



Minutes of the Dymchurch Parish Council held at 7pm on Monday 6th November 2023 at the Parish Council Offices Orgarswick Avenue Dymchurch

MINUTES

Present- Cllr. D Young (Chair) Cllr. C McCreedy (Vice Chair) Cllr C Young
 Cllr .M Wright Cllr. A. Weatherhead Cllr. L Finch
 Cllr. V McCreedy Cllr. C Cooper Cllr. A. Pegler

Also in attendance: Mr J Lawrence (Parish Clerk) District Councillor T Cooper- and 4 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.

No apologies all 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. **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.

Members heard from members of the public present expressing their objections to the proposed planning application 23/1384/FH-

As a result of their comments, it was agreed to hear Item 9 planning application 23/1384/FH regarding 18 Seawall Dymchurch –

After discussion a vote was taken to object to the application on the following grounds- (the full objection can be viewed at the District Council's Planning website

- a. Flood risk
- b. Highway safety
- c. Reduction in the visual amenity in the area.
- d. Concerns of a rise in noise and antisocial behaviour

It was also not clear to members as to the exact use of the premises as the application included an office. Members also asked for the matter to be called into the Planning Committee-

VOTE:

For objection- 7

Against Objection- 0

Abstain-2

The Clerk was instructed to contact the planning department.

- 4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING-** held on the 2nd of October 2023 to be agreed by members present.

Proposed for acceptance by Cllr Weatherhead and seconded by Cllr Cooper and duly signed by the Chair.

- 5. To receive the minutes of the Assets and Amenities Committee of the 24th of October and consider any recommendations- See item 18.**

The minutes of the Assets and Amenities Committee were noted by members- Recommendations will be heard at item 18-

Cllr C Young requested that the Christmas Carol event is published in the next newsletter.

- 6. To Receive the minutes of the Beach Advisory Group Meeting of the 30th of October 2023 and consider any recommendations.**

The minutes of the Beach Advisory Group Meeting were noted- No recommendations received.

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

From Sally Cook of the Friends of Dymchurch Recreation Ground Charity

Members are working on a planning application, with an update expected on Monday. There are 5 new trustees joining the charity, and they will be fully onboarded in a couple of weeks. The charity's shop is doing well, with upcoming events, including an indoor boot fair this weekend and a Christmas event in December. The next project is to set up a website for the charity to facilitate direct donations and promote their projects.

It was noted that more volunteers are needed to keep the Charity Shop open as much as possible.

- 8. APPOINTMENT TO THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES: Due to the changes in Councillors since the election this year membership of committees is to be reviewed and agreed.**

The following Councillors were appointed as follows:

- a. Personnel Committee

Cllr D Young, Cllr V McCreedy, Cllr C Young, Cllr C McCreedy and Cllr A Weatherhead

- b. Assets and Amenities Committee
Cllr D Young, Cllr V McCreedy, Cllr L Finch, Cllr M Wright, Cllr C Young and Cllr C McCreedy.
- c. Shepway Area Committee and Planning User Group
Cllr A Weatherhead.
- d. Village Hall Committee
Cllr. C Young and Cllr. A Pegler
- e. Marsh Forum
Cllr. C. Cooper and Cllr. A Weatherhead
- f. Pavilion Working Group
Cllr. C McCreedy, Cllr D Young, Cllr M Wright and Cllr C Young.
- g. Beach Advisory Group
Cllr D Young, Cllr C McCreedy, Cllr A Pegler, Cllr A Pegler, and Cllr L Finch
- h. Policy Advisory Group
This is a virtual group with all members included.

9. PLANNING

REFERENCE	ADDRESS	DETAILS	Comments
23/1384/FH	18 Sea Wall, Dymchurch, Romney Marsh, TN29 0LS	New build for holiday tourism accommodation	See above for comments
23/1674/FH	37 Tartane Lane, Dymchurch, Romney Marsh, TN29 0LJ	Erection of bike store in front garden	No Objections
23/1631/FH/NMA	13 Sycamore Gardens, Dymchurch, Romney Marsh, TN29 0LA	Nonmaterial amendment to planning permission 23/0168/FH to allow for creation of sunroom/boot room and enclosing porch area	Noted
23/1508/FH	11 Hind Close, Dymchurch, Romney Marsh, TN29 0LG	Two storey rear extension, first floor side & front extensions	No Objections
23/1614/FH	15 Tudor Avenue, Dymchurch,	Ground floor extension and alterations	No Objections

	Romney Marsh, TN29 0LT		
23/1506/FH	42 High Knocke, Dymchurch, Romney Marsh, TN29 0QD	Removal of dilapidated flat roof and the construction of pitched roof with rooms in front dormer and rear balcony together with single storey rear extension	No Objections
23/1457/FH	34 St Marys Road, Dymchurch, Romney Marsh TN29 0PN	Variation of Condition 11 (external finishing materials) of Planning Permission 21/0173/FH to allow for changes to materials	No Objections
23/1630/FH	17 Charles Cobb Close, Dymchurch, Romney Marsh, TN29 0JQ	Proposed Single Storey Rear Extension	No Objections
23/1378/FH	13 Sycamore Gardens, Dymchurch, Romney Marsh, TN29 0LA	Part retrospective alterations to the roof and extension to existing garage to form a carport	No Objections
23/1523/FH	Amelia House, 32 St Marys Road, Dymchurch, Romney Marsh, TN29 0PN	A 3000mm x 2475mm rear single storey extension to create a new separate utility room with Green Roof.	No Objections

10. CHAIRMANS REPORT

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

- Confirmed attendance at the Remembrance Day Service to lay a wreath on behalf of the Parish Council
- Requested an update on the request for the Christmas tree purchase for Dymchurch Primary School

The Clerk was instructed to contact the School regarding the Christmas tree purchase.

11. MEMBER REPORTS

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

Cllr Pegler made the following comments having spoken to residents:

- Renewed request for a bus shelter at The Fairway-
- Concerns about overgrowing vegetation which is reducing the pavement width along the main road near the fairway.
- Concerns raised that residents are not being made aware of flood alerts-

The Clerk was instructed to:

- confirm whether the request for a bus shelter had been rejected.
- To request path clearances at the location
- To advertise how residents can obtain flood alerts through the Government Website.

Cllr C McCreedy reported as follows:

- The recent Twinning Association visit went well and plans for St Mary's Bay twinning association to work with Dymchurch to boost fund raising are in progress.
- Work has commenced at the main toilet block with the construction of a circular bench.

12. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

a. KCC COUNCILLOR

- Apologies for missing tonight's meeting.
- Contacted Orbit (housing association) about Country's Field play park equipment. Requested replacement of equipment and suggested a basket swing and a slide. Just awaiting authorisation
- Willing to help with issues related to flooding in Dymchurch, including unblocking drains and following up on reported problems.

b. DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Here is the summary of the District Councillor's report to Dymchurch Parish Council for November 2023: The full report can be obtained from the Parish Clerk

1. Streetlight issues are still pending action from others, but the Councillor is actively working on resolving them.
2. The district council has implemented a protocol to assist homeless residents during storms, and it now operates from day one.
3. A community group received a ward grant.
4. The Councillor is awaiting instructions on the availability of Parish Councillors for a visit from the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Tourism.
5. The Councillor supported an application to extend the opening hours of a local ice cream business, which was successful.
6. There is a pending application regarding the seawall, and the Councillor will inform the planning committee if needed.
7. Concerns about the lack of the street sweeping service by Veolia have been noted, and there is an action plan in place to address this issue.
8. The Rural Prosperity Fund offers grants for employment and green policy projects, and the Councillor is willing to support and assist projects in Dymchurch.
9. The district council is undergoing a budget-setting process. The new council faces a medium-term budget shortfall, and difficult decisions will be necessary. Community input is encouraged in the budget-setting process.

12. The District Councillor remains available for further assistance and holds regular surgeries in different locations.

It was noted by members that Cllr Liz Grant does not appear to be engaging with the Parish Council-

The Clerk was instructed to investigate this matter.

c. KENT POLICE- PC PUTLAND

Pc. Putland was unable to attend but he is now our named police officer for Dymchurch and the surrounding area. He has carried out his first surgery at the Council Offices and now has access as and when he requires it so should be seen out and about by the community.

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

A brief Summary of correspondence received by the Council since the last meeting-

- a. Roundabout Repairs Recreation Ground: The email mentions missing retaining bolts in the centre cover plate of the roundabout at the recreation area. This implies that there is a maintenance issue with the roundabout that needs attention.
- a. Bison Project Survey: Kent Wildlife Trust and Wildwood Trust have introduced bison to improve woodland management, starting at The Blean. The council is invited to provide feedback on the project through an anonymous survey. If you require the link to take part, please contact the Clerk.
- b. Bathing Water Quality Update: The Leader of the District Council reports on the expected beach bathing water classifications, which indicate a 'poor' rating for St. Mary's Bay and a downgrade from 'good' to 'poor' for Littlestone and Dymchurch.
- b. The council is seeking information on the reasons for the deterioration and its implications. Please see agenda item 16.
- a. Tagging on Lower Sea Wall: Concerns are raised about graffiti tagging along the Lower Sea Wall, with a request for a reference number for reporting and prompt removal by professional graffiti teams. -
- b. Flood Risk for Caravan: The council receives information regarding flood risk associated with a caravan. - The Council have received a follow up letter from the applicant for the Caravan to be placed as a holiday home after objecting to the application last month- The Clerk has responded to the applicant.
- c. KALC Annual Meeting: Details about the KALC Annual Meeting are shared, suggesting that the Chair and Vice Chair of the council should attend as representatives, but it can be offered to other council members if they are unavailable.
- d. Woodland Trust Project Confirmation: A local resident named Sue Dobson informs the council that they have received confirmation about sapling trees for planting in replacement of trees outside the village hall, as approved by Jeff Lawrence, Clerk to the Parish Council.
- e. Potholes by Martello Tower: Concerns are raised about potholes near the Martello tower, with a request for information on whether they will be addressed before the scheduled works finish the following day.
- f. Member's Grant Offer: A council member offers to allocate their member's grant for any council projects or highway improvement plans that may benefit from it.
- g. BT Payphone Decision: BT has proposed to remove payphones, and the council could review this decision within 21 days.
- h. Sea Wall Gate Coating Update: An update on the coating of a gate and related parts is provided, with an apology for the delay. The sender expresses pride in placing this installation in public, particularly in Dymchurch.

In addition, Cllr. V McCreedy Updated on a letter received from a local resident at the Sands Estate area of the Parish Regarding concerns about excessive flooding in the area which has resulted in sewage coming into homes and causing damage. There are reports of residents having to leave their homes to use toilets in other areas of the parish (namely the Redoubt Estate) and in one case one family have had to move out completely.

It was agreed by members that an urgent meeting should be arranged with Southern Water to discuss plans for our Parish and what is in place to support our residents.

The Clerk was instructed to arrange a meeting with Southern Water.

14. CLERKS REPORT INCLUDING UPDATE

- a.** Graffiti Reports: The Community Safety Unit has received several reports of graffiti, and an update is awaited on the situation.
- b.** Litter and Motorhome Issue: As requested, the issue of litter in the main car park in Dymchurch was reported. Additionally, the district council's enforcement teams addressed a motorhome that left a significant amount of litter in the same area.
- c.** Dymchurch Primary School Crossing: Dymchurch Primary School has been contacted to request information from parents about the main crossing locations to assist the KCC Councillor in introducing a crossing for the school.
- d.** East Bridge Road and St. Annes Road Junction: An update has been received from the District Council, stating that this location falls under KCC Highways' jurisdiction. KCC Highways has been contacted, and further information is awaited.
- e.** Seating Area Update: Work on the seating area near the main toilets will commence soon, and the main planter has been moved to prepare for the development.
- f.** New Romney Youth Football: The recreation ground is now being used for training by the New Romney Youth football team. The condition of the grassed area is being monitored, and time was spent mending the toilet flush at the pavilion.
- g.** Christmas Lights Stress Tests: The stress tests for the Christmas lights have been completed successfully.
- h.** Bus Shelter Installation: Replacement bus shelters on the A259 are scheduled to be installed on December 18th and 19th.
- i.** Gym Equipment Repairs: New parts for the gym equipment at the slipway have been ordered and will be fitted soon to reduce noise.
- j.** High Knock Bus Shelter Repairs: Repairs are being arranged for the High Knock bus shelter due to storm damage that occurred earlier.
- k.** Electric Charging Points: An inquiry was made regarding the underused electric charging points in the Village Hall car park. The KCC Department overseeing this project has requested a meeting to discuss ways to increase their usage.
- l.** Car Park Drainage: During heavy rainfall, the car park has flooded again. The drainage is not connected to main sewers and is just a soak-away. It has been cleared, but regular maintenance may be required, and budget considerations should be made.
- m.** Seaside Award: Documentation for the Seaside Award in 2024 has been received. The sea bathing quality report is awaited and is due on December 1st. An update will be provided once this report is published.
- n.** Little Cheyne Wind Farm Inquiry: A research professor has inquired about the Little Cheyne wind farm on the marsh. Council members with information about its proposal may assist the professor in their research.
- o.** Newsletter: The December newsletter is in progress. Council members with suggestions for inclusion are encouraged to email the Clerk or Mr Lawson with their ideas.

Members suggested using the newsletter for advertisements to assist with funding the newsletter.

15. Members will review and consider adoption of the following policy (Adjourned item) Dymchurch Parish Council Water Quality Reporting and Communication Policy

It was agreed unanimously to accept the above policy.

16. PARISH COUNCILS' RESPONSE TO LETTER FROM ENVIRONMENT AGENCY RELATING TO SEAWATER BATHING QUALITY

It was agreed to adjourn this item to await the official classification for Dymchurch Beach which is due to be published on the 1st of December.

17. 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 list of payments.
- c. Additional items requiring authorisation.
No additional requirements

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING- To be held on Monday 4th December 2023 at 7pm at the Parish Council Offices Orgarswick Avenue Dymchurch.

Noted

19. CLOSED ITEM-

To consider the recommendation from the assets and Amenities Committee to extend the trading licence at the Slip Way Kiosk- This item includes personal information and personal financial arrangement.

After discussion it was agreed by a majority vote as follows-

- a. **That the trading licence should be extended until January 31st, 2028, and at that point the licence will be tendered.**
- b. **That the above will only take place on the agreement of new fees for the life of the licence.**

There being no other business the meeting was closed.

Appendix 1- Payments for authorisation

6 November 2023 (2023-2024)

Dymchurch Parish Council PAYMENTS (AWAITING AUTHORISATION) LIST

Voucher Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Cheque No	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
222	24/10/2023		Unity Trust Bank		CCTV Monitoring	Ashe Alarms	S	40.00	8.00	48.00
223	06/11/2023		Unity Trust Bank		Enforcement	Folkestone & Hythe District C	S	214.28	42.86	257.14
224	06/11/2023		Unity Trust Bank		Car Park Permit Printing	Harris Screen Print Ltd	S	178.00	35.60	213.60
225	06/11/2023		Unity Trust Bank		Grass Cutting	M Coleman	S	567.50	113.50	681.00
226	28/11/2023		Unity Trust Bank		Salaries	Dymchurch Parish Council	X	2,253.76		2,253.76
227	30/11/2023		Unity Trust Bank		Tax & NI	Dymchurch Parish Council	X	604.51		604.51
Total								3,858.05	199.96	4,058.01