

POSTLING PARISH COUNCIL

postlingpc@aol.co.uk | www.postlingpc.co.uk

Minutes of Postling Parish Council meeting held at Postling Village Hall on Tuesday 30 July 2024 at 6.30pm

1. Attending: Chairman Frank Hobbs, Cllrs George Burgess, Helen Calderbank, Christine Hobbs, Rob Lye, John Pattrick, Daniel Shaddick, Parish Clerk Clare Hamilton, District Cllr Elaine Martin, County Cllr Susan Carey.
Apologies: District Cllr Jenny Hollingsbee,
2. **It was resolved** unanimously to accept Minutes of the meeting held on 28 May 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. **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.
Comments to FHDC by 26 June. PPC Objection.
 - b. **24/0814/FH Cloverland, Loughborough Lane, Lyminge CT18 8DG**
Replacement of existing outbuilding with detached annex.
FHDC Approved. PPC No Objection.
 - c. **24/0493/FH 2 Church Villas, Pilgrims Way, Postling CT21 4EY**
Demolish and replace existing garage with an oak framed garage with log store.
FHDC Approved. PPC No Objection.
 - d. **24/0715/FH High Shaw, Farthing Common CT18 8DH**
Garage conversion including replacement pitched roof, together with solar panels to rear roof slope and new larger windows to front elevation.
FHDC Approved. PPC No Objection.
7. Highways
 - a. Cuckoo Lane, Postling: from 2 July for up to 3 days.
 - b. Ashford Road, Sandling Road, between the junctions with Stanford Interchange A20 to Beachborough Roundabout: from 4 July for up to 2 days.
 - c. Beachborough, Newington, Beachborough, Etchinghill and Canterbury Road, Etchinghill: from 10 June 2024 for up to 4 days.
Chairman raised the 8am start time of this closure with the Joint Transportation Board (JTB) and the KCC Transport Advisory Committee as this caused great inconvenience for commuters and school buses and should have been programmed to start at 9am. Cllr Susan Carey recommends raising future start times with Highways if a problem is foreseen.
 - d. A20 Ashford Road between Stanford Interchange and Beachborough roundabout: works are programmed to start on 3 August between the hours of 6:00-19:00 and should take 3 days to complete.

Chairman Frank Hobbs

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8. Finance

- a. Balance of account at 30 July 2024: £7,111.40
- b. Payments and Receipts since last meeting

Payments:

Zurich Municipal	Insurance premium	301.10
KALC	Annual subscription	179.29
PCC	Annual donation s.137	100.00
C Hamilton	Salary April May	395.89
C Hamilton	Travel exp May meeting	7.20
PNVH	Hall hire 2022/23	48.00
HSBC	Bank charges	8.00
HugoFox	Website hosting	11.99
AgeUK F&H	Annual donation s.137	100.00
Air Ambulance	Annual donation s.137	200.00

A letter of thanks was received from KSS Air Ambulance for the parish council's donation.

Receipts: None.

- c. Expenditure due before next meeting:

HSBC	Account charges July & August	£	16.00	
HugoFox	Website hosting	£	11.99	vat £2.00
PNVH	Hall hire 2024/25	£	48.00	
Hopkins	Defib Aftercare 1 Jan-31 Dec 2024	£	187.16	vat £31.19
C Hamilton	Salary June & July	£	395.89	
	Travel exp July meeting	£	7.20	

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

10. Defibrillator

In response to an email sent by the clerk to the parish email list, some parishioners have expressed interest in attending a defibrillator/CPR training session. Clerk will check available dates with Hopkins. Neighbouring parishes will be invited to attend.

11. Website

Following attending a KALC webinar on 9 May, the clerk will investigate costs to change to a .gov.uk domain name and email address. The current domain name is due for renewal in February 2025.

12. Otterpool Park Working Group

The Working Group will meet in August. Paula Hirst is new chair of Otterpool Park.

13. For Information

- Broken kissing gate 0204/33 on HE353 reported to KCC Public Rights of Way on 06.06.24, ref 24068519.
- Verge cutting was queried: Cllr Elaine Martin reported this has started in the area. Cllr Susan Carey advises to report if visibility is obscured and becomes a hazard.
- Next Parish Council meetings: 24 September, 26 November.
- Meeting closed at 7:05pm.

Signed..... Cllr Frank Hobbs, Chairman, 24 September 2024

Chairman Frank Hobbs

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

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Appendix Reports from District and County Councillors

District Councillor Elaine Martin

Corporate Plan

Residents are being asked to comment on the draft of the updated Corporate Plan for 2025 – 2030 which is now available for consultation. Consultation on the Corporate Plan is open for 9 weeks until the 27th September and it is important that you share your thoughts on it. The survey can be completed online. The draft plan and survey are also available as a printed booklet and can be obtained by contacting the council on 01303 853000 during business hours.

Summer events

The Venetian Fete is being held on Wednesday 21st August on the Royal Military Canal in Hythe. There is a funfair and a flotilla in the afternoon that is show casing local community groups and repeated again in the evening. Hythe will also be holding their regular Food Festival over the Bank Holiday weekend, 24th, 25th and 26th August.

Rural Prosperity Fund

The Rural Prosperity Fund still has grants available. There is a time limit on the spend where project must be completed by 31st March 2025. Grants have been awarded to a wide range of projects including installation of solar panel system at a cricket club, funding towards building a village hall where one does not currently exist and expansion of wireless broadband network in an area that struggles with reliability and usable speeds. Non-repayable grants of up to £30,000 can be available for qualifying projects. Full details can be found at [Rural England Prosperity Fund - Folkestone Works](#)

North Downs Forum

The draft Corporate Plan will be discussed at the next North Downs Forum meeting. The next North Downs Forum meeting will be held in Stelling Minnis Village Hall on 3rd September

General Election

I offer my congratulations to the new MP for Ashford, Sojan Joseph, and look forward to working with him for the benefit of the residents of North Downs West. You will need to contact Mr Joseph if you have any issues that require help from your MP. I also offer my congratulations to Tony Vaughan who is the new MP for the Folkestone and Hythe constituency.

Otterpool Park

A recent briefing was held at Otterpool Park for the two new MP's. Sojan Joseph and Tony Vaughan both spoke of their excitement and commitment to delivering Otterpool Park which fit precisely into the new Government's Garden Town program.

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

District Councillor Jenny Hollingsbee

General Election 2024 – Our thanks go to Officers and Staff at both FHDC and ABC for the efficient way in which the election was run. I wish our two new Members of Parliament, Sojan Joseph for the Ashford Constituency (of which the North Downs is part) and Tony Vaughan for the Folkestone & Hythe Constituency, the best of luck as they come to terms with their new positions. My commiserations to Damian Collins and Damian Green our outgoing MP's and I thank them for their service, for fourteen years and twenty seven years respectively, and wish them well for the future.

Stour Downs Parish – The Stour Downs Parish includes Sellindge, Stowting and Monks Horton in the North Downs West Ward. Our vicar, Rev Chris Denyer has been appointed as Priest in Charge at Herne with Greenhill. I would like to thank him for all his work over the last five or so years in this Parish and wish him well for the future. I welcome

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Rev Susan Manners as Interim Curate-in-Charge and wish her well in this role.

Elham Valley Group of Churches – which includes Lyminge, Postling and Stanford in the North Downs West Ward, has recently welcomed the induction of Rev Carol Bates as the new Priest-in-charge and I wish her and her family well in this new role. Rev Carol took her first service at Stanford last Sunday.

Cross Channel Traffic Disruption - Kent and Medway Resilience Forum has published a letter aimed at residents in our District. It explains why measures such as closing the Roundhill Tunnel and Dover Tap are necessary and seeks to reassure that the emergency services have plans in place to get to anyone that needs help when traffic is disrupted – see [Letter to residents and businesses.pdf \(folkestone-hythe.gov.uk\)](#)

Police & Crime Commissioner – At the Police & Crime Panel on 16 July, the Commissioner gave an up-to-date report on the Neighbourhood Policing Model which is due to be fully implemented by September 2024. He also gave a detailed report on the Criminal Justice System where staff shortages continue to be a concern – for further information on this subject see the report [Public reports pack 16072024 1000 Kent and Medway Police and Crime Panel.pdf](#)

My Community Voice – this is a good way to find out about local and national scams and also to communicate with our local police officers – to register and for further information [Home Page - My Community Voice Kent](#)

Microchipping for cats is now compulsory On 10 June 2024, it became law in England mandating the microchipping of all pet cats meaning all cats over the age of 20 weeks must be microchipped. You can be fined up to £500 if your dog or cat is not microchipped. DogorCatmicrochipped on the Gov.uk website.
Contact jenny.hollingsbee@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk Mobile 07887918458

County Councillor Susan Carey

Kent & Medway Resilience Forum implemented Operation Brock on the M20 from 10 July and it's expected to stay in place till mid-August. Whilst this does help mitigate the problems of the heavy cross Channel traffic it is by no means the long-term solution needed and KCC is lobbying the new Government (as we did previous governments) for the infrastructure we need so that Kent residents and businesses are able to move freely about the county. Just yesterday, the 14 council leaders of KCC, Medway and the district councils wrote to the new Government to take urgent action to reduce the risk of disruption when the EU's new Entry Exit System checks are introduced later this year. The letter also covered the problems we already face whenever there is disruption to cross-Channel traffic. The KCC budget consultation for 2024/25 is still open (to 07 August). We do not expect extra funding from the Government, indeed a report from the Institute for Government and the Nuffield Foundation published on 22 July predicts that Government funding for local government will decline by an average of 2.4% in real terms. This makes it all the more important that people let us know what their priorities are.

Also out for consultation is the Local Transport Plan for Kent. I was very pleased to see it identifies the Alkham Valley/Spitfire Way junction that serves Hawkinge and Folkestone as a priority for improvement. As with previous Local Transport Plans much that it covers such as the restoration of international rail services at Ashford and Ebbsfleet and the Lower Thames Crossing rely on others – Rail Companies, Government, Developer Contributions etc. but KCC has a good record at working with others to get the previous Transport Plans delivered. You can comment on as many or as few items as interest of you and this consultation is open till 08 October.

You can take part in these consultations and others currently open including one about the main Folkestone library and one on SEND (Special Education Needs & Disability) education through registering at Let's Talk Kent <https://letstalk.kent.gov.uk/>

There's a big push to recruit new foster carers here in Kent. Foster carers are paid and receive support; it's a fulfilling role and a vital one. More information on becoming a foster carer can be found on LafosteringSE.org.uk or by calling

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0300 131 2797. To give you some idea of the scale of KCC's responsibilities, at the end of March 2024 there were 1,460 children in care from Kent families and an additional 480 Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children also in our care.

KCC's most recent full council meeting was on 18 July where one of the papers was the Annual Performance Report. There's much of interest in it including progress in reducing our carbon emissions from our own buildings and services which is now down to 11,477 tonnes (it was 45,270 tonnes in 2015). The progress continues as KCC's new solar park at Kings Hill on the site of a former pig farm is now fully operational and will generate around 3 million KWH of electricity a year off-setting our carbon emissions by another 621 tonnes a year. KCC won £5m of government grant towards the £6.5m cost of this project and it will produce renewable energy for the next 30 years reducing both KCC's energy costs and carbon emissions.

Well done to those involved in the Open Gardens in Postling at the beginning of June. The village certainly looked its best and it surely must have been every villager taking part in the organisation.

Susan Carey

Member for Elham Valley, Kent County Council

Chairman Frank Hobbs

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