

POSTLING PARISH COUNCIL

postlingpc@aol.co.uk | www.postlingpc.co.uk

Minutes of Postling Parish Council meeting held at Postling Village Hall on Tuesday 27 July 2021 at 6.30pm

In person meetings replace remote meetings: The Government confirmed that regulations which have allowed councils to meet remotely during the COVID-19 outbreak do not apply to meetings after 6 May 2021

Councillors were saddened to hear of the passing of Sally Russell, a former parish councillor, and send their condolences to her family. A minute's silence was held in Sally's memory.

1. Attending: Cllr Frank Hobbs in the chair, Cllrs Christine Hobbs, John Patrick, Charlie Wilkins, Helen Calderbank, Dan Shaddick, Parish Clerk Clare Hamilton, County Cllr Susan Carey, KCC Highways Steward Keiron Greenaway
Apologies: Cllr Yvonne Mumford.
 2. There were no members' declarations of interest on Agenda items.
 3. **It was resolved** unanimously to accept the Minutes of the meeting held online on 27 April 2021. The Chairman signed previously approved Minutes of meetings held online from March 2020-May 2021.
 4. 15-minute Public Participation session
KCC Highways Steward, Keiron Greenaway, attended and discussed with Councillors:
 - a. Uncut verges between Postling and Stone St: F&HDC and KCC are catching up with high demand for swathe cuts to vegetation. There is a split between those who wish to preserve the verges for pollinators, and those who prefer them cut. Safety is still the number one priority and vision splays are retained. KCC will be changing how verges are cut, with less cutting and later in the season, and they are consulting with Kent Wildlife Trust and Bug Life to create corridors for pollinators. As previously reported, the verge posts are not deemed to be a hazard as they are on private land, meet Highways' requirements, and are protecting the verge, therefore no further action to be taken at this time.
 - b. Cuckoo Lane surface: Keiron Greenaway will look into the issue of poor patching and will investigate if Cuckoo Lane qualifies for surface dressing which could be scheduled in the budget for 2022.
 - c. Best way to report location of potholes: When reporting [online](#), use Location and Problem boxes properly. If unsure of exact location, zoom into map and use descriptors in the 'Problem' box. [What 3 Words](#) is recommended for a 3m square location. Highways do investigate reports and do look at the wider area of a reported location.
 - d. Sandling Rd/Staple Lane rabbit damage to bank: repair works is scheduled to start in next 8-10 weeks. Bank to be piled and repaired.
 - e. Previously reported flooding on Sandling Rd: drains have been inspected by Highways and were found to be clear. Pipes have been cleared. Gullies are clear and flowing.
- Councillors thanked Keiron for attending and providing useful information.
5. There were no matters arising from Minutes of the previous meeting.
 6. Planning Applications received since the last meeting, circulated to Councillors for comments, the outcomes of those deliberations, and to consider any further applications received since this agenda was published:
 - a. **19/1258/FH Postling Lodge, Farthing Common**
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

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- b. **21/0813/FH Farthing Common Reservoir, Lyminge CT18 8DH**
Construction of a new concrete reservoir, booster pumping station and stand-by generator within the existing operational AWL site and associated works
PPC Objection. Awaiting decision from F&HDC
- c. Other planning matters:
Query to F&HDC re. tree felling at Loughborough Lane: Response from F&HDC Tree Officer - *'The trees were felled with the agreement of our Tree Officer as a result of Ash die back on the condition that replanting takes place. The owners have agreed to replant and I am content that they are keen to do so.'*
To check if planting commences in autumn.

7. Highways

- a. Farthing Common 19 April up to 3 days: BT Openreach
b. Beachborough 2-3 June: drainage improvement works and resurfacing
c. Staple Lane 14 June up to 5 days: water leak repairs to be carried out by Affinity Water
d. Farthing Common 23 June for up to 5 days: Openreach (*notice received same day*)
e. The Street 5-7 July: telegraph pole replacement works.

Fault reporting: Parishioners are encouraged to join Councillors in reporting Highways faults at <https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem>

8. Finance

a. Balance of account at 27 July 2021: £6,535.63

b. Payments and Receipts since last meeting:

Payments:	KALC	Annual subs	£ 170.66	vat £28.44
	Zurich	Insurance premium	£ 291.24	
	PNVH	Annual hall hire	£ 48.00	
	Age UK	s137 donation	£ 100.00	
	Air Ambulance	s137 donation	£ 250.00	
	PCC	s137 donation	£ 200.00	
	C Hamilton	Salary Apr & May	£ 354.98	
	C Hamilton	Zoom fee April meeting	£ 14.39	

Receipts: None

c. Expenditure due before next meeting:

C Hamilton	Salary June & July	£ 354.98
C Hamilton	Travel exp. July meeting	£ 7.20

It was resolved to approve expenditure, proposed by Cllr Helen Calderbank, seconded by Cllr Dan Shaddick, all in favour.

d. 'AGAR 2020/21 Part 2-Certificate of Exemption' submitted to External Auditor on 30 April and receipt of documents confirmed by email on 4 June

e. Chairman is now registered as Secondary User for Business Internet Banking (clerk is Primary User)

f. **It was resolved** that the new second signatory to HSBC account will be the clerk.

9. Telephone kiosk adoption

Following an earlier enquiry, on 31 May BT responded *"This kiosk is available for adoption but we would need to carry out a full consultation, this will take 90 days"*.

We hope to have a response in time for the September meeting.

10. GDPR

It was resolved to accept revised GDPR Policy, to discuss at each meeting, and keep under review.

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11. Parliamentary Boundaries Review 2023

The initial proposals are open to consultation from now until Tuesday 02 August 2021. NB. this review is relating to Parliamentary boundaries and not Local Government boundaries.

At www.bcereviews.org.uk you are able to type in your postcode to check the Parliamentary boundary that your property falls in, read supporting documents and submit a comment or representation.

Summary - North Downs East and West are being outlined to join part of Ashford in the proposals.

See County Councillor Susan Carey's report in Appendix for more details.

12. Kent Bus Service Improvement Plan

KCC want to ensure that their Improvement Plan reflects the views of Kent residents and have launched a public consultation and want to hear from users and residents about what would make bus travel more attractive. The consultation is available at <https://letstalk.kent.gov.uk/busfuture>

13. Correspondence received

- Thank you letter from Kent Surrey Sussex Air Ambulance for the donation of £250
- KCC Covid vaccine insights short survey
- F&HDC News Releases
- Kent Coast Volunteering - Anthology - experiences of older people shielding in lockdown
- Walk-in vaccinations at Folca in Folkestone Saturday 24 July for over-18s
- Kent's Plan Bee Newsletter
- Taking part in the lighting of Beacons on 2 June 2022 in celebration of The Queen's Platinum Jubilee: a more environmentally-friendly approach to consider is to fly the Union flag and a KCC member grant may be available from Susan Carey for a flag pole. Clerk to enquire of other PCs for details and costs.

14. Call for Evidence on Remote meetings

Chairman and Clerk responded to the online consultation. It was felt meetings should be allowed to be held online under special circumstances, eg. illness, weather conditions, road closures.

15. For information

- County Councillor's report: see Appendix
- Covid support budget: Cllr Susan Carey highlighted the Covid support budget which could provide funds for, eg. the cost of a deep clean for the Village Hall. Chairman to investigate
- s106 and CIL payments: At the last District Planning meeting, s106 and CIL contributions to parishes were discussed. 15% of CIL payment are payable to a PC without a Neighbourhood Plan. There is a cap on payments. £118K has been paid out so far from F&HDC to PCs for physical, social or green infrastructure. Chairman is investigating if Postling is due any contributions
- Rural broadband provision: This is currently over budget and Openreach requires more funding therefore KCC is having to review the cost of broadband provision to rural areas and is seeking a way forward
- Bins: County Councillor Susan Carey voiced apologies for the disruption to this service. Refunds for garden waste collections will be arranged. In the meantime, residents are encouraged to take waste to a tip, which are back to full capacity and open 7 days a week. Please do not fly tip and do not have bonfires. Report any [missed collections to F&HDC](#) or to [County Councillor Susan Carey](#).
- Next meeting: Tuesday 28 September 2021 at 6.30pm.

Meeting closed at 7.50pm.

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Appendix

6b. Response as submitted to F&HDC to: 21/0813/FH Farthing Common Reservoir, Lyminge CT18 8DH
Construction of a new concrete reservoir, booster pumping station and stand-by generator within the existing operational AWL site and associated works.

Postling Parish Council objects to this planning application.

A layby to facilitate access for construction vehicles is an encroachment onto common land at Farthing Common. Has the applicant obtained the consent of the appropriate national authority for these works, in accordance with Section 38 of the Common Land Act 2006?

If permission for these works is granted, in order to prevent illegal parking by lorries and other vehicles in this Kent Downs AONB (which has already had a significant impact in this AONB), a condition should be that any layby installed to allow access for construction vehicles must be removed entirely when work is complete and the common land is reinstated. Also, any trees removed should be replaced.

Postling Parish Council is concerned that the lists of those consulted on 11 May and 2 June 2021 did not include wider residents of Farthing Common, nor Postling Parish Council.

An email was received from Affinity Water on 21 June responding to the many objections to the application. F&HDC own the land at Farthing Common. The layby will be removed when works are complete.

County Councillor's Report

Thank you for re-electing me. I received just over half the votes at the delayed election on 17 June. I've also been reappointed to my previous role as KCC's Cabinet Member for Environment and am busy catching up with both local and countywide matters.

I regret to report that the Department for Transport has withdrawn the temporary powers that allowed KCC to clamp illegally parked HGVs. KCC was pressing for the powers to be extended and it's deeply disappointing that the Road Haulage Industry has campaigned against this when the vast majority of clamped vehicles were foreign registered as we have very little sanction against such vehicles other than to clamp. You will see in the District Council report that we now fall back on parking fines.

There's a 2 question consultation open on a bus strategy for Kent at kent.gov.uk/busfuture. As part of the Government's National Bus Strategy, local authorities are being invited to create an Enhanced Partnership Scheme (EPS) with bus operators. The EPS will set out shared aims and service standards with a view to improving bus services. Future government grants to support bus services will require an EPS be in place.

KCC launched a Reconnect programme for Kent's children in March and last month we put another £10m of our Government Covid Recovery funding towards it. It's about opportunities to reconnect with activities and friends and includes a free bus pass for young people in school years 6 to 13 for use between 22 July and 31 August. Residents and businesses in Kent are also being asked to volunteer their time or donate equipment or boost the funding available and they can do so at www.kent.gov.uk/reconnect. The link can also be used to sign up for the Reconnect newsletter.

Several people have asked me about the Electoral Commission's proposals to increase the number of parliamentary seats in the Southeast to help equalise the number of voters in constituencies in England. The proposal involves the creation of a new seat which would see the Elham Valley area (which includes Postling) joined to part of the adjacent rural part of Ashford to create a new seat. This would not change the borders of the District Council so Postling would still be part of Folkestone & Hythe District Council not Ashford Borough Council and still part of Elham Valley for Kent County Council. The Electoral Commission is asking for views and you can read their full proposals and give your feedback by 02 August at:

<https://www.bcereviews.org.uk/node/6488>

Susan Carey - Member for Elham Valley, Kent County Council
District Councillor, North Downs West, Folkestone & Hythe District Council

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