

Minutes of Postling ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held online on Tuesday 27 April 2021 at 7pm.

1. Attendance and apologies

Cllr Frank Hobbs in the chair, Cllr Christine Hobbs, Cllr John Patrick, Cllr Helen Calderbank, Cllr Charlie Wilkins, Cllr Yvonne Mumford, Cllr Dan Shaddick, Parish Clerk Clare Hamilton, Chris Reynolds (PNVH), District Councillor Jenny Hollingsbee and County Councillor Susan Carey. There were no apologies.

2. Minutes of previous Annual Parish Meeting

Minutes of previous Annual Parish Meeting held on 22 May 2019 were approved and will be signed at a later date. No Annual Parish Meeting was held in 2020 due to Covid restrictions.

3. Chairman's report

This report covers the last two years as no meeting was held last year due to Covid restrictions. In my last report I noted we were looking to co-opt a new councillor to replace Jane Reynolds. This duly happened and we welcomed Yvonne Mumford to our ranks. Since then John Elphick has resigned, prior to his move away from the village, and he has been replaced by Daniel Shaddick. All our meetings have been held using the Zoom format. We are awaiting guidance as to when open meetings may be held, as it stands Zoom meetings cannot be held after May 6th.

Local planning applications have on the whole been straight-forward, but there are ongoing issues with Postling Lodge's retrospective application.

Otterpool Park slowly continues on its way and is now reaching the stage where more detailed ideas are coming forward.

The broadband position has changed. BT staff have conducted a survey of what needs to be done, and only last week engineers were on site looking at the current situation and some of the work that needs to be done. It is hoped it will be upgraded this summer.

The state of local roads is a continuing problem, and I suspect will always be so. The barrier at Ash Wells has been replaced. We continue to chase KCC regarding the state of Cuckoo Lane. Sandling Road is to be closed for works near the junction with Staple Lane to remedy the problem of the edge collapsing due to rabbits under-mining the road. This will probably occur on more than one occasion as there are several places where this is occurring and there are only sufficient funds to do 30 metres at a time.

Finally I would like to thank Clare and the Councillors for all their time and efforts over the past 24 months

Frank Hobbs, *Chairman, Postling Parish Council*

4. Postling New Village Hall Association report

The committee has only met once for our AGM. It is quite difficult to maintain the balance between a steady income stream from our regular nursery user and yet keep the Hall looking reasonably inviting for members of the Village to use when required. Hall usage over the past few years has been very even, which makes our job as a Committee relatively easy in terms of budgeting for repair work and improvements.

We were very fortunate to be able to pull some Government support during the first lockdown which enabled us to give the Nursery School a rent window while they were forced to close. We have had no table tennis income for over a year, however we are hopeful that they will be able to resume later this season.

We were fortunate to be able to make use of a hydraulic hoist that had been hired to access the Church gutters. This enabled us to not only take down the dead holly tree at the entrance to the carpark, but more

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importantly remove a large amount of side growth from the trees on the eastern boundary and also remove a certain amount of boughs from the walnut tree at the rear of the Hall

Chris Reynolds, *Chairman, PNVH*

5. **Representatives to the Village Hall Association**

All were in favour for the continuation of Chris Reynolds, Chris Clarke and Jill Dixon as representatives on the PNVH committee.

6. **District Councillors' report**

Please see Appendix.

7. **Kent County Councillor's report**

Please see Appendix.

8. **For information**

Cllr Susan Carey commended Chris Reynolds on his work as Chairman of the Kent Downs AONB.

Signed *Chairman* Date.....

Appendix

District Councillors' report:

Message of condolence from the Chairman of Folkestone & Hythe District Council on the death of His Royal Highness Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh

Chairman of Folkestone & Hythe District Council, Cllr Ann Berry said,

“On behalf of the councillors and staff of Folkestone & Hythe District Council I would like to express our great sadness on hearing of the death of His Royal Highness Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh. “Prince Philip influenced the lives of so many through his Duke of Edinburgh Awards scheme. We extend our deepest sympathies to Her Majesty The Queen and the Royal Family at this time.”

Vaccination - The vaccination programme continues to advance and over 87% of the top nine priority groups have been vaccinated with at least one dose. Our large vaccination centres had limited appointments for first dose vaccinations during April: second doses went ahead as planned. This is linked to national vaccine supply. It is a temporary position and appointments at all sites will increase as soon as supply allows.

Otterpool Park – Please keep looking at the www.otterpoolpark.org website for up to date information. The recent Webinar on Phase One with presentations by the project team and its consultants can be viewed now on the Website. The consultation period for phase one has been extended until 7 May and there is still the opportunity to complete the survey on the website.

Beach Huts – as previously reported 35 of the original structures were retained and refurbished together with the addition of 80 new wooden ones. All previous tenants were given the opportunity to take-up a tenancy again and the remaining huts were then allocated – in date – order. Because of the interest in this project, the waiting list is currently closed.

Rough sleepers – nine new privately rented accommodation units are about to open in central Folkestone. The privately rented accommodation in central Folkestone will have an on-site manager and also a support network to help the people living there to move to a more settled way of life. This is a project following collaboration between the District Council, Porchlight and the Rainbow Centre.

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Ship Street – the District Council has bought the Ship Street site in Folkestone (former gas works site) and it will be developed for housing in a joint project with the Creative Quarter. The Council's housing stock is due to be carbon neutral by 2030. National Leisure Recovery Fund - Following a successful bid by F&HDC, The Marsh Academy Sports Centre in New Romney and Three Hills Sports Park in Folkestone have both been awarded much-needed financial support totalling £90,000.

Place Panel – F&HDC is inviting applications for membership of a Place Panel, which is being formed to support high standards in new developments within the district, for further information see folkestoneandhythe@frame-projects.co.uk KCC and PCC elections 6 May - Please note the KCC election for the Elham Valley Division has been cancelled due to the death of a candidate in accordance with electoral law. A new election will take place on 17 June. The PCC election will take place as planned on 6 May.

Cllr Susan Carey

Cllr Jenny Hollingsbee

North Downs West District Councillors

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County Councillors report:

It's been a remarkable year and I want to start by thanking everyone for the way they coped and helped one another.

At Kent County Council we kept most of our services going throughout the pandemic. We moved from having an average of 400 staff working from home to over 6,000 and all 81 County Councillors have been meeting online since April 2020.

Some services continued with social distancing measures in place such as road maintenance, others were redesigned to ensure social distancing such as our 18 Household Waste Recycling Centres and some went online such as our youth services. We also had to set up new services such as the symptom free test centres and cope with increased workload such as our coroners service and death registrations.

Here's very short review of the past year for your County Council –

KCC faced three major challenges in the last year any one of which would be difficult at the best of times. The first was the pandemic where we had to adapt as many services as possible to be able to continue to deliver them. You'll all remember the early challenges in sourcing PPE (Personal Protective Equipment). KCC procured 4.4 million items of PPE for our own staff and others in Kent providing care.

We set up a temporary mortuary to provide additional capacity to Kent's hospitals. Our coroners' service had a much increased workload and our registrars dealt with a 26% increase in death registrations.

The Government provided funding to support businesses, organisations and residents. £373 million of Government funding has been paid to businesses in Kent via the district councils. In addition to this KCC worked with the Chamber of Commerce to fund a helpline for businesses and provided £3 million in interest free loans. We at KCC decided to pass most of the Government funding for community support we received to the district councils and they set up the community hubs. The community hubs provided a real lifeline to many who had to shield and were a great example of partnership working between local government, the voluntary sector and volunteers.

KCC set up Kent Together a 24/7 service available by phone or online where people could ask for help for themselves or for someone they were concerned about.

KCC also set up, with help from the Military, a network of symptom free testing centres for Covid (the Hawkinge Community Centre being one of these). We are also working with care homes on infection control measures and providing Government grants to help the care sector cope with the extra costs they face.

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We also faced a crisis last summer when the number of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children arriving in Kent became more than we could safely accept. This has been a longstanding problem and Kent's taxpayers have had to meet a disproportionate share of the costs of dealing with UASCs because unlike adults or families who arrive seeking asylum they are not dispersed around the country. We resumed accepting UASC in December with a better funding package from the Government but no resolution of the issue of dispersal.

The third major challenge we faced in the last year was the end of the transition arrangements for our exit of the EU. KCC played a major role in the preparations for the much predicted traffic chaos but when the crisis came it was not as a result of HGV drivers not having the correct papers but from a complete closure of the border with France on 20 December and the subsequent re-opening on 23 December with a requirement for HGV drivers to be tested for Covid. (This requirement was withdrawn on 24 March with a similar lack of notice.) The transition plans were adapted, testing centres set up and welfare measures put in place for those trapped by the closure.

Another longstanding problem for Kent has been the damage and disturbance caused by illegally parked HGVs. KCC has long lobbied for powers to clamp HGVs and, to help deal with EU transition, the Government has finally granted us these. Since January KCC has been employing specialist contractors to deal with this nuisance parking. As of 18 April, 2,457 HGVs had been clamped (over 80% are foreign registered vehicles).

I'd like to thank my District Council colleague Jenny Hollingsbee who works so very hard on behalf of the whole District as well as our ward and the councillors and clerk at Postling Parish Council. There's always more work and responsibility in these roles than many realise but I certainly appreciate your contribution.

Finally, I regret to report that as a result of the untimely death of one of the candidates (Christopher Deane) for the Elham Valley County Council seat, the election on 06 May has been 'countermanded'. The elections for the Police & Crime Commissioner will still take place on 06 May but the elections where Mr Deane was standing (Elham Valley for County Council and Hythe East for Hythe Town Council) will be postponed. These elections will now be held on 17 June and this means from 10 May until the election there will be no County Councillor to represent you.

I have arranged with KCC that during this interim period, all emails that would normally be sent to your County Councillor may be sent to members.desk@kent.gov.uk and, if you wish, you may copy me in on susancarey@rdwd.co.uk It's an unusual situation and everyone will do their best to minimise the impact for residents.

**Susan Carey Member for Elham Valley,
Kent County Council**

