

Dymchurch Parish Council Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the Dymchurch Parish Council meeting held at 7 pm on Monday, 6th October 2025, at the Parish Council Offices, Orgarswick Avenue, Dymchurch.

MINUTES

Present

Cllr.C.McCreedy (Chair)	Cllr.L.Finch (Vice Chair)	Arrived 1915hrs
Cllr.D.Young	Cllr.C.Young	Cllr.A.Weatherhead
Cllr.A.Pegler	Cllr.M.Wright	Cllr.V.McCreedy

Also in attendance

Mr J. Lawrence- Parish Clerk and two members of the public

1. APOLOGIES

Members confirmed acceptance of the reasons for absence.

Cllr. C. Cooper

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

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 8th September 2025, to be agreed upon by the members present.

Minutes agreed and signed by the chair.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION/PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Members will propose adjourning the meeting to allow for Public Participation. Standing Orders provide members of the public with the opportunity 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, at the discretion of the chair. At the end of the Public Participation section, the Council meeting will resume.

- a. Concerns raised about the considerable rise in dog mess appearing on the sea wall between the Redoubt Estate and the Martello Tower.
It was agreed that the District Council enforcement officers would be contacted to address the area and request additional signage.

The chair agreed to hear item 20 at this point to allow members of the public to contribute.

Cllr. Finch provided the following update:

- KCC have sent out a letter offering residents of the Redoubt Estate free water butts and diverters. Residents have raised concerns that KCC sees this as a solution to the flooding issues. Residents wish to restate that the problems with the premises in the Beverley Gardens area are caused by runoff from the carpark at New Beach.

The Parish Council responded as follows:

The offer from KCC is similar to a scheme by Southern Water, which is not seen as a solution to flooding but clearly helps reduce surface water runoff.

The Parish Council has met with the manager at New Beach to discuss drainage issues. The manager has assured the Council that he would look into the matter, having been presented with photographic evidence of the problems.

Other issues concerning caravan parking and noise were also discussed, and the Council received a positive response to the issues raised.

A further meeting is planned for early November, with an update expected.

5. TO DEAL WITH MATTERS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE IN CIRCULATION

No additional correspondence.

6. CHAIR'S REPORT

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

The chair provided an update on the recent Twinning Association.

7. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

- Kent County Council- Cllr Osborne
No update this month
- District Council- Cllrs Tony Cooper and Tony Hills
Cllr Hills provided a written update- The Parish Clerk can provide copies
- KCC Warden- Carol Coveney
No update this month
- Kent Police- PC's Putland and Hockless
No update this month

8. CLERK'S REPORT

Ref	Action / Decision	Update
A1	Arrange a progress meeting with the manager of New Beach regarding flooding concerns.	Meeting arranged for Monday, 10th November at 1.00 pm.

A2	Contact the District Council regarding concerns about weed control at The Redoubt and suggest spraying as an alternative.	Response sent to Cllr Finch – awaiting further update from the District Council.
A3	Report vegetation covering traffic signs at The Fairway to the Highways Department.	Report submitted – awaiting update from KCC.
A4	Use Cllr Finch’s report as the Parish Council’s response to the Section 19 Flood Report.	Completed.
A5	Contact contractors to inspect Christmas light connections and replace faulty units.	Completed.
A6	Purchase and arrange the installation of a replacement bench at the Fairway bus stop.	Bench purchased – installation due shortly.
A7	Gather quotes for Wraights Field (new bus stop) and High Knock (replacement bus stop) for October meeting.	See Item 10.
A8	Continue to chase a response from Dymchurch Primary School regarding school road crossing data.	See Item 18.
A9	Report ongoing vegetation/signage/highway concerns via Highways Improvement Meetings.	Ongoing.
A10	Monitor seawater bathing quality results and continue to press for “Step Change” reclassification.	See Item 19. The Clerk has commenced a business survey to assess the effects and concerns over seawater quality and the “No Swim” advisory. Full results to be reported at a future meeting.

A11

Report to the October meeting on progress with the Green Grant solar panel installation.

Completed.

Other Matters

Village Hall Service Road

The Clerk will write to all householders using the rear service road to seek support in keeping the road clear and ensuring the gate remains closed. Payden's staff will also be reminded that parking along the service road is not permitted. Repairs will be carried out on the second gate, with the intention of keeping it closed as well.

Cemetery Capacity and Fees

Following a recent site visit with the local gravedigger, it has been identified that additional grave spaces may be created within the cemetery. The Clerk notes that burial charges are currently very low and require review to align with comparable burial grounds. A full audit of available spaces is underway, and a report will be presented to Council upon completion.

9. MEMBER REPORTS

Members will update the Committee regarding any meetings or events they attend on behalf of the Parish Council that are not included in the agenda.

Cllr.V.McCreedy-

- i. Parish Seminar with KCC Highways and Transportation attended, which covered various topics about the roads and services in the County- £60 million has been set aside for road repairs, including pothole repairs.
- ii. Members of the public can report potholes and highway defects using the KCC website, report a fault
<https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-or-track-a-problem-on-the-road-or-pavement>
- iii. The KCC will provide salt for use in the parish if required
- iv. The Kent Resilience Forum provided an update on the new entry exit system for the EU. The Schengen Area- This is a new procedure that UK nationals will follow when entering EU member countries. Operation Brock will remain in place, as this prevents EES from overwhelming Dover with lorries. Cars will use the Western docks for the biometric checks. In emergencies, a contingency site for tourists will be set up at Lydden racetrack.
- v. Installation of on-street charging of electric vehicles starts in 2026.

Cllr.A. Pegler

Represented the Parish Council at the Village Hall Committee meeting-

- i. The Village Hall kitchen has been upgraded
- ii. Hall hire charges are being revised

- iii. The committee are considering the introduction of solar panels.
- iv. The committee reports that the stage curtains will need renewing soon.

10. KCC BUS SHELTER GRANT APPLICATION

Members will consider quotes for the installation and refurbishment of bus shelters at High Knocke and A259 Wraightsfield Avenue and decide whether to apply for the KCC Grant.

After discussion, it was agreed to apply for a grant to replace the Wraightsfield Avenue bus shelter. The Clerk was instructed to proceed with the application. It was further confirmed that if the full grant is not achieved, the Council will not proceed with the installation at this time.

11. TO CONSIDER VILLAGE HALL CARPARK CHARGES AND ASSOCIATED MATTERS

Members will consider charges and conditions within the Village Hall Carpark

The current charges were reviewed, along with the costs to the Parish of running the carpark.

- a. It was agreed unanimously to bring the charges in line with the District Council as follows-
 - £2.50 an hour
 - £15.00 all-day parking
 - Charges apply from 9 am to 6 pm and from Easter or 1st April to 31st October every day, including bank holidays.
 - Residents' permits will be charged at £35.00
 - Employee permit £40.00
 - It was also agreed that high-sided vehicles would not be permitted to obtain seasonal parking permits.
 - The charges will come into effect from Easter or April 1st 2026.
- b. It was proposed by Cllr. D. Young and seconded by Cllr. C. Young to allow those with a disabled badge to park for three hours free of charge.
 - For- 4
 - Against -4
 - Casting vote against

Not carried.

12. CONCLUSION OF AUDIT 2024-2025

Members will acknowledge the conclusion of the audit and consider any recommendations made.

Acknowledged by members- The conclusion of the audit has been published on the Parish Council website. The external auditor made no recommendations.

13. APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR 2025-2026

Members will consider the appointment of Mr Lionel Robbins as Internal Auditor for Dymchurch Parish Council for 2025-2026

It was agreed to appoint Mr Lionel Robbins as internal auditor.

14. PLANNING

Application Number	Location	Details	Comments
25/1688/FH	1 UDEN ROAD, DYMCHURCH, TN29 0UH	Erection of Outbuilding	Members required further information on the purpose of the outbuilding before making comments.
25/1720/FH	LAND OPPOSITE DYMCHURCH CARAVAN PARK, ST MARYS ROAD, DYMCHURCH	Proposed change of use from agriculture to the keeping and grazing of horses.	No Objections
25/1652/FH	9 DENHAM CLOSE, DYMCHURCH, ROMNEY MARSH, TN29 0TU	Variation of Condition 2 of planning permission 24/1487/FH to allow for a larger rear extension	No Objections

15. COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY

Members will review the funds held by the Parish Council and consider spending in accordance with the regulations.

The current balance is 3543.02

It was unanimously agreed that these funds would be used to replace the bus shelter should the grant application be successful.

It was further agreed that this fund be used to pay for the lining of the new disabled bay within the Parish council carpark.

16. FINANCE

a. Breakdown of expenditure/income since the last meeting.

No matters raised

Net	VAT	Gross	Details	Payee
£575.00	£115.00	£690.00	Grass Cutting	M Coleman
£7,524.00	£1,504.80	£9,028.80	Solar Panel Installation	Aquaheat Ashford Ltd
£690.00	£0.00	£690.00	Maintenance	JC Building Contractors
£100.00	£0.00	£100.00	Memorial Bench	JC Building Contractors

£440.00	£88.00	£528.00	Alarm monitoring and annual maintenance contract	Ashe Alarms
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b. Authorisation of Payments – Members will review the list of invoices for payment and identify two Councillors to authorise the payments online.

c. Additional items requiring authorisation:

To authorise payments for tree works at The Recreation Ground

It was agreed to authorise tree work in the recreation ground to remove a dead/ diseased tree.

d. Notification of budget process- two or three councillors will be requested to assist with the budget preparation, ready for presentation to the Council at the December Council meeting.

Cllrs C. McCreedy, D. Young, V. McCreedy and C. Young will support the budget process.

17. PAVILION UPDATE- FRIENDS OF DYMCURCH RECREATION GROUND CHARITY

To receive an update on progress, if available

Cllr.C.McCreedy updated in the absence of Deana Coker-

The charity shop is still performing well with increased funds.

The Michael Bubl  Christmas event is on target with ticket sales

They are awaiting the DNA results from the bat survey.

Cllr. D Young asked whether a demolition quote had been obtained. This has not been completed as yet. The clerk was instructed to obtain a quote.

Cllr.D. Young raised a question as to whether members of the public could have sight of the minutes of the charity meetings - Cllr. C McCreedy will ask the question, but mentioned that all parish councillors are welcome to attend the monthly meetings held at Beach 48 for updates.

18. HIGHWAYS SAFETY UPDATE- CLLR. V. McCREEDY

An update on the recent Highways Improvement Plan meeting was provided by Cllr. V. McCreedy, who read from the report. The following is a summary of the report.

A259 HYTHE ROAD, DYMCURCH – PEDESTRIAN SAFETY AND CROSSING CONCERNS

Concerns continue regarding speeding vehicles and the lack of a safe crossing point near the junction with New Hall Close, particularly for school children and residents at busy times.

Following previous discussions with Kent County Council (KCC), survey data did not initially support the installation of a controlled crossing. However, KCC have advised that updated information may enable further consideration.

Latest Update (September 2025):

KCC will encourage Dymchurch Primary School to produce an updated School Travel Plan (the last being from 2010). This will help identify where pupils are crossing and support decisions about future survey locations and the potential for a pedestrian crossing. The Parish Council has been asked to provide any supporting local information to assist this process.

A259 JUNCTION WITH LOWER SANDS – SPEEDING AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

Concerns remain about speeding vehicles along the straight section of the A259 near Lower Sands, where residents report difficulty crossing safely. The area is subject to a 40mph speed limit, and while previous surveys did not support reducing it to 30mph, local concerns persist.

Latest Update (September 2025):

KCC maintain that a 30mph extension is not appropriate due to the road environment and likely non-compliance. However, a scheme has been completed to install additional 40mph roundels along the straight stretch to encourage compliance, with Kent Police undertaking enforcement.

KCC are investigating the feasibility of a pedestrian refuge island near the junction with Venture Close to improve crossing safety. They are also considering warning signage (“Pedestrians Crossing”) along the straight section where people currently cross to access the sea wall.

The Parish Council has queried whether the previously destroyed Vehicle Activated Sign opposite Wraightsfield Avenue can be replaced, and KCC will investigate.

ST MARY’S ROAD AND EASTBRIDGE ROAD, DYMCHURCH – SEASONAL PARKING RESTRICTIONS

The Parish Council has requested the introduction of seasonal parking restrictions to manage congestion and safety concerns during the summer months.

Latest Update (September 2025):

KCC remain supportive in principle. The Parish Council has proposed restrictions between **8 am and 6 pm during the summer months**, allowing overnight parking for residents. It is believed that sufficient parking remains available within the 30mph zone on Eastbridge Road west of the care home, which may also help with traffic calming.

Restrictions are proposed on both sides of Eastbridge Road to protect the weak verge. On St Mary’s Road, the Parish Council supports **“at any time” restrictions** at the junction with Dunkirk Close and **seasonal restrictions** extending up to the entrance of the holiday park.

KCC will now prepare detailed plans showing the proposed extents so the Parish Council can carry out informal engagement with residents.

EASTBRIDGE ROAD, DYMCHURCH – SPEEDING AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY CONCERNS

A resident raised concerns about speeding vehicles and the lack of pavements on Eastbridge Road, particularly near the blind bend outside No. 20, creating significant safety risks for pedestrians, wheelchair users, and families with young children.

Latest Update (September 2025):

KCC advised that a **20mph limit is not suitable** for this location as the road environment would not achieve compliance and could increase risk.

KCC will instead **investigate the installation of “Pedestrians in Road” warning signs**, including distance plates, to alert drivers to the lack of pavements and vulnerable users in the area. The addition of **“SLOW” road markings** is also being considered to reinforce this message.

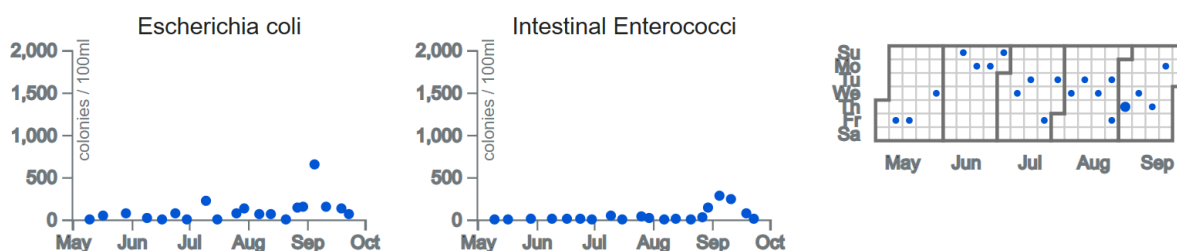
The Parish Council has been provided with information on the **30mph Toolkit**, which may offer further measures to help encourage safer driving.

19. SEAWATER BATHING QUALITY- CLLR. D. YOUNG

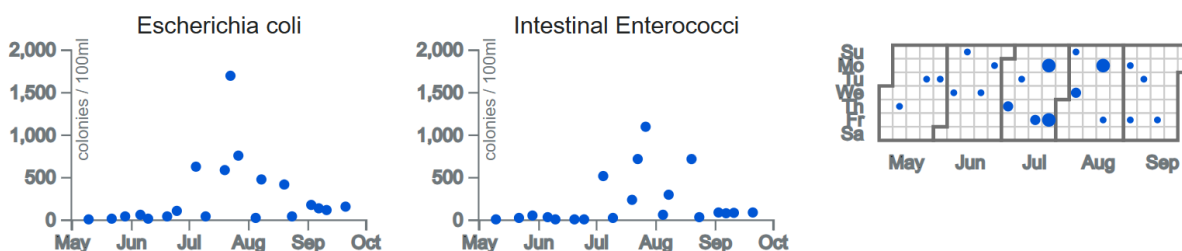
To receive updates and any proposals related to Seawater Bathing Quality, the latest Seawater testing results will be provided at the meeting.

It was noted that seawater testing results appear to have improved from last year, with one spike during the season.

2025



2024 — poor ?



Cllr Young reported that he will continue to attend meetings on behalf of the Parish Council and has prepared questions for the next meeting in November.

Tony Vaughan MP is increasing pressure on the Environment Agency to attend meetings and is seeking a step change in light of the improved results.

He emphasised the importance of maintaining a positive outlook for visitors to the Parish. He will continue to advocate for increased engagement from the Environment Agency, which is a key partner in this matter.

20. FLOODING CONCERNS – CLLR. L. FINCH

To receive an update and any proposals relating to this subject, including Parish Council's response to the Section 19 Flood report

See above at item 4

21. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AT FUTURE MEETINGS- PLEASE NOTE DECISIONS CANNOT BE MADE ON ITEMS INTRODUCED HERE

- New Romney Health hub

22. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

3rd November 2025 Dymchurch Parish Council Offices Orgarswick Avenue Dymchurch

Please note the cut-off date for items to be included on next month's agenda is 26th October 2025.