



**Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held at 7 pm on Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2026, at the Parish Council Offices, Orgarswick Avenue, Dymchurch.**

## **MINUTES**

### **Present-**

**Cllr. C. McCreedy (Chair)**

**Cllr. L. Finch (Vice Chair)**

**Cllr. V . McCreedy**

**Cllr. C. Cooper**

**Cllr.A.Pegler**

### **Also, in attendance**

**Mr J Lawrence (Parish Clerk) Mr A Lawson (Projects and Finance Officer)**

**District Cllr. Tony Hills, Representatives from Park Holidays New Beach**

#### **1. APOLOGIES.**

Members are reminded to tender apologies for absence directly to the Clerk if they are unable to attend. Members will confirm acceptance of the reasons for absence.

**Cllr. D. Young**

**Cllr. C. Young**

**Cllr. A. Weatherhead**

**Cllr. M. Wright**

#### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

- a. To disclose any personal interests in items on the agenda and their nature.
- b. To declare any prejudicial interests in items on the agenda – any councillors with prejudicial interests must leave the room for those relevant items.

#### **3. Minutes of the previous meeting.**

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026, to be agreed upon by the members present.

Amendments agreed by members present and signed by the Chair.

4. **PLANNING- Received by 26<sup>th</sup> January 2026- Additional applications will be discussed if received between the date of publication and the date of the Parish council meeting.**

Please note that representatives from New Beach Holiday Park will be available to assist with the applications listed below.

Three representatives from Park Holidays addressed the Parish Council to explain the application.

The council informed them of concerns raised by residents who had also written to the Planning Department. The main concerns were tree planting and its effects on light to properties, noise from operations within the compound and site, and hours of operation during the construction stages.

The representatives acknowledged the concerns raised, will address them with the site managers, and will also submit an updated planting schedule. This will be submitted within the next few weeks, allowing the Parish Council to make final comments before the closing date.

Application number	Address	Details	Comments
<a href="#"><u>26/0069/FH/CON</u></a>	NEW BEACH HOLIDAY VILLAGE, 133 HYTHE ROAD, DYMCHURCH, ROMNEY MARSH, TN29 0JX	Approval of details pursuant to conditions 3 (construction ecological management plan), 5 (Habitat Monitoring and Management Plan), 6 (Biodiversity Enhancement Plan), and 7 (lighting design plan) of planning permission 25/0310/FH.	Noted
<a href="#"><u>25/2297/FH</u></a>	NEW BEACH HOLIDAY VILLAGE, 133 HYTHE ROAD, DYMCHURCH, ROMNEY MARSH, TN29 0JX	Retention of existing maintenance yard; provision of sales area, car parking, and soft landscaping; and phased reduction of car parking to	See above- The Council will await the updated planting schedule before making final comments although no objections raised in principle.

		increase soft landscaping.	
<b>26/0031/FH</b>	23 HIGH STREET, DYMCHURCH, ROMNEY MARSH, TN29 0NH	Listed Building Consent for repair works to roof to include removal of roof tiles, remedial repairs to sagging section of roof and re-instatement of tiles.	No objections. Carried Unanimously

Members will also note the following appeal and make comments if required-  
AP-6758- Planning Inspectorate

Appeal against the decision to refuse the planning application for the following

<a href="#">25/0447/FH</a>	Bowery Hall, Ship Close, Dymchurch, TN29 0LH	Erection of 4 x residential dwellings with associated parking area.
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No objections were raised by the Parish Council when the application was discussed on the 12<sup>th</sup> of May 2025.

The Parish Council noted the appeal and had no further comments.

## 5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION/PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Members may propose that the meeting be adjourned to enable Public Participation.

Standing Orders permit members of the public to speak at Council meetings. The allocated time for Public Participation is 15 minutes, with each individual allowed up to 3 minutes at the chair's discretion.

At the conclusion of the Public Participation segment, the Council meeting will resume.

**No members of the public present.**

## 6. TO DEAL WITH MATTERS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE IN CIRCULATION

- The parish council raised concerns that several village litter bins are rusty, damaged, or deteriorating, and requested Veolia staff report faulty bins so replacements can be budgeted.

The Council thanked District Councillor Tony Cooper for raising this matter with the appropriate District Council Officer.

- A resident reported long-standing and increasing vehicle speeding on the main road through Dymchurch, especially near Tudor Avenue, and requested consideration of police or highways enforcement measures.

The Clerk was instructed to contact Kent Police, requesting speed checks in the area. In addition, it was noted that Cllr. V. McCreedy will continue to work with KCC, looking at Highway Safety.

- A resident expressed concerns about dogs being exercised off-leash on beach walkways despite signage, and requested stronger enforcement to ensure dogs are kept on leads for safety.

The Clerk was instructed to confirm whether there are bylaws or any legislation requiring dogs to be on leads on the Seawall.

- A notification was issued that the Dymchurch 10K Run will take place on Sunday, 8 February.

Noted

## **7. CHAIR'S REPORT**

The Chair will provide an update on any additional Council activities and meetings attended.

- Reported the gully sucker had attended to deal with the flooding in the Village Hall Carpark. Further investigation is required.
- A letter from Emma Hardy MP has been received, which informs that the issue of seawater quality is a priority, with Dymchurch being a target area for improvement.
- Meeting held with residents of the Redoubt Estate to discuss concerns over flooding and operational matters at New Beach- See item 4 above.
- Noted the work completed at the entrance to the Recreation ground, but acknowledged the need to bring the pedestrian gate back into use.

## **8. MEMBER REPORTS**

Members will update the Committee regarding any meetings or events they attend on behalf of the Parish Council that are not included in the agenda.

### **Cllr. A. Pegler**

- Attended Village Hall Committee meeting- Council thanked for removing wheelie bin from alleyway, Kitchen facilities are now complete at the hall. The Day of Syn committee have booked the hall for two days. Clearing the floodwater from the carpark has been noted, and a reminder about the two abandoned vehicles in the carpark has been sent.

- Reported that the verges to the rear of the fun fair are looking very untidy and require attention  
The clerk was instructed to write to the owner of the fun fair or the relevant authority for a clear-up.

Cllr. C. Cooper

- Attended a recent Romney Marsh Forum meeting where the Mayor of New Romney, John Rivers, gave a presentation for a new Diagnostic Health Centre for the Romney Marsh. Support is sought for this initiative. It was confirmed that the Parish Council had already written to the Integrated Health Board and the local MP in support of this initiative.  
It was proposed that Dymchurch Parish Council support this initiative, and the motion carried unanimously.

Cllr. L. Finch

- Reported an increase in dog fouling along the Seawall  
Cllr. T. Hills agreed to raise this with the enforcement teams. The Clerk will contact the Community Safety Unit at Folkestone and Hythe District Council.

Cllr. V. McCreedy

- Kent County Council has supplied the speed banner. This has been attached to a farm perimeter fence on East Bridge Road.
- Additional Speed reduction stickers have been distributed, and residents are using these to help reduce speeding in the village. This includes residents at Tudor Avenue.
- Reported that the pumping station had failed at the Ship Inn location- Southern Water quickly resolved this.

#### 9. Reports from external bodies

- i. Kent County Council- Cllr Osborne  
No update received
- ii. District Council- Cllrs Tony Cooper and Tony Hills  
Written reports received and a verbal report from Cllr. Tony Hills.  
See reports attached to these minutes.
- iii. KCC Warden- Carol Coveney  
No update this month
- iv. Kent Police- PC's Putland and Hockless  
Acknowledgement Received – No information of note for Dymchurch Parish

#### 10. PARISH CLERK - REPORT

- A welfare concern reported by a distant family member was resolved when the KCC Warden, Carol Coveney, located the individual and confirmed they had moved to a care home.

- The faulty kiosk freezer has been removed and will incur a disposal cost due to refrigerant gases.
- A burst pipe was identified as the cause of ongoing drainage and flooding issues at Orgarswick Avenue/A259 and is currently being repaired.
- Reinstatement of the bus shelter at Youngs is scheduled for early to mid-March, with 50% funding secured via the KCC Bus Stop Fund.
- Annual servicing and safety checks for electrical appliances and fire extinguishers have been arranged.
- Repairs to the rear window at the Parish Council Offices are underway.
- The government has launched a consultation proposing clearer farming rules to reduce agricultural water pollution and improve environmental protection.

## 11. FINANCE

a. Breakdown of expenditure/income since the last meeting.

b. Authorisation of Payments – Members will review the list of invoices for payment and identify two Councillors to authorise the payments online.

Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Payment Ref.	Description	Supplier	VAT Type		Net
Handyman Tools & Consum	12/01/2026		Unity Trust Bank	Rock Salt	J H Youngs Ltd	S	15.53	3.11	18.64
Lease Fees EA & Crown Est	12/01/2026		Unity Trust Bank	Foreshore Rent	Crown Estate	E	169.63		169.63
Audit Fee	15/01/2026		Unity Trust Bank	External Audit	Mazars LLP	S	420.00	84.00	504.00
Payroll Processing	20/01/2026		Unity Trust Bank	Payroll Processing	S H Bureau	S	170.04	34.01	204.05
Repairs & Maintenance	20/01/2026		Unity Trust Bank	Recreation Ground Pathw	Jesse Penfold Landscap	S	3,200.00	640.00	3,840.00
Maintenance	23/01/2026		Unity Trust Bank	Carpark Drain Clearance	Dyno-Rod	S	590.00	118.00	708.00
Stationery & Postage	31/01/2026		Unity Trust Bank	Stationery	J H Youngs Ltd	S	8.83	1.77	10.60
Handyman Tools & Consum	31/01/2026		Unity Trust Bank	Rock Salt	J H Youngs Ltd	S	38.83	7.77	46.60
<b>Total</b>							<b>4,612.86</b>	<b>888.66</b>	<b>5,501.52</b>

c. To consider refurbishment of the roundabout at the recreation ground or to fund a replacement- adjourned item awaiting additional quotes

Members considered additional quotations for replacement equipment. It was unanimously agreed to repair the existing equipment due to the cost of a new roundabout. This will be £2938.31 (Excluding VAT)

d. To consider any additional quotes for demolition of the Pavilion

Members reviewed additional quotations for demolition of the Pavilion. It was agreed that the original quote would be accepted, as decided at the meeting in January.

Additional proposals-

a. Kiosk Freezer replacement- All agreed to replace defective freezer, spending £1000.00 (Excluding VAT)

**b.** Cllr. C. McCreedy proposed the following and declared an interest due to his involvement as a trustee for the Recreation Ground Charity-

1. To pay for approved Bat Boxes- £300.00
2. To pay for historic bat habitat records- £140.00
3. To pay for a bat licence £170.00

Vice Chair Cllr. Finch chaired this matter, and a vote was taken excluding Cllr. C. McCreedy-

Carried unanimously

**12. TO CONSIDER PRESENTATION FROM HANDS OFF OUR MARSH (HOOM)- Cllr. A Weatherhead.**

After the discussion, it was agreed that Hands of Our Marsh would be invited to present at the Annual Parish Meeting.

**13. PAVILION UPDATE- FRIENDS OF DYMCHURCH RECREATION GROUND CHARITY**

No additional information apart from matters mentioned in these minutes

**14. SEAWATER BATHING QUALITY-**

Members had been made aware that a formal response had been received from Emma Hardy MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at DEFRA, regarding the recent *Poor* bathing water classification for Dymchurch. The letter confirmed that the Environment Agency is legally required to publish annual classifications and that the 2025 rating cannot be amended, as the evidence reviewed did not demonstrate a sufficient "step-change" to exclude earlier sampling data. The next classification will follow the 2026 bathing season, using data from 2023–2026.

Members noted that Dymchurch continues to receive the highest level of monitoring and that an action plan is in place involving DNA sampling, sewer inspections, misconnection surveys, and ongoing work with Folkestone & Hythe District Council and Southern Water.

The Council also noted that representatives from the Environment Agency, Southern Water, and Folkestone & Hythe District Council are expected to attend the next Parish Council meeting to discuss the matter further.

**15. HIGHWAYS SAFETY UPDATE- CLLR. V. McCREEDY**

- Reported that the KCC Community Engagement Officer had now moved from his post and that a new officer would take over in the next

few weeks. It was requested that the Council extend its thanks to the officer for his support over the past few years.

The clerk advised that this had already been completed.

**16. FLOODING – CLLR. L. FINCH**

No concerns raised this month.

**17. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AT FUTURE MEETINGS- PLEASE NOTE DECISIONS CANNOT BE MADE ON ITEMS INTRODUCED HERE**

- Health Centre Diagnostic Centre update
- Graffiti issues rising in Dymchurch

**18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

2<sup>nd</sup> March 2026 Dymchurch Parish Council Offices Orgarswick Avenue

Dymchurch-

**Please note that the venue for the next meeting has not yet been confirmed.**

Report from District Cllr. Tony Cooper:

1. Apologies for my absence due to the weather and other duties.
2. I have attended the usual council meetings both locally and in the House of Commons with our MP Tony Vaughan.
3. I also attended meetings over sea bathing water quality with Southern Water and the Environment Agency. The District Council will be taking over the running of these events, which includes community involvement from now on.
4. You will be aware that the planning committee has approved the Solar Farm by Enviromena. This was voted through by 8 votes to 4. I voted against along with the other two Marsh Councillors. I also seconded the proposal for refusal, but this fell due to the affirmative vote going first.
5. Before work can begin, there is a long list of conditions Enviromena has to comply with, including, for example, soil sampling and a traffic plan going up St Mary's Road in New Romney. Your objection and request that construction traffic avoid the village was

raised by me as it was excluded from the officer's report and was insisted upon it as a

condition if approval was given.

6. It's important that you monitor the construction traffic and report any breaches as they happen.

7. The district council will be finalising its budget in coming weeks, including the introduction of a new council tax relief scheme " for residents of working age " raising

the available help for them from the current 75% up to 100% - which is to be funded

through the increase in council tax for second homeowners. This should help some with the cost of living. It's shocking the Conservative Group voted against this helpful

measure, given most people in receipt of universal credit are in work.

8. In light of the proposed expenditure on swimming pools, both in Folkestone and in

Hythe. I also asked when the people of the Marsh could expect to see a swimming pool

built for them and was given an unhelpful answer.

9. A local business was recently given an award of £6k from the Rural England Prosperity Fund. That fund has also been extended to June, so please make use of it.

Once it's gone, it's gone.

10. We're also awaiting the government's decision, which is expected soon regarding the number of unitary authorities and who we will be partnered with upon Local Government Reorganisation.

As usual, please don't hesitate to contact me if you need any support or if I can be of any

help.

Cllr Tony Cooper

Report from District Councillor Tony Hills.

Tony Hills F&H DC member for the Romney Marsh Ward.

Dymchurch Report for February

Matters I have been engaged with, Romney Marsh ward.

Water Quality

I make no apologies of keeping this report to this important single issue this month. I

have raised concerns to the Environment Agency concerning their lack of action in reconsideration of Dymchurch beach water quality, no answer yet, but we have a community water quality meeting on the 19th of February at the Folkestone & Hythe Civic Centre.

I did ask this question at last Wednesday's F&H Council meeting:

1. From Councillor Hills to Councillor J Martin, Leader and Cabinet Member for Planning Policy and Otterpool Park

Since the disappointing decision by the EA to classify Dymchurch bathing beach as poor for the 2026 season, with the damaging recommendation not to bath, this is having a serious effect on the local community and can't be allowed to continue. What does the council intend to do in bringing about change?

ANSWER:

"Thank you for your question, Cllr Hills.

For the benefit of other members, I will give some background to the bathing water classification at Dymchurch this year. The Environment Agency tests at the six designated bathing waters in the district throughout the summer season.

Currently, two of the bathing waters are designated as poor, Littlestone and Dymchurch. This year, the Dymchurch results were markedly improved on the previous year.

The Environment Agency, with our backing, undertook a step change appraisal to reassess the rating. Unfortunately, after the reassessment by the Environment Agency, the rating did not change. This is a decision we profoundly disagree with and we believe that they have failed to justify.

We continue to push the Environment Agency to explain their decision and if,

in their opinion, more needs to be done to explain what that is and crucially take some action to ensure that the responsible parties take the necessary action to put this right.

Other actions for 2026 will in the main be a continuation of work already underway. This will include: -

- Continued pressure on the EA and Southern Water, to extend their out of season testing programme to identify problems in advance of the bathing season. Just to put this into context, in Dymchurch in 2025, we had five alerts for sewage discharge. Already in January this year we've had five alerts for discharge at Dymchurch, but we've also had five alerts for sewage discharge at St Mary's Bay and we've had five alerts for sewage discharge at Littlestone. We've had 27 alerts of discharges at Sunny Sands and we have had, believe it or not, 200 notifications of discharges on the Hythe long pipe. Southern Water have more or less, in 2026, been pouring untreated sewage into our seas continuously since the beginning of the year.
- Investigation of the September spike that impacted test results along the coast particularly at Littlestone. This must include the EA and Southern Water reviewing their tidal modelling for overflow discharges from Hythe Range Road.
- Continued support from council officers to Southern Water's programme of resolving missed connections and leaking cesspits.
- Continuation of the technical group meetings between the EA, Southern Water and our Environmental Protection Team.
- Continuation of the programme of public meetings, with the EA and Southern Water.
- At a strategic level, continued lobbying by this council for greater investment by Southern Water into our local water infrastructure.

I hope this answers your question"

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION:

Would the leader agree that all sewage going to sea should be UV, (ultraviolet)

treated before release?

ANSWER:

“I am not a marine engineer or a sewage expert, but it seems to me to be a very, admittedly expensive, but a very simple step that could reduce the problem significantly”.

I believe that water should be treated with respect, it is a precious resource, the EA should update their regulations to make sure only treated water leaves the sewage works. With more extreme weather to be expected, we need more water storage to allow proper treatment.

Tony Hills, F&H District councillor for Romney Marsh Ward. Home Telephone 01797 321246 Mobile 07860 295730