

POSTLING PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of Postling Parish Council meeting held at Postling Village Hall on Tuesday 30 September 2025 at 6.30pm

1. Attending: Chairman Frank Hobbs, Councillors Helen Calderbank, Christine Hobbs, John Patrick, Daniel Shaddick, Rob Lye, Parish Clerk Clare Hamilton, County Cllr Christopher Hespe, District Cllr Jenny Hollingsbee, Jim Nicholls PNVH
Apologies: Cllr George Burgess, District Cllr Elaine Martin.
2. **It was resolved** unanimously to accept the Minutes of the meeting held on 29 July 2025.
3. Members' declarations of interest on Agenda items
Item 13: Chairman, as trustee and treasurer of PNVH. Cllr Christine Hobbs, as an employee of PNVH.
4. Public Participation session, not required.
5. There were no matters arising from last meeting not included on 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. **25/1556/FH Douglas Farm, Cuckoo Lane, Postling CT21 4ET**
Single-storey side extension, two-storey side extension and a single-storey rear extension, along with a detached garage.
Parish Council: No objection.
7. Highways
 - a. Highway Improvement Plan (HIP) progress since last meeting:
 - Proposed reduction of existing Postling 30mph speed limit to 20mph
KCC Highways investigated a 20mph scheme to establish if it can move forward without the need for traffic surveys and responded as follows:
'Firstly, we're happy to move forward to the next stage of the 20mph scheme which would be the informal engagement conducted by the parish council to gauge support before we enter the formal consultation as part of the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO). To do that, you'll need an extents plan, so I have requested one be drawn up. Once I have it, I will send it over to you and explain how best to conduct the informal engagement.'
 - Advisory signage on Sandling Road to deter HGVs
Parishioners' photos showing evidence of road blockages were submitted as requested and response received as follows:
'Regarding the Unsuitable for HGV signage, unfortunately we are not in support at this time based off of the evidence available currently. Site visits were conducted and the photos provided were reviewed, and there is no evidence we have at the moment that would suggest this is different to any other rural road where vehicles need to give way to larger vehicles.
If you have any further photos that show congestion as a result of the HGVs, please do send them on and we will review again.'
 - Village Gateways
Outline costs were circulated to councillors for consideration. Cost is prohibitive as Gateway signs would cost the parish council iro of £2,000 each.

Chairman Frank Hobbs

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- A parishioner queried the need to reduce the 30mph speed limit to 20mph and councillors approved forwarding the HIP report to him for full information. The HIP report is available to all parishioners on request.

b. Chairman will attend the KCC Highways & Transportation Seminar on 2 Oct via MS Teams.

c. A parishioner has complained to Highways about the presence of the advertising van on the bridge over M20. It has a parking ticket and is clamped (but this may be for the owner's security). Clerk will also report to Highways and Cllr Jenny Hollingsbee offered to look into it.

8. Finance

a. Balance of account at 30 September 2025: £6,221.45

b. Payments and Receipts since last meeting

| | | |
|------------|--------------------|--------|
| C Hamilton | Salary June July | 452.40 |
| Hopkins | 2025 AED Aftercare | 249.48 |
| HSBC | Bank charges | 8.00 |
| HugoFox | Website hosting | 11.99 |
| HugoFox | Website hosting | 11.99 |
| HugoFox | Email hosting | 2.99 |

c. **It was resolved** to accept the Local Government Services Pay Agreement 2025/26 SPC6 increase to the clerk's salary, backdated to 1 April 2025.

d. **To consider** Expenditure due before next meeting:

| | | | |
|------------|----------------------------|----------|------------|
| C Hamilton | Salary Aug & Sept | £ 452.40 | |
| | Backpay 1 Apr-30Sept | £ 43.68 | |
| | Salary Oct-Nov | £ 466.96 | |
| Hopkins | Defib: replaced electrodes | £ 213.90 | vat £35.65 |
| HugoFox | Website hosting Oct Nov | £ 19.98 | vat £4.00 |
| | Email set up charges (tbc) | £ 120.00 | vat £20.00 |
| | Email hosting per month | £ 2.99 | vat £0.59 |

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

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

County Councillor Christopher Hespe introduced himself, outlined his experience and positions with KCC, and thanked parish councils for their work. He is pleased Postling Parish Council has progressed with a Highway Improvement Plan but pointed out KCC's tight budget for HIPs. See report in Appendix.

10. Local Government Reorganisation

See some information in District and County Councillor reports in Appendix.

The 'Have Your Say' consultation will be circulated.

11. Email charges

HugoFox confirmed we did not receive the CDDO grant for 10 months free .gov.uk email set up and hosting.

The £100 fee (ex. vat) was budgeted for this year, in case we didn't receive the grant.

Having changed to a new HugoFox package of only one email address, email fee will now be £2.99 per month. Website hosting fee remains at £9.99 per month.

12. Defibrillator

Infant/child electrodes expire 16.12.25. Nursery has been contacted to ask if they are happy to meet the cost again.

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13. Village Hall solar panels grant

(Chairman Frank Hobbs and Cllr Christine Hobbs left the meeting for this item)

The Village Hall has received a FHDC Green Grant towards solar panels which covers 80% of the cost. The balance will come from PNVH funds and top-up funding. Jim Nicholls, PNVH Chairman, informed councillors of planning advice and planning application costs of £750 and requested assistance with this cost. Cllr Jenny Hollingsbee offered a Ward Grant of £250.

Following discussion by councillors, Cllr Dan Shaddick proposed and Cllr John Patrick seconded, that the Parish Council donate £500. All in favour.

14. Waste bin

Cllr Jeremy Speakman has confirmed with the Waste Management Team who manage the Veolia contract that the Postling bin is now officially on their street litter bin collection round. It is now a recognised Local Authority litter bin and is known as a 'tulip' bin. Clerk to remind Waste Management to empty it.

15. Otterpool Park Working Group

The August meeting was cancelled. It was pointed out that Otterpool was not included in the government's list of new towns. FHDC is negotiating for community benefits to be phased. There are delays due to Homes England. Waste treatment is the first phase. Next meeting October.

16. For Information

- Swing has been removed
- KALC Community Awards Scheme 2026: submission deadline 30.01.26
- 2026 meeting dates: 27 January, 31 March, 26 May, 28 July, 29 September, 24 November.
- Next Parish Council meeting: 25 November (budget setting meeting)
- Meeting closed at 7.35pm

Signed..... Cllr Frank Hobbs, Chairman, 25 November 2025

Appendix Reports from District and County Councillors

District Councillor Elaine Martin

Green Grants

A Green Grant of £11,600 has been awarded to Postling Village Hall to fit solar panels and a battery storage system to reduce electricity costs. Other grants have been awarded to a nursery in Lyminge for solar panels and battery storage and to Lyminge Primary school for a school sensory garden. The Green Grant application were oversubscribed are now closed.

EES

The European Entry Exit system will start to be implemented from the 12th October. It is going to be a phased implementation over the next 6 months from October 2025 to April 2026. There will be a communications campaign with local activity and new signage will be put up before the go live date. This will include visuals of the EU and UK flags to indicate to arrivals where to go to check in at the Port.

The first time you cross to France you will need to provide your fingerprints and a facial scan for future facial recognition purposes. This will only happen the first time and will take a few extra minutes so there may be some hold ups at the crossing points, the Channel Tunnel and Dover. This should save time for future visits because your passport will not need to be stamped. In the meantime, the KCC website gives the latest -

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<https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/travelling-around-kent/eu-entryexit-system> and there is an email where you can report any traffic problems - ees@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk

Bus Shelters

Bus shelters across the district are undergoing an upgrade with better protection, improved seating, reinforced windows and digital screens. This overhaul of bus stops includes the installation of 37 new shelters along bus routes in Folkestone, Hythe and the Romney Marsh. All new shelters are expected to be installed by the end of this year. This work is separate from the improvements to shelters as part of the Folkestone – A Brighter Future scheme.

Triennial

Folkestone & Hythe District Council is once again supporting the open-air art festival which happens every three years. This year's Folkestone Triennial exhibition is titled "How Lies The Land?" and is the sixth edition. It invites residents and visitors to explore the stories and histories that shape the landscape. There are 18 new artworks by international artists sited across the town. The exhibition runs until Sunday 19 October.

Shape design in the district

There is an invitation to become a member of a new community panel helping to shape a new design code for the district. The code sets out specific requirements for new development and the council wants it to reflect local knowledge about character and preferences e.g. street design, building materials, parking and bin storage. If you are interested in joining please complete [a brief online application form](#) or email planning.policy@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk for more information. You will be invited to attend an in-person workshop in Folkestone in the afternoon of Saturday 29 November 2025.

Annual canvass

Residents will be receiving an email or a paper form to check that their details on the electoral register are up to date, following the launch of the canvass for 2025. Those required to respond will receive email and telephone reminders or a house call in October and November from an electoral canvasser. This is only required every three years so if you aren't notified please don't worry.

Consultation

Proposed changes to the council tax reduction scheme in the district are being consulted on. The proposal improves the support offered to working age, low-income households from April 2026 in response to the rise in the cost of living. The adjustments would be as follows – band one: 75% support increasing to 100%; band two: 55% support increasing to 75%; band three: 35% support increasing to 50%; band four: 22% support increasing to 25%. The consultation closes at 3pm on 26 October 2025, visit the Council's website for further details and to take part in the public consultation.

Ward Members Grant

I have some Ward Members grant still available so any local groups can contact me with their proposals and I can advise them how to apply.

Elaine.Martin@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk

District Councillor Jenny Hollingsbee

Folkestone – A Brighter Future - As you probably know Bouverie Square is returning to its former use as a garden square and a new linear bus station is being created. The current Folkestone bus station has closed. To minimise service disruption temporary bus stops will operate from 21 September while this work is completed. Stagecoach has created a diagram displaying the positions of these new temporary stops and the routes using them. You can view this diagram and find out more about bus services on the dedicated page on the Stagecoach website.

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Stelling Minnis Windmill – the Windmill's restoration is nearing the end of its 2 year refurbishment and was included in the Folkestone and Hythe Heritage Open Day festivals. For further information visit [Stelling Minnis Windmill - Celebrating recent major refurbishment and almost 50 Years of being open to the public!](#)

Local Government Re-organisation –

At a recent meeting the fourteen Kent Leaders, or their nominated representatives, met virtually to agree which two LGR models should be worked up to full business cases by November. Following extensive analysis of the seven potential models that had been short-listed from the long-list of ten, two models were agreed by consensus to progress:

- The 3 unitary authority model – which puts F&H district in the East cluster with Canterbury, Thanet, Dover and Ashford (known as the 3a model); and
- A 4 unitary authority model – which puts F&H district with Ashford and Swale (known as the 4b model).

Other models of different configurations were proposed and discussed but did not have support from the majority to progress through the collaborative workstream co-ordinated by KPMG. However, Medway and Kent Councils, (at their own expense) have decided to put forward their own specific models for analysis.

Annual Canvass

Residents will be receiving an email or a paper form to check that their details on the electoral register are up to date, following the launch of the canvass for 2025. Those required to respond will receive email and telephone reminders or a house call in October and November from an electoral canvasser.

jennyhollingsbee@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk

County Councillor Christopher Hespe

Local Government Reorganisation

Kent's Leaders from the district councils and KCC met on 3 September 2025 to determine which of seven options for the future structure of local government in Kent should go forward for detailed appraisal by consultants KPMG. The districts selected an option involving three unitary authorities and one with four unitaries to be appraised. KCC's option was not favoured by the districts. KCC will now commit to undertaking a detailed business case for its favoured model, which it believes will compare well against the other two options. The KCC option involves the creation of one Unitary Council ('Kent Council') that includes three Area Assemblies. In addition, there would be Parish, Town or Community Councils at local level. With this option, there would be no need for a Strategic Mayoral Authority. Hence, this proposal would be less expensive, easier to establish and have a mix of local and strategic capability compared to the other options. It would also have only two tiers, rather than the three tiers being put forward by districts.

Submissions from Kent are due to be made to government by 28 November. KCC is keen to consult widely on the proposals. Every one of Kent's district council Leaders stated or voted that they did not wish the joint consultation to ask whether the public and stakeholders believe there is a need for major restructure of local government in Kent; whether cost should be a major consideration in any restructure, and whether Kent residents would be prepared to pay more in Council Tax due to reorganisation. These questions will be asked by KCC as a core part of its consultation.

Road Repairs

KCC has earmarked £67 million for new road repairs, including carrying out a record number of pothole repairs. Recent road repairs and resurfacing works in Elham Valley have included Spitfire Way, Hawkinge, the High Street in Etchingill, and a section of Stone Street (B2086) near Petham.

KCC Budget Consultation

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Please do take part in the consultation regarding the KCC budget for 2026/27. Currently, it looks as though KCC will have to find a further £50 million in savings and income in that year to balance the books. The public is being asked where savings should be made and which services should be protected. The consultation ends on 29 September 2025.

Home to School Transport for Special Needs Children

New software is being implemented to simplify journey planning and make savings where possible.

Women and Girls Safety Partnership

KCC is establishing a new working relationship with the organisation with a number of initiatives being planned to make our streets safer for women and girls in Kent.

Savings

KCC has announced more than £40 million of new savings from its future spend, in addition to £45 million of revenue savings achieved to date in 2025/26 and debt reduction of £16 million, following the difficult financial position that the new Reform administration inherited from the outgoing administration at County Hall.

Property and Land Disposals

KCC has a legal duty to dispose of any land and property that is surplus to its needs. KCC is stepping up its disposals work in order to strengthen its reserves.

Small Member Community Grants

Small grants in the region of £250 to £500 are available for community events and activities. Voluntary sector and not-for-profit organisations who wish to explore whether they could receive a grant should contact Christopher Hespe on

Christopher.Hespe@kent.gov.uk

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