

POSTLING PARISH COUNCIL

clerk@postling-pc.gov.uk | www.postling-pc.gov.uk

Minutes of Postling Parish Council meeting held at Postling Village Hall on Tuesday 29 July 2025 at 6.30pm

A minute's silence was held in memory of Derek Wood. Derek was a former long term parish councillor and parish council internal auditor.

1. Attending: Chairman Frank Hobbs, Councillors Helen Calderbank, Christine Hobbs, Daniel Shaddick, George Burgess, Rob Lye, Parish Clerk Clare Hamilton.
Apologies: Cllr John Patrick, District Cllr Elaine Martin, District Cllr Jenny Hollingsbee, County Cllr Christopher Hespe.
2. **It was resolved** unanimously to accept the Minutes of the meeting held on 27 May 2025.
3. There were no Members' declarations of interest on Agenda items.
4. Public Participation session not required.
5. Matters arising from last meeting not included on agenda: Swing removal is in hand.
6. No Planning Applications have been received since last meeting.
7. Highways
 - a. Highway Improvement Plan (HIP): Chairman and Clerk met with KCC Highways Community Engagement Manager online on 17 June to discuss the parish HIP. Feedback as follows:
 - Sandling Road
Feedback from KCC Highways re. HGV use is that a speed limit reduction to Sandling Road is not supported by KCC.
They will investigate the feasibility of installing Unsuitable for HGV signage rather than an enforceable restriction at this time. This could be reviewed following installation as to whether moving up to an enforceable restriction is necessary or feasible.
Damage to verges has previously been reported by the parish council; the Highways Manager for the area has been informed and will liaise directly with the parish council.
It was resolved to instruct KCC to investigate the feasibility of installing Unsuitable for HGV signage at both ends of Sandling Road.
 - The Street
Feedback from KCC Highways re. safety of pedestrians is that village gateways can be looked into to reinforce to drivers that they are entering a village environment. A 20mph limit would further encourage safe driving speeds. Current data shows average speeds through the village around 20mph which would support the reduction. KCC are willing to fund the necessary traffic surveys to confirm if this is suitable speed limit, plus the Traffic Regulation Order (TPO) that would be required.
It was resolved to instruct KCC to progress with examining the feasibility of reducing the speed limit through Postling from 30mph to 20mph.
 - b. Roadworks:
 - Sandling Road, Postling: Due to tree cutting works undertaken by UK Power Networks, part of Sandling Road, Postling was closed on 28 July 2025 for one day from the junction of Cuckoo Lane for approximately 45m in a Southerly direction, between the hours of 08:30 and 15:30 only.
 - The Street, Postling: The Street was closed on 10 June for approx. 3 days for carriageway patching.
 - Cuckoo Lane, Postling: 11 August 2025, due to works planned to be undertaken by **Openreach**, it will be necessary to close part of Cuckoo Lane, Postling, from 11 August with estimated completion by 12 August. Cuckoo Lane will be closed outside Pent Villa to outside Sunnycroft/Postling House, between the hours of 08:00 and 18:00 only, to the extent indicated by signs and barriers on site.

Chairman Frank Hobbs

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- Cuckoo Lane, Postling: 1 August 2025, one day closure for carriageway patching.

8. Finance

- a. Balance of account at 29 July 2025: £6,958.30
- b. Payments and Receipts since last meeting

Payments:

KALC	Annual subscription	190.85
Zurich Municipal	Insurance renewal yr 4/5	288.56
PNVH	Hall hire 2025/26	48.00
C Hamilton	Salary April May	452.40
C Hamilton	Travel exp May	7.20
HSBC	Bank charges	8.00
HugoFox	Website hosting	11.99
PCC	Annual donation s137	100.00
Age UK	Annual donation s137	100.00
Air Ambulance	Annual donation s137	200.00
HugoFox	Website hosting	11.99
HSBC	Bank charges	8.00

c. Expenditure due before next meeting:

Hopkins AED	Defibrillator annual care	£ 249.48	vat £41.58
C Hamilton	Salary June & July	£ 452.40	

It was resolved to approve expenditure, proposed by Cllr Helen Calderbank, seconded by Cllr Christine Hobbs, and approved by the Chairman.

d. HSBC bank charges will cease after July.

9. Reports from District and County Councillors *see Appendix*

10. Parish Council contact details

New email address - clerk@postling-pc.gov.uk - is now in use and a redirect message has been placed on the old address. Email charges to start in January 2026.

The new phone number to contact the parish council is **01303 905073**.

11. Devolution

Cllr Jim Martin issued an email with an update on the situation and this has been circulated to councillors.

12. Otterpool Park Working Group

The Working Group met in June.

A collaboration agreement has been signed with FHDC and Homes England.

Water - there is currently enough in the system to supply 15,000 houses. Paddlesworth Reservoir will be expanded to feed Otterpool.

Electricity - enough currently available to serve 15,000 houses.

Waste water - provision is not yet sufficient and needs to be in place before building can commence.

Next Working Group meeting is 28 August.

13. For Information

- Litter bin: clerk will request FHDC empty this on their collection rounds.
- KALC Community Award: to be presented.
- KALC Local Government Reorganisation survey: Chairman has completed this.
- Meeting with Sojan Joseph MP: The meeting on 6 June was cancelled.
- Next Parish Council meetings: 30 September, 25 November (budget meeting).
- Meeting closed at 7.30 pm.

Signed..... Cllr Frank Hobbs, Chairman, 30 September 2025

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Appendix Reports from District and County Councillors

District Councillor Elaine Martin

Rural Prosperity Fund

The Rural Prosperity Fund has been given another £171,402 of central government funding to distribute. Details of how to apply can be found on the Folkestone Works website - <https://folkestone.works/rural-england-prosperity-fund-2025/>.

Corporate Plan

Full council has agreed the district council's Corporate Plan for 2025 to 2030. **Our district, our world** sets out the vision and direction for the council for the next 5 years. Town and parish councils were among those who took part in the consultation along with residents and businesses across the district who responded through focus groups, online and paper-based surveys and one to one interviews. The plan focuses on five themes: A well-run, listening council that works closely with its partners; Improving people's health, wellbeing and sense of community; Building new homes, improving the quality of existing homes and tackling homelessness; Growing the economy in a sustainable way and creating opportunities for all and Enhancing our local environment and supporting climate action. Each of the themes has a list of actions and progress will be regularly monitored through an action plan. The corporate plan is available on the council website.

Summer litter campaign

Council teams are busy keeping the district clean and tidy for residents and for visitors coming to enjoy the coastline. These include five new compactor bins in hotspot locations as well as more litter crews, enhanced equipment and additional signage which are due to be in place during July and August. A second e-bike collection vehicle is being used to help with the regular emptying of bins. These ensure zero emissions making it an environmentally-friendly alternative that allows crews to access areas where larger vehicles cannot.

Folkestone – A Brighter Future

Due to the medical centre developer confirming that a medical centre in Folca 1, (the Edwardian part of the development), was no longer a viable, the Cabinet agreed last week to sell the building. Discussions are continuing with the Integrated Care Board to see if the proposed Medical Centre can be part of the Folca 2 building.

Roadworks continue in preparation for the Folkestone – A Brighter Future project bringing a lot of disruption to the area. There are many changes happening and you can sign up for email updates and development progress by visiting <https://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/folkestone-place-plan/folkestone-brighter-future-project> and filling in your email address.

Visit from Kent County Councillors

The newly elected county councillors for our district were invited to visit several of the key projects the district council is undertaking. They went to Otterpool Park and discussed the proposed new garden town and the current collaboration work with Homes England. Councillors also saw the progress of the Brighter Future work in Folkestone town centre and stopped at Folca to discuss the future options being explored for the former store. They finished at the Folkestone Sports Centre talking to representatives from The Sports Trust.

On another matter, the swimming pool at The Sports Trust should be reopening sometime next year.

Kent Enablement Service

Kent Enablement Service will be at F&HDC, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, CT20 2QY every Monday for 2 hours, from 10am until Midday. The Help Desk is available for information and advice with letters, bills, activities, college, and education courses, paid and voluntary employment, keeping safe, housing, health and wellbeing, benefits forms, etc. The Service is free, and no appointment is needed. Telephone: 03000 411345 or email KentEnablementService@kent.gov.uk

Gambling Consultation

One of several documents that are reviewed every three years is the F&HDC's draft statement of principles relating to gambling. It sets out how activity is regulated at a local level, such as in betting shops and premises with gaming machines. Its content is largely determined by the Gambling Act 2005 and guidance from the Gambling Commission. The draft version of the 2025-2028 Statement of Principles is currently out for consultation and can be found on the council website. Changes in the 2025 version include updated information from recent studies and the incorporation of

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guidance on gaming machines. Visit folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/consultations to read the draft and comment on it before 4pm on 11 August 2025.

Asian Hornets

Please can I remind you to look out for Asian hornets. There have been several spotted in Hythe, Saltwood and Sandgate so getting closer to where we live. If you spot any please try to take a picture and report it to alert_nonnative@ceh.co.uk.

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

District Councillor Jenny Hollingsbee

Ward Budget – just a reminder that I have small amounts of money in my Ward Budget to help village organisations with resources.

Local Government Reorganisation – the Government have turned down the request of the Leader of KCC to extend the time to put forward a proposal for Kent. There is a lengthy KCC document which is well worth reading and there is a KCC Cabinet Meeting tomorrow at 10 30 am to discuss this which is webcast at - [Home - Kent County Council Webcasting](#)

Rural Prosperity Fund - An allocation of just under £180,000 from central government via the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) has been granted to Folkestone & Hythe District Council. For Communities, ventures that will improve local facilities and amenities specifically aimed at enhancing physical, cultural and social ties will be considered.

Council Tax Reduction Scheme – A consultation on a change in rates from 2025/26 will open on 4 August. The consultation will specifically target a sample of approximately 5,500 Council Tax payers and will be web based and on social media. The consultation closes on the 26 October 2025.

Otterpool Park – the Administration remain in close contact with Homes England and we are waiting to have an update on the way forward.

Folca 1 and Folca 2 – (previously the Debenhams building). Unfortunately, Folca 1 which was to become a state of the art Medical Centre has been deemed currently unviable. The District Council has therefore produced a report with a range of options but are recommending that Folca 1 be put up for sale on the Open Market.

Folca 2 is intended to be retained by the District Council with some works carried out to bring it back to life. Talks are continuing to provide a Medical facility in Folca 2 for local GP practices. You can listen to the Cabinet debate on this issue webcast on the council's website at <https://folkestone-hythe.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

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Kent County Councillor Christopher Hespe

Summer Reading Challenge

The theme for this year's Challenge is 'Story Garden', inviting children to explore the natural world through books. The Challenge runs through the Summer holidays from 5 July to 6 September and encourages young people to use their imagination and creativity, whilst helping with literacy. A number of free events and activities will be running alongside the Challenge. Details of the Summer Reading Challenge can be found on KCC's website and at any of the 99 libraries in Kent.

KCC Budget Consultation

Within the next two weeks, the County Council will commence its consultation on the budget for 2026/27. There will be significant challenges ahead, particularly in Adult Social Care and Special Education Needs, so the Council will be looking to run services differently and to make savings without impacting front-line services adversely. The

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consultation will ask residents of Kent for their priorities. The consultation document and questionnaire will be available on-line and at libraries until mid-September 2025.

Electric Vehicle Charging Points

KCC has been allocated £12.28 million in capital funding and £1.015 revenue funding by the government to develop a county-wide approach to electric vehicle (EV) charging. The scheme being developed in Kent should generate £50 to £70 million capital investment into Kent. The aim is to develop local, low-power, on-street charging infrastructure for EVs. The project will install 5,000 to 10,000 charger sockets over a 10-year delivery period. KCC will earn an income from the contract with the selected provider over 20 years, with estimates ranging up to £17 million over that period.

KCCs Performance

An analysis of KCCs overall performance has shown that performance of the Contact Centre, in financial management and in infrastructure management are good, however improvements are required in the speed of responses to complaints and Freedom of Information requests.

KCC Leader's Speech

The Leader of KCC, Linden Kemkaran, presented a speech to Full Council on 10 July 2025, at which she announced progress so far since the new Reform UK Administration took control of the County Council on 6 May 2025. Her speech included some of the financial savings that have been identified so far and the direction of travel for the Council. The speech can be viewed on the KCC website in the Committee section.

Operation Brock

Based on data from the Port of Dover and Eurotunnel regarding the busy Summer holiday period, peak traffic flows are expected on 18/19 July, 24/25/26 July and ½ August. Hence, Operation Brock will be implemented from 14 July. A review will be carried out on 4 August to determine whether it will be extended to the end of August.

Highways Improvement Plans (HIPs)

Although 88% of Kent's Parishes have Highways Improvement Plans, there are still seven in Elham Valley which do not have a plan. A HIP is usually produced by a Town or Parish Council and identifies the priorities for Highways investment. An area without a HIP is less likely to be allocated funding for its projects. Please check your Parish/Town Council has a HIP.

Community Grants

All KCC Councillors have a few thousand pounds to allocate as small grants to bona fide, constituted, voluntary or non-profit groups for events and activities. They could be sport or arts groups, church groups, or veterans' associations, for instance. The applicant organisation must have a bank account. The grants usually range from £250 to £500 in size. Please email me if your organisation is keen to apply, on Christopher.Hespe@kent.gov.uk

Fuel Poverty Advice

UK Power Networks has commissioned 'We Are Group' to deliver a range of free advice services to help individuals and families struggling with fuel poverty. The advice covers debt, scam protection and energy use guidelines. Everyone who signs up to the scheme will receive a 1-to-1 appointment in order to tailor the advice specifically to their situation. The contact is George.Hall@wearegroup.com

Christopher Hespe, Kent County Councillor for Elham Valley

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