

POSTLING PARISH COUNCIL

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

Minutes of Postling Parish Council meeting held online via Zoom on Tuesday 30 March 2021 at 6.30pm

1. Attending: Cllr Frank Hobbs in the chair, Cllrs Christine Hobbs, John Pattrick, Yvonne Mumford, Charlie Wilkins, Helen Calderbank, Parish Clerk Clare Hamilton, District Cllr Jenny Hollingsbee, and two members of the public. Apologies: County Cllr 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 26 January 2021. Minutes will be signed by the Chairman at a later date.
4. Public Participation session not required.
5. There were no matters arising from Minutes of the previous meeting.
6. Co-option of a Parish Councillor
John Elphick resigned at the January meeting. F&HDC were informed and supplied a Notice of Vacancy which was published on the Parish Council noticeboards and website on 22 February 2021 and circulated to the parish email list.
Deadline for applications to F&HDC for the role of parish councillor was 10 March. On 12 March F&HDC informed the clerk that, as there were fewer than 10 applicants, an election was not required and a councillor may be appointed by co-option.
Two of the three applicants for co-option as parish councillor attended the meeting and were invited to speak to councillors. Following discussion between councillors, Cllr John Pattrick proposed, Cllr Charlie Wilkins seconded, and **it was resolved** unanimously to appoint Daniel Shaddick as parish councillor.
7. 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. **21/0641/FH/TCA Pent Villa, The Street, Postling, Hythe, CT21 4EU**
Felling of an Ash tree situated within a conservation area
Comments to F&HDC by 23.04.21
 - b. **21/0385/FH Stour Rise, Staple Lane, Postling CT21 4EZ**
Creation of horse training area
PPC No objection. Awaiting decision from F&HDC
 - c. **21/0238/FH Staple Farm Barn, Sandling Road, Postling CT21 4HA**
Creation of natural swimming pond and erection of oak outbuilding
PPC No objection. Awaiting decision from F&HDC
 - d. **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. F&HDC listed as Invalid
This application is now listed as 'Invalid' on F&HDC's planning page. The applicant's agent reapplied for retrospective permission on 19.02.21. No further information has been received from F&HDC and no reply has been received to a query addressed to the planning officer on 22 March to establish how to respond to this application. Clerk to contact planning department.

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 carried out.
 - b. Cuckoo Lane, Postling Patch repairs have been carried out. Concerns raised about an increasing dip in the road. Chairman to raise with Highways Engineer.
 - c. Loughborough Lane Poor patch repair reported. Chairman to raise with Highways Engineer.
 - d. Sandling Road Kerbstones falling away caused by rabbits digging under road.
- 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. To note balance of account at 30 March 2021: £5,024.79
End of Year balance on 31 March 2021 (after receipts & payments below): £4,684.90
- b. To note Payments and Receipts since last meeting:

Payments: C Hamilton	Salary Dec & Jan	£354.98	
C Hamilton	Zoom fee Jan meeting	£ 14.39	
C Hamilton	Website domain name renewal	£ 14.39	vat £2.40
Receipts: VAT reclaim	01.05.19 - 28.02.21	£122.29	received 31.3.21
- c. Expenditure due before next meeting:

C Hamilton	Salary Feb & March	£ 354.98	
C Hamilton	Zoom fee March meeting	£ 14.39	
C Hamilton	Clerk's annual expenses	£ 92.81	budgeted £110

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

9. District Councillor's and County Councillor's Reports – see Appendix

10. Workshops / Training

- Chairman attended the F&HDC Green Infrastructure Strategy Parish and Town Council Workshop on 15 February
- Chairman attended an online Otterpool Park Garden Town phase 1 consultation on 8 March
- Clerk attended KALC GDPR and Website Accessibility online course on 24 February.

11. Broadband

- Cllr Susan Carey informed the parish council that KCC expect BT Openreach to connect Postling to fibre broadband this summer. A local survey has been conducted.
- A Monks Horton resident is collecting names of people interested in a separate Openreach scheme.

12. GDPR

To review GDPR and Communication Policies and Data Protection Officer role for May meeting.

13. Website

WWAG compliance - Latest Accessibility Statement supplied by HugoFox and published on website on 25 February.

14. Signpost and telephone box

A volunteer parishioner has repainted the fingerpost sign and cleaned and varnished the seat. The parish council offered to cover the cost of the paint but the parishioner declined the offer and has kindly donated all materials.

A discussion was held on whether to adopt the listed phone box through the BT 'Adopt a Kiosk' scheme.

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Upkeep and maintenance responsibilities and costs were discussed; local volunteers will be needed to paint and maintain the kiosk. A Ward grant may be available for materials costs.

It was resolved to apply to BT to adopt the phone box. Clerk will complete the BT application form.

15. Defibrillator

Defibrillator is two years old and is inspected regularly. Cost of servicing was discussed.

It was resolved for Cllr Christine Hobbs to carry out a thorough inspection of the defibrillator and cabinet to ascertain if a full paid-for service is required.

16. Correspondence received

Letter of resignation from the parish council from John Elphick

Notice of Vacancy for role of Councillor

F&HDC Press Releases

Various gov.uk updates, KALC and NALC updates.

17. For information

- Chris Reynolds has been appointed as Internal Auditor

- Due to uncertainty of the government extending the ruling to hold online meetings after 6 May, the date for the Annual Parish Meeting has been brought forward to Tuesday 27 April at 6.30pm, online.

Date for the Annual Parish Council Meeting (currently 25 May) will be reviewed when clarity is received on this matter

- Access to swings at rear of village hall was queried as it was recently found to be padlocked. Chairman will check with pre-school. Cllr Christine Hobbs regularly checks the safety of the swing.

Meeting closed at 7.45pm.

Appendix

Folkestone & Hythe District Councillors' Report

The three community hubs set up in our district during the COVID-19 pandemic have been universally praised and it's not surprising that many people have claimed credit for them. The source of their funding was ultimately from taxpayers with the Government allocating it to Kent County Council to provide the necessary support to people who needed to shield. KCC decided the best way to do this was via Kent's twelve district/borough councils. Each council then set up a system that best suited local circumstances.

In our district it was our very own Cllr Jenny Hollingsbee who chose the three partners to work with – the Shepway Sports Trust at Three Hills for Folkestone, Age UK for Hythe and the rural areas and the Romney Marsh Day Centre for the Marsh. Hundreds of volunteers were recruited and since March 2020 the voluntary teams have met nearly 80,000 requests for help, including delivering shopping, collecting prescriptions, providing hot meals and making welfare check calls.

The council's work (led by Jenny) has now been recognised with a certificate of excellence in the iESE national Public Sector Transformation awards.

The vaccination programme is making good progress with vaccination rates in Kent ahead of the national average. In our district, council staff took the most vulnerable, sofa surfers, those in bed and breakfast and anyone sleeping on the street to the Folca Vaccination Centre in Folkestone.

Folca will be closing for two to three weeks from 01 April due to the national reduction in supply of vaccine. However, the other centres will remain open and second vaccinations should proceed as planned.

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On 24 February, the full Council agreed the budget and council tax level for the year ahead. A 1.99% in Council Tax was agreed which equates to an increase of 10p per week for a Band D Property.

Princes Parade - Work has begun to improve the ecology of the northern bank of the Royal Military Canal for reptiles, bats and birds. The work, recommended by ecologists, is to carefully manage the wildlife of the Royal Military Canal long-term as part of the Princes Parade development. Council officers are removing dense vegetation - including dead trees and invasive weeds - to create a better environment for certain species of wildlife. The work has been carefully timed to minimise the effect on nesting birds later in the season. To enable this work to take place sections of footpath alongside the canal will have to be temporarily closed.

Carbon Action Plan - A 33-point plan to continue the District Council on its journey to reduce its carbon emissions to zero by 2030 has been given the go-ahead. The range of actions, some of which can be tackled quickly and others which will take longer to implement, focus on six key areas - energy; behaviour change; transport; water; contracts and biodiversity/green space

Medical Scholarship –the District Council has agreed to support a Medical Student to the tune of £5000 per year for the full five years of the Bachelor of Surgery, Batchelor of Medicine course at the Kent and Medway Medical School (KMMS).

KCC report

I am pleased to report that the post Transition arrangements to deal with HGVs in Kent are working well. Freight volumes are at expected levels for this time of year and relatively few drivers are now turning up without the correct paperwork. The French Government has recently withdrawn its requirement for HGV drivers to be tested for Covid. HGV drivers tend to spend very little time outside their cabs and the positive test rate was very low.

One of the preparations that was made for the end of the Transition period was that KCC has finally been granted powers to clamp HGVs which are illegally parked. A small team of contractors has been going to known hot spots across East Kent. In the first 6 weeks of operation (11 January – 21 February 2021) 1,098 HGVs were clamped. The majority were unsurprisingly along the M20 corridor and 13% were in our district. Over 80% of those clamped were foreign registered vehicles.

The aim is to deter such parking not make a profit and the £150 fine (the maximum the Government will allow us to charge) is not expected to cover the full cost. However, KCC believes this is a long overdue measure as such parking causes disproportionate disruption to our communities and damage to our verges.

I see you have broadband on the agenda and, as far as I'm aware, Postling is still in the programme for a scheme paid for by KCC and BDUK and delivered by BT OpenReach. If this changes we will need to consider using the Government's voucher scheme and the KCC 'top up'.

Since we last met KCC has had the very good news that we have been awarded £20.6m in grants for the projects that will make KCC's own buildings and services carbon neutral. This is on top of an earlier grant of £2.4m for another net-zero project and together they will ensure we will meet our Climate Change commitment. I am very proud that the Environment team at KCC, for which I am responsible, has won not just this funding but a further £1.5m for environmental projects to reduce energy costs and carbon emissions at Kent schools.

KCC will once again be distributing vouchers to families with children eligible for Free School Meals for the school holiday period and KentTogether continues to offer help for those in need. kent.gov.uk/kenttogether or [03000 41 92 92](tel:03000419292) (this is a [24/7](tel:03000419292) service).

Susan Carey, Member for Elham Valley, Kent County Council

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