



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. L. Finch (Vice-Chair)
Cllr. C. Cooper Cllr. V. McCreedy

Cllr. C. Mc Creedy
Cllr. A. Weatherhead

Also In attendance:

Mr J Lawrence, Clerk, District, Mr A Lawson, Finance and Projects, District Council Leader
Cllr. J martin, District Cllr. T. Cooper, Kent County Cllr. Jenni Hawkins, KCC Warden Garol Coveney and three members of the public.

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. M. Wright

Cllr. C Young

Reasons for absence accepted by members.

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.

Cllr. C. McCreedy declared an interest in item 12 due to being a trustee of the Charity applying for a grant.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 6th January 2025 to be agreed by members present.

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed by members 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.

- a. Mr Mark Lilley addressed the council to explain his intention to submit a planning application to build four starter homes on the site of the Bowery Hall Ship Field. This had previously been submitted to apply for four holiday lets.
- b. Two members of the public from Beverley Gardens raised continuing issues of noise and nuisance being caused by operations at The New beach Holiday Camp. It was agreed that a meeting would be arranged with the management and the Chair and Vice Chair of the Parish Council to discuss these concerns along with the ongoing issues of flooding.

5. **LEADER OF THE DISTRICT COUNCIL – CLLR. JIM MARTIN**

The Council are pleased to welcome Cllr Jim Martin to discuss any local issues and future plans for the district.

Cllr Martin was welcomed to the meeting. He gave an update on various matters affecting the district.

- a. He encouraged us to engage with New Beach Holiday Camp to resolve the current issues but indicated that an application will be made by the camp which will include new drainage along the length of the carpark to alleviate flooding. In addition, they will fund the reconnection of the dyke back to the Willop Sewer. He made the point that organisations like the Internal Drainage Board, Southern Water and the Environment Agency have a part to play in these ongoing problems and that this subject is not being ignored by the District Council
- b. He outlined the Government Plans to remove the two-tier system of local government which in effect will abolish District Councils in Kent (and around the Country) replacing them with Unitary Councils. It is clear that this will have an impact on Parish Councils but there is funding to support Parish Councils through this change. Due to the changes if Kent is fast tracked, KCC elections will be postponed until 2026, and the District Councils will cease to exist. If Kent is not fast tracked this will happen by 2028.

6. **CHAIR'S REPORT**

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

- Reported that the Member for Parliament Surgery which took place on the 24th of January was very well attended.
- He will be present at the Dymchurch 10k on Sunday and encouraged other members to attend if they are able.
- The Public Meeting to discuss water quality and flooding has been set for 19th March 2025. Any additional attendees that are required please notify the Clerk.

7. **MEMBER REPORTS**

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

Cllr. V. McCreedy:

Gave a full update on recent Highways Matters a summary of her report follows:

The full report can be obtained from the Parish Clerk

KCC has determined that the proposed site does not meet the criteria for fixed or mobile speed cameras, requiring enforcement from Kent Police instead. Regular patrolling is expected to deter speeding.

Alternative road safety measures include installing 40mph roundels alongside existing repeater signs. A rough proposal has been drafted, awaiting parish feedback. A request for 20mph roundels in the High Street (including the school area) is under consideration.

KCC Councillor Jenni Hawkins was taken on a site visit to assess problem areas, including Botolph's Bridge Rd, Donkey St, Hythe Rd bends, Kingsway Estate, and the A259. Key concerns raised included:

- Narrow roads blocking emergency access when A259 traffic is diverted.
- Poor visibility at junctions, supporting a 30mph speed limit.
- Seasonal increases in traffic affecting pedestrian and vehicle safety.
- The high cost of a proposed crossing, potentially fundable through the High Knocke development.

Cllr. Hawkins committed to prioritizing road repairs, improving signage, allocating £1,600 to Dymchurch Highways Improvements, and arranging a meeting with KCC officers. She will also investigate the speed camera panel. A request is made for district council support, emphasizing that speed cameras are more cost-effective than police patrols.

Cllr. A. Pegler

Reported information from a recent Village Hall Meeting.

- It had been noted that a salt bin and slat will be supplied for the Carpark
- A request for access to the pump to deal with flooding at the weekend has been made
- A new kitchen is being installed for users of the hall
- Updated that the Knitters and Stitchers had reached their target for items made to be sent to Africa.

8. CLERK'S UPDATE

- High Street Maintenance: White lines refreshed; deep cleaning request under consideration by the District Council.
- Public Meeting: Village Hall booked for 19th March 2025 to discuss seawater quality and flooding.
- CCTV & Webcam: Kiosk CCTV upgraded—Webcam repaired and receiving positive public feedback.
- Annual Audit: Scheduled for 3rd May 2025.
- Kiosk Power & Food Loss: Issue noted and under review. After the latest installation of CCTV, it was noted that the power had gone off to the kiosk resulting in the loss of approximately £480.00 of food from a freezer. We are investigating this but would request that as a gesture of good will that we reimburse through a rent rebate the cost of the food to the kiosk owners.

- CPR Training Interest: Three individuals and Dymchurch WI have expressed interest in training sessions.
It was suggested that contact is made with the WI to see if the members of the public could join with them one evening for training.
- Devolution Proposals: Letter sent to KALC expressing concerns over assumptions made about Parish Councils. KALC assures they are monitoring developments—more details available on their website.
- Path Clearance reported: Two locations have been reported- The Fairway and steps leading from A259 up to Seawall near to junction with Kingsway.

9. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES:

KCC Councillor – Jenni Hawkins

- Thanked Cllr V McCreedy for Highways report and agrees with its contents. Also, for a site visit carried out recently to highlight the issues
- Will be meeting with KCC’s Kieran Doble on 5th March to further discuss these issues.
- Has finally obtained an update form Orbit housing for the replacement of play equipment within their park.
- Noted that an update on the park at Wraightsfield Avenue is required.
- The section 19 flood investigation for Uden Road will be completed by the spring. It appears that during the investigations other matters became apparent which has required additional work.

ii. District Councillors – Tony Cooper/Tony Hills

Cllr Tony Cooper provided an update- a summary follows.

- The District Council awaits a government response on Kent’s fast-track devolution request.
- Parish Councils will receive support as they take on more responsibilities.
- £8,000 from the Rural England Prosperity Fund has been spent, and the scheme is now closed.
- A £250k Green Community Grant Scheme has been approved, offering grants of £1k-£20k to community groups and parish councils.
- A new Monitoring Officer and deputy service heads have been appointed.
- The Planning Committee has rejected Roger De Haan’s application for 400+ houses on the Harbour Arm.
- Plans for a new committee system were reversed, maintaining the current cabinet-led system.
- Southern Water and the Environment Agency held talks on poor bathing water quality, with further meetings planned.
- Community panels are being set up to help influence Southern Water’s future investments.
- Car parking charges will rise from April as part of budget setting, with council tax figures to be finalised soon.
- Discussions have been held on street lighting and name plates for private roads.

District Cllr Tony Hills provided a written report which covered issues across the Marsh. The report can be obtained from the Parish Clerk.

iii. KCC Warden – Carol Coveney

The Parish Council welcomed Carol as our new KCC Warden. Carol explained her role and that she covered areas on the Marsh but also Folkestone Harbour ward. The KCC Warden budget has been cut by half, and they are now focused on the most vulnerable in the community working with partner agencies to support these people.

iv. Kent Police – PC James Hockless

Council Business:

10. TO DEAL WITH MATTERS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE IN CIRCULATION

a. Concerns Over Sea Water Testing and Beach Rating

Mark Woolls from Dymchurch Amusement Park expresses concern about the impact of poor sea water quality ratings on local businesses. He refers to a recent Kent Online article highlighting fears of financial hardship due to the swimming ban. He is exploring independent water testing and asks if the Parish Council has relevant contacts or suggestions, as annual testing is inadequate.

ACTION- Mr Woolls will be invited to attend the public meeting to be held in March.

b. Appreciation for the Parish Newsletter

Terry Preston thanks the Parish Council for its newsletter, acknowledging its value in keeping residents informed. He recalls initiating a similar report during his 30-year tenure as a councillor and emphasises the importance of public communication.

NOTED

c. Road Safety Concerns at The Fairway

A resident expresses frustration over Kent County Council's (KCC) response to concerns about road safety on The Fairway. The resident finds KCC's plan to monitor pedestrian activity in March inadequate, arguing that traffic dangers persist year-round. They urge the Parish Council to push for a pedestrian crossing or speed cameras, stating that a speed limit alone will not be sufficient.

Noted and this will be considered with the work being done by Cllr V McCreedy and KCC Cllr Jenni Hawkins.

d. FHDC Parking Order Notification

Notice is hereby given that FOLKESTONE & HYTHE DISTRICT COUNCIL proposes the above Order under sections 32, 35 and 35c of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (“the Act”), having obtained the consent of Kent County Council in accordance with Section 39 (3) of the Act, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 of the Act. The Order proposes to extend the chargeable hours from 8am-6pm to 8am-8pm, all days, during the period 1st April–30th September in the following car parks: This includes the central and Martello Carparks in Dymchurch.

NOTED

11. HANGING BASKETS 2025

Decision to be made on purchase of hanging baskets from Canterbury Oast Trust

It was agreed unanimously that hanging baskets would be purchased for the High Street.

12. COMMUNITY GRANT – FRIENDS OF DYMCHURCH RECREATION GROUND

To consider a grant for the VE Day event.

After discussion a vote was taken to agree to the donation for the community event for VE DAY 80.

VOTES FOR- 5

AGAINST-0

ABSTAIN-1

INTEREST DECLARED-1

CARRIED

13. VE DAY COMMEMORATIONS

To consider the Parish Council’s involvement with the proposed national event.

It was agreed that the Council would arrange a flag raising ceremony on the morning of VE Day 80 and for the beacon to be lit. These events will take place in line with the national timings which will be advertised.

14. PAVILION UPDATE

Cllr. McCreedy updated members that the planning application was awaiting a final decision. He is looking for a suitable quantity surveyor who will then be able to cost the project. This will be presented to the Parish Council at a later date.

15. FLOODING CONCERNS –

No additional details for Uden Road apart from that mentioned within these minutes.

Cllr. V. McCreedy informed the meeting that Southern water had completed their mis connections report for the Sands Estate and will be contacting the offending households.

16. **PLANNING**

No applications received at time issuing agenda.

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.

Payments shown at appendix 1 agreed for payment.

c. Additional items requiring authorisation:

i. Seawall Gym Skier Replacement of repair

Members reviewed two quotes for replacement of skier at the slipway and voted unanimously for Sunshine Gym's quote.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

3rd March 2025- 7pm Parish Council Offices 13 Orgarswick Avenue Dymchurch