

POSTLING PARISH COUNCIL

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

1. Attendance and apologies for absence:
Attending: Chairman Frank Hobbs, Cllrs Helen Calderbank, Christine Hobbs, Yvonne Mumford, John Patrick, Charlie Wilkins, Parish Clerk Clare Hamilton, County Councillor Susan Carey and one parishioner
Apologies: Cllr Daniel Shaddick, District Councillor Jenny Hollingsbee, Roger Joyce.
2. Members' declarations of interest on Agenda items:
Cllr Charlie Wilkins, item 6a (personal interest, neighbour).
3. **It was resolved** unanimously to accept the Minutes of the meeting held on 25 January 2022.
4. 15-minute Public Participation session not required.
5. Matters arising from previous meeting:
Intrusive lighting at Stop24 was raised with Jenny Hollingsbee – clerk to follow up
6. 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. **22/0303/FH Southfields, Farthing Common CT18 8DH**
Erection of a replacement dwelling
The applicant attended and answered councillors' questions about the application.
The following response will be submitted to FHDC by the deadline of 13 April:
Postling Parish Council accepts that the existing property on the site, having been empty and not maintained for 4/5 years, would be demolished and a replacement dwelling built, but some councillors raised concerns at the large size of the proposed dwelling which will be highly visible in this AONB. It is understood from the applicant that the size of the wall at the westerly edge of the site has been scaled down slightly and is to be a mix of flint and timber cladding. Councillors support the use of timber cladding to reduce its imposing appearance.
Trees should be retained and hedgerows maintained and enhanced.
 - 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 FHDC
Clerk to contact FHDC head of planning to query excessive time taken with this application.
7. Highways
 - a. Road closure - Sandling Road, Postling from 21st February 2022 for 2 Days and Cuckoo Lane, Postling from 23rd February 2022 for 2 Days. Openreach.
 - b. 'Road Ahead Closed' signs appeared wk commencing 7 March at junc. Pilgrims Way/The Street - appear to have been an alert for pothole filling
 - c. Parishioner report of poor road conditions and erosion of verges on Pilgrims Way by agricultural vehicles:
Agricultural vehicles are now larger and unfortunately, they can cause an increase in verge damage. Cllr Susan Carey informed the meeting that the KCC Highways budget can only stretch to emergency and essential repairs. KCC propose to cut verges differently as 'rural swathes' with one cut in spring and one in late summer. Although some grass verges may appear untidy, it will be better for wildlife. The Bee Conservation Trust is advising KCC on managing the cutting.

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- d. Fault reporting: Parishioners are encouraged to join Councillors in reporting Highways faults at <https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem>
Covid infections amongst the Highways and Openreach workforce are causing some last minute cancellations / rearranging of some road closures.

8. Finance

- a. Balance of account at 29 March 2022: £5,808.25
Projected EOY balance on 31 March 2022 after payments itemised in 8d: £5,336.31

- b. Payments and Receipts since last meeting:

Payments

C Hamilton	Salary Dec & Jan	£ 354.98
C Hamilton	Travel exp. Jan meeting	£ 7.20
HSBC	Account charges Feb & Mar	£ 10.00
123.reg	Domain name annual renewal	£ 14.99

Receipts

FHDC	Combined Members' Grant	£ 600.00
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- c. On 4 March, KALC advised of the NALC Salary Award 2021/22 to be backdated to 1 April 2021. At SCP6, clerk's salary has increased from £10.24ph to £10.42ph therefore backpay to 1 April is due of £37.44. Clerk's salary payable from 1 April 2022 is £2,167.36pa (£180.61pm).
($10.42 \times 4 \text{ hrs pw} = £41.68 \times 52 \text{ wks} = £2,167.36 \text{ pa}, £180.61 \text{ pm}$)
It was resolved to accept the NALC Salary Award 2021/22.

- d. Expenditure due before next meeting:

C Hamilton	Salary Feb & March	£ 354.98	
C Hamilton	Travel exp. March meeting	£ 7.20	
C Hamilton	Backpay 1.4.21-31.3.22	£ 37.44	NALC salary award
C Hamilton	Annual expenses	£ 72.32	
BT	Phone kiosk adoption	£ 1.00	awaiting invoice
HSBC	Account charges Apr & May	£ 10.00	

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

- e. Banking

It was resolved to sign form to allow clerk to access HSBC Business Telephone Banking.

Mandate change update: HSBC approved the mandate change from Charity Account to Local Council Account on 19 Jan.

A £5 monthly fee was introduced on accounts from 1 Nov 21, and the clerk was wrongly advised by HSBC in February that no monthly fees should be due on the Local Council Business Account. On 22 March, the clerk was informed that information given in February was incorrect and that fees are applicable. A complaint about not being informed correctly "will be passed on".
(Other banks no longer offering free accounts to new customers)

9. Reports from District Councillor and County Councillor – see Appendix

10. Telephone Kiosk

Postling Parish Council thanks Cllr Jenny Hollingsbee and Cllr Susan Carey for their Members' grants of £300 each for the phone kiosk restoration. Thanks to these funds, local volunteers can now start work to renovate the Postling phone kiosk and prepare an information panel which it is hoped will be ready in time for The Queen's Jubilee weekend in June.

Jenny has asked that a series of photographs are taken of the phone kiosk refurbishment so that FHDC and KCC can use the project as a case study for their Ward Grants.

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Councillors approved the information panel text and it was suggested a sign reading 'Defibrillator at Village Hall' is fitted in the kiosk in case of emergency.

Electricity supply for internal light was investigated by Cllr Daniel Shadwick. The BT contract states they will continue to pay for the electricity supply for a 8W lamp. Having discussed lighting options, Councillors agreed for the light to come on when someone enters the kiosk. Dan will now investigate light fitting options and costs.

11. The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

A Jubilee bench has been proposed but it was felt there is not a suitable position. Susan Carey is to arrange the supply of tree for in front of the village hall. During the Jubilee weekend, there will be a bonfire on the Downs and it is Open Gardens weekend. A drone photograph of as many residents as possible is proposed by a parishioner.

12. Fire Hydrants

The Postling KF&RS Hydrants map lists six hydrants across the parish. Chairman and councillors have carried out informal inspections and identified issues with the following hydrants which will be reported to KF&RS:

- all H road markings have faded and need renewing
- vegetation is obscuring hydrants 24030 (Stone St) and 24051 (Douglas Farm, Cuckoo Lane)
- hydrant 27646 at Newbarn (nr The White House) cannot be located
- hydrant at Farthing Common not marked on parish hydrants map, but is understood to have been installed approx. 4 years ago on the Farthing Common triangle opposite the entrance to the reservoirs (nr The Shambles) where there is discarded H sign. With local building work and works to the reservoir, this should be attended to as a matter of urgency.

13. For information

- A parishioner has reported that the swings at rear of Village Hall are not always accessible (gate is locked during term time for security of children at nursery). Nursery staff to be reminded that gate should be left unlocked at weekends and out of term times.
- A councillor received a complaint from a parishioner about The Outlook on Pilgrims Way as the site is unsightly and works appears to have halted. Cllr Susan Carey advised there are no grounds for complaint on appearance of the site. It was reported that the proposed build method has caused problems resulting in major delays.
- Broadband: an enquiry from a Stanford parish councillor about access to broadband has been received. No updates available on the roll-out in Postling.
- Noticeboard is back in-situ and a letter of thanks will be sent.
- Councillors wish to express thanks to the volunteer who collects litter on Sandling Road and A20. Susan Carey will pass on thanks.
- Parish Council meeting dates 2022, Tuesdays at 6.30pm: 24 May, 26 July, 27 Sept, 29 Nov.
- Next meeting: Tuesday 24 May 2022, 6.30pm Annual Meeting of the Council and Ordinary Meeting, followed by Annual Parish Meeting at 7.00pm.

Meeting closed at 8.35pm

Signed.....Frank Hobbs, Chairman, 24 May 2022

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Appendix

District Councillors' Report

The Great British Spring Clean continues till 10 April and if you would like to join one of the organised community clean ups or go out solo then your District Council is able to provide equipment and make arrangements to collect the bags. We're fortunate to have many volunteers across our district but more are always welcome.

F&HDC has set a budget for 2022/23 with an increase of 1.96%; this equates to an extra 15p a day for a Band D household. We are making use of reserves to balance the budget and there will be no reduction in services. The District Council sends out the council tax bill for all the other precepting authorities (KCC, Kent Fire & Rescue, Kent Police and your local parish council) and its share of the overall bill is around 13% of the total.

The Government's council tax rebate will be made automatically to eligible households that pay council tax by direct debit. Once a solution has been finalised for refunding those whose bank details are not held then those concerned will be contacted – there is no need to make a request to the council.

We're delighted to report that the council has been successful in a bid to the Government's Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund. Over the next 12 months two million pounds will be spent on improving energy efficiency in over 100 of our council managed homes. Those homes most in need of work will be prioritised and tenants will be contacted individually to arrange for the work to be carried out. We hope to be able to use local contractors for this insulation work and boost jobs in the green sector.

Electric Vehicle charging points are now available in most of your district council's car parks. This is part of a wider scheme which Susan initiated called EV600 which provides 600+ charging points across Kent in partnership with Connected Kerb. If you have an EV, your satnav should automatically add these locations to your map and you can download the Connected Kerb app to use them.

On 25 March we attended the Official launch of the F51 Skateboarding, bmxing, climbing, etc centre on Tontine Street in Folkestone. It officially opens to the public on 4 April. It has a café and bar where you can relax and watch the activities and we would highly recommend a visit. It is the first such centre in the Country and will be internationally recognised and has again put Folkestone in the limelight. Folkestone Boxing Club has moved into its own designated space within the Centre. Website <https://www.f51.co.uk>

The Government has advice on what you can do to help Ukraine here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ukraine-what-you-can-do-to-help> There are also local efforts under way including a website set-up by the District Council www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/news/help-for-Ukraine -

Lyminge centre of Age UK Hythe & Lyminge – **63 Station Road, Lyminge, CT18 8HQ** Monday to Friday between 10am - 2pm is a collection point (Hythe & New Romney Community Hubs are also operating as collection centres.)

Bigjigs Toys, Unit B, Kingsmead, Folkestone, CT19 5EU, is providing space at its warehouse for donations to be made, sorted and loaded onto lorries bound for Eastern Europe. The warehouse is open Monday to Saturday from 9am to 5pm to accept donations. There will be AA signs directing people to the site. The most needed supplies are: nappies, baby wipes, baby food, sanitary products, long-lasting food and drink, warm socks and hats, medicine, toiletries, blankets/bedding.

Volunteers are needed to help sort, label and stack donations and anyone interested is asked to join: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/HvezOoWImQMOWIeqTVGxgu>

Freight 44 of Lypne is providing the first lorry and covering the cost of the driver's wages, while Bigjigs Toys is funding the rest of the costs (fuel/duty/tolls). If you would like to donate money to pay for as many lorries as are needed, please go here: <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/igor-kovalenko-1>

Ukraine Humanitarian Aid, Folkestone, is asking for donations to be dropped off at **Holy Trinity Church, Sandgate Road, Folkestone, CT20 2HQ**, Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9.30am to 12.30pm and 1.30pm to

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3.30pm. Items needed are: dry food (rice, pasta, tinned food, especially fish and meat), medicine (Paracetamol, Ibuprofen, painkillers, Calpol, Ibuprofen suspensions for babies and children), protective clothing (helmets, bullet-proof vests, binoculars, long-range radios).

Covid - At the Kent & Medway Health & Wellbeing Board on 16 March that Jenny attended, there was concern over the high number of reported Covid cases in the latest data set. The emphasis was put on vaccination and the need to encourage people who have not yet been vaccinated to come forward. A further booster jab will be available for all over the age of 75 from 21 March and although testing kits are being phased out from the end of March, they will still be available for certain sections of the population.

Susan Carey & Jenny Hollingsbee, Folkestone & Hythe District Councillors for North Downs West
Email susan.carey@kent.gov.uk jenny.hollingsbee@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk

County Councillor's report

Your County Council has responded to the invasion of Ukraine by reviewing our suppliers to make sure none of our contracts is indirectly supporting President Putin's regime. We have removed Gazprom from the suppliers to our energy subsidiary Laser and we are seeking to reduce our Pension Fund investments (0.3% of the total) in Russian assets. So far 429 households in Kent have been matched with 1,165 Ukrainians as part of the Government's Homes for Ukraine scheme. We are keeping the KCC website as up to date as we can with information on this and other ways for people to help.

I'm pleased to report that following the public consultation and a debate at the Environment & Transport Cabinet Committee at KCC, I took the decision for KCC to keep the booking system for our Household Waste Recycling Centres. You can book online for the same day or up to a month in advance or by phone at 03000 41 73 73

I'm also pleased to report significant progress on reducing both carbon emissions and energy costs for KCC with the purchase of two solar parks, one in Kent and one in the West Country. Together they will cut our carbon emissions by 34% and our energy bill by nearly £1m a year. We are also looking to help Kent households reduce their energy costs and our collective buying scheme for solar panels and battery storage has seen nearly 10,000 households register their interest in our SolarTogether Scheme.

KCC's Plan Tree strategy is out for consultation at <https://letstalk.kent.gov.uk/> till 02 May. There's also a consultation on reducing the subsidy KCC currently pays for bus services which do not fully cover their costs from passenger fares. This is open till 20 April.

KCC's transport arrangements for children with Special Educational Needs have had significant problems. Work is under way to put this right and there will be a full investigation. The problem has already been discussed at our KCC Cabinet meeting (03 March), the Scrutiny Meeting (08 March) and Full Council (10 March) and webcasts of these meetings can all be seen on the KCC website www.kent.gov.uk I am told all the affected children do now have transport though some parents remain unhappy with the arrangements made. There is an appeals process and I am ready to help affected parents in my division.

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

Twitter @susanjcarey @jennyhollingsbe

Correspondence received, including:

KALC events information; FHDC New Releases; NALC updates; Folkestone & Hythe District Council Core Strategy Review – Inspectors' Report; KAB mobile eye health bus – IRIS; NALC Smaller Councils Committee letter to smaller councils

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