

POSTLING PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Postling Parish Council held in Postling Village Hall on Tuesday 24 May 2022 at 6.30pm

1. Appointment of Chairman
 - a. Councillor Frank Hobbs was appointed Chairman, as proposed by Cllr Helen Calderbank and seconded by Cllr Yvonne Mumford
 - b. Councillor Helen Calderbank was appointed Vice Chair, as proposed by Cllr Yvonne Mumford and seconded by Cllr John Patrick.
2. Attendance and apologies for absence
Attending: Chairman Frank Hobbs, Cllrs Helen Calderbank, Christine Hobbs, Yvonne Mumford, John Patrick, Cllr Daniel Shaddick, Parish Clerk Clare Hamilton.
Apologies: Cllr Charlie Wilkins, County Councillor Susan Carey (FHDC Planning Committee Meeting).
3. Acceptance of Office and Disclosable Pecuniary Interests
To record Councillors' Acceptance of Office and Code of Conduct, and to receive any changes to Councillors' declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests
Code of Conduct accepted when elected/co-opted. There were no changes to Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.
4. Acceptance of Minutes
It was resolved unanimously to accept the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 22 May 2019 and of the ordinary meeting held on 29 March 2022.
5. Members' declarations of interest
There were no Members' declarations of interest on Agenda items.
6. Confirmation of Exemption from Limited Assurance Review
It was resolved to confirm exemption from Limited Assurance Review.
Postling Parish Council confirms that during the financial year 2021/22, 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, the Certificate of Exemption was signed and will be submitted to the external auditor.
7. Internal Control and Annual Governance Statement
 - a. Chris Reynolds, Internal Auditor, completed the Internal Audit on 22 April 2022 and recommends annual depreciation continues to be taken into account for items on the Asset Register. Clerk thanks Chris for advice given on the Internal Audit.
It was resolved to accept the findings of the Internal Audit carried out by Chris Reynolds on 22 April 2022.
 - b. **It was resolved** to approve and sign the Annual Governance Statement for the year ended 31 March 2022.
8. Accounting Statements for the year ended 31 March 2022
It was resolved to approve the Accounting Statements for the year ended 31 March 2022 which were signed and dated by the Chairman.
9. Budget
The Budget for financial year 2022/23 as approved at November 2021 meeting was noted.
10. Banking Arrangements
Following the HSBC Safeguarding Review in autumn 2021, Charity Account was changed to a Business Account which incurs an £8 monthly fee.
Business Account signatories are Chairman Frank Hobbs and Parish Clerk Clare Hamilton.

Chairman Frank Hobbs

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11. There were no amendments to Financial Regulations

12. Review of Insurance provision and renewal quotation

Last year, we paid Zurich £291 as the final instalment of a 3-year Long Term Agreement. Zurich requested confirmation of renewal by 24 May, and after alternative quotes were sourced, Chairman approved a 5-year Long Term Agreement with Zurich Municipal which was the best price option for the same cover.

Quotes were obtained as follows:

Zurich Municipal:	5-year LTA £292.24, 3-year LTA £295.25, 1-year £298.27
BHIB:	3-year LTA £321.48, 1-year £339.99
Gallaghers:	1-year iro £580+

13. Policies and Procedures

Risk Assessment and Asset Register updated and include phone kiosk. GDPR reviewed.

14. KALC Area Committee and Village Hall Committee

KALC Area Committee: this meets bi-monthly and should be back to face-to-face meetings in June.

It was proposed by Cllr Helen Calderbank and resolved unanimously that Chairman Frank Hobbs and Cllr Christine Hobbs continue in their roles.

PNVH Committee: It was proposed by Cllr Christine Hobbs and resolved unanimously that Cllr Helen Calderbank and Chairman Frank Hobbs continue in their roles.

15. Public Participation session

A parishioner raised several matters for discussion:

a. Low flying pleasure aircraft

Objections raised regarding the flight path over Newbarn/Postling, engine noise, regularity of flights at weekends.

action: The Parish Council will contact the Spitfire/WWII flight organisers at Headcorn and Biggin Hill to ask for consideration to be given to these points.

b. Lack of bus shelter

Request for an economical bus shelter for the children who travel on the 17 bus to Canterbury from Newbarn on exposed early winter mornings and other passengers later in the day. Parishioner has already contacted County Councillor about this and to offer support for a modest shelter.

action: As the 17 bus stop at Newbarn corner is in Lyminge parish, not Postling, the Parish Council will contact Lyminge Parish Council to enquire whether they would consider making a joint parishes approach to Susan Carey for funding.

c. Speed limits, farm vehicles, condition of roads

Speed of many vehicles throughout the parish is a great concern. Many farm vehicles are too wide for Sandling Road and are often driven at unsuitable and unsafe speeds; width restrictions on Loughborough Lane are regularly ignored; the driver of a large farm vehicle has been seen using his phone whilst driving.

action: the Parish Council will write to local farmers and landowners requesting they speak to their employees and suppliers to instruct them to drive legally, considerately and safely on our single track rural lanes; clerk to contact our parish Highways Steward to request a review of parish roads and a timetable for repairs.

16. There were no matters arising from previous meeting on 29 March

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. **19/0257/FH Otterpool Park**

Revised plans for Otterpool Park have been submitted and the formal consultation period will run for an 8 week period from Friday 29 April until Friday 24 June. Plans are available to view on the FHDC website and at the Civic Centre Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm. Councillors are invited to

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view plans by appointment at Stanford Parish Rooms and agreed on Weds 1 June at 6.30pm.
Comments to FHDC by 24 June 2022.

- b. **22/0303/FH Southfields, Farthing Common CT18 8DH**
Erection of a replacement dwelling
PPC No objection. Awaiting decision from F&HDC.
- c. **19/1258/FH Postling Lodge, Farthing Common CT18 8DQ**
Retrospective planning permission for a grounds maintenance building and entrance gate accessed from Loughborough Lane at Postling Lodge
PPC Objection. Awaiting decision from F&HDC.
No response has been received from Planning Officer and Head of Planning to enquiries on delay.
To request intervention from District Councillor.

18. Highways

- a. Pot holes were marked on Cuckoo Lane and Loughborough Lane in April but no work undertaken:
Clerk to contact Highways Steward to request urgent attention to all parish roads.
- b. Temporary Road Closure - Beachborough, Etchinghill - 25th May 2022 for 3 Days between
09:30 hours and 14:30 hours, Openreach works to replace a decayed pole.

19. Finance

- a. Balance of account at 24 May 2022: £8,464.91
- b. Receipts and Payments since last meeting:
- Receipts -
- | | | | |
|------|-------------------|-----------|--|
| FHDC | Precept 2022/23 | £3,380.00 | |
| HSBC | Refund of charges | £ 8.00 | |
| HMRC | VAT refund | £ 40.84 | |
- Payments -
- | | | | |
|------------------|--------------------------------|----------|--|
| Zurich Municipal | Insurance premium 2022/23 | £ 292.24 | |
| C Hamilton | Annual expenses 1.4.21-31.3.22 | £ 72.32 | |
| C Hamilton | Backpay 1.4.21-31.3.22 | £ 37.44 | |
| C Hamilton | Travel exp March meeting | £ 7.20 | |
| C Hamilton | Salary Feb & March | £ 354.98 | |
- c. Expenditure due before next meeting -
- | | | | |
|---------------|----------------------------|----------|------------|
| HSBC | Account charges May & June | £ 16.00 | |
| KALC | Annual subscription | £ 173.83 | vat £28.97 |
| PCC | Annual donation | £ 200.00 | s.137 |
| Age UK | Annual donation | £ 100.00 | s.137 |
| Air Ambulance | Annual donation | £ 250.00 | s.137 |
| C Hamilton | Salary April & May | £ 361.22 | |
| | Travel exp May meeting | £ 7.20 | |
- from Ward Members Grant received for phone kiosk:*
- | | | | |
|-------------|-----------------------|----------|------------|
| D Shaddick | Phone kiosk materials | £ 40.38 | vat £6.73 |
| P Le Feuvre | Phone kiosk materials | £ 595.92 | vat £52.65 |

It was resolved to approve expenditure. Proposed Cllr Christine Hobbs, seconded Cllr John Patrick, all in favour, approved by the Chairman.

d. Banking

A charge from 1 Jan of £5 per month was for the Charitable Account. Following the Safeguarding Review, we had to change to a Business Account with a charge of £8 per month. As a 'gesture of goodwill' for lack of communication about this increase, HSBC has refunded the £8 charge for April, but will charge from now on. Clerk registered for Business Telephone Banking on 20.04.22.

20. Reports from District Councillor and County Councillor - see Appendix

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21. Telephone Kiosk

The team of local volunteers has done sterling work to make the kiosk ready for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee weekend. The parish council thanks all the volunteers: Peter Le Feuvre, Caroline Butterfield, Chris Reynolds, Daniel Shaddick, Keith Abbott, Jim Nichols and Philip Stevens.

The Grand Opening will be on Sunday 5 June when there will also be a drone photograph of residents.

22. The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

An oak sapling has been offered to the council to replace the holly tree felled from in front of the Village Hall. The 4 year old sapling is a descendant of the historic Law-Day oak tree in Bonnington which dates back to Queen Elizabeth I's reign. Cllr Christine Hobbs will nurture the sapling until the time is suitable for planting. A beacon is being lit on the downs on Saturday 4 June rather than on Thursday 2 June with the rest of the country, although there is the possibility of the traditional bonfire on 2 June.

23. Fire Hydrants

Faults reported to KF&RS, waiting for follow-up.

24. For Information

- Neighbourhood Plan: the parish council has been approached by Lyminge Parish Council regarding consideration of the development of a joint-parishes Neighbourhood Plan. To be discussed at the July meeting.

- Parish Council meeting dates 2022: Tuesdays at 6.30pm: 26 July, 27 September, 29 November

Signed.....Frank Hobbs, Chairman, 26 July 2022

Appendix

District Councillors' Annual Report – May 2022

Susan Carey and Jenny Hollingsbee represent North Downs West Ward which includes the communities of Bodsham, Elmsted, Etchinghill, Lyminge, Postling, Sellindge, Stelling Minnis, Stanford, Stowting and all points between.

This report aims to give a brief summary of our work over the last two years – most of which has been during 'lockdown' which affected all our services either directly or indirectly.

All District Council Meetings and most Parish Council meetings were held virtually which meant we were able to attend more than usual as we could go straight from one zoom meeting to the next without needing to travel. Emails and phone calls continued as normal but services were hit by staff catching Covid or needing to isolate because a family member was vulnerable or because they'd been in contact with someone with Covid. Our kerbside waste

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collection service kept going throughout lockdown even taking on additional subscribers to the garden waste service but in May 2021 the renewal of our contract with Veolia saw a change in routes and computer systems which was badly managed. Whole streets were missed and eventually the garden waste collections were suspended till the new system could be stabilised. Thankfully we have now returned to a good level of reliability, garden waste services have resumed (with a suitable adjustment in payment for the missed collections) and we are now seeking compensation from Veolia.

The District Council was quick to react to the initial lockdown in March 2020 by setting up three Community Hubs within a week with dedicated email and telephone lines. The Community Hub for our area was run by Age UK Hythe & Lyminge. These hubs were extremely successful and a district wide network of support was set-up to deal with any issue arising from the Covid outbreak such as delivery of food and medicines to those shielding. Funding was provided via Government and the County Council and was distributed by the District Council. The Hubs worked in Partnership with GP Practices, calling all vulnerable patients on behalf of the Practice – they were also very much involved in the vaccination programme. The Partnership that developed through the Hubs continues with fortnightly meetings and is now also part of the Ukrainian Network Support that the District Council instigated with the Community.

The District Council were actively involved in the Vaccination programme and FOLCA (the old Debenhams building) was set-up as a Vaccination Centre, while the Civic Centre Car Park was utilised for Testing – a drive-in facility. Officers worked with Health Centre personnel to put these arrangements into operation at very short notice. The Community Safety Unit also worked extremely closely with the Police relating to the Covid lockdown regulations.

During this time also, the Policy & Places Plan was found sound by the Examination Inspector and just recently the Local Plan Review was also found to be sound. Both these documents have now been agreed by the full Council. The Council's plans for a new leisure centre, promenade, parks and homes at Princes Parade are now proceeding following a Public Enquiry into the realignment of the road. We believe this development will be as popular as the Harbour Arm in Folkestone and provide a much needed replacement for the swimming pool in Hythe.

On Otterpool Park, a revised planning application has been submitted and will be out for consultation shortly. The District Council Project team have been meeting regularly with Parish Councils who adjoin the planned development and it is expected that these liaison meetings will continue indefinitely. A programme of events has taken place and will continue to take place at Westenhanger Castle as well as a board game 'Telling the Otterpool Tale' being devised by Strange Cargo and distributed to Schools. See below for details of an up and coming event



We were sorry to see the end of the six month trial of wheel clamping for illegally parked HGVs which the Government authorised KCC to do as part of the transition arrangements for leaving the EU at the end of 2020. We have now reverted to the District Council officers issuing parking fines which are pursued where necessary by overseas debt collection agencies. We know HGVs can cause much damage and disturbance and we raise the issue at every opportunity.

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Through our Ward Grants we have supported the following organisations over the last two years –

Etchinghill Residents Association	£ 250
Sellindge Tennis Club	£1,442
Sellindge Bowls Club	£ 500
Stour Downs Parish (Stowting Church)	£1,200
Lyminge Scouts	£2,608
Stelling Minnis Parish Council	£1,100
Stour Downs Parish (Sellindge Church)	£ 500
Stowting Primary School	£1,000
Stanford Parish Council (Defibrillators)	£ 600
Lyminge Primary School	£ 500
Postling – (phone box project)	£ 600
Sellindge War Memorial Hall (kitchen)	£1,000
Sellindge & District Playing Fields Benevolent Society (flagpole)	£ 700

Your District Council has also been working on projects to reduce its carbon emissions and those in the district. We are part of the KCC EV600 scheme where *Connected Kerb* is installing over 600 Electric Vehicle Charging Points in council car parks. Nearly 100 of these are in the Folkestone & Hythe District. We have won a £2m Government grant to improve energy efficiency in more than 100 council houses; this will also create local jobs as the contracts for the work are expected to be placed locally. Otterpool Park will also contribute to our Environment agenda through tree planting schemes and a 20% Net Biodiversity Gain commitment.

2021/22 Annual Report from Susan Carey

Member for Elham Valley, Kent County Council for Postling Annual Meeting

I am pleased to report that Kent returned a Conservative majority in the Kent County Council elections on 06 May 2021 (60 Conservatives out of 80 places). Our own election here in Elham Valley was postponed until 17 June following the sudden death of the Labour candidate. I was re-elected on this date with just over half the votes cast. My thanks to all those who voted.

The last year has continued to be dominated by Covid-19 and its effects on our health and economy. KCC has worked closely with the NHS, the district councils, the voluntary sector and other partners on measures to encourage vaccination uptake, testing for Covid, tracking contacts, supporting the vulnerable and offering help where needed.

KentTogether is our 24/7 online and telephone service where people can turn to for help and **Release the Pressure** is our long-standing helpline for those facing stress.

As we have emerged from Covid-19 restrictions there has been a surge in demand for social care and for Special Education Needs assessments. This has placed considerable financial pressures on KCC's budget and has meant we have had to reduce some of our discretionary services such as the level of subsidy for the Kent Travel Saver (although those on low incomes are unaffected) and subsidies for uneconomic bus services.

At KCC I have a particular responsibility for our Environment work and am pleased to report that many of the projects I have been leading have had the added benefit of reducing costs by reducing energy use. In March 2021 KCC won a

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major grant from the Government's Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme for projects that had to be delivered by April 2022. The most significant of these was the purchase of a 21MW solar park which will reduce our energy use by 30% and also reduce our annual energy costs by around £760,000 a year for the next 40 years.

KCC's Plan Tree Strategy has just finished its public consultation. Plan Tree proposes the establishment of an extra 1.5 million trees in Kent and as part of this each KCC Member will be allocated trees for their own division. I'd be very pleased to hear from people with ideas for suitable sites here in Postling Parish in addition to the site already identified by the village hall car park.

My Environment brief also covers waste disposal – the 12 district councils in Kent collect the waste, KCC disposes of the collected waste and runs the Household Waste Recycling Centres. KCC has been able to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill to just 0.2% (this is asbestos which must by law be deep buried). What can't be recycled is turned into energy at an incinerator in Allington, Kent. Last year we held a consultation on whether to keep the booking system for the HWRCs that was introduced during Covid-19. There was a clear margin in favour of keeping the booking system (available both online and at our call centre 03000 41 73 73) and by the end of April same day bookings were introduced at all 18 HWRCs. Recycling rates are up at our HWRCs and a 19th HWRC opened in Allington on 09 May.

The disruption to our local road network and people's lives whenever there are delays to Cross Channel traffic has become intolerable. KCC does not control the ports or the motorways but Kent Highways is part of the Kent Resilience Forum together with National Highways, Kent Police and other public sector partners. We continue to lobby the Government on this as it is a national problem requiring a national response.

A similar issue is that of the continued high level of illegal entries into Kent by those seeking asylum. Adults and families are dispersed around the country but other local authorities must volunteer to take any under 18 year olds who arrive on their own. This has led to unsustainable burdens on KCC in dealing with Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children and twice in the last year we have had to declare we were unable to safely accept any more meaning we were in breach of our statutory duty. This has led to a temporary compulsory dispersal scheme to other local authorities around the country. This does not resolve the underlying problem but has relieved some of the immediate burden for Kent.

The invasion of Ukraine in February has been another crisis where local government has been expected to respond swiftly. Information for both Kent residents and Ukrainian refugees can be found at www.kent.gov.uk/ukraine Queries about the Ukraine Families Scheme can be emailed to Ukraine@kent.gov.uk or by calling the dedicated helpline 03000 412424 which has a translation service. The latest information I have on numbers is that 3,062 refugees have been matched to 1,235 sponsors here in Kent; the Ukrainian refugees are overwhelmingly women and children. Around 7,000 households in our County have volunteered to be part of *Homes for Ukraine*, one of the highest number in the UK, so we can expect to see many more Ukrainian people here in Kent. As with the Covid-19 emergency we are working closely with the District Councils, the voluntary sector and other public sector partners to provide the necessary support.

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