

# MINUTES

## In attendance:

Cllr Deana Cocker – Chairman  
Cllr Catherine Young  
Cllr Danial Noonan  
Cllr Sandra Leverick (Notes)  
District Cllr Terry Mullard  
25 Members of the Public

Cllr Merlin Redding - Vice Chairman  
Cllr Dougie Young  
Cllr Marc Wright  
Cllr John Williams

## Apologies:

Cllr John Carr  
County Cllr Martyn Whybrow

District Cllr Ian Meyers

Terry Preston kindly opened the meeting and stated: -

- The Parish Meeting congratulates all the members of the parish council on their recent election and wishes them every success in all their endeavours
- This parish meeting records its appreciation and grateful thanks for all those who have served the Parish Council in the immediate past.

He asked that the above be a resolution, seconded by Mr Blackwell and voted unanimously by all attendees.

He went on to state that “This Parish Meeting extends a vote of thanks and appreciation to the former Clerk Mrs Gillian Smith for all her service on behalf of the village” Again, it was agreed within the room.

He then handed over to the new Chairman of Dymchurch Parish Council, Mrs Deana Cocker

## **1. Minutes of Previous Meeting.**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018 were discussed and voted to agree the minutes.

## **2. Parish Council Update and Report (Cllr Deana Cocker – Chairman)**

Chairman welcomed everyone, and commented that it was great to see them here. The new Councillors have received great support and are very appreciative.

In the absence of a Clerk to the Parish Council, Mr Jeff Lawrence, who is the Parish Clerk from Lympne, has kindly agreed to support us in the interim.

We are pleased to report that the office is open as normal on a Monday – Wednesday from 9.30am to 12:30pm

We will be holding regular drop-in sessions for parishioners, and the first one is planned for Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June from 10am to 2pm. Also on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June, the Heritage Group will be supporting us providing history and a display on the Fire Station covering 1935 onwards. There will be refreshments in the garden after.

### **Police hold a surgery with the Parish Council Monthly**

The Community Warden and PCSO also met with the Chairman this week. They spoke about neighbourhood watch. If anyone is interested in joining or setting up a neighbourhood watch in any roads or areas, please get in touch with the Parish Council and we will get you in touch with them direct.

### **Huge Thanks to Dymchurch Beavers**

They have done an amazing job planting lovely flowers in the planters by the toilets and sweeping up beautifully the area.

Chairman has also been to the Scouts, Beavers and Cubs AGM. Was good to be there, keen to see the group grow.

Not much to tell as we have only just started. Hopefully next year will be a lot more to share with you all. Finally, many thanks to Terry for supporting and helping us tonight, and to Sheila Jones for helping with refreshments later.

### **3. District Council Update and Report – Ian Meyers / Terry Mullard**

District Councillor Terry Mullard who attended the meeting confirmed that he represents 5 Parishes (Newchurch, Dymchurch, St Marys Bay, Burmarsh and St Mary in the Marsh)

Cllr Mullard also mentioned that every District Councillor get access to £3k per year to give to worthy causes (e.g., scouts, schools etc) so if anyone has any desire for any help financially on a local project, please contact him and he will provide the appropriate application form.

Cllr Mullard went on to discuss that there are only 31 UKIP Councillors in Britain now, as they lost about 178 at last election.

Cllr Mullard attended the first meeting of District Councillors on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May.

There were 13 Conservative, 6 Labour 6 Green, 2 Lib Dem, 2 UKIP and 1 Independent.

Cllr Mullard confirmed that Cllr Meyers, himself and Cllr Wimble agreed to join an alliance with the Conservatives to give them 16 votes and overall control.

Chairman and Vice Chair were election with 16 for and 14 against.

Cllr Mullard made it clear he will not be subservient on the council and will always reflect what the electorate want here on the Marsh. He mentioned is on the Scrutiny Committee and Personnel. He thinks he may be on the sub group Oppitunitas replacing Roger Wilkins.

Cllr Mullard then asked about two big issues he was aware of for the Marsh and asked for a vote of the attendees on their views.

- **Otterpool Development.** Unanimous vote in the room **AGAINST** the Otterpool development

- **Nuclear Waste Dump on the Marsh.** Mr R Blackwell commented on the fact that he asked several times about this. It has been suggested the waste would be brought into Folkestone by Lorry and driven along the A259 through the village. Also that much of this waste could be coming from abroad. It was agreed within the room that this was not appropriate for the Marsh perception of having a nuclear waste site, however safe, could end up with the Marsh being classed as no longer a safe place to live/holiday which would be catastrophic for the Marsh. A motion was raised by Mr Blackwell that this parish meeting express that it does not want any nuclear waste buried under the marsh. Seconded by Dr Goode, and a **unanimous vote AGAINST the option of having nuclear waste dump built on/under the marsh.**
- **Fracking:** Dr Goode then raised Fracking as it had recently been mentioned in The Looker (a local publication by District Councillor David Wimble. Cllr Mullard isn't aware of it. Mike Hewer seconded and again a **unanimous vote AGAINST Fracking on the marsh**
- **Princes Parade:** Cllr John Williams asked about Princes Parade. Cllr Mullard confirmed there is a lot of pressure for it to go through. A lot of work has been undertaken. However, Cllr Mullard confirms he is here to represent the electorate about all matters.

Cllr Mullard stated that anyone can contact him by email.

#### 4. County Council Report – Martyn Whybrow

Apologies received from County Councillor Martyn who couldn't attend in person as he had to chair a meeting in Hythe. He is looking forward to a close working relationship with Dymchurch Councillors. Cllr Redding went through his report as follows:-

**Eastbridge Road** - I inherited this situation when, with the boundary changes, Dymchurch came into my division at the May 2017 KCC elections. I fully appreciate the importance of the road as an emergency route for the marsh and the unacceptable 'temporary' nature of the work done to date.

I arranged a site visit with parish councillors and KCC Highways, at which officers explained that KCC is monitoring the state of the road but had not detected further deterioration and did not have the budget for the major work that would be needed for permanent remediation.

I then met with KCC's strategic asset manager for highways. As a result, Eastbridge Road was placed on a priority list for central government funding, along with other urgent projects across the county.

To date, that central funding has not been sufficient to extend to Eastbridge Road (it was placed in the second category of priority). I have continued to check that the project remains on the list.

While not wanting to raise unreasonable expectations, extra resource has been provided by central government to address the highest priority unfunded sites over the next two years. In addition, Department for Transport investment was provided for main roads to improve Brexit resilience. This means many of the highest priority sites are now funded, which in turn means that Eastbridge Road is higher on the priority list than before. KCC is submitting a further capital bid to central government this summer.

I will continue to check on the status of this and will provide any updates as they occur.

Mr Richard Blackwell mentioned that he had recently been meeting with the Resilience Officer for the Marsh and there are major concerns about access routes in the event of a major emergency. Fire and Rescue are not able to enact a training event in certain areas due to the chicane and yet this is one of the most important routes out of the Village. Mr Blackwell raised this as a matter of urgency back in 2015.

Mr Blackwell stated “We demand and county rate payers that something is done about it. Being on a list is no help at all.” The Chairman also commented that those working in Bethany Lodge also had issues, nurses pushing wheelchairs through the chicane with close passing traffic. The Chairman confirms it will continue to be pushed with KCC as a matter of urgency. Also Martin is looking at a 20 mph and tonnage request for Eastbridge Road.

**Dymchurch Sea Wall** - I had an on-site meeting and lots of correspondence regarding the state of the road, from the barrier onwards. I spoke to both KCC Highways and met with KCC’s Public Rights of Way team to try to establish who owns and is responsible for this. It seems clear that responsibility rests with the Environment Agency, as per the county definitive map. In light of the EA declining to carry out work, I understand that the residents arranged repairs.

**Other highways-related items** - A dropped kerb at the junction of Marshlands and Rush Close was installed following a request on behalf of a local resident for improved access from the community warden.

For highways-related requests from residents (including drainage and street lighting), KCC has introduced a scheme called the Highways Improvement Plan whereby parish and town councils are encouraged to collect and prioritise these before passing the prioritised list to KCC for consideration.

KCC has sent details of this scheme to each town and parish council but I am not sure if these have passed on from the parish clerk. I would be happy to have them re-sent and to discuss the scheme with the council at a future meeting.

**Dymchurch Primary School crossing** - I met along with KCC highways officers last year to discuss the need for a crossing on the A259 to allow pupils and their families to safely walk to school. This would reduce congestion around the school entrance and would also support the agreed option for parents to park in the Ship Inn car park and walk from there.

It was agreed that the school would identify one of a couple of alternative sites and Safer Mobility Team funding would be provided for a six-month patrol crossing trial, with the school agreeing to encourage parents and guardians to use this.

Unfortunately, the school has struggled to find a volunteer to help with the road crossing patrol. This would involve one hour per day. The search continues and if anyone would be willing to volunteer then please could they contact myself or the school secretary, Stephanie Moir.

**Ship Inn field** - The application for the footpath across the field to be a Public Right of Way (PROW) was made by the Ship Field Residents Society and I met with KCC’s PROW team to discuss this. The intention was for the residents group to this month (one year from the application being made) apply to the secretary of state to expedite a decision.

**KCC Members Grant** - I was delighted to be able to support a number of local projects including **Jam on the Marsh** and the **Turn the Tide Festival**. I very much enjoyed attending the latter – clearly much loved by all the community - and have offered to provide support again this year.

**Dymchurch Recreation Ground** - Last but not least, I am on hand to provide any help I can to the parish council as it looks to secure the future of the recreation ground for the community. This might include liaising and seeking advice from KCC’s village green application team and I have continued to renew the Open Spaces Society membership on behalf of Friends of Dymchurch Rec.

*End of Report from County Councillor Whybrow*

## 5. Questions from the Parishioners

	Questions from Parishioner	FROM	Parish Council Response
1.	What is the system when there is a major incident on the A259	Pearl Wraights	Parish Council did adopt an emergency plan some time ago – but does need reviewing as it is not fit for purpose. Councillors will review and report back to the parishioners at a later date.
2.	We want to support the sea defences – if we get an influx of water in one area, it could flood the whole area, so you need to engage the EA	Terry Preston	Parish Council will ensure they are engaged with the EA and hold regular meetings with them about the area and risks
4.	<p>Mrs Blackwell started by reading out various comments from the councillor’s campaign on FB.</p> <p>Question was : How much has been spent on the pavilion? She then informed the group it was £34,000 over 8 years.</p> <p>Cllr Young asked where that information has been obtained as he had asked via a FOI from the Parish Council and had been told it wasn’t available? Mrs Blackwell mentioned the internet.</p>	Mrs Blackwell	<p>Comments from the Parishioners:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have asked to use it in the past and been refused. Let’s look to future rather than the past.</li> <li>• Told we couldn’t use it for a boot fair as it would be dangerous getting cars in/out – yet can be turned into housing with cars?</li> </ul> <p>Cllr Noonan stated a structural survey has been recently carried out. Building is sound – roof tiles need to be replaced as they hold asbestos. Can be easily done.</p> <p>The Chairman reiterated that there is a desire by the parishioners to keep the Pavilion, we have a football team wanting to base themselves there, and a cricket team also showing interest.</p>
5.	Footpaths across the Fields – ensuring that people can access	Pearl Wraights	Parish Council will take this forward
6.	Skate Ramp disappeared, was it in a bad state? Can we look at having it replaced?	Dr Goode	Parish Council will look at as part of improvements for the Recreation Ground
8	End of Orgarswick Road (top end (away from the village) a small wooden manhole cover, the wood has rotted away, and the bolt is sticking up and a potential trip hazard	Pearl Wraight	Parish Council will look into

**Meeting closed at 8pm**