

Newington (Folkestone and Hythe) Parish Council

Parish Council Meeting held at The Barn, Newington
on Monday 8 July 2019

MINUTES

01 Present

Councillors: Kevin Golding (Vice-Chairman)
Sue Smith
Robin Peters
Craig Watt-Peters
Christine Barnett (Chairman Lyminge Parish Council)
Clerk: Melvyn Twycross

Apologies Councillor John Neale (Chairman)
KCC Councillor Susan Carey
District Councillor David Godfrey

Councillor Golding chaired the meeting

02 To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI) and Other Significant Interests (OSI) relating to items on the agenda.

A member who declares a DPI in relation to any item on the agenda will need to leave the meeting for the whole of that item and will not be able to speak or take part unless a relevant Dispensation has been granted. A member who declares an OSI will be able to speak on the item but will be required to leave the meeting for the vote.

Councillor Golding declared an interest (OSI) in Item 08 on the Agenda

03 HGV usage of A2/A20 link via Elham Valley Road

Christine Barnett, the Chairman of Lyminge Parish Council addressed the meeting to explain that on a number of occasions recently the A2 had been closed resulting in TIR lorries using the Elham Valley Road as an alternative route to the Channel Tunnel and Dover. There is also evidence that satnavs used by some of the vehicles are directing TIR and other HGVs to the Channel Tunnel via the Elham Valley Road. The Elham Valley Road linking the A2 and A20 is unclassified and, except for access, is unsuitable for heavy goods vehicles. Overnight parking of TIRs has also been a problem in Barham and Breach. Barham Parish Council are co-ordinating an initiative to request that KCC erect appropriate signing to deter usage by TIRs and are seeking support from all parish councils along the route. Councillors were unanimous in their support of the initiative and asked the Clerk to contact Barham Parish Council.

04 Agree and sign the minutes of the following Parish Council Meetings:

- a) Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on 20 May 2019
- b) Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 24 June 2019


The above minutes were **agreed** as a true and accurate record of the meetings and signed by the Chairman.

05 Matters arising from the previous meetings

None

06 Open session

No members of the public were present

- 07 Reports from Kent County Councillor Susan Carey and Folkestone & Hythe District Councillor David Godfrey**
Both councillors apologised for not being able to attend the meeting due to other commitments, but submitted written reports that were read out at the meeting. These reports can be found in Appendix A and B attached to these minutes.
- 08 Grounds Maintenance Contract**
A discussion took place concerning the timings for cutting the church bank where it borders The Street. If cut too early in the season it would inhibit the growth of wild flowers. It was agreed to discuss this matter with the grounds maintenance contractor with a view to amending the contract for next year.
- 09 Polling District Review**
Councillors had no comments to make.
- 10 Update of Parish Council Standing Orders**
The Clerk has compiled and circulated the updated Parish Council's Standing Orders. Their formal adoption will be in the form of an affirmative motion to be included in the agenda of the next Parish Council Meeting.
- 11 Planning**
Regarding the Peene housing development, a site meeting has been arranged for Friday 12 July 2019 with Hume Planning to discuss concerns with the proposed layout of the development and priority of tenure of affordable housing units by local people. Councillors Kevin Golding and Craig Watt-Peters will attend on behalf of the Parish Council
- 12 Parish Councils website**
The Clerk explained that the parish council's website would be more accessible if a domain name was used. Local government bodies are permitted to register websites using the .gov.uk suffix. To avoid confusion with Newington in the Borough of Swale, it was agreed to apply for a domain name of newingtonandpeenepc.gov.uk.
- 13 Finance**
a) The Financial Statement (see Appendix C) was reviewed and the payments detailed therein were **agreed**.
b) The Clerk has compiled and circulated the updated Parish Council's Finance Regulations. Their formal adoption will be in the form of an affirmative motion to be included in the agenda of the next Parish Council Meeting.
- 14 Date of next meeting**
9 September 2019 at 7.00pm in The Barn
- 15 Close of meeting**
The meeting closed at 8.55pm
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APPENDIX A

Report from Kent County Councillor Susan Carey

KCC currently has two consultations running which we'd like your views on as both a parish council and individuals. The first is the 'Energy and Low Emissions Strategy' which is a joint strategy with Medway council which aims to make Kent carbon neutral by 2050. This means reducing emissions to zero, eliminating poor air quality, reducing fuel poverty and delivering an affordable, clean and secure energy supply for Kent and Medway. The consultation is open till September 23. To take part visit

www.kent.gov.uk/energyandlowemissionsconsultation

The second consultation is on the Kent Biodiversity Strategy which is about the restoration and creation of habitats for wildlife and plants. It has a 25-year timeframe with delivery planned on a five-year basis with reviews to ensure the targets are still relevant. The consultation runs until 01 September at

<https://consultations.kent.gov.uk/consult.ti/Kentbiodiversityconsultation/consultationHome>

On the same theme we are considering progress on what's called 'Kent's Plan Bee' at our council meeting on Thursday. Kent is home to five of the UK's seven rarest bumblebee species making it the most important county in the UK for bumblebee species diversity. There's already a lot of work under way but the next stage of the plan looks at using more of KCC owned land to provide forage and habitat for pollinators, to use the planning system to do the same and have a campaign to raise awareness of the importance of pollinators and what we as individuals can do to help.

A considerable amount of preparation work was done in expectation of Brexit taking place at the end of March. Now there is a new deadline of 31 October, the various working groups and contingency plans are being reinstated with KCC working with partners such as Kent Police, the District Councils, Kent Fire & Rescue etc.

When I was last with you there was discussion about Operation Brock and the continued use of the barrier on the London bound M20 and the 50mph speed restriction. KCC Leader Paul Carter has written to Chris Grayling to press the case for this to be removed until needed and he has also added a protest about Highways England are dealing with roadworks on the M2 which KCC believes should be done with partial closures and shorter hours over a longer period. The KCC Cabinet Member for Highways has also written to Highways England about the M20 closures which have also been imposed with little thought for their impact on the KCC Highways network.

APPENDIX B

Report from Folkestone and Hythe District Councillor David Godfrey

Gas Safety Certificates

You will have read reports about the failure of a Contractor to East Kent Housing to comply with its obligations to provide Landlord Gas Certificates. I can confirm that FHDC acted promptly to ensure that all outstanding Certificates were completed by the end of June, a full investigation is ongoing and a report will be brought to the Councils Scrutiny Committee on 16th July 2019.

Hoarding and Bed Blocking

FHDC is using some of its Disabled Facilities Grant fund to pay for two specialist caseworkers to help residents with hoarding issues, and another to make sure people who have been treated in hospital can return home when they are well. All too often, patients' discharge is delayed because their homes need minor adaptations to help them manage better and stay well. Both projects are delivered in partnership with Peabody home improvement

Rough Sleepers.

A team will continue working with rough sleepers across the district thanks to funding from Folkestone & Hythe District Council.

Staff from Sanctuary Supported Living will go out to places where homeless people sleep to check on them and encourage them to access the support available to get off the streets for go

Folkestone & Hythe's Accelerated Delivery Board

Folkestone & Hythe District Council will fast track their regeneration plans for the town centre, following the announcement today that the Folkestone Debenhams store will close.

The Council has been working for some time with Ellandi, the owners of Bouverie Place and the owner of the Debenhams store, on exciting plans to regenerate Folkestone town centre. The intention was to commence consultation on these plans in the coming months, but the announcement that Debenhams will be closing in 2020 has given the Council and their partners an opportunity to accelerate this work.

Over the coming weeks Folkestone & Hythe's Accelerated Delivery Board, of which I am a Member will share some of the early ideas for the future use of the Debenhams building and how it can continue to play a part in Folkestone's renaissance as a modern seaside town, with fantastic transport links and a thriving economy.

Tall Ships

I was fortunate to have been invited to the sailing of TS Pelican on 7th July. which is the culmination of three weekend exchanges in which Students from both sides of the Channel joined forces as part of a project promoting cross-border collaboration and building self-esteem.

The youngsters set sail on a five-day voyage for Boulogne from Folkestone Harbour Arm, arriving in time to join the French Festival of the Sea on 11 July

Ward Budget

I am pleased to have awarded £500 from my Ward budget to help St Nicholas Church to go towards the excellent work being done to repair the Church wall.

Cllr David Godfrey
Cabinet Member for Housing, Transport and Special Projects

APPENDIX C

NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL **Financial Statement as at 8 July 2019**

The following invoices are due for payment:

Payee	Purpose	Value
Folkestone & Hythe DC	Election charges	56.11
Melvyn Twycross	Clerk's salary (June 2019)	233.55
HMRC	PAYE	58.20
Grigg & Partners	Grounds maintenance	180.00
Melvyn Twycross	Ink cartridge and copy paper	17.45

Bank balance as at 8 July 2019 = £7,727.55