

POSTLING PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of Postling Parish Council meeting held online via Zoom on Tuesday 26 January 2021 at 6.30pm

1. Attending: Cllr Frank Hobbs in the chair, Cllrs Christine Hobbs, John Elphick, John Patrick (late arrival), Yvonne Mumford, Charlie Wilkins, Helen Calderbank, Parish Clerk Clare Hamilton, District Cllr Jenny Hollingsbee, County Cllr Susan Carey, and two members of the public.
2. There were no members' declarations of interest on Agenda items.
3. **It was resolved** unanimously to accept the Minutes of the meeting held on 25 November 2020, proposed by Cllr Helen Calderbank, Seconded by Cllr Christine Hobbs. Minutes will be signed by the Chairman at a later date.
4. Meeting adjourned for 15-minute Public Participation session:
A parishioner attended the meeting to speak about issues concerning flooding and drainage around their property. An email from the parishioner detailing the flooding and drainage problems was received by Councillors prior to this meeting. The Chairman is investigating the points raised, and will reply to the parishioner when he has all the information to hand. In the meantime, Kent County Council is arranging for a Land Drainage Engineer to investigate. No complaints about flooding and/or drainage in the vicinity of the parishioner's property have been received by the Parish Council.
Regarding the parishioner's concerns about continued flooding outside Tolsford House on The Street, the KCC drainage engineer who arranged recent remedial works to alleviate flooding at Tolsford House informed that he would visit again to inspect it, but that as KCC had wanted to pipe from the ditch to the culvert and the resident wanted to have the water into the pond, this will be causing the issue.
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. 20/1485/FH Pent Farm, Pilgrims Way, Postling, Hythe CT21 4EY

Creation of a 150m pond for Great Crested Newts as part of Natural England's District Level Licensing scheme.

F&HDC Approved. PPC Support

b. 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

- Following emails sent in October and January requesting clarification on this application, the Planning Officer has not yet received a reply from the applicant's Agent.

Planning Officer reported that as the application is retrospective and FHDC planning have not received all the required information to determine the application, the enforcement team may become involved, and depending on the case it may be necessary to serve an enforcement notice.

The Planning Officer will keep the parish council informed.

c. Other planning matters:

i. Holly tree at Village Hall to be inspected by FHDC arboreal specialist and permission sought for work needed: waiting for inspection date.

ii. Re. previously reported condition of planning application 17/1417/SH (Postling Lodge, Farthing Common, Tree clearing to access onto Loughborough Lane) for work to commence within three years of date of permission granted (03.01.2018): It was thought this included replacement tree planting. Clerk to check if the tree planting requirement relates instead to planning application 19/1258/FH and to enquire if owners have a tree planting plan.

Chairman Frank Hobbs

Parish Clerk/RFO Clare Hamilton | 14a Elmstead Place, Folkestone CT20 1QU | 01303 257321 / 07890 248601

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7. Highways

- a. Commencing 25 Jan 2021 Staple Lane, Postling Closed for 5 days, BT works (not yet started)
Works completed 10 Dec 2020 Cuckoo Lane, Postling Patch repairs completed. More extensive work is required
- b. 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 26 January 2021: £5,426.05

b. Payments and Receipts since last meeting:

Payments: C Hamilton	Salary October & November	£354.98	
C Hamilton	Zoom fee Nov meeting	£ 14.39	
C Hamilton	New PC laptop reimbursement	£395.12	vat £65.85
<i>(agreed laptop budget up to £500. Dell laptop delivered 24.12.20)</i>			

Receipts: None

c. Expenditure due before next meeting:

C Hamilton	Salary December & January	£ 354.98	
C Hamilton	Zoom fee Jan meeting	£ 14.39	vat £2.40

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

9. District Councillor's and County Councillor's reports: see Appendix.

Parking in laybys and reports of crimes against public decency was highlighted by a member of the public. Cllr Carey informed that these offences should be reported directly to the Police, either on 111 or online at kent.police.uk

10. KALC Community Awards 2021: Councillors to suggest a nominee. Deadline for submissions is Friday 12 February.

11. Correspondence received

- Works to trees: on 16.01.21 a member of the public contacted the clerk to query extensive tree clearance on Loughborough Lane in the vicinity of Postling Wood. Due to extensive ash die back, trees have had to be cleared, and works may have coincided with long-term tree management for regeneration and future coppicing in Postling Wood. Clerk to respond to enquirer.
- Fibre Broadband: email circulated to Councillors from a Monks Horton resident re. Stowting and Monks Horton discussing with Openreach to try to obtain fibre broadband provision through the government's voucher scheme. Qualifying postcodes begin with TN; all bar one Postling property has the CT postcode, so would not qualify.
Cllr Susan Carey reminded Councillors that Postling is included in KCC and Openreach's fibre broadband rollout programme, although the timing of this is not known.
- Christmas card received from Chairman and Vice Chairman of F&HDC
- Regular Covid-19 updates from gov.uk, NALC, KALC and F&HDC
- Invitation to Green Infrastructure Strategy Parish and Town Council Workshop 2pm Mon 15 Feb 2021.

12. For information

- Due to his forthcoming house move, Councillor John Elphick tendered his resignation as Councillor from the end of this meeting. Councillors joined the Chairman in thanking John for his long service. John, and his valued input to the Parish Council, will be greatly missed.
- Clerk to attend KALC GDPR and Web Accessibility online workshop on 24 February. Workshop cost of £35+vat to be shared with Upper Hardres Parish Council where Clare is also Clerk.
- 2021 meeting dates as follows: Tuesdays 30 March; 25 May; 27 July; 28 September; 23 November. Parish Council meetings will continue to be held online for the foreseeable future.
- Next meeting: **Tuesday 30 March at 6.30pm.**

Meeting closed at 7.35pm.

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Appendix

Report from your District Councillors:

Covid Vaccinations We're delighted that two buildings owned by your District Council are being used for vaccinations. The car park at Civic Centre in Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone is now a drive through vaccination centre and Folca (the former Debenhams building in Sandgate Road, Folkestone) opened today as a main centre. Lydd airport is also being used for vaccinations. These centres are in addition to Oaklands Health Centre in Hythe which will continue to administer vaccinations.

Please do not turn up on site or ring the sites as you may hamper the vaccination effort. You will not get a vaccination without an invitation. For more information about vaccinations, see kentandmedwayccg.nhs.uk/covid19vaccine

Ideas are being invited for the work programme of the District Council's Scrutiny Committee. There's some guidance on the website about what can and can't be covered and you can ask for a form to submit your topic at committee@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk.

The District Council has been distributing grants and loans to businesses from the funding we've been allocated by the Government to deal with the impact of lockdown. The turnaround on getting grants to eligible businesses has been remarkably swift and it's well worth checking if your business can be helped. The Government has also allocated our district £75,000 to help individuals who are facing hardship. This funding has been going out since before Christmas with the council working with local organisations, including Citizens Advice, food banks and the community support hubs, to contact those most in need, to help them pay utility bills or buy food. If you wish to apply or nominate someone then you can do so via the website or through one of us.

We are proud of the way our staff have continued to keep services going despite illness and bereavement. Many of them had no break over Christmas as they were dealing with both the disruption caused by the closure of the border by France and the aftermath of litter left by the delayed HGV drivers. We'd also like to thank the volunteers who have helped with the clear up and those who offered to help provide food and drink to the stranded drivers (an offer that couldn't be accepted because of the Covid precautions).

We thought you would also be interested to learn that in the first two weeks of operation, the specialist contractors working for KCC clamped 362 illegally parked HGVs with many more given verbal warnings to move at the end of their permitted 45-minute break period. It's hoped these numbers will fall as word spreads about the new enforcement powers.

Please continue to follow the letter and the spirit of the Government guidelines to help reduce the spread of Covid as we wait for the vaccine to protect us all.

Susan Carey and Jenny Hollingsbee - your district councillors

KCC report:

Covid continues to dominate our lives and KCC is involved in many of the initiatives to combat the pandemic including a local test and trace system, testing for Covid for those without symptoms and ensuring as many of our services as possible continue despite the increasing challenge of staff sickness and self-isolating. Covid rates and transmission in Kent remain high so despite the good news about the vaccines the need for measures to limit transmission also remains high. Nothing brings this home more than the news that on 30 December KCC was asked to put in place a temporary mortuary for the rising number of bodies. Our plans for this had been made in April and this temporary storage in Aylesford with space for up to 825 is now operating 24 hours a day.

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If you need to be out and about for your work then it's a good idea to have a regular test to make sure you aren't inadvertently spreading Covid as 1 in 3 of those who have Covid show no symptoms. KCC has now set up several testing sites for those without symptoms including Folkestone Library in Grace Hill and the Community Centre in Hawkinge.

You do need to book in advance not just turn up, but there's plenty of capacity and you will get your result within a couple of hours. You can see all 22 sites and book online at www.kent.gov.uk/symptomfreetest

The NHS is dealing with tests for those who have symptoms of Covid at www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test The NHS is also in the lead in dealing with the vaccination programme (see the District Council report).

The work done to prepare for a No Deal Brexit was needed instead for the border closure by France just before Christmas. The Covid testing that the French authorities now require was set up in double quick time at both Manston and Sevington and 0.02% of HGV drivers tested positive. Over 14,000 Covid tests were administered between 23 and 25 December and 24,000 meals provided. Once the border reopened and Dover was unjammed, the backlog cleared quickly leaving a mountain of litter on our roads which is now being cleared. HGVs are now also required to have a Kent Access Permit to cross the border (rather more notice was given about this) and the new system appears to be working well.

The Kent Resilience Forum continues to co-ordinate work across the public sector – Kent Highways, Kent Police, Highways England etc. and I know many KCC staff have worked exceptionally hard over the Christmas and New Year period to deal with both the crisis caused by the border closure and its fall out.

Illegal parking by HGVs on our country roads has long caused damage to our verges and disruption to nearby homes as well as leaving some disgusting litter in its wake. The Government has now granted KCC powers to clamp and fine HGVs and KCC is using a specialist contractor for enforcement.

KCC distributed vouchers to families with children eligible for Free School Meals for the Christmas holiday period and KentTogether continues to offer help for those in need. kent.gov.uk/kenttogether or 03000 41 92 92 (this is a 24/7 service).

For news in between these monthly reports I now have a Facebook page called **The Elham Valley** which I keep updated with information which is often only released at short notice such as roadworks. You can also find me on twitter @susanjcarey

Susan Carey, Member for Elham Valley, Kent County Council

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