



Minutes of the Dymchurch Parish Council held at 7pm on Monday 6th March 2023 at the Parish Council Offices Orgarswick Avenue Dymchurch

MINUTES (DRAFT)

Present

Cllr C. McCreedy (Chair) Cllr D. Coker (Vice Chair) Cllr D. Young
Cllr C. Young Cllr D. Noonan

Also present-

Mr J Lawrence- Parish Clerk Mr A Lawson (Projects and Finance) District Cllr I Meyers and two members of the public.

Parish Cllr M Wright was attending online- But due to not being present took no part in Council decisions.

- 1. APOLOGIES.** Members are reminded of the need to tender apologies with the reason for absence direct to the Clerk if they are unable to attend.
Cllr. A Goode- Working

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

None declared

- 3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING-** held on the 20th February 2023 to be agreed by members present.

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a true record and were duly signed by the chair.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION/PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Members will propose to adjourn the meeting to allow Public Participation- Standing Orders provide the opportunity for members of the public to speak at Council Meetings- The allotted time for Public Participation is 15 minutes and each person may speak for no longer than 3 minutes. This is however, at the discretion of the chair. At the end of the Public Participation section the Council meeting will resume

A member of the public informed members that they had recently had an accident most crossing the road in the area of The Fairway Dymchurch. This had occurred because of a large rut in the centre of the carriage way.

The clerk was instructed to report the matter to the KCC highways department.

5. APPEAL FOR USE OF RECREATION GROUND PITCHES – Head Coach Hythe Youth Football Club.

Members heard from the head coach at Hyde town football club who explained that the capacity at their current pitches was now full, and they were looking to hire an additional pitch. He explained that they required no storage or changing rooms and would mark out their own pitch if this was agreed by the council.

After discussion it was agreed by members present it was agreed that the figures for hiring the pitch should be reviewed and a hire agreement set up with Hythe Town. This was on the understanding that any future use of the pitch will have to be renegotiated with the Charity who will be leasing the grounds and the Pavilion from the Parish Council in the future.

6. CHAIRMANS REPORT

The Chair will provide an update on any additional Council activities and meetings attended. Individual members will provide update on any meeting attended on behalf of the Parish Council.

No report this month

7. COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Members will update the Committee regarding any meetings or events attended on behalf of the Parish Council.

Cllr C Young reported that the dementia Café will no longer be held at the Bucket and Spade and a new venue of the Village Hall has been agreed.

It was also reported that the Dymchurch Community Gardeners is progressing well. £300.00 has been donated by Cllr T Mullard.

8. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

a. KCC COUNCILLOR

Not available this month due to recent election- The new County Councillor is Jennie Hawkins

b. DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr Mullard was unable to attend.

Cllr. Meyers reported that the District Council will be increasing the precept by 2.9%. This has been achieved using a draw down from the general reserve. However, it is expected that with the increase from KCC the actual rise will be around 4.99%

He reported that he had sought opinion when recently campaigning on the Marshlands estate for the recent by-election and found opinion divided, some wanted the barrier to remain to protect a green space, others found it an inconvenience. There seems therefore there is little that can be done to reverse the decision.

c. KCC WARDEN

No report this month

9. MATTERS ARISING (INCLUDING CORRESPONDENCE IN CIRCULATION)

DATE AND FROM	DETAILS	Comments/Decisions
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23/02/2023	Additional request and reminder about the progress of having Beach Wheelchairs for the disabled at Dymchurch Beach	It was agreed that this project would continue to be researched by the Clark. However, the main concern appears to be how this would be managed day-to-day if wheelchairs were purchased.
24/02/2023	Notice has been received from the District Council regarding the change in charges at the Parish Council car Park- This has been published in the local newspapers to comply with the law and will allow the district Council to carry out enforcement on our behalf.	Noted
24/02/2023	I am a reporter for KentOnline. I am writing a story on the plans to demolish the community hall in Ship Close, Dymchurch. I see that you have rejected the plans. Would you be happy to give a comment for the article?	noted by members present. The clerk informed the council that he had tried to contact the reporter but there was no reply.
04/03/2023	Complaint from resident regarding the lack of repairs to the bench and fencing after accident damage at bust stop near to Young's Builders Merchants.	The clerk was instructed to contact KCC and the District Council to arrange for this to be repaired.
28/02/2023	Complaint raised against Council decision regarding the redevelopment of Bowery Hall Ship Field Dymchurch	The council met with the developer regarding this planning application prior to this council meeting. Having now received additional information members agreed that this would be added to the next meeting's agenda with a view to revisiting the decision made previously.

10. UPDATE ON PREVIOUS ACTIONS

ACTION	UPDATE
Community Garden Licence	Ongoing
Confirm Lease length for Pavilion and Grounds	Confirmed 99 years
Ringfence £500.00 for Community Garden	Completed
Send copy of government letter concerning water Quality to Cllr Meyers	Completed
Send details of concerns about erection of barrier at Marshlands to Cllrs. Mullard and Meyers	Completed
Extend Kiosk licence by one year	Owners of licence informed- updated licence to be supplied
Write tendering policy	Ongoing
Inform District Council Enforcement Officers about rise in dog faeces in public areas	Completed

Contact Landscaper to commence work	Completed- Starting Mid-February
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ADDITIONAL UPDATES- Actions Completed by Mr Lawson and the Parish Clerk

- **Benches have been placed at the Burial Ground, Kiosk area and also at St Mary's Road.**
- **Protective matting has been purchased to protect the grass around the gym equipment at the seawall. This will be installed once the grass has established itself at this location.**
- **There has been a rise in burial enquiries – With this in mind the Clerk is requesting funding to attend a two-day course on burial ground management to ensure that the current law and practise are being complied with- The cost of this course (which is online) is £190 +VAT**
- **All safety checks have been completed at the Parish Council Offices and also the Kiosk.**

11. PLANNING

REFERENCE	ADDRESS	DETAILS	Comments
23/0168/FH	13 Sycamore Gardens Dymchurch Romney Marsh TN29 0LA	Infill extension to ground floor	No Objections- Carried Unanimously
23/0198/FH	42 High Knocke, Dymchurch, Romney Marsh, TN29 0QD	Removal of dilapidated flat roof and the construction of pitched roof with rooms	No objections Carried unanimously

12. FINANCE

- Breakdown of expenditure/income since last meeting
Noted.
- Authorisation of Payments - Members will review the list of invoices for payment and identify two Councillors to authorise the payments online.
See appendix one for details of payments to be made.
Members were informed that the mandate for making online payments had been changed to allow two officers 2 make transactions. All payments will still need to be authorised by the council in line with the financial arrangements of the council. The new mandate will allow business continuity during the election. After which, the mandate will be changed.
- Additional items requiring authorisation.
 - Bike Rack Sea wall-
After discussion it was agreed that a bike rack would be purchased to be placed in the area of the kiosk- It was agreed a Boxap 2metre rack would be purchased- £579 (ex VAT)
 - Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Cabinet.
After discussion it was agreed that once the donated AED arrived a Defibrillator Cabinet would be purchased- pre-Authorised purchase agreed up to £500.00 (Ex-VAT)

13. PAVILION DYMCHURCH RECREATION GROUND- SIGNING OF LEASE

The chair was please to announce that the Lease had now been signed by the Parish Council and The Friends of Dymchurch Recreation Ground.

It was signed on the understanding that full effects of the lease would not come into action until construction starts. This is outlined within the lease at Section 6 paragraph 6.3.

The Clerk was instructed to contact the Parish Council’s Solicitor to progress this matter.

14. ASSET REGISTER REVIEW AND APPROVAL

The current asset register was reviewed and approved by members present. Copies of the asset register can be view by contacting the Parish Clerk.

15. WATER BATHING QUALITY CONCERNS-Update if available.

Members were informed that a reply had been received from the Environment Agency regarding the concerns about water bathing quality at St Mary’s Bay and its affects on water quality at Dymchurch. All information and correspondence have been shared with St Mary’s Bay Parish Council.

No definitive reply was received relating to whether Dymchurch would be affected, however, water quality at Dymchurch is recorded as good. Tests of water quality commence again in May, and this will be monitored closely. This is a concern to the Council as we move towards the summer period and also our application for the Seaside award to support the local economy and tourism.

16. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE NEXT MEETING.

- Revisit Bowery Hall Development
- Fire Alarm Quotes for the Parish Office
- Fencing- Village Hall Car Park and Recreation Ground
- Gate at Slipway- to prevent obstructions
- Slipway Markings to prevent obstructions
- Coronation

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING- Monday 3rd April 2023 at 7pm – At the Parish Council Offices Orgarswick Avenue Dymchurch.