



Dymchurch Parish Council Meeting Minutes

Minutes of Dymchurch Parish Council meeting held at 7pm on 6th January 2025 at the Parish Council Offices, 13 Orgarswick Avenue, Dymchurch.

MINUTES

PRESENT-

Cllr. D.Young (Chair)

Cllr. C. Young

Cllr. A. Weatherhead

Cllr. L. Finch (Vice-Chair)

Cllr. M. Wright

Cllr. C. Mc Creedy

Cllr. V. McCreedy

Also In attendance:

Mr J Lawrence, Clerk, District Cllr.T.Hills

1. APOLOGIES

Members are reminded of the need to tender apologies with the reason for absence directly to the Clerk if they are unable to attend. Members will confirm acceptance of the reasons for absence.

Cllr. C. Cooper

Reasons for absence accepted by members present.

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 2nd December 2024 to be agreed by members present.

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted by those present 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, at the discretion of the chair.

At the end of the Public Participation section, the Council meeting will resume.

District Cllrs report- Summary from Cllr Cooper read by the Clerk-

- **Apologies:** Unable to attend due to a commitment in Folkestone.
- **Funding Updates:**

- Secured an additional £16,000 from the Rural England Prosperity Fund in December; fund now closed as fully allocated.
- Ward Grant provided for a commemorative plaque for soldiers who died on Dymchurch Beach before D-Day.
- **Council Updates:**
 - New S151 Officer appointed, starting in April.
 - Budget consultation ongoing; public participation encouraged.
- **Solar Farm Proposal:**
 - Public meetings held regarding a proposed Solar Farm in Old Romney.
 - Decision to be made by the Secretary of State for Energy after a public inquiry.
 - Project unrelated to GB Energy, with no farmland sold yet.
- **Government Announcement on Kent Councils:**
 - Government plans to abolish Kent County Council (KCC) and District Councils within the next few years.
 - KCC meeting Thursday to decide whether to support the proposal.
 - If supported:
 - May 2025 elections delayed to 2026.
 - Creation of 3–4 Unitary Authorities, each covering ~500,000 residents.
 - Potential introduction of a Strategic Authority and Mayor for Kent.
 - Parish Councils may gain greater powers.
- **Personal View:** Believes in the need for transparent consultation with residents. Concerns about the proposal being described as a "vanity project" by some.
- **Availability:** Open to supporting the Parish Council and available through surgeries in St Mary's Bay, St Mary in the Marsh, or Dymchurch (no appointment needed).

Cllr. T.Hills

Summary of his report as follows.

📌 **Commitment to Romney Marsh:**

- Priority to put Romney Marsh first in all decisions this year.

📌 **Resolutions for 2025:**

- Address long-term flood risks for the Marsh.
- Improve water quality for Hythe Bay.
- Enhance measurement and control of water quality.
- Ensure fair allocation of highways spending for the Marsh.
- Protect the Marsh from overdevelopment.
- Advocate for a new nuclear power station at Dungeness.

☐ **South Kent Energy Park:**

- Plans for a solar farm in Old Romney with 'Lo Carbon'.
- Focus on ensuring Old Romney residents benefit and local infrastructure is improved.
- Decision on the project lies with the Secretary of State.

☐ **Local Democracy Changes:**

- Upcoming government changes to local democracy in Kent through English devolution.
- Introduction of a Mayoral Strategic Authority to oversee county strategy.
- Reorganization of Kent's 12 district councils into 3 or 4 unitary councils.
- Increased responsibilities anticipated for parish councils, such as managing toilets and play areas.
- Kent is encouraged to adopt these changes early, with a key decision by Kent County Council on January 9th.

☐ **Contact Information:**

- Tony Hills welcomes concerns or queries via email at tony.hills@kent.gov.uk.

5. **CHAIR'S REPORT**

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

- 24th of February Tony Vaughan MP will be holding a surgery at our offices.
- 9th February will be attending the Seawall run to support the event.
- Congratulations sent to the Friends of Dymchurch for winning the festive Window Competition and the householder at The Fairway for the festive garden competition.

6. **MEMBER REPORTS**

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

Cllr. V. McCreedy

- Attended St Mary's Bay with Cllr. C. McCreedy to hear a presentation on a proposed Solar Farm just off our Parish in St Mary's Bay near to St. Mary in the Marsh. No proposals have been submitted at this time. This location is not a statutory location and is separate from the proposal at Old Romney. It was agreed that the Council will await an official application before making comments.
- Speed checks have been conducted by Kent Police in our area, so it appears that our concerns about speeding vehicles is being addressed.
- Contact has been made with the KCC Highways Authority- They have indicated that they will not extend the 30mph speed limit at A259 near the Sands Estate as they believe it will encourage people to overtake.

It was a consensus that this would be extremely dangerous if someone was to do this.

Cllr. McCreedy added that she believes this is KCC not understanding the environment at this location. Kent County Councillor Jenni Hawkins is on board and the intention is to arrange a site meeting. It was also indicated that due to

the lack of serious accidents we do not meet the criteria for changes although local consensus for change will go some way to getting changes.

It has also been highlighted that when there are accidents, vehicles are diverted through the Marsh and local estates which is not acceptable.

Progress is being made however in that although we do not meet the criteria for changes, they have requested sites for the mobile speed camera to be set up.

The layby next to Tudor Avenue and the layby next to the "Wedding Cake House" and in the area of the Fairway from the Martello carpark overlooking the main road.

Cllr. A. Peglar

- Reported a damaged bench which had been placed at the bus stop- This is not a public bench but has been there for some time.
It was decided unanimously to purchase a new bench to replace the broken one and to obtain permission to place it from the Highways Department.
- Attended dementia Café to support this group.
- Attended the Methodist Church New Year Eve service which was well attended.
- The Knitters and Stitchers (who meet on a Thursday Morning) are continuing their making of articles being sent to Africa. The total will be available soon.

Cllr. Finch

- Continues to support residents on the Uden Estate and has a supply of sandbags should there be any issues.

Cllr. C. McCreedy

- The roses for the memorial garden have been collected. They have now been planted by the Groundsman and look very good.

Cllr. A Weatherhead.

- Added comments about the diverting of traffic through the Sands Estate as the bridges have a weight restriction.

Cllr. C. Young

- The Carol Singing Event was well attended, at the Village Hall even though the weather was awful and £50.00 was raised this was split between the Romney Marsh Hub and local Care Homes.
- A request for an entry into the newsletter regarding obtaining a free tree was made.
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7. CLERK'S UPDATE

- Confirmation has been received that Tony Vaughn will be attending Dymchurch Parish Council offices for his monthly surgery on **24th January**.
- The **CCTV upgrade** at the kiosk has begun.

- The **January newsletter** has been completed and is available for delivery. Please contact the Clerk if you need copies.
- A report was received over the weekend of a member of the public slipping on ice in the **village hall car park**, resulting in a cut that needed hospital treatment. In response, grit salt has been purchased, and a grit bin has been ordered for installation at the car park for future use.
- Notice has been received from **groundsman David Henley** of his intention to retire on **31st March 2025**. This will be discussed with the Personnel Committee.
- Arrangements are being made to address the **damp proof failure** at the parish council offices.
- A request has been made to refresh the **road markings** at the mini roundabout on the High Street (reference: **850750**).
- The **potholes** reported on Main Road near The Fairway have been planned for repair, though no date has yet been provided.

Additional matters raised for attention:

- i. Investigate transport options for Groundsman.
- ii. Clarify if request for path clearances have been made at the Fairway path leading up to the Carpark.

Council Business:

8. TO DEAL WITH MATTERS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE IN CIRCULATION

No matters requiring attention.

9. SEAWATER QUALITY PUBLIC MEETING

To discuss preparations and any updates for a public meeting in February.

It was decided that a public meeting would be held in March to discuss the current sweater bathing quality classifications.

The Clerk was instructed to arrange the meeting and invite key stakeholders in order to understand how we have reached this situation and what plans are in place.

10. SOLAR FARM PROPOSAL OLD ROMNEY

It was understood from discussions that the proposal although not being built within the Parish will affect the village during the construction stage. However, the decision to build will be made by The Secretary of State for Energy. It was agreed that until firm plans have been submitted no additional comments can be made by the Parish Council.

11. WRAIGHTSFIELD AVENUE- DOUBLE YELLOW LINES

To consider a request from a resident for the installation of double yellow lines due to inconsiderate parking at junction with the A259.

After discussion it was agreed that this matter should be referred to the District Council Highways Department to consider the request from residents to install double yellow lines.

12. RECOMMENDATION FROM PERSONELL COMMITTEE- TO CONSIDER HR SUPPORT FROM PRIVATE COMPANY PENINSULA

To consider quote from company to provide HR support.

It was agreed:

- That the Parish Council would not enter a contract with a company for HR support.
- That all Parish Council HR and Personnel policies would be reviewed and update, and new policies introduced where required.
- That if required bespoke HR advice will be sought, as necessary.

13. BEACH WARDENS 2025

To consider the requirement for Beach Wardens for 2025 season and to consider delegating the arrangements for employment of staff to the personnel committee.

It was decided that:

- Beach wardens will be recruited again for the 2025 season.
- The personnel committee are delegated to arrange the recruitment and arrangements for Beach wardens in 2025.

14. PROPOSAL TO APPOINT CLLR. D. YOUNG TO THE BEACH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Members were informed that Cllr. D. Young is already appointed to this committee.

15. PAVILION UPDATE

To receive an update on progress.

Cllr. C. McCreedy updated as follows:

- A meeting has been held with the Planning Department who were supportive. They are requiring a further two weeks for consultation. They also mentioned their disappointment regarding the interventions by Sports England.
- Further updates will follow but they are hoping for planning consent this month.

16. FLOODING CONCERNS - UPDATE IF AVAILABLE

- An update is expected from KCC Councillor Jenni Hawkins regarding the Flood Investigation

- Correspondence has taken place with a local resident of The Sands Estate who sent a clip from the Looker where the reasons for pollution was due to mis connections which has been agreed by Southern Water. It was suggested there may be other locations in Dymchurch where this is happening.
- Southern Water have agreed to address the situation but appear to be taking their time on this work and that they stated that diverting rainwater into the foul sewer is not legal.
- Cllr. V. McCreedy shared a letter from Southern Water explaining the rules for disposal of rainwater and the issues of misconnections.

17. PLANNING

Planning Applications:

Application Number	Address	Details of the Application	Comments
24/1890/FH	Ship Inn, 118 Highstreet Dymchurch Romney Marsh TB29 0NS	Subject of T.P.O No. 11 of 2024 - All over reduction of 4-5 meters and removal of substantial dead wood within the tree	No Objections
25/0004/FH/GPD	9 Lower Sands, Dymchurch, Romney Marsh, TN29 0NE	Notification under the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 for a single storey rear extension.	Noted

17. FINANCE

- a. Breakdown of expenditure/income since the 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.

Items shown at appendix 1 agreed for payment.

- c. Additional items requiring authorisation:

- i. Skier replacement – Slipway Dymchurch

It was decided that additional quotes need to be considered prior to replacement or repair of this equipment.

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

3rd February 2025 7pm- Parish Council Offices Dymchurch

Noted

Appendix 1- Finance reports

Dymchurch Parish Council

January 2025 Meeting – Finance Summary

Bank Reconciliation – 31/12/24.

Payments Awaiting Authorisation

Dymchurch Parish Council PAYMENTS (AWAITING AUTHORISATION) LIST

31 December 2024 (2024-2025)

Vouche Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Cheque No	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
279 Alarm Maintenance	09/12/2024		Unity Trust Bank		Alarm monitoring and annual n	Ashe Alarms	S	95.00	19.00	114.00
Total								95.00	19.00	114.00

Payments During December

PAYMENTS LIST

Vouche Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Cheque No	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
267 Grass Cutting & Weeding	02/12/2024		Unity Trust Bank		Grass Cutting	M Coleman	S	575.00	115.00	690.00
268 Support for Events	02/12/2024		Unity Trust Bank		Hall Hire	Dymchurch Village Hall Org	X	25.00		25.00
269 Community Fund	02/12/2024		Unity Trust Bank		Donation	1st Dymchurch Scouts	X	50.00		50.00
270 Seating	02/12/2024		PayPal		Memorial Bench	Engraving Studios	S	15.75	3.15	18.90
271 HMRC	27/12/2024		Unity Trust Bank		Tax & NI	HMRC	X	957.16		957.16
272 Salaries	27/12/2024		Unity Trust Bank		Salaries	Dymchurch Parish Council	X	3,408.32		3,408.32
274 Communications	02/12/2024		Unity Trust Bank		Phone & Broadband	Onecom	S	178.07	35.61	213.68
275 Commercial waste	02/12/2024		Unity Trust Bank		Waste Disposal	Veolia Env Serv UK	S	26.50	5.30	31.80
276 Handyman Tools & Consumabl	02/12/2024		PayPal		Handyman Tools	TTI UK Ltd	S	205.81	41.16	246.97
278 Christmas Lights	09/12/2024		Unity Trust Bank		Solar Xmas Trees	G Burley and Sons t/a Plan	S	1,960.00	392.00	2,352.00
279 Alarm Maintenance	09/12/2024		Unity Trust Bank		Alarm monitoring and annual n	Ashe Alarms	S	95.00	19.00	114.00
280 Website	09/12/2024		Unity Trust Bank		Website Bronze Subscription	Hugofox limited	S	9.99	2.00	11.99
281 Memorial Garden Maintenance	09/12/2024		Unity Trust Bank		Roses	Rumwoods Ltd	S	239.25	47.85	287.10
282 Community Fund	06/12/2024		Unity Trust Bank		Grant	Dym & District Twining Ass	X	500.00		500.00
283 Pension Contributions	03/12/2024		Unity Trust Bank		Nest Pension Contributions	NEST	Z	102.33		102.33
284 Pension Contributions	05/12/2024		Unity Trust Bank		Nest Pension Contributions	NEST	Z	65.16		65.16
285 Management Fee & Charges	06/12/2024		Unity Trust Bank		YPS Commission	Your Parking Space	X	7.32		7.32
286 Water & Waste	09/12/2024		Unity Trust Bank		Waste Disposal	Veolia Env Serv UK	S	26.50	5.30	31.80
287 Water, Electricity & Sewage	02/12/2024		Unity Trust Bank		Electricity	British Gas	L	64.51	3.23	67.74
288 Memorial Garden Maintenance	16/12/2024		Unity Trust Bank		Grass Cutting	Mr Morris	X	150.00		150.00
289 Electricity	16/12/2024		Unity Trust Bank		Electricity	British Gas	L	83.85	4.19	88.04
290 CCTV Licence & repairs	17/12/2024		Unity Trust Bank		IT Support	Total Computer Services	X	100.00		100.00
291 Support for Events	17/12/2024		Petty Cash		Event Supplies	Dymchurch Parish Council	X	40.68		40.68
293 Water & Waste	17/12/2024		Unity Trust Bank		Water	Castle Water	X	52.57		52.57
294 Seating	17/12/2024		PayPal		Memorial Bench	Engraving Studios	S	15.75	3.15	18.90
295 Support for Events	17/12/2024		PayPal		Gift Vouchers	Home and Garden Centre	X	25.00		25.00
295 Support for Events	17/12/2024		PayPal		Gift Vouchers	Home and Garden Centre	S	1.25	0.25	1.50
296 Parish Council Newsletter	23/12/2024		Unity Trust Bank		Newsletter Printing	Sandgate Printers	X	300.00		300.00
297 Christmas Lights	23/12/2024		Unity Trust Bank		Solar Xmas Trees	G Burley and Sons t/a Plan	S			
298 Communications	23/12/2024		Unity Trust Bank		Phone & Broadband	Onecom	S	188.33	37.67	226.00
299 Communications	23/12/2024		Unity Trust Bank		Mobile Phone	3 Business Services	S	10.00	2.00	12.00
300 Bank Charges	31/12/2024		Unity Trust Bank		Bank Charges	Unity Trust Bank	X	25.70		25.70
301 Support for Events	23/12/2024		Petty Cash		Prize	Tesco	S	5.00	1.00	6.00
302 Utilities	23/12/2024		Unity Trust Bank		Electricity	Valda Energy Ltd	L	44.64	2.23	46.87
303 Support for Events	23/12/2024		Unity Trust Bank		Prize	Friends of Dymchurch Recr	X	25.00		25.00
304 Pension Contributions	31/12/2024		Unity Trust Bank		Nest Pension Contributions	Dymchurch Parish Council	E	37.99		37.99
Total								9,617.43	720.09	10,337.52

Year to Date Income & Expenditure by Cost Centre

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		-14.04	-14.04 (-1404%)	14,250.00	12,952.93	1,297.07 (9%)	1,283.03
Burial Ground			0.00 (N/A)	2,150.00	439.25	1,710.75 (79%)	1,710.75
General Maintenance			0.00 (N/A)	5,000.00		5,000.00 (100%)	5,000.00
Highways and Other Village Ameniti			0.00 (N/A)	12,600.00	15,886.69	-3,286.69 (-26%)	-3,286.69
Income	123,000.00	125,854.10	2,854.10 (2%)		1.48	-1.48 (-148%)	2,852.62
Office Costs			0.00 (N/A)	27,170.00	9,763.07	17,406.93 (64%)	17,406.93
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	2,327.42	872.58 (27%)	872.58
Recreation Ground			0.00 (N/A)	3,750.00	5,872.51	-2,122.51 (-56%)	-2,122.51
Seawall			0.00 (N/A)	15,200.00	16,260.54	-1,060.54 (-6%)	-1,060.54
Staffing			0.00 (N/A)	46,500.00	48,057.79	-1,557.79 (-3%)	-1,557.79
NET TOTAL	123,000.00	125,840.06	2,840.06 (2%)	144,820.00	111,561.68	33,258.32 (22%)	36,098.38
Total for ALL Cost Centres		125,840.06			111,561.68		
V.A.T.		7,712.58			8,888.07		
GROSS TOTAL		133,552.64			120,449.75		