

POSTLING PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of Postling Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 25 September 2019 at 6.30pm in Postling Village Hall

1. Attending: Cllr Frank Hobbs in the chair, Cllrs Helen Calderbank, John Elphick, Christine Hobbs, Yvonne Mumford, John Pattrick, Parish Clerk Clare Hamilton.
Apologies: Cllr Charlie Wilkins, District & County Cllrs Jenny Hollingsbee, Susan Carey (FH&DC meeting).
2. There were no declarations of interest on Agenda items.
3. **It was resolved** to accept the Minutes of the meeting held on 31 July which were signed by the Chairman.
4. There were no matters arising from Minutes of the previous meeting.
5. **To consider** 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. **Y19/1052/FH Fox Cottage, 2 The Terrace, The Street, Postling**
Rear single storey extension to first floor.
Comments to F&HDC by 9 October 2019. **It was resolved** to Object: the proposed extension appears out of proportion with neighbouring properties; there is the potential to block light to, and overlook, neighbouring properties; there is no direct site access (access via rear of neighbouring properties).
 - b. **Y19/0564/FH The Manor House, The Street, Postling**
Listed building consent to repair subsidence damage caused to bay window using traditional building methods. To include internal and external works.
PPC Support. F&HDC Approved.
 - c. **Y19/0257/FH Otterpool Park development, Ashford Road, Sellindge**
Responses from F&HDC Planning Officer are available on the F&HDC website.
 - d. **Y18/1300/FH Pent Farm, Pilgrims Way, Postling CT21 4EY**
Reserved matters application for the erection of a permanent agricultural dwelling being details pursuant to outline application Y17/0650/SH (details relating to landscaping, scale, appearance and layout) and Y17/1621/SH Pent Farm, Pilgrims Way, Postling CT21 4EY
Erection of a dwelling being details pursuant to outline planning permission Y17/0650/SH (details relating to layout, scale, appearance, means of access, and landscaping), together with discharging planning conditions 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10.
PPC No objection. Awaiting decision from F&HDC.
 - e. **Y17/1417/SH Tree clearing to access onto Loughborough Lane: to be followed up.**
6. Finance:
 - a. Balance of account at 25 September 2019: £6,771.91
 - b. Payments and Receipts since last meeting and six-month budget review:
Payments:

C Hamilton travel expenses July	£ 7.70	
C Hamilton salary June & July	£348.25*	
<i>*nb. £2.97 overpaid in error; correct figure is £345.28. Difference to be deducted from next salary payment</i>		
C Hamilton 6 month's expenses	£ 54.03	annual budgeted amount £110.00
KSS Air Ambulance	£250.00	s.137 donation
AgeUK Hythe & Lyminge	£100.00	s.137 donation

Receipts:

VAT refund 31.3.18 - 30.4.19	£120.57	
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Six-month budget review:
Excepting any unforeseen payments, budget is on track to meet predicted year-end balance.

Chairman Frank Hobbs

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c. **It was resolved** to approve the following expenditure:

Clerk's salary	Aug & Sept	£ 342.31	*£345.28 less £2.97
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Clerk's travel expenses	Sept meeting	£ 7.20	
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Proposed by Cllr Helen Calderbank, seconded by Cllr Christine Hobbs, all in favour.

7. District Councillor's and County Councillor's report: see Appendix.
8. Co-opted Councillor: Yvonne Mumford signed the Acceptance of Office form and completed the Declaration of Pecuniary Interests form. Councillors welcomed Yvonne to the parish council.
9. Website: Contact details have been reinstated and clerk is waiting for log-in details.
10. Compliance with the Public Sector Bodies (websites and mobile applications) (no.2) Accessibility Regulations 2018: Deadline for compliance is September 2020. Clerk will attend a KALC meeting in December for further information on this matter and GDPR, and expects to prepare a Disproportionate Burden Assessment and Accessibility Statement to meet the regulations.
11. Community Resilience & Emergency Plan: Ch'man and Clerk to complete Kent Resilience Forum template.
12. Replacement Postling sign at the junction of Cuckoo Lane and Sandling Road: The Chairman has contacted the Highways Manager re. a replacement Postling directional signpost and is waiting for more information. The possibility of a locally produced sign, an additional sign at Newbarn, and outline costs were discussed. **It was resolved** the Chairman will follow up his enquiry with the Highways Manager.
13. 75th anniversary of VE Day, 8 May 2020: An enquiry was received from Stanford re. Postling's involvement in commemorations. A councillor will make enquiries with the Church.
14. Correspondence received: as circulated in weekly email update to Councillors, plus:
 - Air Ambulance: Thank you for donation.
 - Age UK Hythe & Lyminge: Thank you for donation.
 - Public Health England: details for ordering materials for the national Every Mind Matters campaign being launched in October.
 - Kent Police: Rural Matters, Rural Task Force report.
 - Highways: Farthing Common road closure 1 Oct.
 - F&HDC: Green Infrastructure Strategy - to circulate to parishioners for comments, a councillor to complete.
15. For information
 - Chairman attended an Otterpool study tour with F&HDC on 21-22 August. The tour visited sites at Saffron Walden, Bishops Stortford, Letchworth, Alconbury, Northase, Huntingdon and Ipress Green, Dartford.
 - Sandling Road and Staple Lane have been marked for road repairs.
 - Highways are aware of the problems caused by badgers eroding the bank on Staple Lane.
 - Lyminge School and Mind, Hythe are collecting crisp packets for recycling in aid of Air Ambulance.
 - 2020 meeting dates: 29 January; 25 March; 27 May; 29 July; 30 September; 25 November.
 - Next meeting: 27 November 2019.

The meeting closed at 7:40pm.

..... Councillor Frank Hobbs *Chairman* 27.11.2019 2

Chairman Frank Hobbs

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Appendix

7a. District Councillor's report

We are sorry to report that there have been grave shortcomings in how regular safety inspections and repairs have been carried out in our social housing. This work is undertaken on behalf of four councils (Folkestone & Hythe, Canterbury, Dover and Thanet) by East Kent Housing. The problems are being rectified as a matter of urgency and councillors will be considering how best to manage our homes in future. We may take the management back in-house. If any council house tenant would like us to meet with them to answer questions then please let us know and we will either meet with you in your home or at the council offices.

Jenny is the councillor responsible for our Armed Forces Covenant which is a commitment from the council to help Armed Forces personnel and their families. Folkestone & Hythe recently received a Silver Award for its work in this area. You can read more about this on the council's website.

We are very pleased to report that the council has bought Westenhanger Castle. The castle is currently used as a wedding and conference venue and this use will continue but we hope to improve access to the castle and make it the centrepiece of Otterpool Park Garden Town. We both joined a group of our fellow district councillors on a tour of the Otterpool Park site and the castle on 20 September and heard more about the plans to make the most of the castle - opening up views, restoring the original approach from the Sellindge direction, restoring the moat and incorporating the 14 acres of parkland into the publicly accessible green space.

A 2-day study tour of garden towns was recently arranged for councillors from the district council and the nearest parish councils. Susan was able to join them and see the progress made at Alconbury which was an airfield. Two years ago, it had a primary school but no occupied houses. People have now moved in and it also has a cricket pitch, an outdoor swimming pool, a business centre, shops and avenues of trees. The original garden city of Letchworth was also on the itinerary and the plans for building more homes here were shared. We saw part of the three attractive new towns in the Cambridge area and one site where a developer had been able to build homes with no facilities (other than a new roundabout) because the local council had tried to block new developments (failing in its statutory duty to designate enough sites) and been overruled by the Planning Inspectorate.

We debated arrangements for any disruption in Kent post Brexit at our last full council meeting on 12 September. The papers for this meeting contain a lot of detail. Our director of Highways gave a verbal update at the meeting which you can see on the website. With proper cooperation with Kent Police and Highways England the Operation Brock should keep traffic moving on all our roads. Please consult www.kent.gov.uk for the latest information as there will be links here to official information.

Good news for Postling! Access to superfast broadband is to be funded in the very final stage of the broadband extension programme. There is also a generous top-up voucher for the final properties not included. More information on the KCC website and I will keep you updated as and when I know more.

Jenny Hollingsbee

Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Communities, Lifeline, Area Officers & Street Homeless District Councillor, North Downs West Ward

Susan Carey Member for Elham Valley, Kent County Council

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

Chairman Frank Hobbs

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