



Minutes of a meeting of the Dymchurch Parish Council held at 7pm on Monday 2nd September 2024
at the Parish Council Offices Orgarswick Avenue Dymchurch

MINUTES

PRESENT-

Cllr. D Young (Chair)

Cllr. M. Wright

Cllr. V. McCreedy

Cllr. L. Finch (Vice Chair)

Cllr. C. Young

Cllr. C. Cooper

Cllr. A. Pegler

Cllr. C. McCreedy

Also, present-

Mr J Lawrence- Parish Clerk and 8 members of the public.

- 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. A Weatherhead- Work commitment

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 made.

- 3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING-** held on the 19th of August 2024 to be agreed by members present.

Proposed for acceptance by Cllr. Finch seconded by Cllr. Wright and duly signed by the chair.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION/PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Members will adjourn the meeting to allow public participation. Each speaker may speak for up to 3 minutes, with a total time of 15 minutes allotted, subject to the chair's discretion. At the end of the Public Participation section the Council meeting will resume.

Members of the public were attending for items 6,13 and 15- It was agreed that attendees would be permitted to support these agenda items as they were discussed.

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

Cllr C McCreedy covered the following points:

- a. Met with FA due to objections they had raised to the planning application- It was believed that they would be able to offer some funding up front however it now appears that funding would be available if the facilities are in place for sport. It is now suggested that the planning application should go ahead in two phases-
 - 1. The Pavilion
 - 2. Changing room PODS subject to public consultation
- b. It has been confirmed that there are no bats resident in the building, and this has been confirmed by an expert- The invoice for this service is now due and it was proposed that this was paid for by the Parish Council- Proposed by Cllr. Cooper and seconded by Cllr. Wright- All Agreed
- c. It was also noted that the Pavilion in its current state is deteriorating – and is no longer fit for use- It was agreed that a cost for boarding up the building would be obtained in order to preserve the building until the next stage for the area is confirmed.

6. PROPOSAL FOR MEMORIAL FOR LOSS OF LIVES IN PREPARATION FOR D DAY – UPDATE IF AVAILABLE

The council would like to thank Jane and Andrew Stephen for their hard work in researching this subject and making contact with various organisations to confirm the background to this event which took place on the lead up to D Day.

After discussion it was unanimously agreed that the Parish should place a memorial at a prominent location on the sea wall accompanied with an information board.

Jane and Andrew will now make contact with a sign writer/creator to produce the information board and confirm the costs which will be supported by the battalion.

7. CHAIR'S REPORT

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

- I. Reported that the Day of Syn was a great success even with the changeable weather. He did feed back about the requirement for a litter clear up after the fireworks and beacon lighting and also some additional stewarding.

8. MEMBER REPORTS

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

Cllr. McCreedy reported as follows:

- I. Reported instances of speeding tractors through the village during the harvest season, some of which are heavily loaded and pose safety concern.
- II. The Twinning Association will be hosting residents from Salbris over the weekend with various activities being arranged.
- III. Attended a very useful input with the Fire Service on CPR and using defibrillators. There is a request from the Fire Service to be able to advertise these events in the Parish Magazine.

Cllr. A. Pegler reported as follows.

- I. Residents complaining that Parish Council carpark is not big enough. They had purchased a permit but often there are no spaces-

Members understood the concerns and it was confirmed that buying a permit did not guarantee a parking space. It was also noted that there is no opportunity to increase the size of the car park.

- II. Complaints from residents that there are large ruts getting bigger on the A259 when crossing the road from the Fairway to the Beach side.
The clerk was instructed to report this matter.

9. CLERKS REPORT

1. Ongoing communication with parish council solicitors about the pavilion lease, which will be discussed at the upcoming parish council meeting.
2. The 2023-2024 audit has concluded and will be acknowledged at the October meeting, with publication of details by the end of September as required by law.
3. A resident's complaint about damage to his property from vehicles prompted a request for an additional highway sign through Kent County Council's improvement plan.
4. A streetlight in The Tower Estate, pending repair for almost a year, is expected to be fixed by the end of August.
5. The pavilion toilets were boarded up after being accessed and damaged by unknown individuals.
6. An initial inquiry is being made with Fields in Trust to explore using the recreation ground as an overflow car park during summer.
7. Kent Fire and Rescue Service wants to promote their CPR and defibrillator training in upcoming newsletters.
8. Coordination with the British Legion has been completed regarding the Remembrance service, with updated insurance for 14 volunteers involved.
9. Future legal inquiries will require identification from the Clerk, with councillors only needing to provide ID when named in legal documents.
10. Time-limited car park passes were issued to support two groups meeting at the village hall on Monday and Wednesday mornings.
11. Complaints about dogs on the beach have been addressed, with enforcement officers promising attention when possible.
12. Issues with the shower and outside tap at District Council toilets on the seawall are being addressed, with a system change under consideration.

10. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

a. KCC COUNCILLOR

Apologies sent but updated that the A259 will be resurfaced soon at the bends near the Tower Estate.

b. DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Apologies received from both District Councillors- Report from Cllr Cooper at end of minutes- Appendix 1-

c. KENT POLICE- PC PUTLAND

No Update this month.

d. KCC WARDEN

No update received.

11. TO DEAL WITH MATTERS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE IN CIRCULATION

All matters received were dealt with during the meeting.

12. PLANNING

Reference	Location	Details	Comments
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24/1251/FH/TCA	MUSKETEERS, NEW HALL CLOSE, DYMCHURCH, ROMNEY MARSH, TN29 0LE	Works to trees situated within a Conservation area, T1 Ash height reduction of 4m and lateral of 3m, T2 and T3 Maple height reduction of 5m and lateral of 3m, T4 Fir Fell	No Objections
24/1207/FH	FOR INFO ONLY 67 The Fairway, Dymchurch, Romney Marsh, TN29 0GG	Notification under the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 for removal of conservatory and replace with a single storey dual pitched rear extension to provide an enlarged living room and additional bedroom	Noted
24/1180/FH/GPD	FOR INFO ONLY 10 Seabourne Way, Dymchurch, Romney Marsh, Tn29 0px	Notification under the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 for the erection of a single storey flat roof rear extension	Noted
24/1033/FH	FOR INFO ONLY Amelia House, 32 St Marys Road, Dymchurch, Romney Marsh, TN29 0PN	Works to trees the subject to TPO No. 20 of 2020 T1 Oak, T2 Silver Birch & T3 Horse Chestnut to trim all branches by 1 meter	Noted

An additional matter was raised about a development at Mill Road which was not believed to have included a new development- It was requested that this be checked for details by the Clerk.

13. TO CONSIDER PLANNING INSPECTORATE DECISION TO SUPPORT OUTLINE PLANNING APPLICATION FOR 132 HOMES AT HIGH KNOCKE FARM DYMCHURCH.

It was agreed that members of the public would be permitted to comment and take part in this agenda item.

The Chair expressed his disappointment that the Planning Inspectorate had supported the Developers to allow the outline planning application for planning application 21/2525/FH. It was underlined that this was an outline planning application so this will mean that any further building on the land would need to pass through the planning process and at each stage the public, The Parish Council and statutory bodies would need to comment.

It was noted that within Cllr Coopers report that he said that the District Council would not challenge the decision, but it was felt that they had the resources to do this. It was noted that the only way to challenge this was through the High Court which would be very costly and would not prevent the developers from coming back with a new proposal as

they had done so already when the original development was challenged. It was felt that even if this was overturned a new proposal would be produced and in effect it could bankrupt the Parish Council if every decision was challenged through the courts. It was agreed by the Council to use public money to fight this case would not be supported by everyone.

This development, should it commence, should be seen as a way for enhancing the village through section 106 money and the Community Infrastructure Levy. It was noted that the Planning Inspectorate has placed some very stringent conditions on the developers as they progress.

A member of the public raised that he would be willing to support a challenge if other villagers would get involved in a battle with the developers. The above comments about costs were repeated.

The Clerk was requested to contact the District Council as to why they are not challenging this development.

14. 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.
See appendix 2 for financial report- Approved for payment by members.

c. Additional items requiring authorisation.

- i. Height Restriction Barrier
Further information was requested regarding materials used for this item.
- ii. Tree work – Parish Council Car Park
Members agreed for the work to be carried out -
- iii. To allocate funding for Christmas event
Members agreed to allocate £100 for the event.

15. FLOODING CONCERNS: REDOUBT ESTATE

To consider any new information regarding the drainage issues in this area.

Members of the public raised very real concerns that there appeared to be no progress in finding a solution to the flowing issues in the area. Some residents will be returning to their homes just as the rainier season is expected.

The following were confirmed as actions and comments:

- I. The culvert pipe has been installed which should assist with reducing problems as now there is a greater capacity for water to drain away.
- II. The Internal Drainage Board do not have enforcement powers over this stretch of dyke as it does not flow to a drainage channel.
- III. The drainage dyke along the length of the New beach Carpark adjacent to Beverley Gardens is not fit for purpose.
- IV. It is unclear whether planning permission was obtained for the development of the car park.
- V. The street drainage which is currently cleared once every three years is not sufficient.
- VI. It was agreed that while some progress is being made, there is no comprehensive solution in place to reconnect the drainage dyke to the main sewer at Willop.
- VII. Who is responsible for clearing the entrance to the culvert.

A member of the public stated that he had identified a person who could clear the dyke, and he was asked to produce this information for a future meeting.

It was acknowledged that Cllr Liam Finch and Cllr Tony Cooper had tried their hardest to assist and were thanked so far.

It was agreed that at an appropriate time a meeting should be arranged to push through the solution which has been suggested by the Internal Drainage Board. This will be arranged by the Parish Clerk with, Tony Vaughn MP, District Council, Southern Water, KCC, Environment Agency and the Internal Drainage board and a representative from the residents.

16. BATHING WATER QUALITY- UPDATE IF AVAILABLE

Various discussions were aired about the potential for pollution from surrounding areas including, water contamination from fertilizers, bird faeces. Southern Water are investigating mismatched sewage pipes and investigations are continuing.

It was noted that current pollution levels have returned to acceptable levels, but the fear is that next year Dymchurch may have a poor classification. This may affect tourism and will definitely disqualify the Parish from obtaining the Seaside award.

17. TO CONSIDER MEMORIAL BENCH APPLICATION

Members agreed to approve the memorial bench application for installation on the seawall in the area of New Beach.

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING-

7th October 2024 7pm Council Office Orgarswick Avenue Dymchurch.

Noted.

19. CLOSED SESSION-Propose to exclude press and public to discuss the following matter.

TO CONSIDER UPDATED LEGAL ADVICE PROVIDED TO COUNCIL RELATING TO COMMENTS MADE BY A NAMED PERSON NOT CONNECTED TO PARISH COUNCIL.

After discussion it was agreed unanimously for a meeting to be held between the Parish Council and District Council to discuss our concerns.

APPENDIX 1:

District Councillor Report
Dymchurch Parish Council
September 2024
Cllr Tony Cooper

Apologies for not attending this evening, but I am required to be elsewhere on matters relating to the district council.

1. As you will all be aware, the Developer has had their appeal upheld by the Planning Inspector against the Planning Committees refusal to grant outline planning permission for up to 132 properties at High Knocke.
2. This is highly disappointing news and given the officers recommended approval of Redbridge`s plans, it is highly unlikely FHDC will challenge the Planning Inspector.
3. The developers second planning application will be withdrawn, if it hasn`t been already.
4. The only way that decision can be challenged is by talking the Planning Inspector to the High Court, and any such application must be lodged within 42 days of the decision - which was made on 6 August 2024.
5. The planning Inspectors decision basically means planning permission has been granted for up to 132 houses, and all that remains is to agree the further detail subject to conditions etc.
6. Apart from, for example, a local resident or the parish council launching a challenge against the Inspector, the only options which now remain are to engage with the Developer prior to their making further planning applications -which you will ultimately be consulted on as statutory consultees.
7. I am sorry I couldn`t do more for the village, but please be assured I will continue to support you and your residents in any way I can.
8. Turning now to other matters, there is still money available in the Rural England Prosperity Fund – so if you know of any business, community organisation or groups. Remind them to apply. The money has to be allocated and spent before next February.
9. I also gave a ward grant to the Day of Syn and hoped it made a difference.
10. I also attended a number of meetings including supporting the parish council with meeting with the EA and Southern Water. As well as asked questions at full council on behalf of the Dymchurch Dippers and residents of Beverly Gardens and Uden Road regarding water quality and flooding matters.
11. Given the bathing water quality may be downgraded this year, I will be asking the district council at its next meeting, what it intends to do about putting a support package in place - if visitor numbers are down, and will also request a meeting with Officers and representatives of the village business community.
12. The district council is also consulting on its Corporate Plan, and I would urge you to make your views known.
13. The Budget setting cycle is also coming around and if you have any ideas for a project, please let me know and will see if it can be included in next year`s budget.
14. I have also supported you Chair at a meeting with Veolia and residents of St Anns Road, to try and prevent residents losing their Garden Waste Collections. This is ongoing.
15. Inadequate shower and water supply at the seawall has been chased up, as have streetlight repairs and dangerous parking at Wraightsfield Avenue have also been raised. These are ongoing.
16. Finally, the district council is still in the process of implementing a committee system to be introduced for the next civic year and on abolishing the cabinet system of governance.

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 September Meeting Bank Reconciliation 28 August 2024

Dymchurch Parish Council

Prepared by: _____ Date: _____
Name and Role (Clerk/RFO etc)

Approved by: _____ Date: _____
Name and Role (RFO/Chair of Finance etc)

Bank Reconciliation at 28/08/2024			
	Cash in Hand 01/04/2024		121,506.79
	ADD Receipts 01/04/2024 - 28/08/2024		79,246.01
	SUBTRACT Payments 01/04/2024 - 28/08/2024		200,752.80
			66,157.42
A	Cash in Hand 28/08/2024 (per Cash Book)		134,595.38
	Cash in hand per Bank Statements		
	Petty Cash 28/08/2024	523.56	
	Unity Trust Bank 28/08/2024	27,470.34	
	Barclays Bank Current 28/08/2024	0.00	
	Barclays Bank Business Reserve 28/08/2024	1.44	
	NSI 28/08/2024	96,244.97	
	PayPal 28/08/2024	95.74	
	Unity Savings Account 28/08/2024	10,742.47	
			135,078.52
	Less unrepresented payments		483.14
			134,595.38
	Plus unrepresented receipts		
B	Adjusted Bank Balance		134,595.38
	A = B Checks out OK		

Payments to be Authorised

Dymchurch Parish Council
PAYMENTS (AWAITING AUTHORISATION) LIST

28 August 2024 (2024-2025)

Vouche Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Cheque No	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
177 Enforcement	19/08/2024		Unity Trust Bank		Enforcement	Folkestone & Hythe District	S	214.28	42.86	257.14
Total								214.28	42.86	257.14

Payments made since last meeting – see attached pdf file

Year to Date Income & Expenditure

28 August 2024 (2024-2025)

Dymchurch Parish Council
Summary of Receipts and Payments
Summary - Cost Centres Only

Cost Centre	Receipts			Payments			Net Position
	Budgeted	Actual	Variance	Budgeted	Actual	Variance	+/- Under/over spend
Bulls Field Car Park			0.00 (N/A)	14,250.00	6,598.88	7,651.12 (53%)	7,651.12
Burial Ground			0.00 (N/A)	2,150.00	50.00	2,100.00 (97%)	2,100.00
General Maintenance			0.00 (N/A)	5,000.00		5,000.00 (100%)	5,000.00
Highways and Other Village Amenit			0.00 (N/A)	12,600.00	10,415.52	2,184.48 (17%)	2,184.48
Income	123,000.00	73,491.37	-49,508.63 (-40%)		1.48	-1.48 (-148%)	-49,510.11
Office Costs			0.00 (N/A)	27,170.00	6,503.14	20,666.86 (76%)	20,666.86
Projects			0.00 (N/A)	15,000.00		15,000.00 (100%)	15,000.00
Promotion of the Village			0.00 (N/A)	3,200.00	1,881.00	1,319.00 (41%)	1,319.00
Recreation Ground			0.00 (N/A)	3,750.00	1,062.15	2,687.85 (71%)	2,687.85
Seawall			0.00 (N/A)	15,200.00	11,016.76	4,183.24 (27%)	4,183.24
Staffing			0.00 (N/A)	46,500.00	24,651.22	21,848.78 (46%)	21,848.78
NET TOTAL	123,000.00	73,491.37	-49,508.63 (-40%)	144,820.00	62,180.15	82,639.85 (57%)	33,131.22

Total for ALL Cost Centres		73,491.37			62,180.15	
V.A.T.		5,754.64			3,977.27	
GROSS TOTAL		79,246.01			66,157.42	