at appendix 2 were approved for payment by the Parish Council.
- c. Additional items requiring authorisation.
 - i. Software for Cashless payments- £2041 (including VAT)
It was agreed unanimously to authorise this payment which will allow cashless payments in the Parish Council Carpark.
 - ii. To consider the purchase of a permanent Christmas Tree for the village

It was agreed unanimously to support the purchase of a permanent tree to be installed at the newly refurbished seating area near to the main toilets- Cllr McCreedy will deal with the purchase- No additional funding is required due to savings made from brickwork repairs being completed at a lesser cost.

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

- a. The charity is still awaiting a planning number from the District Council Planning department. Once this is obtained further funding options can be considered.
- b. There have been changes in trustees and some new members will be joining. These are yet to be approved by the Charity Commission.
- c. The charity shop has raised approximately £29,000.
- d. A face-to-face meeting will be arranged to update the trustees and interested parties.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING- To be held on Monday 5th February 2024 at 7pm at the Parish Council Offices Orgarswick Avenue Dymchurch.

Noted

17. CLOSED SESSION-

To receive minutes of the personnel committee and to approve recommendations to the full council.

The minutes of the personnel meeting were received by the main Council and the following recommendations were approved:

- a. Employment of an additional person to carry out repairs, grounds works and litter clearances.
- b. To delegate the employment of this person to the Personnel Committee.
- c. To re-employ two Beach wardens for the summer period which would now be extended from the 10th of July until the 12th of September.
- d. To delegate the employment of the Beach Wardens to the Personnel Committee and the Clerk.

It was also agreed that the next Personnel Committee meeting would be on the 22nd of January at 1pm

Appendix 1

District Councillor Report

Dymchurch Parish Council

January 2024

Happy New Year to all of you and best wishes to your respective families.

Given the Christmas and New Year break it has been a little quiet. You will be aware of the content of my correspondence over the weekend with KCC over the Uden Road floods.

It should be noted Liz Grant, the other District Councillor for the Romney Marsh has resigned her seat. I don't know why or what the reasons were, however, I wish Liz and her family well for the future. There will now be a byelection at council taxpayers' expense and more details will become known when the Elections staff return to the Civic Centre.

A number of people including me, are not happy with the delay to upgrade and adopt some of the streetlights in the ward. I will be asking the relevant Portfolio Holder about it at the next public question session at the next district council meeting.

Moving on, I met with the Tourism Portfolio Holder, Cllr Rich Holgate, together with Cllrs V McCreedy and D Young prior to Christmas and we agreed to meet again once he had established, among other things, the likely budget for tourism in this area. He took away with him information which clearly needed to be updated as it was well out of date. I have forwarded to your Clerk a copy of his email to senior council staff following his visit.

In mid-December, some residents in Dymchurch were surprised to find the District Councils Chief Executive, and members of the councils' senior leadership team conducting an inspection at my request, regarding potential service adjustments in the Marshlands area. I will verbally update on this next time I am with you.

Turning to The Rural Prosperity Fund it's been confirmed Projects in Dymchurch, Newchurch and St Mary in the Marsh have placed formal expressions of interest, completed application forms will be evaluated in due course. The bulk of the council's funding for this initiative is expected to be received for the start of the 2024/25 financial year and hopefully these projects will be

financially supported and get off the ground before the council adopts a new committee system from May.

You will be aware that the new district council faces an £18m shortfall over the next 4 years. The Budget setting is still going on and you will be aware of the High Street Parking Charges have been withdrawn. The Cabinet has also extended the contract for the NSL to continue the Parking Enforcement of council car parks. For council tenants who require lifeline support via a pendant or daily call are being consulted due to BT switching off the Analogue signal and being transferred onto a new system. There have also been suggestions for reduction in the standards and levels of street sweeping, including a reduction in the number of litter bins. Rural Grass Cutting is being reduced and according to Cabinet Reports being given back to KCC by the start of the 2025 financial year. Council tax increase on second homes is also being suggested from 2025/26.

If I can be of any further help, please do not hesitate to contact me or drop into one of my surgeries in St Mary`s Bay, St Mary in the Marsh or in Dymchurch – no appointment needed.

Best Wishes

Cllr Tony Cooper

District Ward Councillor for Romney Marsh

Appendix 2-

Dymchurch Parish Council
PAYMENTS (AWAITING AUTHORISATION) LIST

Voucher Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Cheque No	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
253 Signage	11/12/2023		Unity Trust Bank		Village Sign	Andy Graphix Ltd	S	285.00	57.00	342.00
255 Misc Stationery	11/12/2023		Unity Trust Bank		Maintenance	J H Youngs Ltd	S	25.63	5.13	30.76
263 Repairs & Maintenance	11/12/2023		Unity Trust Bank		Maintenance	Wicksteed	S	226.74	45.35	272.09
256 Misc Stationery	11/12/2023		Unity Trust Bank		Maintenance	J H Youngs Ltd	S	1.98	0.40	2.38
266 Repairs & Maintenance	19/12/2023		Unity Trust Bank		Alarm monitoring and	Ashe Alarms	S	140.00	28.00	168.00
267 Alarm Maintenance	19/12/2023		Unity Trust Bank		Alarm monitoring and	Ashe Alarms	S	90.00	18.00	108.00
270 CCTV Monitoring	19/12/2023		Unity Trust Bank		CCTV Monitoring	Ashford Borough Council	S	1,283.57	256.71	1,540.28
268 Election	19/12/2023		Unity Trust Bank		Election Recharge	Folkestone & Hythe	E	5,776.33		5,776.33
273 Asset Maintenance	20/12/2023		Unity Trust Bank		Bus Shelter Replacement	GW Shelter Solutions	S	6,654.00	1,330.80	7,984.80
274 Asset Maintenance	20/12/2023		Unity Trust Bank		Bus Shelter Replacement	GW Shelter Solutions	S	6,911.00	1,382.20	8,293.20
280 Support for Events	29/12/2023		Unity Trust Bank		Seaside Award	Keep Britain Tidy	S	612.15	122.43	734.58
279 Grass Cutting & Weeding	01/01/2024		Unity Trust Bank		Grass Cutting	M Coleman	S	567.50	113.50	681.00
284 Salaries	26/01/2024		Unity Trust Bank		Salaries	Dymchurch Parish	E	2,562.65		2,562.65
285 HMRC	26/01/2024		Unity Trust Bank		Tax & NI	HMRC	E	736.39		736.39
Total								25,872.94	3,359.52	29,232.46