



## Minutes of Dymchurch Parish Council Meeting

**Date:** Monday, 1st December 2025

**Time:** 7:00 pm

**Venue:** Parish Council Offices, Orgarswick Avenue, Dymchurch

### MINUTES

#### Present-

**Cllr. C. McCready (Chair)**

**Cllr. C. Young**

**Cllr. D. Young**

**Cllr. V. McCready**

**Cllr. A. Pegler**

**Cllr. C. Cooper**

**Cllr. A. Weatherhead**

#### Also in attendance

**Mr J Lawrence -Parish Clerk, Mr A Lawson – Projects and Finance Officer**

**District Cllr. Tony Hills , Chair Friends of Dymchurch Recreation Ground Charity- Deana Coker**

#### 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.

Apologies received from **Cllr Mark Wright**

**Cllr Liam Finch** attended online due to illness but was unable to vote, as remote attendance does not count as presence under Council rules.

#### 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.

**No declarations made**

#### 3. Minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2025, to be agreed upon by the members present.

Minutes of the meeting held on **3rd November 2025** were agreed and signed as a correct record.

#### 4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION/PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Members may propose to adjourn the meeting 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-**

**Item 15 heard at this point – Please see below for details**

#### 5. TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE BUDGET 2026-2027

Members will consider the proposed budget in circulation

- Mr Lawson presented detailed budget summary:
  - Projected Expenditure: **£140270**
  - Receipts: **£53,425**
  - Required precept: **£86,845**
  - Reserves expected at **£118,000** (similar to previous year).
- Expenditure includes inflationary adjustments, maintenance, tree work, and provision for highways improvements.
- A vote was held and the budget shown at appendix 1 was agreed unanimously.

#### 6. PARISH COUNCIL PRECEPT 2026-2027

Members will consider and agree on the Parish Council precept requirement 2026-2027, having agreed the budget at item 5

- Having agreed the budget the following options were considered:
  - **Option A:** Hold precept at **£86,845** (no increase).
  - **Option D:** Increase precept by ~5% (£3 per Band D household).
- Debate noted austerity concerns, impact on residents, and need to protect reserves.
- **Vote outcome:** 4 for Option A, 3 for Option D.
- **Decision:** Precept set at **£86,845** (no increase).
- Pavilion demolition costs to be met from earmarked reserves. This will require a further decision as and when required at a future meeting.

## **7. TO DEAL WITH MATTERS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE IN CIRCULATION**

**Concerns over the condition of the bus shelter opposite Venture Close:**  
District Council to clean graffiti; further action if unsatisfactory.

**Abandoned Vehicles in Village Hall Carpark:** DVLA paperwork submitted to commence removal process. A new system for recording owners of vehicles who purchase Parish Council permits will be introduced next year to improve contact with owners who persistently leave vehicles in the carpark.

**New Romney Health Hub update received :** Parish Council continues to support initiative; letters sent to relevant authorities.

**Signage Concerns (Fairway), in particular, Elderly People Signage:**  
Clarified following correspondence and photos; assurance given that concerns are taken seriously. The road signs are of a specific size and conform to Highways regulations installed by Kent County Council

**Pavement Works The Fairway:** Ongoing repairs noted.

**New Tide times and Weather Website to be considered for Parish Council Website:** Tide information display to be updated for clarity.

**Car Park Roadside Signage:** Missing "Car Park Entrance" sign noted at Martello Carpark. This will be reported to Kent Highways.

## **8. CHAIR'S REPORT**

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

- **Remembrance Parade** was successful, though speaker system improvements were suggested for next year.
- Chair thanked volunteers for distributing newsletters; positive feedback noted.
- Bulls Field- New Trees have been planted along the boundary of the grassed area
- Investigations have commenced into drainage issues- Authorisation agreed for pumping out soakaway in Parish Council carpark

## **9. Reports from external bodies**

- i. Kent County Council- Cllr Osborne- No report this month
- ii. District Council- Cllrs Tony Cooper and Tony Hills  
Written report received from Cllr Tony Cooper who sends his apologies-  
A summary follows:

- **Apologies:** Unable to attend due to district duties.

- **Local Government Reorganisation (LGR):** District Council voted for option 3a – abolishing Kent County and District Councils by 2028; preference for 3 unitary councils. Government decision expected next year.
- **Parking Issues:** Extra wardens deployed to address inconsiderate parking in the village during busy times.
- **Sea Bathing Water Quality:** No improvement this year; village and businesses should not be penalised.
- **Government Measures:** New rules on sea bathing waters – no automatic loss of designation after 5 adverse years without ministerial approval.
- **Environment Agency Involvement:** MP ensured EA participation; recent meeting included EA Regional Director and MP.
- **Dymchurch Review Request:** EA asked to reconsider step-change improvements similar to Deal and St Mary's Bay; emphasis on promoting the village for visitors.
- **Health Services:** District selected for improved health service plan; campaign for a funded medical centre on the Marsh supported.
- **Green Grant:** Parish Council received grant earlier this year; additional £170k Rural England Prosperity Fund to be spent by March. Could you infer from this?
- **Councillor Surgeries:** Now appointment-based due to health issues; contact via phone or email to arrange.

Cllr. Tony Hills gave a verbal update covering the following matters

### **Water Quality**

- Attended Community Water Quality meeting (Varne Boat Club, Littlestone, 28 Nov) chaired by F&H DC Leader.
- Southern Water presented improvements for EA bathing beach designations (2026).
- Concern raised: Dymchurch failed designation despite improved 2025 results.
- MP urged EA to allocate more resources to identify contamination causes.
- Will question F&H DC Leader on plans to work closely with EA to resolve ongoing issues.

### **Solar Farms**

- South Brooks scheme progressing; Scoping Report submitted to Planning Inspectorate (11 Nov).
- Inspectorate response due within 42 days; will consult parish, town, local, and county councils.
- Tony Hills committed to keeping Romney Marsh parishes informed.

### **Community Hubs**

- Motion at F&H DC highlighted vital role of voluntary organisations (e.g., Sunflower House, Rainbow Centre, Age UK, Romney Marsh Community Hub).

- Council voted unanimously to urge government for more support amid rising demand.
- Romney Marsh Community Hub praised for services including 'Marsh Bee' transport; continued local support encouraged.

## **Local Government Reform**

- F&H DC submitted preferred option (3A): three unitary councils for Kent.
  - Proposed East Kent unitary would include Ashford, Folkestone & Hythe, Dover, Thanet, Canterbury (~800,000 population).
  - Awaiting government consultation decision in summer.
- iii. KCC Warden- Carol Coveney- No report this month  
 iv. Kent Police- PC's Putland and Hockless- No report this month

## **10. PARISH CLERK UPDATE**

- Lease agreement for Community Garden now ready for circulation- The Clerk will arrange completion
- Burial Records now completed- The physical check to tie in with the burial grounds will be started as soon as possible to update the burial ground maps.
- All other matters included within the minutes.

## **11. 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.L.Finch**

#### **Memorial Service – 9th November**

- Attended the service and laid a wreath on behalf of Cllr Tony Cooper at Folkestone & Hythe District Council.
- Service was well-attended and appreciated by the public.

### **Internal Drainage Board**

- Appointed to the Internal Drainage Board by FHDC leader, Cllr Jim Martin.
- Role involves managing drainage, watercourses, and flood risk systems.
- Updates will be shared on future developments.

### **Redoubt Estate**

- Complaints about road and path conditions (potholes, cracks).
- Reported to FHDC; responsibility confirmed as KCC.
- Issues reported via KCC website; cones placed and repairs carried out since last meeting.

### **Friends of Dymchurch Rec – Meeting**

- Attended meeting on 27th November; positive engagement with community-focused group.
- Exciting initiatives:

- Bat boxes and owl boxes for wildlife conservation (offered help to install).
- Pavilion planning application approved with conditions—major milestone for the group.

#### **CLLR.V.MCCREEDY**

- Attended Twinning Association AGM; thanks to the parish council recorded for grant and office use.
- Attended Remembrance Parade and service.
- Requested maintenance on sea wall gate due to signs of rusting
- Attended Assets & Amenities Committee and Friends meetings.
- Attended Guitar Club hospice fundraiser and multiple Christmas events.

#### **CLLR.A.PEGLER**

- Attended Scouts Christmas Fair
- Attended Remembrance Service

#### **CLLR.C.YOUNG**

- Attended Scouts Event

#### **CLLR.C.COOPER**

- Reported that she will be attending the Romney Marsh Forum next week.
- Attended the Health and Wellbeing Meeting- and reported that New Romney is keen to take forward the Health Centre project, which is a necessity within the Marsh Area.

#### **CLLR.D.YOUNG**

- Attended the Annual General Meeting of the Village Hall with Cllrs Cathy Young and Anne Pegler. For the first time, he mentioned that he had heard from the Village Hall about their concerns over loss of custom when the new Pavilion is built.
- There was also a request for the pump to be made available at the hall for weekend use, should the carpark become flooded.

#### **12. PLANNING- Additional applications may be considered if received between the publishing of the agenda and the Parish Council meeting**

Ref No	Address	Details	Comments
<a href="#"><u>25/1535/FH</u></a>	35 TARTANE LANE, DYMCHURCH, ROMNEY MARSH, TN29 0LJ	Erection of a single storey front extension and two storey side extension with rooms in the roof to the main house, together with the	No objections, carried unanimously

		erection of a front extension to existing garage with increase in height of roof to form dummy pitch and enlargement/alteration of parking layout to the front.	
25/2000/FH	69 THE FAIRWAY, DYMCHURCH, ROMNEY MARSH, TN29 0QG	Proposal: Erection of annex following demolition of existing garage.	No Objections

### 13. 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.

Payee	Details	Amount (Inc VAT)
Marc Coleman	Treework and grass cutting	4110.00
Staff and HMRC	Pay/Income tax/NI	4097.29

- c. Additional items requiring authorisation:

- i. To consider a quotation for work at the entrance to the recreation ground.

Three quotes considered- Unanimous vote for Penfolds to carry out the work to the entrance of the recreation ground at a cost of £3200 +VAT

### 14. SEAWATER BATHING QUALITY- CLLR. D. YOUNG

**To include a discussion on the latest Seawater Quality Assessment, which was issued as poor.**

- Cllr Dougie Young said he was disappointed that seawater classification had not improved, and stressed that the village and local businesses should not be blamed.
- He noted concerns about losing bathing water status but explained that this now requires ministerial approval after five years, instead of being automatic after four years.
- He reported that the local MP had been asked to keep the Environment Agency involved, and that at a recent meeting the MP and the Agency's regional director agreed to review the decision not to upgrade the area's seawater status.

- Cllr Young said it was important to promote the village and reassure visitors that it is still “business as usual.”
- The Council discussed the need to keep pressure on agencies to improve seawater quality, including drainage and pollution issues, and agreed on the importance of community involvement.

It was agreed to instruct the Clerk to write to the relevant Minister to raise the concerns discussed and the need for a step change decision in reclassifying our sea water for next year in a similar way that St Mary’s Bay was previously.

## **15. PAVILION UPDATE- FRIENDS OF DYMCHURCH RECREATION GROUND CHARITY**

- From Deana Coker  
Announcement: **Full planning permission granted** for Pavilion build (after two years of waiting).
- Fundraising total stands at **£123,000**; planning permission enables applications for **match funding and sponsorship**.
- Upcoming events:
  - **Christmas Market** (sold out, with Father Christmas and elves attending).
  - **Christmas with Bublé** tribute and afternoon tea (sold out).
  - **Freddie Mercury tribute** scheduled for **7th February 2026**.

## **16. HIGHWAYS SAFETY UPDATE- CLLR. V. McCREEDY**

To receive an update and any proposals relating to Highways Safety

- Cllr McCreedy reported that a new 30 mph speed limit sign for East Bridge Road once delivered will be installed on a farm boundary fence with permission.
- A letter has been prepared for printing on council letterhead to inform residents. Posters and bin stickers will be distributed to residents either in person or via letterboxes, with a covering letter requesting cooperation in reducing speeding.
- Information about the new speed limit and road safety will also be added to the council website, including suggested content and guidance for cyclists and pedestrians.
- Cllr McCreedy noted that the pedestrian crossing proposal at Burmarsh Corner remains at the feasibility stage and advised not to raise public expectations at this point.
- The Cllr also noted that the letter received from a resident in The Fairway, suggesting that authorities did not take their concerns seriously, could not

be further from the truth and that the parish Council will continue to push for safety improvements where they can.

## **17. FLOODING CONCERNS – CLLR. L. FINCH**

To include an update on the most recent meeting with New Beach Holiday Park

- Cllr Finch reported ongoing flooding and nuisance issues affecting residents of Readout Estate and held a meeting with the General Manager of New Beach Holiday Park, Simon Spinney, to discuss them.
- The Holiday Park has submitted a pre-application to the district council, proposing the removal of 50–60% of the hard-standing car park and relocating the compound entrance to help reduce flooding and nuisance.
- A temporary drainage system is planned, with installation expected by March, subject to planning. If full planning is approved, permanent works are anticipated to begin around October 2026.
- Cllr Finch noted the manager's cooperative attitude and his commitment to resolving the issues, as he receives frequent reports from residents.
- The manager has agreed to keep the culvert clear and has begun clearing the dike along the boundary of Crimmond Avenue as part of efforts to address the flooding.

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

No matters raised.

## **19. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

5<sup>th</sup> January 2026 Dymchurch Parish Council Offices Orgarswick Avenue  
Dymchurch

## **Dymchurch Parish Council**

## Detailed Budget Summary

## All Cost Centres and Codes (Between 01/04/2025 and 28/09/2025)

Bulls Field Car Park		Last Year 2024-2025				Current Year 2025-2026					
Code	Title	Receipts		Payments		Receipts			Payments		
		Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Forecast	Total	Budget	Actual
9	Business Rates			10,250.00	11,835.66				12,500.00	16,569.92	
12	Cash Collection Service										16,569.92
11	Enforcement			1,800.00	1,064.26						
8	Ground Maintenance										
69	Maintenance			2,000.00	1,405.50						
14	Management Fee & Charges	-38.30	200.00	57.91					1,500.00	1,322.99	1,322.99
10	Pay & Display Ticket Rolls										
13	Permit Printing & PO Fee										
15	Signage										
						-249.19	-249.19	200.00		800.00	Assuming
										400.00	Fees increase
											Based on
											25/26
											Will need new
											passes for
											27/28 to be
-38.30			14,250.00	14,363.33					14,200.00	17,892.91	

## paid in 25/26

**SUB  
TOT  
L**

**-249.19  
249.19**

**17,9  
82.9  
1**

**Complete**

**Burial Ground**

**Last Year 2024-2025**

**Receipts**      **Payments**

Code

Code	Title	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Forecast	Total	Budget	Actual	Forecast	Total
7	Memorial Garden Maintenance & Gardening	150.00	439.25										
5	Repairs & Maintenance	1,000.00											250.00
6	Tree Surgery	1,000.00											

**Current Year 2025-2026**

**Receipts**      **Payments**

**15  
0.0  
0**

**Complete**

**General  
Maintenance**

**Last Year 2024-2025**

**Receipts**      **Payments**

Code

Code	Title	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Forecast	Total	Budget	Actual	Forecast	Total
71	Asset Maintenance			5,000.00						690.00			
76	Webcam									690.00			

**Current Year 2025-2026**

**Receipts**      **Payments**

**690.00**

**Complete**

**SUB TOTAL**

**5,000.00**

**690.00**

**690.**

**Highways and  
Other Village**

**Last Year 2024-2025**

Code	Title	Budget	Receipts	Actual	Budget	Payments	Actual
16	Christmas Lights				5,000.00	2,764.46	
17	Dymchurch Gardening Group						
19	Grass Cutting & Weeding				6,600.00	7,637.50	
80	Handyman Tools & Consumables						2,458.66
18	Public Noticeboards & Signs						409.04

**Current Year 2025-2026**

**Complete**

**R**

**Receipts****Payments**

Budget	Actual	Forecast	Total	Budget	Actual	Forecast	Total
			2,000.00				

**Based on 25/26****Based on 25/26**

81	Seating	1,114.67	1,744.49	1,744.49
75	Slipway Gate			
17	Village Signs & Floral Displays			
		1,000.00 4,341.19	1,000.00 426.40	426.40
		<b>12,600.00 18,725.52</b>	<b>10,100.00 8,090.50</b>	<b>- 13,100.00</b>
<b>SUB</b>				<b>8,09</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>0.50</b>
<b>L</b>				

## Maxaars fee outstanding 25/26

## General provision

77	Travel Expenses	100.00	60.50	100.00	32.85	32.85	50.00
48	Water & Waste	600.00	635.27	600.00	424.64	424.64	650.00
78	Website	120.00	219.78	350.00	34.98	34.98	210.00

**SUB TOTAL**

27,170.00 17,569.11

5.00° 8.62

**6,090**

**ail fees**

Next Year  
Receipts Payments  
Budget Budget  
- 6,645.00

**Projects**

**Last Year  
2024-2025**  
Receipts Payments

**Current Year 2025-2026**

**Receipts Payments**

Code	Title	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Forecast	Total	Budget	Actual	Forecast	Total
70	EV Charging Points Match Funding												
84	Highway Improvements				284.96								
64	Landscaping			5,000.00									
62	Office Refurb												
63	Pavilion			10,000.00									

de et ual et al  
34 Leaflets  
35 Parish Council  
36 Newsletter Events  
10,500.00

**SUB TOTAL**

15,000.00 284.96

1,200 1,036  
.00 .00

Co Title Budg Act B  
de et et al  
23 CCTV 450.00

2

**Promotion of the Village**

**Last year  
2024-2025**

**SUB TOTAL**

Recreation Ground  
Last year 2024-2025  
Receipts Payments

Play Equipment Check 100.00  
1,000.00 3,500.00  
1,000.00 750.00

1

**Co Title Budg Act Budg Actu**

Professional Fees 1,000.00  
22 Repairs & Maintenance 6,800.00  
21 Tree Surgery

1

Water, Electricity & Sewage 180.00

5

## Current Year 2025-2026

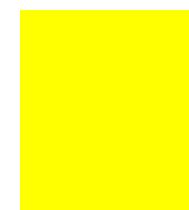
Receipts				Payments			
Budget	Actual	Forecast	Total	Budget	Actual	Forecast	Total
			425.00		440.00		440.00
			100.00				
			900.00		25.00		25.00
					3,211.15		3,211.15

## Solar Installation

Complete

A short yellow horizontal bar.A short yellow horizontal bar.A medium-length yellow horizontal bar.

Complete

A short yellow horizontal bar.

29	CCTV Monitoring	4,150.00	2,911.95		775.00	775.00	800.00
25	Lease Fees EA & Crown Estates	1,200.00	1,273.38		1,300.00	1,103.75	1,300.00
85	Play Equipment				2,385.00	2,385.00	-
28	Play Equipment Check	<b>100.00</b>	1,629.05		100.00		100.00
82	Rates						-
27	Repairs & Maintenance	1,000.00	2,709.17				500.00
32	Utilities	250.00	401.07				250.00
					500.00	435.03	
					300.00	207.88	
						<b>435.03</b>	
							<b>207.88</b>
		<b>15,200.00</b>	<b>21,537.04</b>		<b>6,700.00</b>	<b>8,366.93</b>	

**SUB  
TOTAL**

**8,36  
6.93**

**Complete**

Staffing	Last Year 2024-2025					Current Year 2025-2026					Rec ipts Total	Pay ments Total		
	Receipts		Payments			Receipts		Payments						
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Forecast	Total	Budget	Actual	Forecast	Total		
Code	Title													
60	HMRC		7,500.00	12,244.20				13,600.00	8,495.28		8,495.28			
59	Salaries		39,000.00	48,916.54				48,800.00	27,302.72		27,302.72	Budget	Budget	
												16,100.00	42,000.00	
			<b>46,500.00</b>	<b>61,160.74</b>				<b>62,400.00</b>	<b>35,798.00</b>				<b>-</b>	<b>58,100.00</b>
														<b>35,798.00</b>

**SUB  
TOTAL**

**647.  
57**

**Headcount reduced by  
1**

**Summary  
Total**

123,000.00 139,868.97 144,820.00 143,355.35

**116,**

**89,850.05**

**Required  
Prece-  
pt**

128,160.00	116,647.57	128,160.00	89,850.05	53,425.00	140,270.00	86,845.00
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