

POSTLING PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of Postling ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held at Postling Village Hall on Wednesday 22 May 2019 at 7.30pm.

1. Present: Cllr Frank Hobbs in the chair, Cllr Christine Hobbs, Cllr John Elphick, Parish Clerk Clare Hamilton, Ian McLintock (Consultant to F&HDC), and one parishioner.
Apologies: Cllr John Pattrick, Cllr Helen Calderbank, Cllr Charlie Wilkins, Chris Reynolds (PNVH), District Councillor Jenny Hollingsbee and County Councillor Susan Carey - attending F&HDC Annual Meeting.
2. Minutes of previous Annual Parish Meeting held on 23 May 2018 were approved and signed.
3. Chairman's report:
Your Parish Council year started with us losing Jo Maher as our clerk. She had done a sterling job over the last 7 years. We advertised the vacancy locally with no response, and then through the KALC website. This produced several applicants, and after interviews we agreed to offer the job to Clare Hamilton, who was pleased to accept and she has since been putting us in order.

In the recent elections Jane Reynolds stood down after many years of service and we thank her for her time and effort over that time. No-one new came forward at the election so we will be looking to co-opt someone to fill the vacancy.

Local planning applications have proved tricky with the District Council seemingly being very pedantic, particularly with Pent Farm.

Otterpool Park continues on its way and is now at outline planning stage. We have received thousands of pages of documents to peruse, some of which are here tonight, and will soon be submitting our response. If any member of the public comments to the District, please copy in the Clerk. We held a drop-in session recently and 16 parishioners attended. Your Council was represented at Folkestone Racecourse yesterday for a briefing for the five Parish Councils involved in the development. This meeting focused on Transport, Water and Heritage

The broadband position has not changed yet, although there are a few ideas floating around, we will continue to look for a reasonable solution. This will no doubt be at the top of our shopping list for any Section 106 monies from Otterpool, however that source may be a long time away.

The state of local roads is a continuing problem, and I suspect will always be so. Traffic gets more frequent as well as being heavier and wider than our lanes were designed to take. The County Council does not have enough money to do a proper job. We are still waiting for the barrier at Ash Wells to be replaced after an ash tree fell down and demolished the original.

With the help of our District Councillors we have purchased a defibrillator which is placed on an outside wall of the Village Hall. We thank them for their financial contribution.

Finally, I would like to thank Clare and the Councillors for their time and efforts over the past 12 months.

Frank Hobbs, Chairman, Postling Parish Council

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4. Postling New Village Hall Association report:
The committee has only met once for our AGM.

It is quite difficult to maintain the balance between a steady income stream from our regular nursery user and yet keep the Hall looking reasonably inviting for members of the Village to use when required. Hall usage over the past few years has been very even, which makes our job as a Committee relatively easy in terms of budgeting for repair work and improvements.

We had the main hall redecorated at Christmas which then highlighted a problem with water ingress below the roof skylights. This has necessitated further expenditure which involved stripping the tiles off below the Velux windows and renewing the felt and waterproofing around the windows.

Our thanks to Jenny and David next door for putting up with scaffolding planted in their garden for a few days while the work was done.

Chris Reynolds, Chairman, PNVH

5. Appointment of Village Representatives to the Village Hall Association:
Cllr Christine Hobbs proposed Chris Reynolds, Chris Clarke and Jill Dixon as representatives on the PNVH committee. This was seconded by Cllr John Elphick.
6. District Councillors' report:
Susan Carey and Jenny Hollingsbee represent North Downs West ward which includes the communities of Bodsham, Elmsted, Etchinghill, Lyminge, Postling, Sellindge, Stelling Minnis, Stanford, Stowting and all points between. Please see Appendix for their Report.
7. Kent County Councillor's report: Please see Appendix.
8. Otterpool Park development proposals:
An Extraordinary Meeting of Postling Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 5 June at 6.30pm to compile a response to the Otterpool Park planning proposal. Deadline for responses to F&HDC from the Parish Council is 10 June 2019.
9. For information.

Signed Chairman, May 2020

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Appendix

District Councillors' report:



Jenny Hollingsbee & Susan Carey
District Councillors for North Downs West

Annual Report for 2018/19

Thank you to all those who voted for us in the District Council elections on 02 May. Turnout was 45% (the second highest in the district) and we were very pleased to be re-elected at a time when focus was on Brexit rather than local services.

Recycling and Waste Collection Your District Council (as confirmed by independent external auditors) continues to offer Value For Money services including a reliable waste and recycling service and residents are now recycling over 45% of their waste (up nearly 3% on the year before). Even better news is that the amount of waste produced per household in our district has reduced by 22kg (nearly 50lbs) compared with the year before.

Meeting our statutory duties Your District Council has a statutory duty to designate sufficient land for future homes, employment, retail and leisure facilities. The Places and Policies Plan is being examined in public this May by an independent Planning Inspector and it is likely his report will be complete by the end of July.

Otterpool Park The outline planning application for the new Garden Town at Otterpool Park was made on 28 February and is available to view on the council website. It proposes 8,500 homes (including 1,870 affordable homes) as well as employment land, new schools, medical facilities, highway improvements and publicly accessible green space. It is a joint scheme between Folkestone & Hythe District Council and Cozumel a private sector partner. The consultation on the application closes on 27 May.

Otterpool Park Garden Town is part of the Government's Garden Town programme and has so far received £2.831m Government funding to help with planning costs. Homes England, the Government's housing agency has also bought land within the development area to help the project.

Other housing initiatives Your District Council has also continues its successful programme of bringing derelict homes back into use through partnership with KCC's No Use Empty Scheme and in 2018/19 a record 70 new homes were created. To discourage owners from keeping homes empty we have increased council tax by 100% if they have been empty for 2+ years, 200% for 5+ years and 300% for 10+ years. We have bought the brownfield site at Biggins Wood in Folkestone to provide 77 homes and commercial office space. We are continuing to build new council homes across the district with homes available for rent, shared ownership and first-time buyers.

The Council continues to grow its investment in homes to let locally and has also recently bought Connect 38 in Ashford which will provide a rental income from commercial tenants. These investments are designed to make the council less dependent on government funding.

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Chairman Frank Hobbs

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Initiatives in Folkestone Your District Council has set up 'Folkestone Works' to create jobs and support businesses in East Folkestone and won £2.5m EU matchfunding for this £5m scheme. It has brought forward its regeneration plans for the town centre in response to the proposed closure of Debenhams department store and has set aside £3m to help support our high streets across the District.

The appearance of the district remains a high priority and we now have a team of 4 Area Officers who have been pro-actively tackling littering, graffiti, flytipping and flyposting. There have been several successful prosecutions of both flytippers and those who handed them their waste for disposal. We write monthly reports in the village newsletters in Lyminge, Sellindge, Stelling Minnis and attend as many of the parish council meetings and village events as we are able. Do please keep inviting us. We have also met individuals who ask for our advice and help either in their own homes or at the Civic Centre. Please contact us if you have a concern or issue you believe we can help you with. Every district councillor has £3,000 to allocate to community projects. In 2018/19 we were pleased to help the following projects.

Grants	Susan	Jenny
Elmsted and Bodsham		
Evington Village Hall	250	250
Etchinghill		
Residents Association	150	150
Lyminge		
1 st Lyminge Scout Group	490	
1 st Lyminge Brownies	106	105
Age UK Lyminge	350	350
Monks Horton		
Defibrillator & Bench	300	300
Sellindge		
Village Hall	200	200
Sellindge & District Playing Fields		318
Postling		
Defibrillator	250	250
Rhodes Minnis		
Village Hall	250	250
Stanford		
All Saints Church	154	346
Stelling Minnis		
Village Hall	200	181
Stowting		
St Mary the Virgin church	300	300

Susan Carey District Councillor

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Susan Carey and Jenny Hollingsbee, District Councillors, North Downs West, Folkestone & Hythe District Council

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Kent County Councillor's Report:



Susan Carey, Member for Elham Valley, Kent County Council

Dear Resident,

This is my Annual Report for the town and parish councils in the Elham Valley division which I have the honour to represent at Kent County Council. It is my view that Elham Valley is one of the very best parts of Kent for beauty, heritage and of course the people.

Your County Council has continued to deliver essential services for residents and this report includes an update from Kent County Council Leader Paul Carter. Also in this report is a full list of the KCC Member Grants I have allocated in the last year and a summary of the work I do as your County Councillor.

I keep residents in touch year-round through village newsletters, attendance at local events and stories in the excellent Hawkinge Gazette an online news site at www.localrags.co.uk You can also follow what I'm doing through my twitter account @susanjcarey

I'm grateful to Matthew Scott our excellent Police and Crime Commissioner who launched his 'Meet the Commissioner' events with a morning of discussion with residents from across my division at Stelling Minnis on 07 January. Matthew has ensured that Kent Police report on 'Speedwatch' results and what they are doing to deal with the minority of drivers who try to blight our communities by flouting the speed limits.



**Matthew Scott, Kent Police & Crime Commissioner
with Susan Carey and Jenny Hollingsbee**

Damian Collins MP has also been helpful in the efforts to get better mobile phone coverage in our area and to get Post Office services restored in Lyminge and has joined me on the doorstep to meet residents. It's not just at election time we call.



Damian Collins with Susan Carey & Jenny Hollingsbee

Our local parish and town councils also do a grand job in serving their communities and I'd like to thank both councillors and clerks for their efforts. My District Council colleagues, Jenny Hollingsbee, David Godfrey, Stuart Peall and Philip Martin complete the picture. Working together means we can get more done for our residents.

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A message from Paul Carter, Leader of Kent County Council

Kent County Council has three clear ambitions for Kent which were agreed in 2015 and remain our priorities. We want –

- **children and young people in Kent get the best start in life**
- **Kent communities to feel the benefits of economic growth by being in-work, healthy and enjoying a good quality of life**
- **older and vulnerable residents to be safe and supported with choices to live independently**

Each of these aims has measurable targets and, for the majority of measures, I am pleased to report our performance continues to be maintained or improved. This has been achieved despite rising demand for services and reduced Government funding and is a great tribute to the hard work, dedication and creativeness of our KCC staff most of who are themselves Kent residents. We will continue to invest in new technology and streamline services so that we can save money but we are also lobbying hard for a more sustainable funding system for local government that properly meets local needs.

At a time when many other councils are reducing services to the statutory minimum, Kent still has 99 libraries, continues to fund 70 Community Wardens, subsidise the Young Persons Travel Pass by over £8 million a year and support communities through the KCC Member Grants. It's a record of which we can all be proud.

Our investment in highways maintenance rose to £89m in 2018/19 and will rise to £96m in 2019/20. This is in addition to the £28m recently received from the Department of Transport for improvements to highways as part of Brexit Preparedness. I am also pleased that KCC has played a leading role in the Kent Resilience Forum which has brought together public bodies to plan for a variety of scenarios of disruption. Kent has always faced disruption when Cross Channel Services are interrupted by bad weather industrial action or Tunnel closures and Kent is better prepared than it has ever been before.

Whatever the future holds for us all you can be sure that Kent County Council will stay true to its commitment to a better Kent for all our residents.



Paul Carter Leader, Kent County Council

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Susan Carey - My work for you and for Kent

At Kent County Council I am Cabinet Member for Customers, Communications and Performance which includes responsibility for our call centre, website, consultations, internal audit, risk and performance management.

www.kent.gov.uk has over 3,000 webpages covering over 300 KCC services. It receives over 1,000,000 page views a month from over 220,000 people. Our Contact Point deals with phone calls, correspondence and email and receives over 600,000 calls a year. Both the website and Contact Point are highly rated and we benchmark our services against the best in the public and private sector.

As well as the Cabinet meetings I am involved with Policy & Resources Cabinet Committee, Governance & Audit Committee and the full County Council meetings which are all webcast. I also chair the Youth Advisory Group for the Folkestone & Hythe and am a member of the Joint Transportation Board. As the County Member for Elham Valley I am a trustee of both the Sir John Williams charity in Elham and the Robert Thompson Charity in Saltwood.

One of the most important parts of my role is helping residents with individual problems and I am easily contactable by emails or phone. I am also pleased to help many local projects through my KCC Member Grant. Here are the projects I supported in 2018/19.

KCC Member Grants

The largest grant was £5,000 to Hawkinge Town Council for help with essential repairs to the Community Centre roof.

£3,878 to Age UK Lyminge towards chairs for the new Dementia Wing.

£2,000 to Sellindge Sports & Social Club towards the resurfacing of the car park.

£1,000 to Stelling Minnis Village Hall towards the cost of a new boiler.

£1,000 to Lyminge PCC for the Pathways to the Past project.

£764 to Monks Horton Parish Meeting for a defibrillator and First Aid training.

£700 to Elham Parish Council for 'Bark for the Park.' (Not anything to do with dogs but replenishing the bark covering around the equipment.)

£500 to Hawkinge Baptist Church towards the cost of their new lift for disabled access to their services.

£500 to Evington Village Hall in Elmsted towards lighting for the car park.

£500 to the Pilgrims Hospice towards the cost of furniture for their 'Quiet Lounge'.

£500 to Rhodes Minnis village hall towards the cost of their kitchen refurbishment.

£500 to Hawkinge Town Council towards the cost of their World War I commemoration events.

£300 to Sellindge Parish Council for traffic cones to deter anti-social parking by HGVs.

£195 to Elham Parish Council for Infant Defibrillator electrodes.



I already have a queue of projects seeking support for the year ahead but do please let me know if you have a local project you'd like me to consider.

Community Litterpicks - It's great when the community gets together to tackle a problem which is why I have supported litterpicking by using my ward grant to pay for equipment and by taking part in many events myself in Etchinghill, Hawkinge, Lyminge and Stowting.



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The **Streamcleans** of the Nailbourne in both Lyminge and Elham are also important for keeping the water free from obstruction and reducing flood risk. Last summer I was also able to arrange a beach clean involving nearly 100 Army Cadets. If you'd like to get involved either at the group events or as an individual volunteer then do please contact me. Families are particularly welcome.

Another community initiative that's close to my heart is **Speedwatch**. It's a small minority who choose to ignore the speed limit but they cause much distress. Speedwatch volunteers are there to remind drivers to respect the communities they drive through. Speeding vehicles are reported to Kent Police who follow up with warning letters or visits. The data also helps Kent Police plan their own speed enforcement patrols.

I also serve as a councillor on the Folkestone & Hythe District Council where, together with Jenny Hollingsbee, I represent North Downs West. The North Downs West and North Downs East wards form the Elham Valley Division. Serving at both KCC and the District Council means I work closely with my colleagues to help our residents.



Susan Carey Kent County Councillor for Elham Valley

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District Councillors for North Downs West and East