



Minutes of a meeting of the Dymchurch Parish Council held at 7pm on Monday 5th February 2024 at the Parish Council Offices Orgarswick Avenue Dymchurch

MINUTES

Present:

Cllr D. Young (Chair)

Cllr. A. Weatherhead

Cllr. A. Pegler

Cllr. C. McCreedy (Vice Chair)

Cllr. C. Cooper

Cllr. M. Wright

Cllr. L. Finch

Cllr. V. McCreedy

Also in attendance:

Mr J Lawrence -Parish Clerk, County Councillor J. Hawkins,

And one member 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 C. Young- Illness

- 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.

Cllr C McCreedy declares a personal interest in matters to deal with the use, construction, and management of the proposed Recreation Ground Pavilion due to being appointed as a trustee.

It is accepted that Cllr McCreedy will be able to assist the Council with information relating to this matter as and when it appears on the agenda but will not be able to take part in any vote.

- 3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING-** held on the 4th of January 2024 to be agreed by members present.

Proposed for acceptance by Cllr Weatherhead and seconded by Cllr C McCreedy. All agreed and the minutes were signed by the chair.

ITEM 9 a. was heard at this point to allow KCC Councillor Hawkins to leave the meeting:

- Orbit Housing are going to replace play equipment at County's Field
- The investigation into flooding at Uden Way is underway with residents receiving a questionnaire.
Cllr D Young asked if the current arrangements for the drains being cleared every three years will be reviewed as this was not acceptable given that this is a high-risk area.

- c. Attended a Scrutiny Committee regarding the closure of Children's Centres and the amalgamation of County owned buildings- Argued the need for retention of services in Dymchurch but unfortunately this failed and the Dymchurch Centre will close.
- d. Further funding cuts threaten available funding for the Romney Marsh Hub. The Councillor has made a case to the Cabinet member for adult services suggesting this is a short-sighted view. An update will be provided.

Parish Councillors thanked the Councillor for her part in pushing for the resurfacing of the A259 through the village and the path clearances at The Fairway.

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 public participation.

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

Cllr McCreedy gave the following update:

- a. Apologies sent from the Chair of the Charity Deana Coker.
- b. Planning has now been submitted and certain conditions have been requested during the construction phase. In addition, a condition to install electrical charging points in the car park have been requested- This will need to be clarified as the final status of the parking area will not be always open to the public.
- c. A request has been made for there to be four covered bike spaces.
- d. A full consultation is taking place along Eastbridge Road and St Marys Road which may be of use to the Charity in the future.

6. CHAIRMANS REPORT

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

- a. Will be attending the official opening of the seating area at the junction of Orgarswick Avenue with the A259- A provisional date of 17th February has been set.
- b. He will be attending the 10k race on the 18th to present runners' medals.
- c. He will also represent Dymchurch Parish Council at the New Romney Mayors Flag Raising ceremony.
- d. The chair would like to thank all Councillors who support the dementia Café as it appears that Dymchurch PC are the only Council that do this.
- e. Reminded members that Dymchurch Parish Council is a non-political organisation, and that party politics should be left at the door. Members only allegiance should be to the residents of the Parish while performing the role of Councillor for the Parish.

7. MEMBER REPORTS

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

Cllr. A. Weatherhead- Complaint raised against Cllr. C. cooper. The Clerk advised Cllr Weatherhead to put the details of his complaint in writing to the Clerk for review and potential forwarding to the monitoring officer at the District Council.

Cllr.V.McCreedy- Gave a summary of the report read by the chair of the Friends of Dymchurch Recreation Ground Charity, which highlighted the efforts made by volunteers in the past to achieve many things for the parish.

Cllr.C. McCreedy- Reminder to members that the official opening of the refurbished area at the main toilet blocks would be on the 17th of February at 11:00 AM and all are welcome.

Cllr.A. Pegler- Attended a recent village hall committee meeting and informed members that Village Hall bookings were up. A reminder of the dementia café which will take place on the first Thursday of every month it was highlighted that Dymchurch Parish Council appeared to be the only representatives who turn up at the dementia cafes in the area.

8. CLERKS REPORT

- a. Job Advert for Maintenance Person: We have initiated the process of advertising for a maintenance person to ensure the upkeep of our parish facilities.
- b. High Knocke Bus Shelter Repair: The bus shelter at High Knocke has been successfully repaired.
- c. Annual Parish Meeting and AGM: The Annual Parish Meeting scheduled for May 7th, which will be followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting .
- d. Recreation Ground Fence Repairs: In response to reports of sheep invading the Recreation Ground, we have arranged for the necessary repairs to the fences to secure the area.
- e. Cashless Payments in Village Hall Car Park: Cashless payment options should be in place by the time charges commence in the Village Hall car park, offering a convenient alternative for residents.
- f. KCC Highways Query - Planters on Railings: We have raised a question with the KCC Highways department regarding the installation of planters on railings at the junction. They have responded saying that planters are not permitted on railings especially at busy junctions.

ACTION-To confirm the reasons why Dymchurch has been refused when there are planters at Station Road J/W A259 at New Romney

- g. PAT Testing for Office and Kiosk: PAT testing has been scheduled for February to ensure the safety and compliance of our office and kiosk equipment.
- h. Sandbag Request: A special thanks to Councillor Finch for fulfilling the sandbag request promptly.
- i. Planning Response LED SIGN KIOSK : We are actively addressing objections to signage by highways in response to planning.
- j. Legal Advisor Consultation: We have consulted with our Legal Advisor at KALC to confirm the appropriate approach for the Parish Council to give comments on their own planning applications.
- k. Seasonal Parking Suggestion to KCC: We have forwarded a seasonal parking restrictions suggestion to KCC for their consideration. This was originally sent to the District Council but sent back stating it was the responsibility of the KCC.
- l. Main Toilet Block Planters: Planters have been installed at the main toilet block.
- m. New Cover for Car Park Machine: A new cover for the car park machine has been ordered.
- n. Flood Investigation Update to KCC: We have provided an update to KCC regarding the ongoing flood investigation at Uden Road.

9. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

a. KCC COUNCILLOR – See above.

b. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR TONY COOPER

You will all be aware of the forthcoming Romney Marsh By-election taking place on 22 February next. Although its business as usual for the Senior Leadership Team, Officers, and Staff of the District Council. As an Elected member, I am constrained from reporting on matters due to advice received from the Electoral Commission.

As you may well understand, I do not wish to jeopardise the integrity of the election or be accused of potentially or actually using the council or its resources for political purposes. Needless to say, I will advise and report back to you well in time for your next meeting.

Meanwhile, 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.

c. KENT POLICE- PC PUTLAND

PC Putland- Not present but provided the following report- He is a regular visitor to the Parish and has been conducting speed checks along the A259. In addition, he is trying to locate the owner of a large Rottweiler who walks along the A259 and seafront.

Any additional information can be obtained through My Community Voice and at his drop-in meetings which are advertised.

d. KCC WARDEN

No update- It is requested that the Wardens Supervisor is contacted as we have little contact with the Warden.

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

- a. Coordination with the Flood Resilience Team for updates on flood prevention measures.
- b. Details regarding a planning appeal for the erection of a bike store at 37 Tartane Lane.
- c. A request for subjects to be submitted to the Scrutiny Committee.
- d. Arrangements for the weekend and for hiring facilities for the Day of Syn event.
- e. Invitation to New Romneys Commonwealth Day Flag Raising Ceremony on March 11, 2024.
- f. Information about the presence of the Asian Hornet as a non-native species, requiring monitoring and potential action.
- g. Review and feedback on the Pre-Submission Draft of the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024-2039 during the Regulation 19 Public Consultation.
- h. Details about the Kent Parish Council Winter Support Scheme, providing assistance during the winter season.

Above noted-

11. PLANNING

REFERENCE	ADDRESS	DETAILS	Comments
23/1999/FH	Dymchurch Recreation Ground, St Marys Road, Dymchurch, TN29 0PL	Demolition of existing Pavilion and construction of a new purpose-built Pavilion, classes F2 (b), F2 (c) and E (b), including raised podium and rain garden, single storey building with WC, kitchen, and multi-purpose rooms.	No objections- Unanimous

23/2025/FH	Refreshment Kiosk, Seawall Slipway, High Street, Dymchurch, TN29 0TG.	LED colour display screen	No Objections-Carried Unanimously
24/0021/FH	11 Hind Close, Dymchurch, Romney Marsh, TN29 0LG	Two storey, single storey and first floor front extension	No Objections Carried Unanimously
23/1971/FH	8 Pear Tree Lane, Dymchurch, Romney Marsh, TN29 0LU	Replacement ancillary accommodation	No objections Carried Unanimously

ACTION- Request has been made for the Clerk to write to Paul Simms to thank him for his work on the Pavilion project.

12. To receive the Minutes of the Assets and Amenities Committee dated 23rd January 2024 and consider recommendations as follows:

a. To authorise most urgent repairs to Village Benches

DECISION- Members agreed to authorise repairs as stated.

b. To Authorise Living History Workshops to provide beach activities for Summer 2024 on the same terms as 2023.

DECISION- Members agreed to fund the activities as described.

c. To approve purchase of hanging baskets from Canterbury Oast Trust – Quantity to be confirmed.

DECISION- Members agreed to the purchase as described above.

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 shown at appendix 1 were agreed for payment and will be authorised online.

c. Additional items requiring authorisation.

See item 12 for additional authorisations.

14. APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR 2023/2024

DECISION- Members agreed to the appointment of Lionel Robbins as internal auditor for 2023/2024

15. REVIEW OF PUMPING STATION MAP FOR APPROVAL

Members thanked Cllrs C. and V. McCreedy for their work on the pumping station map which will be published. It is hoped that this will assist members of the public signposting Southern water to their local pumping station should any further localised flooding occur.

16. TO RECEIVE OUTLINE PLAN FOR DAY OF SYN WEEKEND AND APPROVE HIRE OF RECREATION GROUND

Members reviewed an outline plan for the Day of Syn weekend. It was agreed that the Recreation Ground could be used for this weekend and a hire arrangement would be signed.

It was confirmed that with no exceptions would access be granted to the Pavilion. Water can be supplied using the outside tap if required.

17. REVIEW OF SALBRIS CLOSE PLAY PARK-

It was noted that the last review of this playpark was before Covid and had not been brought back to proper use. Residents have commented on it and suggested making it a garden. However, there are still families with young children who may benefit from it. ACTION- Clerk to contact the District Council for an update on the park's status and future refurbishments.

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING- To be held on Monday 4th March 2024 at 7pm at the Parish Council Offices Orgarswick Avenue Dymchurch.

Noted

19. CLOSED SESSION-

To consider application for a memorial bench at the seawall-
After discussion it was agreed that the application for a bench on the seawall would be permitted under the terms of the current Parish Council Bench Policy-
The Clerk was instructed to contact the applicant.

Appendix 1-

Dymchurch Parish Council
PAYMENTS (AWAITING AUTHORISATION) LIST

Voucher	Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Cheque No	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
286	Lease Fees EA & Crown Estal	12/01/2024		Unity Trust Bank		Foreshore Rent	Crown Estate	E	169.63		169.63
287	CCTV Licence & repairs	12/01/2024		PayPal		Licence Fee	IPcamlive	Z	183.60		183.60
292	Payroll Processing	15/01/2024		Unity Trust Bank		Payroll Processing	S H Bureau	S	71.46	14.29	85.75
297	Software	29/01/2024		Unity Trust Bank		Accounting Software	Starboard Systems Ltd	S	950.40	190.08	1,140.48
303	Insurance	30/01/2024		Unity Trust Bank		Professional Fees	Zurich Insurance	X	4,315.33		4,315.33
302	Software	30/01/2024		Unity Trust Bank		Software	Folkestone & Hythe District C	S	1,701.00	340.20	2,041.20
304	Asset Maintenance	31/01/2024		Unity Trust Bank		Bus Shelter Maintenance	GW Shelter Solutions	S	701.46	140.29	841.75
308	Grass Cutting & Weeding	05/02/2024		Unity Trust Bank		Grass Cutting	M Coleman	S	567.50	113.50	681.00
306	Salaries	23/02/2024		Unity Trust Bank		Salaries	Dymchurch Parish Council	Z	2,352.45		2,352.45
307	HMRC	29/02/2024		Unity Trust Bank		Tax & NI	Dymchurch Parish Council	E	657.64		657.64
Total									11,670.47	798.36	12,468.83