

POSTLING PARISH COUNCIL

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

Minutes of Postling Parish Council meeting held at Postling Village Hall on Tuesday 29 November 2022 at 6.30pm

1. Attendance and apologies for absence

Attendance: Chairman Frank Hobbs, Councillors Helen Calderbank, Christine Hobbs, Yvonne Mumford, John Pattrick, Daniel Shaddick, and two members of the public.

Apologies: Cllr Charlie Wilkins, Parish Clerk Clare Hamilton, County Councillor Susan Carey, District Councillor Jenny Hollingsbee.

2. **It was resolved** unanimously to accept the Minutes of the meeting held on 27 September 2022.

3. There were no members' declarations of interest on Agenda items.

4. Public Participation session, not required.

5. There were no matters arising from the previous meeting.

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. **22/1404/FH Field located off Cuckoo Lane, south of Vicarage Farm, Postling**

Creation of a Wildlife pond

FHDC Approved.

b. **22/1208/FH Orchard Cottage, The Street, Postling CT21 4EU**

Erection of a single storey side extension to existing garage and relocation of driveway entrance.

FHDC Approved.

c. **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 FHDC.

Waiting for an update from Cllr Jenny Hollingsbee who is trying to arrange a meeting with Head of Planning to highlight various planning matters including this long outstanding application.

7. Highways

- a. Pot holes marked on Cuckoo Lane: complete. However, the road surface has recently deteriorated considerably and the Highways Steward will be asked to assess the situation.
- b. Pot holes marked on Sandling Road (Cuckoo Lane to Sandling Rd): awaiting a date for works.
- c. Road repairs in Postling: due to be added to Highways list for this financial year.
Chairman attended a JTB meeting where it was reported the Highways budget has been cut.
- d. Parking on verges on Cuckoo Lane/The Street: parking for the petting farm and/or riding lessons is causing safety issues for passing vehicles. Verges are being damaged and as rock deterrents may damage vehicles, it was suggested wooden bollards with reflectors be installed instead.
In order to resolve parking needs, the council will request if the yard at the farm may be used for visitor parking.

8. Finance

- a. Balance of account at 29 November 2023: £5,991.90.
- b. **It was resolved** to accept the clerk's salary increase as notified by NALC (National Association of Local Councils), backdated to 1 April 2022: 2022/23 SCP6 £11.42ph @ 4hrs pw = £2,375.36pa.
Back pay 1 April-30 Sept 2022: £96.00 (4hrs pw: £4 x 24 wks = £96).

Chairman Frank Hobbs

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

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c. To note Payments and Receipts since last meeting:

Payments

C Hamilton	Salary Aug Sept	361.22
C Hamilton	Travel expenses Sept	7.20
HSBC	Bank charges Aug Sept Oct	26.00

Receipts

PNVH	Hall lease 2022/23	50.00
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d. Expenditure due before next meeting:

C Hamilton	Salary Oct Nov	395.89
	Backpay to 1 April 2022	96.00
HSBC	Bank charges Nov Dec	20.00 <i>incl. £2 charge to pay in cheque</i>

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

e. Following discussion, **it was resolved** to accept the proposed Budget 2023/24 and to request a Precept 2023/24 from FHDC of £3,782.00.

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

10. Parishioners' concerns re. disturbance from barking dog

Barking has recently ceased and there are no further known issues.

11. Fire Hydrants

Waiting for feedback from KF&RS on the Farthing Common hydrant.

Newbarn hydrant still requires marking.

12. Bus shelter at Newbarn corner

The bus stop in question is in Lyminge PC and the matter is due to be on their November meeting agenda.

13. Boundary Commission for England 2023 Boundary Review

The Boundary Commission for England (BCE) is holding a consultation on the redrawing of constituency boundaries in order to rebalance the number of electors represented by each MP. A new revised map of constituency proposals has been published on the consultation website: bcereviews.org.uk and the consultation is open until 5 December.

The proposal is for Postling and environs to become part of a new Ashford Constituency. Concerns were raised about most locally used amenities (apart from William Harvey Hospital) being part of Folkestone & Hythe, not Ashford, and that a vote for an Ashford MP may not reflect local needs.

It was resolved that a comment reflecting this view will be submitted to the consultation.

14. For Information

- Wheely bin stickers: an email has been received promoting bin stickers which highlight 30mph and to Slow Down. A quote will be obtained.
- KALC AGM: The Chairman attended the KALC AGM on 19 November. The leader of KCC and the Police & Crime Commissioner were speakers. KCC highlighted cuts to budgets. P&CC is cutting number of PCSOs, some of whom are transferring to the police force.
- PACE: Congratulations to Postling Action on Conservation & Environment group (PACE) who won a bronze certificate for Wilder Kent Awards 2022. They are aiming for silver next year.
- Solar Project at Pent Farm: A letter was received today regarding a consultation to be held on a new solar project at Pent Farm. In order to gauge public reaction prior to a full planning application being submitted, a consultation will be held at Postling Village Hall on 16 December, 4pm-9.30pm. A dedicated website will go live on 2 December with a virtual public exhibition of the proposals - www.pentfarmsolar.co.uk Information received on the consultation, plus dates and times, will be circulated locally.
- 2023 meeting dates: Tuesdays at 6.30 pm - 24 Jan; 28 Mar; 30 May; 25 July; 26 Sept; 28 Nov.
- Next meeting: Tuesday 24 January 2023 at 6.30pm.

Meeting closed at 7.25pm

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Signed.....Frank Hobbs, Chairman, 24 January 2023

Appendix

Report from District and County Councillors

The County Council's financial position is less grave after the recent budget announcements but we still have a large budget gap mostly due to inflation in our contract prices and other costs. We still need to make savings and they will affect every area of our services.

Inflation and the cost of living are very much on everyone's minds. Your District Council has been working with partners across the public and voluntary sectors to offer help to those most affected. As well as information on the council website there's a leaflet of where to find financial and other help. On 12 November a 'Cost of Living' event was held at FOLCA (the former Debenhams store in Folkestone) where statutory and voluntary services gave advice and help including providing winter coats. (You can donate winter coats at the Folkestone Community Hub at Age UK South Kent Coast Shaftesbury Avenue Cheriton.) There's also a 'warm spaces' initiative to host people during the day so they can be warm and in company during the day. Details of these schemes and more are on the Council website and there will be information in the next edition of *Your District Today* which is delivered to every home.

The District Council is also facing financial challenges from inflation and a desperate shortage of planning staff. These are problems we share with every district council in the land and savings are being sought to maintain our statutory services (those we have a legal obligation to deliver). This may mean reducing some of our discretionary services and we are also re-evaluating projects. The new Leisure Centre at Princes Parade in Hythe is on hold but we hope a solution can be found so that the development at this location is not just houses.

We both attended Postling Parish Council meeting on 27 September and Lyminge Parish Council on 31 October. As well as reporting on council matters we answer questions and listen to local views.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and thank all the people who make our villages good places to live. Thank you to those who serve on the parish councils, run our places of worship, volunteer at Lyminge school, help at Age UK, those who write for, edit or deliver this newsletter, those who run our local shops, pubs and businesses, the village hall committees and everyone who keeps the many village societies and organisations going for the benefit of all. Thank you to all the volunteers and all the good neighbours.

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