

# POSTLING PARISH COUNCIL

postlingpc@aol.co.uk | www.postlingpc.co.uk

## Minutes of Postling Parish Council meeting held online via Zoom on Wednesday 30 September 2020 at 6.30pm

Due to a technical issue, the meeting started at 6.45pm

1. Attending: Cllr Frank Hobbs in the chair, Cllrs John Elphick, John Patrick, Yvonne Mumford, Helen Calderbank, Parish Clerk Clare Hamilton, District Cllr Jenny Hollingsbee, County Cllr Susan Carey. Apologies: Cllrs Christine Hobbs, Charlie Wilkins.
2. There were no members' declarations of interest on Agenda items.
3. **It was resolved** to accept the Minutes of the meeting held on 29 July 2020, proposed by Cllr John Elphick, seconded by Cllr John Patrick. Minutes will be signed by the Chairman at a later date.
4. There were no matters arising from Minutes of the previous meeting.
5. Planning Applications received since the last meeting, circulated to Councillors for comments, the outcomes of those deliberations, and to consider any further applications received since this agenda was published:
  - a. **20/1211/FH The Manor House, The Street, Postling CT21 4EX**  
Listed Building consent to repair and replace 2 timber framed windows to a South-East elevation of the property to match the existing in form, scale, colour and finish using traditional carpentry methods and reusing the glazed lead light panels.  
PPC Support. Comments to F&HDC by 15 October 2020
  - b. **20/1129/FH/TCA Court Cottage, The Street, Postling CT21 4EX**  
Felling of two Leyland Cypress trees situated within a conservation area followed by the planting of three Rowan trees  
F&HDC No Objection. PPC Support - requests replacement trees are planted in a timely manner.
  - c. **20/0666/FH Stop 24 Services and Port Early Arrivals, Stanford Intersection CT21 4BL**  
Erection of a 98 bedroom, 3 storey hotel (C1 use) together with associated hard and soft landscaping (alternative scheme to Y17/0757/SH)  
F&HDC Approved. PPC No Objection.
  - d. **20/0920/FH/TCA Normandy, The Street, Postling CT21 4EU**  
Felling of a Leylandii tree situated within a conservation area  
F&HDC No Objection. PPC Support.
  - e. **19/1258/FH Postling Lodge, Farthing Common**  
Retrospective planning permission for a grounds maintenance building and entrance gate accessed from Loughborough Lane at Postling Lodge  
PPC Objection. Awaiting decision from F&HDC.
  - f. Other planning matters
    - Pond, Staple Farm: it is recommended that the owner speaks to F&HDC to ascertain if planning permission is required. If not, a Lawful Development Certificate is recommended.
    - The Outlook, Stone St: stone store visible from road is building material for owner's self-build project.
    - 20/1224 The Pent, Pilgrims Way, Postling CT21 4EY: Lawful Development Certificate (existing) for use of barn as garage and games/hobby room in conjunction with the residential use of The Pent. As this is for a Lawful Development Certificate, the parish council was not consulted.
6. Highways
  - a. Roadworks notifications received from KCC since last meeting:

from 15 Sept	Canterbury Rd, Lyminge	Overnight closures for 5 nights
from 1 Sept	M20, J8-9	Moveable Barrier works, overnight closures
Ref 517214	Cuckoo Lane, Postling	Multiple potholes, works being programmed

Chairman Frank Hobbs

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from 5 Oct      Loughborough Lane, Lyminge      Continuous closure for up to 5 days - Affinity  
Sandling Road      Water providing new water connection.  
(between Cuckoo Lane and Staple Lane)      Potholes reported and filled.

## b. Fault reporting

Parishioners are encouraged to join Councillors in reporting Highways faults at

<https://webapps.kent.gov.uk/KCC.KHSFaultsGIS.Web.Sites.Public/SelectSearchMethod.aspx>

## 7. Finance

a. Balance of account at 30 September 2020: £6,579.31.

b. Payments and Receipts since last meeting:

C Hamilton	Salary June & July	£345.28
C Hamilton	Zoom fee July meeting	£ 14.39
Upper Hardres PC	shared Clerk's Conf. fee	£ 25.00

c. On 1 April 2020 Clerk's salary increased in line with NALC National Salary Award from £9.96 per hour to £10.24 per hour (new SCP6), which equates to: 4 hrs pw = £40.96 x 52 weeks = £2,129.92pa. (increase of £57.92pa) 12 x monthly payments of £177.49. Backdated to 1 April = £22.50 due.

**It was resolved** that the NALC National Salary Award 2020/2021 be applied from 1 April 2020, and Clerk's salary increase backdated to 1 April 2020.

d. Expenditure due before next meeting:

Clerk's backdated salary 1 April-31 July	£ 19.40
Clerk's salary August & Sept	£ 354.98
Zoom fee Sept meeting	£ 14.39      vat £2.40

Quotations for replacement parish council laptop were presented and a budget of up to £450 ex vat was approved.

**It was resolved** to approve expenditure, proposed by Cllr John Patrick, seconded by Cllr Helen Calderbank, all in favour.

8. District Councillor's and County Councillor's reports: see Appendix.

## 9. Community Resilience and Emergency Plan

To be in proportion with Postling as a village and a community, a Local Coordinator will be investigated to source volunteers whose skills/expertise/offer could go on a parish list to be called upon if needed.

Examples of volunteers: clearing roads blocked by fallen trees, emergency shopping supplies, collecting prescriptions, emergency care, etc. It is thought an informal list of volunteers may already be in existence at the Church and contact will be made.

## 10. Otterpool Park

The Chairman attended an online meeting on 15 Sept where the five parish councils neighbouring Otterpool were represented.

Matters raised included: schools provision; recreation space; location of new town centre; height of buildings (highest point possibly 3 storeys in town centre); a community building (Westenhanger Castle and barn will be utilised and the medical centre will have community rooms/facilities); social housing; commercial properties (quality supermarket preferred); roads infrastructure.

Further meetings with neighbouring parish councils will be held.

## 11. Postling fingerpost sign repainting

A parishioner approached KCC to volunteer to repaint the fingerpost sign near the phone box. KCC approved, and Councillors approved unanimously for the work to go ahead.

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## 12. Cyclists through Postling

An email from a parishioner which raised concerns about the speed of cyclists through Postling, their loud instructions to each other, and the possibility of causing an accident, was discussed. District and County Councillors followed the discussion and didn't feel a sign would be of benefit but agreed it would be helpful for all road users if potholes on Cuckoo Lane are repaired. Some work is scheduled but resurfacing will be pursued.

County Councillor explained that speed limit reduction would be too costly and is at present impractical, but highlighted that KCC has suggested to the Department for Transport that the speed limits for built up areas be 20mph by default in the way they are now 30mph and that all other single lane roads be 40mph instead of 60mph. Any roads that were deemed safe to be a higher speed could then be signed. This would be a lot cheaper than the current system on Kent's 5,000 mile road network and would then bring Postling's limit down to 20mph.

## 13. Correspondence received

- Kent Police and Crime Commissioner Road Safety and Enforcement survey: circulated to parishioners
- KALC Covid-19 Financial Impact Survey completed 11.8.2020
- Otterpool Park Ecology Briefing received 16.9.2020
- ACRK Rural Housing Needs Enabler email re Local Needs Affordable Housing.

## 14. For information

- The Clerk attended the KALC Clerk's Conference held online on 24 September. The cost was shared with Upper Hardres Parish Council where Clare is also Clerk.
- Next meeting 25 November, online.

## Appendix

### 8. District and County Councillors' Report:

#### KCC report

Kent County Council has now agreed in-year savings to its budget to cope with the extra spending caused by loss of income, delayed savings and extra costs mostly caused by the pandemic. One of the savings was a reduction in the KCC member grants which means I have sadly no further funds for this year.

We have also adopted two important plans which secure the sites needed for waste management and mineral extraction in Kent. They are the Minerals Site Plan and an Early Partial Review of the Kent Minerals and Waste Plan. They have taken years of work, much consultation and they have been found to be sound by an independent planning Inspector. Landowners in Postling had submitted a site for sand extraction in the early stages of this process but it was withdrawn and is not in either of the two adopted plans.

KCC has also adopted a plan to reach net-zero carbon emissions for its own services and estate by 2030 using a scenario model developed by Laser energy which is the council's own energy company. The plan involves investing in renewable energy, shifting to electric vehicles and more home working.

If anyone has been thinking about installing solar panels, they can take advantage of a collective buying scheme being organised by KCC through Solar Together. Nearly 2,669 Kent households have now signed up and the reverse auction with pre-vetted solar installation companies is on 06 October. There's no commitment until the price is known. Those who already have solar panels can take part in adding to their storage capacity. The scheme is also open to community buildings and businesses in Kent.

The very final repayment has been made of monies owed to KCC from deposits in Iceland in 2008. The full £50m has been returned in tranches over several years with nearly £3m in interest on top of this. KCC is one of the few organisations to get 100% plus interest returned.

*Chairman Frank Hobbs*

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If you know of any young people (11 – 18 years or 11 to 25 if they have special educational needs) who deserve an award, please nominate them for a Try Angle Award before 30 November. The categories are Arts, Community Action, Courage, Good Friends and Young Carers, Music, Personal Development, Positive Intervention, Sport or Outdoor Activities. This should enable all efforts to be recognised. Just being nominated can encourage a young person.

See <https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/young-people/try-angle-awards>

Please continue to report any potholes and particularly any drains you see that are blocked by silt or leaves in advance of the winter rains.

## **District Council**

The council has retained its award for Customer Service Excellence which it's held since 2013. This accreditation is externally audited by iESE and covers 57 standards. The council was found to be compliant across all these and achieved a score of Compliance Plus for 15 areas which is the highest score and means service goes '*above and beyond*' what's expected. Compliance plus is awarded when practice is innovative and something that could be shared and replicated in other organisations. The assessor also commented on how well the council has risen to the challenges of COVID-19.

A new 8-year contract from January 2021 has been agreed with Veolia to continue the kerbside waste and recycling collections. The new contract will include a new 'green' fleet of vehicles and a number of initiatives to help us achieve the council's ambition of Net Zero for its services by 2030. Services to your property will continue to be alternating fortnightly waste and recycling collections and a weekly food waste collection.

A clear majority of councillors have now voted to adopt the *Places and Policies Local Plan*. This means the council is in a strong position to resist any speculative housing developments whilst meeting our legal obligation to provide sufficient land for future homes and jobs.

Jenny was part of the panel that held a public meeting last Friday about the Home Office placing 400 young men seeking asylum at Napier Barracks in Cheriton. This meeting can be seen on:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMAAvQwessHj90lot2yMIJQ/featured>

Susan Carey

Member for Elham Valley, Kent County Council

District Councillor, North Downs West, Folkestone & Hythe District Council

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