



Minutes of the Dymchurch Parish Council held at 7pm on Monday 2nd October 2023 at the Parish Council Offices Orgarswick Avenue Dymchurch

MINUTES

Present:

Cllr D Young (Chair)
Cllr A Pegler
Cllr V McCreedy

Cllr C McCreedy (Vice Chair)
Cllr A Weatherhead

Cllr M Wright
Cllr C Cooper

Also in attendance:

Mr J Lawrence (Parish Clerk), KCC Councillor J Hawkins, District Cllr T Cooper and two 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. L. Finch- Illness
Cllr. C. Young- Illness

Reasons for absence accepted by members present.

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 4th of September 2023 to be agreed by members present.

Proposed for acceptance by Cllr C McCreedy and seconded by Cllr C Cooper- The minutes 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. This is however, at the discretion of the chair. At the end of the Public Participation section the Council meeting will resume.

Representatives from the Dymchurch Dippers (A sea bathing group) highlighted the concerns of the lack of communication regarding seawater quality. The issue is not the published

information in the government website but the timeliness of this information being available for people to make an informed decision about entering the sea.

The following questions were asked.

Why does it take so long for test results from the environment agency to be published?

Can additional tests be carried out during the bathing season (perhaps two a week)

Can more local information be published at the beach entrance for visitors.

The chair moved agenda item 13 for discussion-

Members agreed that the timeliness of publishing water quality test results was not good. It was also agreed that the way this information was publicised must be balanced between educating the public and causing undue concern. So clear understanding of tests results must be expressed.

The following was agreed for actions by the Clerk:

1. Write to the environment agency to request additional testing takes place during bathing season.
2. Write to the environment agency to ask for an explanation as to why there is a delay between the date of the testing and the publishing of the results.
3. To investigate the use of electronic real time information signage at the main beach entrance.
4. To investigate options for self-testing of seawater during bathing season using Parish Council employed staff.

Members then considered the draft "Dymchurch Parish Council Water Quality Reporting and Communication Policy".

It was agreed that some adjustments to the wording of this policy were required to underline the concerns around scaremongering with published pollution levels. This was therefore adjourned to a future meeting.

5. CHAIRMANS REPORT

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

- a. Cllr V McCreedy was welcomed and congratulated on her recent election to the Parish Council.
- b. It was noted that the main District carpark was often seen to have discarded nappies and other litter. It was asked that the District Council waste and recycling department were contacted to highlight this.
- c. Members were asked to be vigilant about the rise of graffiti appearing in the village. A request was to take pictures of the tags and graffiti and send to the Parish Clerk for forwarding to the Community Safety Unit at the District Council

6. MEMBER REPORTS

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

Cllr C Cooper-

Reported attendance at the Marsh Forum on 28th September with the following:

- a. Kent Crime Commissioner Matthew Scott was in attendance.

- b. A named police officer PC Will Norman would now be covering our area.
- c. He will be holding regular surgeries and using Parish Council Offices as a base for reports and meeting people.
- d. A regular magazine "Rural Matters" is published due to a rise in rural crime and connected with this is a WhatsApp group that people can join to get updates. Rural matters can be accessed here [Rural Matters magazine | Kent Police](#)
- e. There is a new initiative to ensure victims are aware of their rights called Victim Voice more details can be found here [Victim Voice \(kent-pcc.gov.uk\)](#)

Cllr C McCreedy- Reported that the work to the Stone Bench outside the main toilet block is due to start on 6th November.

7. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

a. KCC COUNCILLOR

- I. Concerns have been raised regarding the funding cuts which might affect the Romney marsh community hub.
- II. The family hub consultation which includes Dymchurch children's centre has been concluded however no decisions have been made about its closure.
- III. The resurfacing of the A259 between Lyndhurst Road and Burmarsh Rd is due to commence on Thursday the 4th of October.
- IV. £1500 pounds has been awarded from the members grant to Dymchurch primary school for their sensory garden.
- V. Further inquiries have been made about the proposed pedestrian crossing near to the school. The KCC have asked if areas can be identified where people do cross the main road for school to be passed to the KCC and they will consider carrying out further surveys.

The Clerk was instructed to contact the Primary School to ascertain information about crossing areas.

b. DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr T Cooper reported as follows- Full report can be obtained from the Clerk.
District Councillor Tony Cooper's Report - Dymchurch Parish Council, October 2023

- 1. The Marshlands Barrier awaits a political decision on its future.
- 2. Box junction markings near the Sea Anglers Hut are delayed but expected to be completed soon.
- 3. Streetlight issues are being discussed to find a resolution.
- 4. Requests for replacing rusting Litter Bins have been made, and further issues should be reported to the district council.
- 5. A sign directing drivers to park in St Marys Bay is expected to be installed in Martello Car Park by mid-October to reduce village congestion.
- 6. The Rural Prosperity Fund will launch, offering grants for projects focusing on employment and carbon neutrality.
- 7. Councillor Cooper proposed displaying bathing water quality at the beachside for safety.
- 8. He raised concerns about shop restrictions during good weather and extending business hours for locals and visitors.
- 9. The district council is exploring funding for future Parish and Town Council By-Elections.

10. Councillor Cooper seeks to attract visitors to local beaches and attractions, inviting the Cabinet Member for Tourism to meet with the Parish Council.
11. He joined the Romney Marsh Partnership (RMP), working on initiatives such as a community replacement bus service and a High Street scheme.
12. Councillor Cooper attended various meetings, advocating for public consultation on the Former Sands Motel and other matters.
13. He voted against setting aside £1.5m for potential redundancy costs due to lack of details.
14. Councillor Cooper requested participation in Design Review Panels and called for the local Ice Cream Shop's opening hours to be decided by the Planning Committee.
15. The Ward Budget Scheme for this year has been allocated and will reopen in the next financial year.

Councillor Cooper is available for assistance and holds regular surgeries in St Mary's Bay, St Mary in the Marsh, and Dymchurch without the need for an appointment.

As a result of this report the Clerk was instructed as follows –
to request a meeting with Cllr Holgate to discuss tourism matters for the Village.
To circulate the Polling Station review issued by the District Council.

c. KCC WARDEN

No report this month

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

Summary of Correspondence Received by the Parish Council:

1. A concerned resident inquired about the maintenance responsibility for gym equipment on the slipway, as it urgently requires servicing due to excessive noise disturbance during the summer. They requested guidance on whom to contact for addressing this issue.

Members were informed that a new part for the equipment has been ordered and will be replaced as soon as possible.

2. The Metropolitan Police have requested permission to conduct a training session on the beach, involving officers and horses from the Mounted branch. No specific date was mentioned in this correspondence.

Noted

3. The Marine Conservation Society has scheduled a beach clean for Sunday, September 24th. This event is presumably intended to help maintain the cleanliness of the local beach.

Noted

4. KCC Councillor Tony Hills contacted the council regarding damage to the Seawall Structure. He mentioned that repairs are already in progress and are being handled by the Environment Agency (EA).

Noted

5. A resident has lodged a complaint about overgrown trees at Marshlands. It was noted that this issue will be addressed during an upcoming meeting with the District Council, specifically related to verge and planting management.

Noted

6. A request has been made from the Licensee of the Kiosk for an extension in their licence- This will be considered at a later meeting as the letter was submitted outside of the time for agenda items.
7. A request has been made for the use of the Recreation Ground for football Training-
This will be dealt with by the Parish Clerk
8. A request has been received from the WI to decorate the War Memorial for Remembrance Day with knitted poppies- This will be referred to the Remembrance Day organisers for them to make the decision.

These are the key points from the correspondence received by the Parish Council, covering various matters related to the community and its amenities.

9. CLERKS REPORT INCLUDING UPDATE

1. **Continuing Enquiries Regarding Land at Highknock and Marshlands for Allotments:** It has been discovered that the land in question is jointly owned by the District Council. Discussions are underway regarding the possibility of using this land for allotments. A detailed update will be provided in a subsequent meeting.
2. **Missing Signs at the Slipway:** An update has been received regarding the missing signs at the Slipway. The delay in installation is due to pending final connections at the development. The Clerk has expedited the payment for this project.
3. **Changes to Parking Outside the Angling Club:** The requested changes to parking outside the Angling Club have been successfully implemented. The Council has received a letter of gratitude from the club for its support.
4. **Revenue from Charging Points in Village Hall Carpark:** A request has been made for an update on the revenue generated from the charging points in the Village Hall Carpark. As of now, there has been no response to this inquiry.
5. **Request for Disabled Access to the Beach:** An informal request has been made to the Environment Agency regarding disabled access to the sand level of the beach. The response from the agency indicates an acknowledgment of the issue and a willingness to collaborate. The Parish Council may take responsibility for clearing and cleaning in the future. Additionally, plans are in place to acquire beach wheelchairs for disabled individuals.
6. **Response to High Knocke Developers:** The Council has sent a reply to the High Knocke developers rejecting their offer of a private meeting. As of now, no response has been received from the company.
7. **Named Neighbourhood Police Officer:** The Council now has a named Neighbourhood Police Officer, and arrangements are being made for a meeting. A Police Surgery is scheduled for October 26th at 10 am.

Update on Actions:

1. A refund has been completed to the Friends of Dymchurch Recreation for the flood survey.
2. The Events Working Group has created terms of engagement.
3. Planning comments have been submitted for 37 High Street and Salbris Close.

4. Awaiting a meeting date for discussions with the District Council Grounds Maintenance team.
 5. The removal of wooden posts (formerly Sandpit) is an ongoing project.
 6. Quotes for dropped kerbs have been requested (see agenda item).
 7. Quotes are to be obtained for height barriers at the Recreation Ground, and this is an ongoing process.
 8. The Remembrance Day planner has been updated regarding Parish Council support.
 9. Contact has been made regarding the retention of the phone box at Chapel Road.
- The Clerk will continue to monitor and update on these actions as necessary. Further details and progress will be discussed in upcoming meetings.

10. PLANNING

REFERENCE	ADDRESS	DETAILS	Comments
23/1327/FH	32 High Knocke, Dymchurch, Romney Marsh, TN29 0QD	Render finish to all elevations as part of installation of external wall insulation system	No Objections Carried unanimously
23/1331/FH	14 Salbris Close, Dymchurch, Romney Marsh, TN29 0HW	Proposed rear single storey extension and addition of two dormer windows to existing garage roof.	No objections Carried Unanimously
23/1211/FH	18 Tower Estate, Dymchurch, Romney Marsh, TN29 0TN	Change of use of land for permanent siting of static caravan	Objections: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No details provided regarding flood risk. 2. No identification given as to how foul waste will be dealt with at the site. 3. Although the request is for a static caravan there is no indication as to the intended use of the structure.

11. TO ACCEPT THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE EVENTS WORKING GROUP.

The terms of reference for creating an event working group were accepted by members present. The Clerk will publish the terms on the Parish Council Website.

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

Member heard that the final plans had been completed for the proposed Pavilion having considered suggestions made at pre-planning. This includes a contingency to deal with the potential presence of bats (still under investigation). The proposed plans can be viewed by contacting the Parish Clerk.

It was agreed that the date of the submission of the plans needs to be notified to the Parish council so that they can closely monitor the time being taken for a decision on the project.

13. SEAWATER QUALITY- MEMBERS WILL CONSIDER HOW THE PARISH COUNCIL WILL RESPOND TO WATER QUALITY SAMPLES TAKEN AT DYMCHURCH BEACH.

See above.

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 1 for details- The payments were approved by members present and will be authorised online.

c. Additional items requiring authorisation.

i. REPLACEMENTS BUS SHELTERS A259 JUNCTION WITH MARINE AVENUE
Members agreed that both shelters should be replaced- and that the quote from GW Shelter Solutions should be approved on a like for like basis.

ii. INSTALLATION OF DROPPED KERB MEMORIAL GARDEN MAIN SLIPWAY
DYMCHURCH
Matter adjourned to confirm some details within the quote from one of the suppliers.

iii. REPAIRS TO ROOF OF PAVILION
Adjourned as awaiting final quotes for work.

15. TO CONSIDER OPTIONS FOR THE JUNCTION OF ST ANNES ROAD AT ITS JUNCTION WITH MILL ROAD.

The Clerk reported that this matter has been passed to the District Council as they are responsible for the junction- It was noted that the location is wrong and should read St Annes Road Junction with Eastbridge Road.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING- To be held on Monday 6th November 2023 at 7pm at the Parish Council Offices Orgarswick Avenue Dymchurch.

Noted-

There being no other business the meeting was closed at 2130 hours.

APPENDIX 1

List of payments-

Dymchurch Parish Council
PAYMENTS (AWAITING AUTHORISATION) LIST

Voucher Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Cheque No	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
193	25/09/2023		Unity Trust Bank		CCTV Monitoring	Ashford Borough Council	S	1,283.57	256.71	1,540.28
195	01/10/2023		Unity Trust Bank		Rates	Folkestone & Hythe District C	X	4,734.00		4,734.00
196	27/09/2023		Unity Trust Bank		Enforcement	Folkestone & Hythe District C	S	214.28	42.86	257.14
Total								6,231.85	299.57	6,531.42

In addition-
 Grass Cutting – M Coleman £681.00
 Staff Salaries GROSS- £2656.17

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