

POSTLING PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Postling Parish Council held in Postling Village Hall on Tuesday 26 May 2026 at 6.30pm

1. Appointment of Chairman and Vice-Chair:
 - a. Councillor Frank Hobbs was appointed Chairman, as proposed by Cllr Helen Calderbank and seconded by Cllr John Patrick. All in favour.
 - b. Councillor Helen Calderbank was appointed Vice-Chair, as proposed by Cllr Christine Hobbs and seconded by Cllr Dan Shadwick. All in favour.
2. Attendance and apologies for absence:

Attending: Chairman Frank Hobbs, Councillors George Burgess, Helen Calderbank, Christine Hobbs, John Patrick, Daniel Shaddick, Parish Clerk Clare Hamilton

Apologies: Cllr Rob Lye, County Cllr Christopher Hesse, District Cllr Elaine Martin, District Cllr Jenny Hollingsbee.
3. Councillors' Acceptance of Office and Code of Conduct was received in May 2023. No changes to Councillors' declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.
4. The Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on 25 May 2025 were approved and signed at the July 2025 meeting.
5. There were no Members' declarations of interest on Agenda items.
6. Annual Governance Statement & Accountability Return 2025/26:
 - a. **It was resolved** to accept the Annual Internal Audit Report. Thank you to Simon Webster for carrying out the Internal Audit
 - b. **It was resolved** to approve and sign the Annual Governance Statement 2025/26
 - c. **It was resolved** to approve and sign the Accounting Statements for the year ended 31 March 2026
 - d. Postling Parish Council confirms that during the financial year 2025/26 the higher of the Council's gross income for the year or gross annual expenditure for the year did not exceed £25,000. Having met the full criteria for exemption from a limited assurance review under Section 9 of the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015, **it was resolved** to confirm and sign the Exemption from Limited Assurance Review.
 - e. **It was resolved** to confirm the date for the Period for the Exercise of Public Rights as 3 June-14 July 2026.
7. To note the Budget for financial year 2026/27 as agreed at November 2025 meeting.
8. Bank account is HSBC Business Account and monthly fees ceased in September 2025. Account signatories are Chairman and Parish Clerk who is primary user for online banking.
9. There were no amendments to Financial Regulations.
10. **It was resolved** to approve payment to Zurich Municipal of the LTA year 5/5 premium of £305.50 for 2026/27. Proposed by Cllr Helen Calderbank, seconded Cllr Christine Hobbs, all in favour.
11. Policies and Procedures: Data Protection Policy, IT Policy, Publication Scheme updated.
12. KALC Area Committee and Village Hall Committee appointments:

KALC Area Committee: Chairman Frank Hobbs continues in post.

PNVH Committee: Cllr Helen Calderbank and Chairman Frank Hobbs continue in post

Proposed by Cllr Dan Shaddick, seconded by John Patrick, all in favour.

This concludes Annual Meeting business

Chairman Frank Hobbs

Parish Clerk/RFO Clare Hamilton | Highfield, High Street, Elham CT4 6SX | 01303 905073 / 07890 248601

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Ordinary Meeting business follows

13. **It was resolved** unanimously to accept the Minutes of the meeting held 24 March 2026.
14. There were no Members' declarations of interest on Agenda items.
15. Public Participation session was not required.
16. There were no matters arising not included on the Agenda.
17. 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. 26/0465/FH Green Acres, Farthing Common, Lyminge CT18 8DH
Erection of stable & associated hardstanding
Comments to F&HDC by 19 May. PPC Acceptable.
 - b. 26/0301/FH Churchfield, Pilgrims Way, Postling, Hythe, CT21 4EY
Lawful Development Certificate (proposed) for the installation of solar panels
F&HDC is Lawful. PPC Acceptable.
18. Highways
- a. Highway Improvement Plan (HIP)
 - Consultations on the reduction of 30mph limit to 20mph:
We await the result of KCC's consultation.
 - Lorry Watch:
Interest in the scheme was registered on 28.01.26, we await details from Highways.
 - b. Pilgrims Way/Stone Street corner
 - Displaced building hoardings obscured by hedges posing potential danger to passing vehicles:
This was re-reported, ref 957953, with photos and the obstructions have now been moved.
 - c. Sandling Road, Southern Water tanker use
 - Complaint to Southern Water re. tanker usage of Sandling Road:
Complaint logged on 17.02.26, call back received 27.03.26 and email address supplied to submit complaint to them. Response to complaint received 16.04.26 - see Appendix.
 - Damaged Give Way sign, corner of Cuckoo Lane:
Report ref 955662, sign replaced.
 - d. Pot holes Cuckoo Lane and The Street:
 - Two potholes were repaired on Cuckoo Lane, but the many marked on The Street were not repaired. To request Cllr Chris Hespe investigates when the work will be completed.
19. Finance
- a. Balance of account at 26 May 2026: £8,342.24
 - b. Payments and Receipts since last meeting
Payments:

HugoFox	Web hosting	11.99
HugoFox	Email hosting	2.99
HugoFox	Web hosting	11.99

Receipts:

FHDC	Precept 2026/27	£4,957.00
PNVH	Lease 2026/27	£ 50.00
 - c. **To consider** Expenditure due before next meeting:

Chairman Frank Hobbs

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Zurich Municipal Insurance premium 2026/27	£	305.50	(last yr £288.56)
KALC Annual subscription	£	196.15	£32.69 vat
PNVH Hall hire 2026/27	£	48.00	
Hopkins AED Annual defib service fee	£	249.48	£41.58 vat
PCC Annual donation	£	100.00	s.137
Age UK Annual donation	£	100.00	s.137
Air Ambulance Annual donation	£	200.00	s.137
Parish Clerk Salary April May	£	466.96	
HugoFox Website hosting May June	£	23.98	£4.79 vat
Email hosting May June	£	5.98	£1.19 vat
F&HDC Annual bin emptying fee	£	97.45	£16.24 vat

It was resolved to approve expenditure, proposed by Cllr George Burgess, seconded by Cllr Christine Hobbs and approved unanimously.

20. Reports from District and County Councillors are included in Annual Parish Meeting Minutes.
21. Local Government Reorganisation
Announcement of Government's preferred option is due in July.
22. Otterpool Park Working Group
Planning Permission has been granted for the reed bed sewage works. Homes England are now onboard and have bought land to begin the first building phase.
23. For Information
 - 2026 meeting dates: 28 July, 29 September, 24 November
 - Next Parish Council meeting: 28 July 2026
 - Meeting closed at 7.10pm.

Signed..... Cllr Frank Hobbs, Chairman, 28 July 2026

Appendix

18c. Southern Water response to complaint about tankers using Sandling Road:

Date: 16 April 2026 Re: Update regarding tanker movements on Sandling Road

Thank you for your email received on 01 April 2026 regarding tanker movements along Sandling Road. I acknowledge your concerns and the impact this situation may be having on residents in the parish, including issues relating to road safety, congestion, noise, and the condition of the road, particularly given its rural nature and recent repair works.

Having reviewed this matter, the tanker activity forms part of essential, planned works being carried out by Southern Water. These works are necessary to maintain our wastewater network and to help prevent blockages, pollution incidents, and potential flooding that could affect homes and public areas.

Before these works commenced, the routes used by tankers were carefully assessed in collaboration with the local highways' authority. This process includes consideration of road suitability, traffic impact, and safety risks. Sandling Road was included within the authorised routes following this assessment, and all necessary permissions were granted prior to the works starting.

I appreciate your concerns regarding the suitability of this route, particularly given the narrow nature of the road and its use by residents, buses, and agricultural vehicles. Alternative options have been reviewed by our operational teams and contractors; however, this route was determined to be the only viable option to carry out the works safely and effectively.

Your feedback has been shared with our operational teams and subcontractors, and we will continue to explore whether there are any opportunities to reduce tanker movements or minimise disruption where possible.

These works are temporary and are currently scheduled to be completed by 30 April 2026. Once the works are finished, any affected areas, including grass verges and road edges, will be reinstated to their previous condition in line with our restoration responsibilities.

We recognise the disruption this has caused and apologise for the inconvenience experienced by you and the wider community. If you have additional questions or would like further advice, please add these to your email. Our contact details are below and if you include my name then I will make sure I continue to oversee your query.