

POSTLING PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of Postling Parish Council meeting held at Postling Village Hall on Tuesday 25 January 2022 at 6.30pm

1. Attendance and apologies for absence
Attending: Chairman Frank Hobbs, Cllrs Helen Calderbank, Christine Hobbs, Yvonne Mumford, John Patrick, Dan Shaddick, Charlie Wilkins, Parish Clerk Clare Hamilton, District Councillor Jenny Hollingsbee and one member of the public.
Apologies: County Councillor Susan Carey.
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 23 November 2021.
4. 15-minute Public Participation session not required.
5. There were no matters arising from the previous meeting.
6. To consider Planning Applications received since last meeting, circulated to Councillors for comments, the outcomes of those deliberations, and to consider any applications received since this agenda was published:
 - a. **21/2055/FH Land Adjoining Orchard Cottage, The Street, Postling CT21 4EU**
Works to trees covered by a TPO to include T1 - Cherry, overall crown reduction of 2.5 metres T2 - Cupressus spp, crown lift to a height of 2.5 metres above ground level T3 - Ash, pruning of the lower south facing branches to a height of 2.5 metres above ground level. G4 - Yew hedge, remove the entire thirty metre length of hedgerow All trees subject to Tree Preservation Order No 12 of 1988
F&HDC Approved with conditions
 - b. **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
 - c. **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
F&HDC Approved with conditions (includes removal of lay by once construction work is complete)
7. Highways
 - a. Damaged sign on Stone Street/Pilgrims Way reported, ref. 617725
 - b. Temporary Road Closure – Pilgrims Way, The Street and Staple Lane, Postling:
22nd November 2021 - 10th December 2021. Pilgrims Way, The Street and Staple Lane, Postling
Email received 16.12.21 re. further work: to additional works required on Staple Lane, this road will be closed from 17th December 2021 until the 21st December 2021
 - c. Road closure - Sandling Road, Postling from 21st February 2022 for 2 Days and
Cuckoo Lane, Postling from 23rd February 2022 for 2 Days, Openreach
 - d. Potholes on The Street: Chairman to report
 - e. 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 25 January 2022 £5,494.09
 - b. Payments since last meeting:

C Hamilton	Salary Oct & Nov	£ 354.98
C Hamilton	Travel exp. Nov meeting	£ 7.20
HSBC	Account charges Jan	£ 5.00 (contesting)

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c. Expenditure due before next meeting:

C Hamilton	Salary Dec & Jan	£ 354.98
C Hamilton	Travel exp. Jan meeting	£ 7.20
BT	Phone kiosk adoption	£ 1.00
123.reg	Domain name annual renewal	£ 14.39

It was resolved unanimously to approve expenditure. Proposed Cllrs Helen Calderbank, seconded Cllr John Patrick, all in favour, approved by the Chairman.

d. Precept request 2022/23 of £3,380.00 submitted to F&HDC on 23.12.21.

e. HSBC Safeguarding Customer Review update: Email received on 24.01.22 from Safeguarding Manager to confirm the Safeguarding Review (begun in September) is now complete. Phone calls and emails with HSBC appear to be hastening progress in changing account mandate from Charity Account to Local Council Account, as required by the Safeguarding Review. On 2 January HSBC made a monthly charge of £5 for account fees from 12 Nov-11 Dec 2021; Clerk is contesting this as delay in changing account mandate is on HSBC's side.

9. Reports from District Councillors and County Councillor - See Appendix

10. Telephone kiosk adoption

Telephone kiosk has been decommissioned and a Completion Notice supplied by BT is displayed in the kiosk. Notice states "*Notice to Complete shall expire 5 days from the date hereof [7 Jan 22] following which legal ownership of the said kiosk shall vest in you*", however, the signed contract and invoice for £1 adoption fee have not yet been received from BT.

Risk Assessment and Kiosk Information document is being prepared by the Clerk.

Peter Le Feuvre has volunteered to maintain and paint the kiosk. The suggested use of the installation of a Postling history panel was approved. Cllr Dan Shadwick will investigate electricity supply for an internal light.

As the kiosk is listed, any structural changes require planning permission, including changing the 'Telephone' lettering, therefore, to consider replacing the word 'Telephone' with 'Postling' via a removable panel.

Cllr Jenny Hollingsbee offered funds from her budget to meet the cost of the specialist paint. Clerk to apply for cost of four litres.

11. The Queen's Green Canopy / The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Cllr Susan Carey has offered a tree which could be a replacement for the diseased holly tree felled from outside the village hall and is requesting a tree officer contacts the Chairman.

Open Gardens is the same weekend as the Jubilee. The village bonfire will be held on the day allocated for the lighting of beacons. The Parochial Church Council proposes to plant a commemorative Yew tree in the Churchyard. A village photograph of as many residents as possible is proposed, drone photography was suggested.

12. KFRS/KALC Fire Hydrant Initiative

Postling PC is now registered with the KFRS/KALC Fire Hydrant Initiative and three parish hydrants were last inspected by KFRS on 10.12.20.

Hydrants map circulated to Councillors - any hydrant issues can be reported to KFRS via the Clerk.

13. KALC Community Awards 2022

It was resolved to nominate two parishioners who merit this award.

14. For information

- KCC Contain Outbreak Management Funding (COMF) for parish, town and community councils: Clerk to apply for '*Additional costs incurred to facilitate remote working by the council*' which is the £100.73 cost of the Zoom subscription for online meetings held between May 2020 and April 2021, deadline for applications is 31 January

- KALC Chief Executive, Terry Martin, is retiring on 31 January and Charmaine Keatley will be

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appointed as Chief Executive on 1 February

- Christmas card received from F&HDC shared with Councillors
- Cllr Jenny Hollingsbee informed that the Kent Resilience board discuss delays at Dover and other road issues
- Intrusive lighting at Stop24 raised with Cllr Jenny Hollingsbee who will make enquires
- Noticeboard repair is in hand
- Parish Council meeting dates 2022, Tuesdays at 6.30pm:
25 January, 29 March, 24 May, 26 July, 27 September, 29 November
- Next meeting: Tuesday 29 March 2022 at 6.30pm.

Meeting closed at 7.30pm

Signed.....Frank Hobbs, Chairman, 29 March 2022

Appendix

District Councillors' Report

We'd like to remind everyone of **MyAccount** which is designed to help you find council information relevant to you. Registered users can find details about their Council Tax, benefits, bin collections, ward councillors, and more in one place. More services are being added to MyAccount and you should find it's an easier and quicker way to interact with the Council. You can register or log-in at www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk

Age UK Hythe & Lydinge have benefitted from the Government's Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) to assist elderly, vulnerable or isolating people in the area. This Third Sector Grants programme earmarked the money for those most at risk and Cabinet members have agreed the allocations.

The Lifeline service support system set-up by the District Council, which has given independence to thousands of people, is marking its 40th anniversary with the launch of a new website. The service offers different products which link users to a centrally-controlled specialist team 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. It can be used by council tenants and private householders alike and has all types of clients. These include the elderly and vulnerable people - including lone workers - or users who simply need to know that there is someone at the end of a line for a chat. For further information see www.Lifeline365.org

Household support fund – Your District Council has been given a Government Grant for a Household Support Fund (HSF), which (subject to fund availability) will run until 31 March 2022. Anyone aged 16 or over and living in the district in a vulnerable household may be eligible for a payment. Vulnerable households are defined as those that are struggling to afford essential food and utility bills and have no other available support. Grants are available for families with or without children. For full details of the criteria and to make an application, go to <https://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/household-support-fund>

Budget 2022-2023 – Your District Council is required by law to set a balanced budget by early March and then issue bills and collect council tax not just for themselves but on behalf of all other bodies entitled to charge council tax. The largest share of your council tax goes to KCC, then the District Council followed by Kent Police, Kent Fire & Rescue and finally your parish council. At the District Council our Full Council to agree the budget is on 23 February. We would now like to hear your views on the specific budget proposals within the Budget Strategy as well as feedback on the general spending and income generation priorities for 2022/23 see <https://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/consultations/budgetconsultation>

Scrutiny Committee – Residents are being asked to let your District Council know what local issues they would like discussed by the Scrutiny Committee. Suggestions for matters which are important to the community will help shape the council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the next financial year. While suggestions do not have to be limited to the council or the services it provides, proposed ideas cannot include planning applications, licensing matters, housing appeals or disciplinary issues. To share your ideas, please complete the form which can be found at folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/your-council/democracy/council-scrutiny Please note, you will be required to sign in to

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'MyAccount'. The deadline for submissions is Friday 25 February 2022.

We were pleased that waste and recycling collections took place as normal over the Christmas/New Year break and hope you've taken advantage of the free collection service to recycle real Christmas trees. If there are any problems with your collections we are always willing to pursue these with the responsible officers so do please contact us with the reference number for any report you have needed to make.

Just a quick reminder to be careful dealing with people/companies you only know on social media. A post was recently seen on a local Facebook site offering to collect waste. The company was not listed on the Environment Agency's list of registered waste carriers. If you employ someone to take your waste you must check they are registered. We'd also advise you to get a receipt and ideally take a note/picture of their licence plate. Criminals can charge hundreds of pounds to dispose of waste and then simply dump it. You can take most items to the Household Waste Recycling Centre, including washing machines, fridges, TVs, batteries even asbestos for no charge. Alternatively a bulky waste collection from your home by the District Council costs £30 for one item and £8 for each additional item to a maximum of four in all.

Susan Carey & Jenny Hollingsbee

Folkestone & Hythe District Councillors for North Downs West

County Councillor's report:

I'm delighted to report that following the public consultation held last year and support from the Environment & Transport Cabinet Committee members at their meeting on 18 January I took the decision on behalf of KCC to keep the booking system for our Household Waste Recycling Centres. We will also be rolling out 'same day' bookings following successful trials at the Folkestone, New Romney and Maidstone HWRCs. You can book as many slots as you wish (they are every half hour) and they can be booked up to a month in advance. The booking system was introduced as a response to the need for social distancing and has been refined in response to customer feedback. It's minimised queues, improved communication with customers and improved recycling rates as the staff are able to spend more time helping people find the right bin (recycling rates at the HWRCs have improved by 10%).

We set our budget for 2022/23 on 10 February. We have had a surge of people come forward for social care services following the easing of Covid-19 restrictions and we will need to withdraw from several services which are discretionary in order to meet the services we must deliver which are statutory. Whilst we will still keep the Young Persons Travel Pass we will be reducing our subsidy to it, free companion bus passes are also being withdrawn and our continued support for uneconomic bus routes will depend on how successful we are in our bid to Government under their Bus Improvement Plan. You can read the full proposals on the KCC website including the Medium Term Financial Plan and the 10 year Capital Programme.

Current public consultations on our letstalk.kent.gov.uk website include our Adult Carers Strategy, our Post 16 Transport Policy, Kent Libraries and the Kent Mineral & Waste Local Plan 2013 – 30 Review. Your views are welcome on any or all of these.

I have not forgotten about the tree outside the village hall but the Tree Officer has been working flat out on a major grant application (over £400,000) to a Government scheme and this has had to take priority.

Susan Carey *Member for Elham Valley, Kent County Council*

District Councillor, North Downs West, Folkestone & Hythe District Council

Correspondence received includes:

- KALC events information
- FHDC New Releases
- NALC updates

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