

POSTLING PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of Postling Parish Council meeting held at Postling Village Hall on Tuesday 26 July 2022 at 6.30pm

1. Attendance and apologies for absence

Attendance: Chairman Frank Hobbs, Councillors Helen Calderbank, Christine Hobbs, Yvonne Mumford, John Pattrick, Daniel Shaddick, Charlie Wilkins, Parish Clerk Clare Hamilton, representatives from Otterpool Park LLP Julia Wallace and David Shore

Apologies: County Councillor Susan Carey, District Councillor Jenny Hollingsbee.

2. **It was resolved** unanimously to accept the Minutes of the meeting held on 24 May 2022.

3. There were no members' declarations of interest on Agenda items.

4. Public Participation session

A KALC Community Award certificate was presented to Dr Peter Le Feuvre and Dr Sarah Montgomery, citation reads: *"With thanks from Postling Parish Council for your long-term community involvement and community initiatives during the pandemic"*.

5. Matters arising from previous meeting

- a. Agricultural vehicles: letters sent to farmers to highlight safe driving of agricultural vehicles on parish roads
- b. Parish roads: requested Highways Steward to assess state of parish roads and advise on process for parish/village speed limit reduction to 20mph
- c. Parking for nursery: nursery management meeting being held, waiting for response
- d. Bus shelter: approached Lyminge PC regarding possible joint-parish funding approach for a bus shelter at Newbarn corner in Canterbury direction. This matter is due to be on their July meeting agenda
- e. Spitfire/WWII flights: Biggin Hill say all legislation is adhered to; no response received from Headcorn.
(A recent anniversary weekend was particularly busy with flights)
- f. Meeting start time query: PC meetings commence at 6.30pm to accommodate table tennis club village hall booking at 8pm.

6. Planning Applications received since last meeting, circulated to Councillors for comments, outcomes of those deliberations, and to consider any applications received since this agenda was published:

a. **22/0908/FH Middlemarch, 6 Orchard Field, The Street, Postling CT21 4EE**

Erection of a single storey side extension. Awaiting decision from F&HDC
PPC No objection (comment in Appendix)

b. **19/0257/FH Otterpool Park**

Revised plans for Otterpool Park were submitted and the formal consultation period ran from Friday 29 April until Friday 24 June. Councillors viewed plans at Stanford Parish Council office
PPC Neutral with conditions (comment in Appendix). Awaiting decision from F&HDC
Otterpool Park LLP representatives in attendance updated councillors on the status of the application and answered queries on the development including:
Health, Housing (in particular, affordable housing quota and restrictions on second homes), Water supply and waste, Transport (in particular the effect on local infrastructure in light of Operation Brock and current Dover issues), sufficient staff at FHDC planning dept to deal with this application.
Affordable housing quota is reduced from initial 30% down to 22%, in line with the housing strategy/core strategy. It was suggested that local people seeking affordable housing in the future get their names on F&HDC waiting list as soon as possible.
Visit www.otterpoolpark.org for information and updates on the development.

Chairman Frank Hobbs

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- c. **22/0303/FH Southfields, Farthing Common CT18 8DH**
Erection of a replacement dwelling
PPC No objection. Awaiting decision from F&HDC
- d. **19/1258/FH Postling Lodge, Farthing Common CT18 8DQ**
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
Cllr Jenny Hollingsbee is arranging a meeting with Head of Planning to highlight various planning matters including this long outstanding application and lack of response from FHDC to our enquiries.

7. Highways

- a. Pot holes marked on Cuckoo Lane in April: lack of follow up was queried with Highways Steward who supplied the following update:
- Apologises for delay in responding to queries but with a wide area to cover he is over-stretched
 - Cuckoo Lane was booked to be marked up for repairs on Tuesday 26 July
(*nb. no marks visible at time of meeting*)
 - The Highways 'Find & Fix' budget was cut by 30% this financial year
 - Other works to be done in Postling will be added to the list for this financial year and a Programme of Works List will be emailed to the clerk once it is prepared
 - Reduction of speed limit to 20mph: advises request Susan Carey to speak to the Schemes Team who will then Risk Assess the situation. The process takes time, but if found necessary, can be done.
- b. Broad Street, Lyminge: Temporary Road Closure - 25th July 2022 for 42 days with estimated completion by 4th September 2022 for the entire length for drainage works to be carried out by Walker Construction 01303 851111. Works paused on 25 July (see note in Appendix).
- c. Loughborough Lane: Temporary Road Closure - 25 July for up to 3 days for patching to be carried out by KCC. Works paused on 25 July.

8. Finance

- a. Balance of account at 26 July 2022: £6,760.74
- b. Payments and Receipts since last meeting:

Payments:

Zurich Municipal	Insurance Premium 2022/23	292.24	
KSS Air Ambulance	Donation	250.00	s137
Age UK	Donation	100.00	s137
Postling Church	Donation	200.00	s137
KALC	Annual subscription	173.83	
P Le Feuvre	Phone kiosk expenses	595.92	vat £52.65
C Hamilton	Salary April May	361.22	
C Hamilton	Travel expenses May	7.20	
HSBC	Bank charges May June	16.00	

Receipts: none

- c. Expenditure due before next meeting:

HSBC	Account charges June July	16.00
C Hamilton	Salary June July	361.22
	Travel exp July meeting	7.20

It was resolved to approve expenditure. Proposed Cllr Christine Hobbs, seconded Cllr Charlie Wilkins, all in favour, approved by the Chairman.

- d. Banking: all up to date, nothing to report.

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e. End of year accounts 2021/22: email received from external auditor to confirm they have received and logged the notification of exempt status for the year ended 31 March 2022. By notifying them that Postling Parish Council has claimed exemption, there is no review to be performed and consequently no auditor certificate and report, or any other closure documentation, will be issued for this reporting year.

9. Reports from District and County Councillors - see Appendix.

10. Telephone Kiosk

Councillors thanked Cllr Daniel Shaddick for his donated costs of £40.36 for lighting for the phone kiosk.

All payments have now been made. In summary:

Grants received = £600. Total expenditure (after vat reclaimed) = £543.27. Budget remaining = £56.73.

11. The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Aerial photos and phone kiosk photos have been uploaded to the website.

12. Fire Hydrants

Faults reported to KF&RS in February, no response received. Clerk has emailed KF&RS to chase up repairs and has contacted KALC to query procedure of KALC/KF&RS Fire Hydrants Initiative.

Cllr Charlie Wilkins has located the hydrant at Farthing Common which is marked in blue; this is not marked on the KF&RS map and clerk will alert them to this.

13. Neighbourhood Plan

It was resolved not to develop a Postling Neighbourhood Plan.

14. For Information

- Councillors thanked Cllr Helen Calderbank for her donation of defibrillator location signs

- Kent Mental Health & Wellbeing Awards: deadline for nominations 1 Sept

- Unemptied litter bin next to phone box: reported via My Account - Subject: Full litter or dog waste bin, Case reference number: 00097495

- Parish Council meeting dates 2022: Tuesdays at 6.30pm, **27 September**, 29 November.

Meeting closed at 8.10pm

Signed.....Frank Hobbs, Chairman, 27 September 2022

Appendix

Comments submitted on Planning Applications:

a. 22/0908/FH Middlemarch, 6 Orchard Field, The Street, Postling CT21 4EE

Comment submitted:

Councillors have no objections to this application. However, it is felt it would be more visually pleasing if the proposal matched the extension on the other side of the house.

b. Y19/0257/FH Otterpool Park

Comment submitted:

Postling Parish Council finds the loss of open green space and the effect on the landscape of a development of this size will have enormous long-term consequences for this rural area. The potential light pollution will be unforgiving, and the view from Postling Downs and Farthing Common will be changed forever.

However, councillors accept that more homes are needed, therefore accept this development in principle and ask for the following points be taken into consideration:

- The original affordable housing quota of 30% should be retained, not reduced to 22%, and preferably revisited and increased from the original figure. Social housing properties and shared ownership properties should be included for local people.

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- More detail is needed on medical provision as this remains vague. Major investment will be needed at William Harvey Hospital, or another hospital built (not just a 'Medical Centre') to provide care to the influx of population at Otterpool and the complex needs this will bring.
- More detail is needed on traffic management and road networks, and management of traffic when the M20 is closed.
- The impact and demand on current water supply and management of waste water by the Otterpool development (and by developments at Sellenge and Martello Lakes) remains a concern.

District Councillors' Report August 2022 - Jenny Hollingsbee and Susan Carey

Closure of Broad Street Lyminge *(*please see end of report for update received on 26 July)*

KCC have planned to close Broadstreet Lyminge for 42 days from 25 July. Jenny is in contact with KCC, Damian Collins MP and Officers' at the District Council to try to find an alternative solution to 42 days complete closure. This is a Kent Highways decision. Unfortunately, despite numerous emails and conversations, it seems as though KCC will go ahead with the closure. However, updates are coming through on a daily basis and Jenny was given this statement last night (18 July) from KCC "We are arranging for "Unsuitable for HGVs" signage to be deployed in order to protect the shorter resident access diversion and will also be arranging "access to physical location" signs so that local residents can pinpoint more precisely the location of the works.

Otterpool Park

Otterpool Park LLP has teamed up with [Strange Cargo](#) to run some new free craft workshops at Westenhanger Castle throughout the school summer holidays.

Otterpool Green Stars (OGS) is a new initiative that encourages young people to think about their environment and the future. The events are the first of a series of OGS activities and will be held every Tuesday throughout the holidays, from 26 July, from 11am to 2pm. They are suitable for children aged 4 and over.

Everyone attending will receive a Otterpool Green Stars membership card with their photo on it. There will be range of fun craft activities, including:

- Create your own Otterpool Green Stars superhero and give them a superpower – reducing pollution and waste, protecting plants and creatures, saving water and energy or make up your own!
- Make a clay pot and plant a seed to take home.

The workshops are free to attend, but places must be booked in advance through Eventbrite – just search for 'Westenhanger Castle'.

Annual Canvass

Residents in Folkestone & Hythe are being urged to check their details on the electoral register are correct to ensure they do not lose their voice on decisions that affect them. The annual canvass of all households in the district gets underway this week as part of the council's legal requirement to make sure the register is accurate and up to date every year.

Scams

There have been numerous internet, telephone and cold calling scams recently. If you are at all suspicious please call the Police on 101 or report on line or if an emergency call 999. Please also report to www.actionfraud.police.uk or call 0300 123 2040 – and/or report@phishing.gov.uk

Consultation on taxi tariffs increase

The public is to be asked about the first rise in licensed taxi fares in Folkestone & Hythe for 10 years. The maximum fare that hackney drivers can charge while they are working in the district is set by the council. Following 34 representations from local drivers, Planning & Licensing committee members agreed this week (28 June) to increase the baseline hackney tariff by 10% - the first rise since 2012. This will go out for a four-week public consultation and if no objections are received, the new fares will come into force.

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My Account

is so much easier to use. Residents are encouraged to sign-up or if registered already, to have a look at the new 'front page' as it has recently been updated. Users are able to see council information relevant to them all in one place - including bin collections, benefits and council tax - as well as making payments and tracking the progress of reports made to officers.

Folkestone & Hythe District Council

to see a video promoting Folkestone & Hythe District please see www.youtube.com/watch?v=h2a3iUi-NZc

*Broad Street Lyminge

On 26 July, Cllr Susan Carey was advised as follows by Kent Highways Streetworks Team:

"You have probably seen an announcement by the developer that they aren't going ahead with the works for which their contractor has a permit to do. The contractor has not given any notification of this or applied to cancel the work permit and road closure.

After initially shutting the road on Monday morning at lunch time the closure was removed and the road was open to traffic at 12:20. KCC Streetworks Inspector was in attendance and the TM company explained that this was an instruction from the developer Pentland Homes.

We have been trying to make contact with the contractor Kirwans, who were due to carry out the works and have the Streetworks Permits to cover this. At this time we have not received a cancellation for the permits or any official notice regarding the suspension of activities.

Our expectation is the Broad Street will remain open until options have been fully reviewed for reduced impact. However we can't confirm this for certain until the correct process for cancelling the permits and closure have been follow through. It is frustrating that Streetworks team are at present unable to give full and complete assurances regarding this road closure and that those promoting the works have not provided the required information to us in a timely manner.

Once we have received the required communications from this developer and their contractor I will let you all know."

Susan Carey & Jenny Hollingsbee, Folkestone & Hythe District Councillors for North Downs West

Email susan.carey@kent.gov.uk jenny.hollingsbee@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk

Correspondence received includes:

- KALC events information
- FHDC New Releases
- NALC updates
- Thanks from KSS Air Ambulance Charity for donation
- Pilgrims Hospice publicity for Folkestone Downs Challenge

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