

# POSTLING PARISH COUNCIL

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## Minutes of Postling Parish Council meeting held at Postling Village Hall on Tuesday 26 November 2024 at 6.30pm

1. Attending: Chairman Frank Hobbs, Cllrs Helen Calderbank, Christine Hobbs, Rob Lye, Daniel Shaddick, George Burgess, Parish Clerk Clare Hamilton, District Cllr Elaine Martin, County Cllr Susan Carey, District Cllr Jenny Hollingsbee, and two members of the public. Apologies: Cllr John Patrick.
2. **It was resolved** unanimously to accept the Minutes of the meeting held on 24 September 2024.
3. There were no Members' declarations of interest on Agenda items.
4. Public Participation session  
A parishioner raised concerns about construction traffic from the Pentland development at Lyminge consistently using Sandling Road. A recent event with a bus and concrete mixer caused major problems. The council will write to Pentland and to FHDC Planning to ask them to review traffic access restrictions in Building Regulations and Site Management Access Plan.
5. Matters arising not included on the Agenda  
A number of parishioners are concerned at the inconsiderate parking for the nursery drop offs/pickups and for the safety of the children. Verges are being damaged by parked cars and neighbouring properties' access restricted. Chairman of Village Hall is aware and will be contacting the nursery.
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:  
  
Received since Agenda was published:  
**24/1711/FH Pent Villa, The Street, Postling CT21 4EU**  
Works to tree in a Conservation area - Ash to be removed  
Parish Council has no objection (ash dieback). Comments to FHDC by 6 December 2024  
  
a. **24/1484/FH/TCA Court Cottage, The Street, Postling CT21 4EX**  
Works to trees in Conservation area comprising removal of overhang of trees/bushes/hedges by 3metres.  
Parish Council Objection. Awaiting FHDC decision  
  
b. **KCC/FH/0115/2024 Land adjacent to Ashford Road/A20 Westenhanger, Hythe, Kent CT21 4HU**  
Regulation 3 Application for the erection of a waste transfer station, together with an enhanced site access to the A20, amenity blocks, staff and commercial vehicle parking, weighbridge and fuelling areas plus landscaping/ecology areas and SUDS.  
Parish Council comments submitted (no further comments to amended details). Awaiting KCC decision  
  
c. **24/1111/FH The Manor House, The Street, Postling CT21 4EX**  
Listed building consent for replacement first floor window.  
Parish Council Supports. Comments to FHDC by 10 December 2024  
  
d. **24/0719/FH Ash Wells, Pilgrims Way, Postling CT21 4EY**  
Proposed Barn for the stabling of horses, (to consist of six stables, two tack rooms and one wash room), following demolition of existing stables.  
Parish Council Objects. Awaiting FHDC decision
7. Highways
  - a. Pilgrims Way, Postling: UK Power Networks closure of Pilgrims Way, Postling on 16 October 2024
  - b. Ashford Road, Sandling Road: between junctions with Stanford Interchange A20 To Beachborough Roundabout. Road surface improvement works to start on 20 November and should take 2 nights to complete between the hours of 20:00hrs and 06:00hrs.

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c. Staple Lane, Postling: Part of Staple Lane, Postling, will be closed from 23 January 2025 with estimated completion by 24 January 2025 for works by Openreach. Closure from outside Tupper Cottage to outside Stour Rise, between the hours of 09:00 and 17:00 only.

8. Finance

- It was resolved** to accept the proposed Budget 2025/26 and to request a Precept figure of £4,632 for financial year 2025/26. Proposed by Cllr George Burgess, seconded by Cllr Helen Calderbank, all in favour, approved by the Chairman.
- It was resolved** to accept clerk's salary increase in line with NALC Local Government Services Pay Agreement 2024/25, backdated to 1 April 2024.
- Three quotations were received for the removal of the diseased walnut tree at rear of the Village Hall and **it was resolved** to accept the quotation from Spearpoint for £675. If they are unable to do the work for any reason, the next highest quote from NJ Apps will be accepted.
- Balance of account at 26 November 2024: £5,886.09.
- Payments and Receipts since last meeting

Payments:

C Hamilton	Salary Aug Sept	430.56
C Hamilton	Salary adjustment	69.34
C Hamilton	Travel exp Sept meeting	7.20
HugoFox	Website hosting	11.99
HSBC	Bank charges	8.00
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HSBC	Bank charges	8.00

Receipts: None

- Expenditure due before next meeting:

HSBC	Account charges Nov & Dec	£ 16.00
HugoFox	Website hosting Nov & Dec	£ 23.98
C Hamilton	Salary Oct & Nov	£ 452.40
	Backpay to 1 April-30 Sept	£ 63.00
	Travel exp Nov meeting	£ 7.20
	Tree removal	£ 675.00

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

9. Reports from District and County Councillors: see Appendix  
Chairman raised lack of verge cutting in Postling and other areas, Susan Carey will enquire and feedback. If causing an obstruction, verge cutting can be reported to KCC Highways.

10. Website  
**It was resolved** to accept the costings to change to a .gov.uk domain name and email address. Clerk to instruct our Approved Registrar host, HugoFox, to proceed.

11. Highways Improvement Plan (HIP)  
**It was resolved** to further investigate compiling a Highways Improvement Plan (HIP) to submit to KCC for funding consideration.  
Cllr Susan Carey recommends putting a HIP in place and advises not to let the high costs to deter compiling one, eg. for width restrictions. Parishioner comments will be considered.

12. Otterpool Park Working Group  
FHDC are looking for a strategic partner, this will be out for tender in the spring. Conversations are being held with Homes England who own 10%.  
There will be a pre-application consultation on the new reed-bed wastewater treatment plant in Sellindge in December, then the planning application is to be submitted.

13. Children's and Young Persons Counselling Service Public Consultation  
This consultation is now closed, but KCC is seeking views on proposed changes to Wellbeing Services in the

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Community, which are funded by Adult Social Care and provided by voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations. To find out more about drop-in sessions, proposals and to participate in the consultation, please visit: [www.kent.gov.uk/wellbeingconsultation](http://www.kent.gov.uk/wellbeingconsultation).

## 14. For Information

- Meeting with Sojan Joseph MP on 15 November: Chairman and Cllr Helen Calderbank attended
- KALC AGM on 30 November: Chairman attending
- Cllr Jenny Hollingsbee highlighted the Consultation on Devolution of Local Government
- Parish Council meeting dates 2025: 28 January, 25 March, 27 May, 29 July, 30 September, 25 November
- Next meeting: 28 January 2025
- Meeting closed at 7.30pm.

Signed..... Cllr Frank Hobbs, Chairman, 28 January 2025

*Chairman Frank Hobbs, Parish Clerk Clare Hamilton | 14a Elmstead Place, Folkestone CT20 1QU | 01303 257321/07890 248601*

## Appendix Reports from District and County Councillors

### District Councillor Elaine Martin

#### Lyminge Age UK

I learnt on Friday afternoon that a decision had been made to close the Age UK Lyminge hub. This is a great loss to Lyminge and the surrounding villages. The decision was taken because the cost of running the facility was unsustainable and they had been making a loss on running the services there. Dementia support will still be available in Hythe.

#### Free Christmas parking in Folkestone

F&HDC are once again providing free festive parking in Folkestone town centre. Charges in Folkestone & Hythe District Council car parks and on-street pay and display bays are being waived on the three Saturdays leading up to the big day: Saturday 7 December, Saturday 14 December and Saturday 21 December.

#### Winter Fuel Payment

As I am sure you will have heard, the Government is stopping the Winter Fuel Payment for any pensioner who is not in receipt of Pension Credit. If you are of pensionable age, or know someone who is, please check to see if you can apply for Pension Credit. If you are in receipt of a benefit, you will be automatically eligible for the Winter Fuel Payment and may also be able to get help with your council tax. The application form is available on the Council's website and can either be filled in online or downloaded and returned by post. Friends and families can help by checking with relatives and helping with filling in the application form. There is still time to apply, the deadline for applications for Pension Credit and to be able to receive the Winter Fuel Payment is 21 December 2024.

#### Otterpool Park

Progress in discussions with Homes England has been very slow. However, since the budget and some personnel changes at Homes England, we have seen a renewed determination from Homes England to collaborate.

#### North Downs Forum

Our next meeting will be on the 9<sup>th</sup> January, 19.00, venue TBC, and we'll focus on health and wellbeing in our rural communities. If you know an individual, group, or organisation that might be interested in joining, let me know and I'll get them added to the mailing list.

### **F&HDC corporate plan**

The consultation on the corporate plan has been completed, with 550 responses received, about a third of these were from younger members of the community. This is a really good response rate as these things go, so many thanks if you returned the online questionnaire.

### **District Council Meeting**

For the first time ever, the October meeting of the full District council was successfully held outside of Folkestone. The Marsh Academy, New Romney was a fitting venue for this first meeting. It is hoped that the full District Council meeting will continue to move around to various locations throughout the District to encourage more members of the public to attend.

### **Decarbonisation Award**

Following a very successful refurbishment of Council homes, the F&HDC Asset and Social Housing Decarbonisation staff were judged to be a top team at the recent Kent Housing Group Excellence Awards winning the Asset Management category. Ross House, a previous commercial property in Folkestone, is part of a 425 works programme, and had installation of cavity walls, under floor and loft insulation, ventilation, double-glazed windows, new external doors, high heat retention storage heaters, as well as the installation of air source heat pumps and solar PV panels. The work has reduced the tenants carbon emissions which benefits us all.

### **National NHS review**

Following the recent independent review of the NHS, the government has launched a national engagement exercise called '*Change NHS: A health service fit for the future*: a national conversation to develop the 10-Year Health Plan'. They want as much public opinions as possible and have a national website to share your experiences: <https://change.nhs.uk/en-GB/>

Contact: [Elaine.Martin@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk](mailto:Elaine.Martin@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk)

### **District Councillor Jenny Hollingsbee**

**Age UK Hythe & Lyminge** – it has just been announced that the Lyminge Centre will close at the end of February. I have been in touch with the Chief Executive who confirmed that the Centre has been loss making for some and it has become impossible to continue running services from Lyminge. The Dementia Clinic will continue until February but then will probably transfer to Hythe, subject to funding as the Clinic receives no external funding and is subsidised through other services and reserves which is unsustainable.

**Gift card Scams** - There has been a rise in scams involving people being requested by criminals to purchase gift cards from stores. Gift card scams start with a call, text, email, WhatsApp or social media message. Scammers will say anything to get you to purchase gift cards, like Google Play, Apple, Steam, iTunes, or Amazon cards. Never Assume - If you get a message from anyone claiming to be a friend or family member, or someone claiming to be from a reputable organisation such as HMRC, a bank, or the police, and you are asked to purchase any gift cards – STOP! – it will be a scam. Contact your Bank immediately, which you can do by calling 159 and report it to Action Fraud at [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or call 0300 123 2040.

**Rural England Prosperity Fund** – it has just been announced that this fund has been suspended as it is highly likely that the applications still to be assessed will, if granted, utilise the remaining funds.

**Home Essential Fund** - is a limited scheme to support low income households with energy efficient solutions to help reduce their costs and supply more efficient items to replace broken ones. This includes:

- Boiler servicing to ensure boilers are as efficient as possible.
- Boiler replacement for items that are no longer suitable for use.
- Oil heating servicing and support for residents that use oil for fuelling their home.

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- White goods provision. To supply replacement or new energy efficient items to households including cookers, fridges/freezers, washing machines/dryers, microwaves and other items as appropriate.
- Beds and mattresses to homes that do not have suitable bed provision.

For further information [Home Essential Fund | Folkestone & Hythe District Council](#)

**My Account** – just a reminder to sign-up for My Account on the [www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk](http://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk) website. This allows you to report issues, search for information, see planning applications near you etc. It is also a good way to communicate with the District Council.

**Otterpool Park** – discussions are on-going with Homes England and the waste water treatment plant planning application is imminent (so I am told). A public consultation has been announced for 3 December at Sellindge Village Hall from 3.30 – 8 pm. Papers on Otterpool will be considered at the Cabinet Meeting on 11 December 2024 and, as usual, will be webcast.

Contact - [jenny.hollingsbee@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk](mailto:jenny.hollingsbee@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk) Mobile 07887918458

## County Councillor Susan Carey

Following the meeting of Postling Parish Council on 24 September I sent my response to KCC Planning about the proposed Waste Transfer Station near Junction 11 of the M20 and emphasised points made by parish councillors. There may be amendments made to the proposal in response to comments from consultees and if these changes are significant then there will be a further opportunity to comment.

The new Government's Budget included announcements on extra funding for Adult Social Care, children with Special Educational Needs, continued funding the Household Support Fund which helps the most vulnerable and extra money for road maintenance. However, the increase in the Employers' National Insurance Contributions and the National Living Wage will increase KCC's costs particularly for the companies and charities we pay to deliver Social Care. The final settlement for Local Government will be confirmed in late December but we already know we will need to make substantial savings to balance the KCC budget for 2025/26. One of these savings is from ceasing the Wellbeing Service for Adults to save £3.45m annually. The Wellbeing Service includes an innovation fund to trial new approaches to care and Care Navigators who advise those over 55 on services. You can take part in this consultation and others at <https://letstalk.kent.gov.uk/> KCC has also just started a consultation with its staff to reduce staff numbers in order to make savings.

There was a paper about the preparations for the much-postponed European Entry Exit System (EES) at the meeting of the Full Council at KCC on 07 November. EES, which replaces passport stamping with a biometric system, was due to be implemented from 11 November but most EU countries (including France) are not yet ready. I spoke in the debate to make the point that our communities face regular disruption to our roads whenever there are problems with cross Channel traffic quite apart from the potential of long delays as people register for EES. More needs to be done to enable people to register away from the ports and to manage the Cross-Channel traffic, both tourist and freight, so it doesn't blight Kent's roads. You can read the paper and see the full debate on the KCC website.

If you know of someone in financial difficulty then do check the KCC website for KentTogether which pulls together all the various schemes on offer to people who may have financial problems. For those simply concerned about meeting their winter fuel bills, do see what support may be available. The KCC website [www.kent.gov.uk](http://www.kent.gov.uk) is a good place to start or you can ring 03000 41 92 92. I am also very happy to personally help with completing forms for any of my parishioners who would like a hand.

Susan Carey, Member for Elham Valley, Kent County Council