



Minutes of the Dymchurch Parish Council meeting held at 7pm on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at the Parish Council Offices Orgarswick Avenue Dymchurch

# MINUTES

## Present

**Cllr. D Young (Chair)**

**Cllr. V. McCreedy**

**Cllr. A. Weatherhead**

**Cllr. L. Finch (Vice Chair)**

**Cllr. C. McCreedy**

**Cllr. C. Young**

**Cllr. A. Pegler**

## Also present:

**Mr J Lawrence (Parish Clerk) Mr A Lawson (Finance and Projects) and 6 members of the public.**

- 1. APOLOGIES.** Members are reminded of the need to tender apologies with the reason for absence direct to the Clerk if they are unable to attend. Members will confirm acceptance of the reasons for absence.

Cllr. M. Wright

Cllr. C. Cooper

Reasons for absence accepted by members

## 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- To declare any personal interests in items on the agenda and their nature.
- To declare any prejudicial interests in items on the agenda – any councillors with prejudicial interests must leave the room for the relevant items.

- 3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING-** held on the 7<sup>th</sup> October 2024 to be agreed by members present.

Minutes of the previous meeting accepted by those present and signed by the chair.

## 4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION/PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Members will propose to adjourn the meeting to allow Public Participation.

Standing Orders provide the opportunity for members of the public to speak at Council Meetings. The allotted time for Public Participation is 15 minutes and each person may speak for no longer than 3 minutes. This is, however, at the discretion of the chair.

At the end of the Public Participation section the Council meeting will resume.

- Presentation by Mr Colin Walker and Mr Terry Preston about the Beddingfield Trust. Mr Walker is writing a book about Timothy Beddingfield and the profits from the book will go to the trust for distribution to those in need in our Parish and adjacent Parishes which is what the trust was set up for in 1693. It was proposed that Dymchurch Parish Council would donate £150 towards the production of the book.

This was agreed unanimously.

- b. Jane Stephens gave an update on the proposed memorial for loss of lives in preparation for d day. She informed the council that she had had meetings with various organisations and reached out to other people who may be able to fund this project. Members were informed that the final project would cost approximately £1400 a lot less than the original assessment. Funding had been secured from the Somerset Light Infantry of £600. And further funding had been agreed by the district councillors had also Kent County councillors. It was agreed that the parish council in support of the project would make up any shortfall. In the meantime the council agreed that they would be happy to hold any funds that were obtained prior to the required payment date. She was thanked for her efforts in this project.

**5. PROPOSAL TO USE DYMCHURCH FOR SURF SCHOOL AND MAIN SLIPWAY FOR LAUNCH OF SAFETY BOAT.**

Members heard from the owners of a local surf school who operate at Great Stone. Due to the conditions at this location sometimes it is hard to launch their safety boat, and they were requesting permission to launch from the main slipway at the church. Members heard that this may be an advantage for our beach as the operators of the surf School were safety trained and would provide additional eyes for safety along our shoreline. Concerns were raised about safety concerns at the main slip way with launching a boat especially during the high season.

It was agreed that the Council would further consider this request and then update the residents who agreed to send in their qualifications and details of the boat that they use.

**6. STANDING AGENDA ITEM- DYMCHURCH PAVILION AND RECREATION GROUND- LATEST UPDATE**

Cllr McCreedy gave an update on the planning application for the new pavilion. They are slowly getting through the objections raised by Sport England I did now have good contacts I feel that when they meet and explain the situation that they will be able to move forward. This may require the plan to include changing rooms and this is possible within the plans. It was confirmed that councillors are invited to any meetings that are held. Questions were asked about the funding available from sports England which unfortunately was agreed that the original offer of £240,000 is unlikely to come to fruition.

**7. FLOODING CONCERNS: REDOUBT ESTATE- UPDATE IF AVAILABLE**

Members heard that a meeting would take place tomorrow with the KCC and the Internal Drainage Board to find a way forward. Cllr Finch reminded members that this is still causing a lot of stress and concern for residents some of whom have not returned to their homes since the last event.

**8. CHAIR'S REPORT**

The Chair will provide an update on any additional Council activities and meetings attended.

- a. Attended the Remembrance Parade which had a good turn out where he laid a Wreath on behalf of the Parish Council
- b. Attended a meeting with the leader of the District Council Jim Martin and the Chief Executive Dr Susan Priest. Both were very welcoming.  
I discussion took place regarding the concerns that the District Council had met with the developers of the High Knock Farm development. Councillor Martin explained that he had said to the developers when he met them that they should not really be meeting with him and that they should have been meeting with the Parish Council.

Chair of the parish council explained that we had refused to meet with the developers as we felt that they had misrepresented us at the 1st planning application. They were asked as to why it takes so long for us to be notified of results, and this was explained as lack of staff and also lots of legal loopholes to jump through. It was a productive meeting. Mr Martin offered to attend a future Parish council to meet with the Council directly. Members agreed this would be a good idea.

As part of this conversation it was also suggested that Tony Vaughn MP should be contacted to ask why he was no longer carrying out surgeries at our offices as the previous MP.

## **9. MEMBER REPORTS**

Members will update the Committee regarding any meetings or events attended on behalf of the Parish Council.

- a. Cllr. V McCreedy-
  - Requested a letter of thanks be sent to the group of volunteers that cleared the pathway at the recreation ground
  - Requested that the foliage be cut back along the footpath near to The Fairway.
  - Reported that the Highways Report after the village survey had been accepted by the KCC Councillor and had been sent to the Highways Officer
  - She will be attending a meeting with the School head and Chair of Governors to discuss a crossing solution for the school.
- b. Cllr. A. Pegler
  - Reported on the various groups in the village one of which is the Knitters and Stitchers who meet on a Thursday morning. They make blankets and other items which are donated to Operation Sunshine a charity which supplies items to Africa.
  - The Dementia Café meets once a month . They now have 12 people and their carers.
- c. Cllr. L. Finch
  - Reports that he meets on a regular basis with residents at the Redoubt Estate who are still raising concerns about their fear of further flooding with several homes now building flood walls. Some residents have not returned to their homes. An update therefore on the meeting between KCC and the Internal Drainage Board would be well received.
- d. Cllr. C. McCreedy
  - Reported that he had been working with the groundsman to reinstate the cross at the memorial garden which now looks very tidy. It was agreed that quotes for new roses will be provided for agreement at the next meeting as those that are present are looking old and out of control.
- e. Cllr. C. Young
  - Contact to be made with Tony Hills who has secured 100 trees- this was not known by the Council and it is unclear as to where these could be planted.
  - It was proposed that £50.00 is donated to The scouts in support of the events. This was agreed unanimously

Additional items for action by the Clerk as follows-

- Gate at the top of slipway being left unlocked and open- Requested to make contact with the Angling Club
- It was also agreed that the council should write to the knew MP for the area Tony Vaughan in order to offer him the use of our premises to carry out surgeries with the local people as it had been noted that he had not carried out any surgeries here since he came into office. The previous incumbent used the council offices on a regular basis.

## 10. CLERKS REPORT

No update this month.

## 11. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

### a. KCC COUNCILLOR

**Written report supplied by KCC Councillor Jenni Hawkins - A copy can be obtained from the Parish Clerk a summary of this report is shown at appendix 1.**

### b. DISTRICT COUNCILLORS- Apologies received from both District Councillors District Councillor Hills provided a written report which can be obtained from the Parish Clerk.

### c. KENT POLICE- PC PUTLAND

**No report this month**

### d. KCC WARDEN

**No report this month**

## 12. TO DEAL WITH MATTERS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE IN CIRCULATION

- Letter received from Patricia Green advising the Council she has resigned as Chair of the Community Gardeners and wished to thank the Council for their support
- District Twinning association provided a letter outlining the events for 2025. One of these events will give the opportunity for the Parish Council to meet with the Twinning Association from Salbris.
- Concerns have been raised by a resident of the village about a "free Handyman service" which does not appear to be free.- It was agreed that this should be passed to the District Councillors for further investigation as this is believed to be a District Council Service.

## 13. PLANNING

Location	Application Number	Proposal	Comments
9 DENHAM CLOSE, DYMCHURCH, ROMNEY MARSH, TN29 0TU	<a href="#">24/1487/FH</a>	Removal of the existing single skin garage and replacement with enlarged extension	No objections
19 LOWER SANDS, DYMCHURCH, ROMNEY MARSH, TN29 ONE	<a href="#">24/1747/FH</a>	Extension to garage	No objections
Land Adjoining 19 MILL ROAD, DYMCHURCH,	<a href="#">24/1621/FH/CON</a>	Approval of details pursuant to Condition 2 (doors and windows) and	Noted

ROMNEY MARSH, TN29 0NY		Condition 3 (construction of dormers) of planning permission 24/0710/FH	
63-65 HIGH STREET, DYMCHURCH, ROMNEY MARSH, TN29 0NH	<a href="#">24/1572/FH</a>	Change of use from retail (Class E(a) use) to hot food/take away (sui generis use), including replacement of window & door to front elevation and regularisation of existing extract flue.	No objections

**14. ADJOURNED ITEM- LAUNCHING OF FISHING BOATS MAIN SLIP WAY- POLICY PROPOSAL**

**Members will consider updating policy for this location and consider requests in circulation.**

**The proposed policy for launching of Fishing Boats for occasional use (Not personal watercraft- Jet ski, pleasure boats) was agreed unanimously and that a charge would be made for each licence.**

**15. ADOPTION OF CCTV MONITORING,RETENTION AND SUBJECT ACCESS REQUEST POLICY.**

**The circulated policy was accepted by members present. This policy will be reviewed at intervals.**

**16. FINANCE**

- a.** Breakdown of expenditure/income since last meeting  
No Matters Raised
- b.** Authorisation of Payments - Members will review the list of invoices for payment and identify two Councillors to authorise the payments online.  
Items shown at appendix 2 agreed for payment
- c.** Additional items requiring authorisation.
  - i.** CCTV Upgrade  
Item adjourned as additional information required

**17. TO CONSIDER MEMORIAL BENCH APPLICATION**

**Members agreed to the location proposed for a new memorial bench on the Seawall.**

**18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING- 2nd December 2024**

Noted

Appendix 1- KCC Councillors report- Summary  
**Summary of Dymchurch Update – 11/11/2024**

• **Apologies for Meeting Absence**

- Unable to attend recent meetings due to scheduling conflicts, including the Joint Transport Board meeting tonight.

• **Roads and Road Safety**

- Thanks to Cllr Vanessa McCreedy for the road safety report showing resident support for speed reductions on Fairway and Burmarsh Rd to Tower Estate.
- Complaint received about road conditions on Redoubt Way and Uden Road; officers are monitoring. Redoubt Way added to next financial year's resurfacing list.

• **Community and Family Hubs**

- Romney Marsh Community Hub's beach hub and new community bus (Marsh Bee) are operational; info at marshbee.org.uk.
- Monitoring potential KCC funding cuts, though communication is improved this year.
- Visiting Romney Marsh Family Hub soon to evaluate services, particularly following concerns over Dymchurch Children's Centre closure. Feedback for the visit is welcome.

• **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)**

- Participated in 10 sessions as part of the KCC Scrutiny committee on SEND reforms.
- Conflicting views on proposed changes, but clear need for financial and systemic improvements for children and families.
- Visited local schools; preparing recommendations for the scrutiny report.

• **Members Grant**

- Deadline for applications: Friday, 15th November.
- Most funds allocated, but potential funding for a blue plaque project in Dymchurch if details are provided promptly.

• **Flooding**

- KCC conducting a Section 19 flood investigation into Uden Road flooding. Follow-up ongoing.

• **Other Updates**

- Delays with play park equipment replacement at Country's Field; Orbit housing association not responding. Continuing to pursue the issue.

Appendix 2

PAYMENTS (AWAITING AUTHORISATION) LIST

Vouche	Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Cheque No	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
251	Repairs & Maintenance	11/11/2024		Unity Trust Bank		Maintenance	Scanlite Visual Comms Ltd	S	425.00	85.00	510.00
252	CCTV Licence & repairs	11/11/2024		Unity Savings Account		Alarm monitoring and annual r	Ashe Alarms	S	760.00	152.00	912.00
253	Enforcement	11/11/2024		Unity Trust Bank		Enforcement	Folkestone & Hythe District	S	214.28	42.86	257.14
254	Grass Cutting & Weeding	11/11/2024		Unity Trust Bank		Grass Cutting	M Coleman	S	575.00	115.00	690.00
255	HMRC	30/11/2024		Unity Trust Bank		Tax & NI	HMRC	S	1,125.03	225.01	1,350.04
256	Salaries	28/11/2024		Unity Trust Bank		Salaries	Dymchurch Parish Council	X	4,122.21		4,122.21
<b>Total</b>									<b>7,221.52</b>	<b>619.87</b>	<b>7,841.39</b>