

POSTLING PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of Postling Parish Council meeting held at Postling Village Hall on Tuesday 24 September 2024 at 6.30pm

1. Attending: Chairman Frank Hobbs, Cllrs Helen Calderbank, Christine Hobbs, Rob Lye, John Pattrick, Daniel Shaddick, Parish Clerk Clare Hamilton, County Cllr Susan Carey, District Cllr Jenny Hollingsbee, Apologies: Cllr George Burgess, District Cllr Elaine Martin,
2. **It was resolved** unanimously to accept Minutes of the meeting held on 30 July 2024
3. There were no Members' declarations of interest on Agenda items
4. Public Participation session was not required
5. There were no matters arising not included on the Agenda
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
 - a. **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.
Cllr Susan Carey supplied printed plans and outlined the application. Currently, the district's waste and recycling is driven to a transfer station at Ashford. The proposed facility would be close to the M20 junction, fulfils a need for the district, and will be state of the art. Landscaping is included in the application. Operating hours would be Mon-Fri 7am-5pm, Sat 7am-1pm. Cllrs are invited to accompany Cllr Carey to visit Dunbrick, a comparable state of the art waste transfer station near Sevenoaks.
No CIL funds will be available from this development. Comments to KCC Case Officer by 26 September. General consensus is acceptable, on condition that lighting would be switched off overnight to avoid light pollution, and that construction vehicles accessing the site do not use Sandling Road through Postling (between Newbarn and A20 Sandling Road) which is unsuitable for HGVs.
 - b. **24/1111/FH The Manor House, The Street, Postling CT21 4EX**
Listed building consent for replacement first floor window
Comments to F&HDC by 2 October. PPC Support.
 - c. **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.
Original deadline for comments to F&HDC was 26 June and Cllrs Objected.
Comments on revised application to F&HDC by 8 October.
Councillors views remain that this application appears to be over development for private use and, if granted, must be retained for private use only.
7. Highways
 - a. Pilgrims Way, Postling: Due to works planned to be undertaken by UK Power Networks, it will be necessary to close part of Pilgrims Way, Postling, from 16 October 2024 with estimated completion by 16 October 2024.

Chairman Frank Hobbs

Parish Clerk/RFO Clare Hamilton | 14a Elmstead Place, Folkestone CT20 1QU | 01303 257321 / 07890 248601

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8. Finance

- a. Balance of account at 24 September 2024: £6,433.17
- b. Payments and Receipts since last meeting

Payments:

PNVH	Hall hire 2024/25	48.00
Hopkins AED	Defib Aftercare	187.16
C Hamilton	Salary June July	395.89
C Hamilton	Travel exp July meeting	7.20
HSBC	Bank charges	8.00
HugoFox	Website hosting	11.99
HSBC	Bank charges	8.00
HugoFox	Website hosting	11.99

Receipts: None

c. Expenditure due before next meeting:

HSBC	Account charges Sept & Oct	£ 16.00	
HugoFox	Website hosting	£ 11.99	vat £2.00
C Hamilton	Salary Aug & Sept	£ 430.56	
	Corrected salary payment	£ 69.34	underpaid for Apr/May & June/July
	Travel exp Sept meeting	£ 7.20	

9. Reports from District and County Councillors: see Appendix

10. Defibrillator

A defibrillator and CPR training session was held on 10 September, run by Ken Hopkins of trainingandsupport.co.uk. It was agreed this was a very worthwhile session which was very thorough. Another session will be arranged in the next financial year and will be publicised via the village WhatsApp group as well as circulated to the parish email list to promote attendance.

11. Website

The clerk attended an informative online session run by the Government's Department for Science, Innovation & Technology 'Parish Council Domains Helper Service' and provided an update on changing to a .gov.uk domain name and email address.

The 'Parish Council Domains Helper Service' has limited government funding of a one-off payment £100 for parish councils who register with one of their Approved Registrars. They expect this funding to be fully allocated by February 2025. Our website host, HugoFox, is an Approved Registrar and will provide a free .gov.uk domain name to current customers. We await confirmation from them of costs for email addresses. To be carried forward to the November meeting.

12. Otterpool Park Working Group

The working group is still negotiating with Homes England and a strategic partner is still needed. Next working group meeting is in October.

13. For Information

- PC's meeting with Sojan Joseph MP: Cllr Helen Calderbank attended. Another meeting is being arranged.
- Verge trimming throughout Postling: KCC is only trimming once a year. If obscuring sight-lines, do report to Highways Steward. Clerk to request trimming.
- Parishioner concern re. HGVs using Sandling Rd: A parishioner highlighted construction traffic from the Pentland development has been using Sandling Road, a concrete lorry in particular. Clerk to investigate conditions of Pentland development and if in breach, to report this.
- Next Parish Council meeting: 26 November, where next year's budget will be finalised.
- Meeting closed at 7.35pm.

Signed..... Cllr Frank Hobbs, Chairman, 26 November 2024

Chairman Frank Hobbs

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Appendix Reports from District and County Councillors

County Councillor Susan Carey

KCC is proposing to build a Transfer Station near Junction 11 of the M20 in Postling Parish for the waste collected kerbside in the Folkestone & Hythe District. At present the waste collected from our homes is taken to Ashford before being sorted and sent for recycling or to the Waste to Energy plant at Allington. The new site will reduce the need for such long journeys and should help provide a better service. The Planning Application reference is KCC/FH/0115/2024 - Land adjacent to Ashford Road/A20 Westenhanger, Kent CT21 4HU and the plans are on the KCC website. I have printed copies of the key documents which I will bring to the meeting. I can answer questions about how a Waste Transfer station operates or obtain further information. I have also arranged for a site visit to the newly opened Waste Transfer station that serves the Sevenoaks district which any of the parish councillors are welcome to join.

You may have seen news coverage of the government's consultation for reforms to the National Planning Policy Framework and other changes to the planning system. Housing targets have been raised in Kent to help meet the target of 1.5m homes to be built countrywide in the next 5 years. The methodology for setting these targets is not known and it has resulted in a large increase for Kent and a reduction for London. In our response to the consultation KCC is asking for this to be explained and justified. KCC is also raising concerns about mineral extraction and waste planning (for which KCC is responsible) and which is not covered in the new plans. Nature Recovery is also a missing topic and I've written many times about the work under way on this (see www.makingspacefor nature.org.uk) KCC does however welcome the proposals to look at transport needs earlier in the process and to look at plans across a region rather than each district being looked at in isolation. Our response to the consultation raises concerns about infrastructure in Kent to support the new housing and questions about how realistic the targets are.

The much-postponed European Entry/Exit System (EES) is due to start on 10 November. All EU states need to be able to introduce EES at the same time so it's possible it may be postponed again but KCC is involved in the plans to have mitigation measures in place by 10 November. Eurotunnel has adapted its facilities to enable travellers to register on site but there are concerns about how the Port of Dover will cope on its constrained site. The Kent Resilience Forum which includes KCC, Kent Police, the District Councils, Kent Fire & Rescue, Kent Ambulance and others are working to mitigate the delays that are expected as travellers make their first registrations. A registration will last for 3 years which should ease the initial impact of EES. The whole of Kent suffers when we have cross-Channel disruption and Sellindge more than most and we need to do all we can to cope with this change.

Following the Government's decision to restrict the Winter Fuel Payment to those eligible for Pension Credit or other means tested benefits it may be worthwhile to check your eligibility for these. If you aren't eligible then you may still find there is support available via KentTogether. You can find KentTogether at www.kent.gov.uk or call 03000 419292.

Susan Carey, Member for Elham Valley, Kent County Council

District Councillor Jenny Hollingsbee

Police & Crime Panel - as a member of the panel, I can put in a question for the PCC to answer at the next meeting. This must be on policy and not on operational issues. I need to submit my question by Friday and would welcome suggestions from local residents.

Waste collection service - there have been some issues with collection of waste from several properties in Stelling Minnis. These seem to have been resolved but if anyone has a problem with waste collection please do let me know.

Housing targets – the new Government has announced an increase in housing targets for our District from 735 to 838 units per annum, an increase of 14%. Members recently received a briefing on the proposed planning reforms and there is a paper going to Cabinet tomorrow and will be webcast as normal.

Annual Canvass – FHDC have just started the annual canvass, a statutory requirement, to ensure the electoral

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register is up-to-date. Residents will either receive an email about this or – if the council does not have your email address – a paper form through your letterbox. Households should read the instructions carefully as there may not be a need to respond. More information about the process can be [found on the council's website](#).

My Community Voice – (Kent Police local Policing team) Book your Fraud Protect Presentation - The Fraud Prevent and Protect Officer is keen to give presentations to organisations and community groups on how to protect yourselves from the threat of Scams and avoid criminals stealing your money. These can be tailored for the needs and requirements of any group and can be booked for anytime in the future. If you are part of or in charge of any groups, including businesses that would benefit from this input, then please contact Stephen Kelly at Stephen.kelly@kent.police.uk

Ticket Fraud Many of you may have been unsuccessful in obtaining tickets for next year's Oasis concerts. It is important now if you are looking online for tickets being sold second hand that you do not end up "looking back in anger" from buying fake Oasis tickets. Criminals will see this as a wonderful opportunity to advertise fake tickets for sale via social media etc. Be vigilant, avoid clicking on suspicious links and only ever use authorised ticket agents to buy tickets. For further information on ticket fraud visit the Action fraud Website - Ticket fraud | Action Fraud.

Radnor Lodge Tea Room – FHDC is seeking offers from interested parties wanting to take on the Radnor Lodge tearoom in Folkestone. The lease contract allows trading from the tearoom between 9am and 7pm every day and permits the selling of hot (warmed through only) and cold food, non-alcoholic beverages, and ice cream (or any combination of these). For further information contact mhairi.richards@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk

Contact: jenny.hollingsbee@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk Mobile 07887918458

District Councillor Elaine Martin

District Council Meeting The next full District council meeting in October is to be held in New Romney, the first to be held outside Folkestone. The meeting will be held at The Marsh Academy, New Romney (TN28 8BB), at 7pm on Wednesday 2 October. Attendees will be able to meet some of the district council's elected members before the meeting at from 6pm. The full council meeting will be broadcast live on [the council's webcast channel](#) as usual.

Recycling F&HDC have launched a new campaign called *Raise the Rate* which aims to improve the district's current recycling rate of 44.6% by encouraging residents to be extra careful about putting the right things in the correct bins. As part of the campaign an A-Z guide for recycling and waste page has been launched along with details for recycling and waste resources. See F&HDC's website for details

Autumn and Winter Well events The District is facilitating the Winter Well Event again this year. The Winter Well Event is being held on 27th November at South Kent Community Church, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone CT20 2QR between 10am and 1 pm. These events are a one stop shop morning providing advice and help from a range of agencies.

Reach the Beach "Reach the Beach", the free summer bus service from Folkestone West station to the Harbour Arm, has now ended. It was amazingly successful with a total of 13,683 passengers using the service. Many of these users were visitors to the District boosting tourism in the area.

Otterpool Park Negotiations are still ongoing to find a strategic partner for the development. Talks with Homes England continue as well as other interested parties.

Annual Canvas F&HDC are launching their annual canvas in October and November for 2024. This is a legal requirement to make sure the electoral register is accurate and up to date every year. Please check and make sure your details are correct if you are contacted to do so.

Contact: Elaine.Martin@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk