

POSTLING PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of Postling Parish Council meeting held at Postling Village Hall on Tuesday 28 November 2023 at 6.30pm

1. Attending: Chairman Frank Hobbs, Cllrs Helen Calderbank, Christine Hobbs, Rob Lye, John Patrick, Daniel Shaddick, Parish Clerk Clare Hamilton, County Cllr Susan Carey, District Cllr Jenny Hollingsbee, and one member of the public.
2. **It was resolved** unanimously to accept the Minutes of the meeting held on 26 September 2023.
3. There were no members' declarations of interest on Agenda items
4. Public Participation
A parishioner expressed interest in Agenda items re. progress on Pent solar farm and condition of village roads.
5. There were no matters arising not included on the Agenda.
6. 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. **23/1566/FH Middlemarch, 6 Orchard Field, The Street, Postling CT21 4EE**
Lawful Development Certificate (Proposed) for Solar PV to the front roof elevation.
(this application is for a lawful development certificate which FHDC do not consult on)
 - b. **23/0202/CM Postling Court Farm**
Potential planning breach.
The Senior Planning Enforcement Officer visited the property and discussed the matters of concern with the owner, and wrote to the owner advising them to either cease the equine use or make a planning application for it. The owner of the property has advised the Senior Planning Enforcement Officer that they have reverted back to a primarily agricultural use of the land. As far as councillors are aware at this present time, this information is correct.
 - c. **23/0580/FH Pent Farm, Pilgrims Way CT21 4EY**
Photovoltaic solar array, ancillary infrastructure, and landscaping.
A public meeting was held on Tuesday 30 May at 6.30pm at Postling Village Hall to hear residents' views on this application.
PPC Objection. Awaiting FHDC decision. The delay was queried and Cllr Hollingsbee will enquire.
 - d. **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 FHDC decision. Cllr Hollingsbee is awaiting a call to discuss this case.
 - e. Other planning matters - none
7. Highways
 - a. Pot holes on Cuckoo Lane: re-marked, waiting to hear when on works schedule
In October, the Chairman contacted the Highways Manager again who said his engineer would be in contact. No contact has been made and Cllr Carey will enquire. Cllr Carey outlined Highways' lack of funds for road repairs highlighted that cost-effective alternatives, eg. low temperature asphalt, are being investigated.
 - b. Sandling Road: Badgers have eroded the bank, a badger tunnel may not be suitable.
A councillor will report a further pothole on Sandling Road
 - c. An email was received from a parishioner expressing concern re. The Street & Cuckoo Lane
 - d. Loughborough Lane: repairs completed in November.

Chairman Frank Hobbs

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

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8. Finance

- a. Balance of account at 28 November 2023: £5,896.98.
- b. Payments and Receipts since last meeting:

Payments:

C Hamilton	Salary Aug Sept	395.89
C Hamilton	Travel exp July Sept meeting	14.40
HugoFox	Go Cardless - web hosting	11.99
HSBC	bank charges Sept	8.00
HSBC	bank charges Oct	8.00
HugoFox	Go Cardless - web hosting	11.99

Receipts: None

- c. **It was resolved** to accept the clerk's salary increase backdated to 1 April 2023, as notified by NALC (National Association of Local Councils) on 07.11.23.

- d. **To consider** Expenditure due before next meeting:

C Hamilton	Salary Oct Nov	430.56
C Hamilton	Backpay 1 Apr-30 Sept	104.00
C Hamilton	Travel exp Nov meeting	7.20
HSBC	Bank charges Nov Dec	16.00
HugoFox	Website hosting Nov Dec	23.98 <i>vat £4.00</i>

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

- e. **It was resolved** to accept the amended proposed Budget 2024/25 and to request a Precept 2024/25 of **£4,236.00** (a 12% increase on the current year).

Proposed Cllr Christine Hobbs, seconded Cllr John Patrick, all in favour, approved by the Chairman.

9. Reports from District and County Councillors: see Appendix.

10. Play equipment access

It was resolved to consider access to the parish council play equipment at the rear of the village hall in spring.

11. Defibrillator

Ward grants are not applicable to ongoing costs such as defibrillator maintenance, therefore,

it was resolved to re-address the Budget to include the cost for a one-off defibrillator service and parts due to be replaced in 2024. A defibrillator maintenance figure will be included in future budgets.

12. Public Footpath Observer

It was resolved to circulate an email from the White Cliff Ramblers enquiring if any parishioners would be interested in becoming a Public Footpath Observer.

13. Otterpool Park Working Group

The Working Group meets bi-monthly. The Group has expressed concern at delays to the project and that the partner FHDC is seeking may be a developer and will meet with Cllr Jim Martin shortly to discuss.

14. For Information

- Email received re. offer of photo of 1922 Harvest Supper in The Barn, Postling Court
- KALC Community Awards Scheme 2024: deadline for nominations February
- Hospice coffee mornings: nine monthly local coffee mornings were held this year raising £13,039 and a presentation was made to Pilgrims Hospice in Postling Church.
- Website: from 1 Nov includes analytics - 73 visitors between 1-28 Nov (124 page views)
- Councillor vacancy: advertise in the new year
- Meeting dates 2024: 30 January, 26 March, 28 May (Annual Meetings), 30 July, 24 September, 26 November. Meeting closed at 7.45pm.

Signed..... Cllr Frank Hobbs, Chairman, 30 January 2024

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Appendix Reports from District and County Councillors

District Councillor Elaine Martin

F&HDC have made a successful bid and have been awarded a Safer Streets government grant of £335,546.64. The fund will be used to invest in crime prevention initiatives that focus on reducing levels of crime in the district, anti-social behaviour and violence against women and girls.

Consultation on the proposed District-Wide Carbon Plan is still open. This plan sets out the suggested approach towards a net zero future. The plan is open for comment until 5pm on Friday 1 December 2023 and you can give your comments either online via council website <https://folkestone-hythe-consult.objective.co.uk/kse/> or emailing DWCP.Consultation@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk. Public consultations have already been held at Hythe and in Sellindge.

An easy – to – follow guide detailing the best way of achieving net zero carbon in a house build or renovation has been published by Folkestone & Hythe District Council.

A brilliantly successful event for phase two of the Folkestone – a Brighter Future project was held. This involved wearing special goggles for visitors to enjoy a Magic Carpet ride enabling them to fly high above the town centre getting a bird's eye view of the proposed changes. This was especially enjoyed by the younger people visiting the event.

There has been slow take up of the Folkestone and Hythe Green Business Grant Scheme. The grant is to help small businesses to save carbon, become more energy efficient and, in turn, to save the business money. All the information regarding the scheme can be found on the Folkestone Works website (<https://folkestone.works/>).

F&HDC are continuing their progress in looking for a strategic partner for Otterpool Park. Without this extra funding the development of the project would be in jeopardy. They are only looking to enter into agreements with partners who have a track record of facilitating development at scale, and a commitment to delivering the Council's vision for Otterpool Park.

An early Christmas present from F&HDC for you; the Free Parking in Folkestone and Hythe District will be back on the 9th, 16th and 23rd December. Plenty of time to buy those Christmas goodies!

Contact: Elaine.Martin@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk

District Councillor Jenny Hollingsbee

Rural Prosperity Fund Grants – This has been mentioned several times and just recently I gave details to Chris Reynolds who was asking about funding for the Village Hall. An expression of interest can be registered at [Rural England Prosperity Fund - Folkestone Works](#)

Housing Developments in Sellindge – at the Parish Council Meeting on 14 November 2023 I agreed to ask the Planning Team at the District Council if they would attend a Public Meeting to address some of the concerns of residents and to talk about the Core Strategy (Local Plan), Housing Assessment Needs, the current planning applications as well as possible future applications for the Village. The team have agreed to do this, subject to resources being available. This meeting will be planned for the New Year, probably on a Tuesday evening.

Stagecoach Route No 17 – At a recent lunch, I sat next to the Operations Director for Stagecoach and took the opportunity to discuss the No 17 bus timetable. He was quite optimistic that an evening service could be re-introduced with support of additional funding KCC has received from Government. He will keep me updated.

Otterpool Park - The District Council continues to seek a strategic partner for the project in order to bring in additional finance and to 'derisk' the Council. The current project team is undergoing restructure and a new Managing Director will be appointed shortly. As previously stated, I will be following this closely as it is important that the Council do not lose control

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of the development and also that the original Charter is adhered to. I will be asking for clarification on this at the full Council Meeting tomorrow.

I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Contact: jenny.hollingsbee@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk

County Councillor Susan Carey

Councils with Social Care responsibilities had hoped that the Government's Autumn Statement would include extra funding to meet the demand and cost pressures faced by this part of local government. There was no such announcement and this leaves us with a grave financial challenge. There's better news on KCC's judicial review of the Home Secretary about the Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) arriving in large numbers in Kent. There is a mandatory dispersal system for families and for adults claiming asylum which shares the burden with other councils but the dispersal system for UASC is voluntary and other councils are reluctant to take more such young people at a time when every council has financial problems. Details are still coming through but the news is that we have won our case.

There are several consultations under way at KCC. You will find them all at letstalkkent.gov.uk with hard copies on request or available at a library. I'd draw your attention to the one on the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2024 – 34 and also to Making Space for Nature which is the start of creating a Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Kent & Medway.

I recently read an update on trials of new materials and work methods for Highway repairs. We'd all like to see the money we spend on roads go further but not every innovation lives up to its promise. One that has proved itself is Low Temperature Asphalt (LTA) which is a mix of asphalt designed to be laid at lower temperatures. The main benefit is in energy savings and reduced carbon emissions, but it has also improved productivity and led to shorter road closures by reducing curing times. Various trials have been carried out on sites across the county using different types of LTA materials and we expect to be making more use of LTA in all our roadworks.

Susan Carey, Member for Elham Valley

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