



## MINUTES OF DYMCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, 5th January 2026, 7:00 PM Dymchurch Parish Council  
Offices, Orgarswick Avenue, Dymchurch

### Present-

Cllr. C. McCready (Chair)

Cllr. L. Finch (Vice Chair)

Cllr. D. Young

Cllr. C. Young

Cllr. V. McCready

Cllr. M. Wright

Cllr. C. Cooper

Cllr. A. Weatherhead

### Also, in attendance

Mr J Lawrence (Parish Clerk) Mr A Lawson (Projects and Finance Officer)

District Councillor Tony Hills and two members of the public

### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies were received

### 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members declared interests as required.

Cllr. V McCready declared an interest in Planning application 25/2146/FH due to connection with applicant.

Cllr. C. McCready declared an interest in Planning application 25/2146/FH due to connection with applicant.

Cllr. C. McCready declared an interest in item 12 due to being a trustee of the Friends of Dymchurch Recreation Ground Charity

### 3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

**Decision:** The minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 1st December 2025, were approved and agreed upon by members present.

### 4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A member of the public raised concerns about dog mess along the sea wall. The Clerk confirmed this has been reported to the District Council.

A member of the public raised concerns about movement of caravans at New beach Holiday Park and the noise.

Park Resorts had requested to attend a future meeting. Available dates have been provided. Activity at the caravan park involving the movement of caravans was noted.

## 5. CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk reported on the following matters:

### Community Updates:

- Dymchurch Churches food bank has ceased operations; enquiries should be referred to the Rainbow Centre
- Highways presentations from a recent Parish Seminar are available from the Clerk
- Anonymous complaint about City of London pub land use referred to District Council licensing department
- Park Holidays UK planning application submitted for New Beach Holiday Village car park area, including enhanced landscaping and sustainable drainage; they have requested to address the Council
- Minutes now available on website following earlier oversight
- Various highways matters reported including graffiti on A259 bus stop, speeding concerns, and signpost issues
- Abandoned cars in parish car park still being addressed due to administrative delays
- Young person requested Duke of Edinburgh Award verification, which the Clerk will support
- Enquiry about seal rescue notices; information to be placed on display board and website

**Additional matter reported during the discussion:** Multiple damaged bins reported.

**Proposal:** Clerk to report to Veolia, copying District Councillors.

**Decision:** Agreed.

## 6. CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair reported as follows:

- Meeting with RHDR regarding the lights and markings at the entrance of the Recreation Ground- This is in process now and they are supportive of plans for the recreation ground.
- The Clerk was thanked for his work on the letter to the Minister regarding Seawater Quality.
- Work is to continue on the drainage at the Village Hall car Park
- Thanks, sent to the District Council for replacing the play equipment at Salbris Close.

## 7. REPORTS FROM EXTERNAL BODIES

### 7.1 Kent County Council – Cllr. Osborne

**No report this month**

### 7.2 District Council- Cllr. Tony Hills

**Solar Farm:** Briefing received on small solar farm application St Mary in the Marsh. (approximately 40 megawatts). Further details expected later in the month.

**Seawater Quality:** The letter to Southern Water, Environment Agency, and Defra was commended. No response yet from EA. Cllr. Hills emphasised the unfairness of Dymchurch's situation and will continue to raise questions at Full Council about the establishment of a special working group with the EA.

**Dymchurch Marshes Flood Risk:** Grant funding proposal submitted for research into protecting flood defences for the next century. Support from KCC members obtained; funding approval expected next month.

**Large Solar Developments:** Three major solar farm developments planned. Second consultation in summer. The estimated construction cost of £500 million each could severely impact coastal access and small businesses over a two-year construction period.

**Digital Centre (NEST Business Centre):** Financial pressures noted. Efforts underway to secure funding for this facility and New Romney Community Hub.

No questions were raised.

### **7.3 Kent Police – PC Putland**

Police surgery held this morning with one visitor. No specific incidents to report for Dymchurch. PC Putland confirmed willingness to conduct speed checks along main roads when possible and was informed about potential Pavilion removal.

## **8. MEMBER REPORTS**

### **Cllr. V. McCreedy –**

**East Bridge Road Speed Campaign:** Met with KCC Highways Community Engagement Officer on 3rd December. Banner delivery expected Wednesday 8th January. Stickers and posters distributed to East Ridge Road residents, who were appreciative. Road safety advice added to website. Additional stickers requested for Hythe Road residents.

A visit to East Bridge Road on bin collection day showed that many residents were displaying stickers. A visit was made to Bethany Lodge who also agreed to display stickers.

Management team at Bethany Lodge welcomed Pavilion plans as facility for clients and families. They expressed an interest in attending any future public engagement meetings and said that at least two of their clients would be interested in fundraising.

It was also noted that there had been an increase in graffiti observed on sea wall.

### **Cllr. C. Young**

Reported a successful Christmas Carol event which was well attended.

### **Cllr. D. Young**

Also reported on the successful Christmas event and please to see many people from the village supporting this.

## **9. PARISH CLERK'S REPORT**

### **Key Updates:**

- Penfolds to commence entrance to recreation groundwork 14th January.
- Friends of Dymchurch Recreation Ground lease documentation received; solicitors now liaising

- New car park charges updated; policy being introduced for high-sided/oversized vehicles with enhanced contact details collection
- Sewer contamination by fire station reported to Environment Agency and apparently resolved
- Bus shelter funding at Youngs has been approved; defibrillator machine number to be included

A request was made for the Marine Rescue number to be placed on the electronic sign at the kiosk.

## 10. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

### Application 25/2179/FH – 1A Kingsway, Dymchurch

**Proposal:** Demolition of existing projections, erection of single-storey extensions, and pitched roof over garage.

Block plan and elevations reviewed.

**Decision:** No objections raised.

### Application 25/2146/FH – 9 Hind Close, Dymchurch

**Proposal:** Front, side and rear extension including store and material changes.

Plans reviewed showing single-level extension with no overlooking windows.

**Decision:** No objections raised.

## 11. FINANCE

### 11.1 Financial Summary

Bank reconciliation to 30th December 2025 was noted

### 11.2 Authorisation of Payments

Dymchurch Parish Council PAYMENTS (AWAITING AUTHORISATION) LIST									30 December 2025 (2025-2026)		
Voucher	Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Cheque No	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
239	Christmas Lights	08/12/2025		Unity Savings Account		Solar Xmas Trees	G Burley and Sons t/a Plan	S	2,060.00	412.00	2,472.00
243	Alarm Maintenance	15/12/2025		Unity Trust Bank		Alarm monitoring and annual m	Ashe Alarms	S	125.00	25.00	150.00
249	Management Fee & Charges	16/12/2025		Unity Trust Bank		Strada Tariff Update	Flowbird	S	544.00	108.80	652.80
250	Christmas Lights	23/12/2025		Unity Trust Bank		Christmas Lights Switch On	Kent County Council	E	41.00		41.00
									<b>Total</b>	<b>2,770.00</b>	<b>545.80</b>
											<b>3,315.80</b>

**Staff Bonuses:** Discussion of traditional December bonuses.

**Proposal:** Award £50 bonus per staff member as in previous years.

**Decision:** Agreed unanimously.

Cllr. Chris to authorise payments online.

December payments list reviewed including tree maintenance and electricity bill.

**Decision:** Seven members voted in favour of all payments, none against.

### 11.3 Recreation Ground Roundabout

Wicksteed identified bearing replacement needed. Repair quote: £2,938 plus VAT. Generic alternative: £2,713. Replacement options: standard roundabout £5,500, inclusive/wheelchair accessible £8,472 (both plus installation and removal).

**Discussion:** Structure in good condition. Members noted existing equipment quality. Significant cost difference between repair and replacement. Repair would maintain warranty. Generic bearings might void warranty.

**Proposal:** Pursue repair option, subject to obtaining third quote from Sovereign for comparison.

**Decision:** Agreed. Clerk to return next month with final recommendation.

Drainage improvements in the village Hall car park are also to be considered at a future meeting

## **12. FUNDING FOR DEMOLITION OF PAVILION**

Noted urgency due to bat licence timeframe (30 days' notice required, then three-night work window).

**Quote:** £16,000 (excluding VAT) including: complete demolition, protection for waypoint lights, control box installation, pedestrian access maintenance, site clearance, new asbestos report, and secure electrical box with metre and supply mechanism.

Additional quotes awaited. Clerk to confirm electrical supply specification and investigate optimal VAT treatment (Parish Council vs charity invoice).

**Cllr. C. McCready declared interest as charity trustee and abstained.**

**Proposal:** Release up to £16,000 (excluding VAT) from reserves for Pavilion demolition, subject to receiving competitive quotes.

**Decision:** Seven members voted in favour, none against.

## **13. SEAWATER BATHING QUALITY – CLLR. D. YOUNG**

Cllr. Young presented detailed analysis comparing Dymchurch and St Mary's Bay water quality classifications.

### **Key Points:**

- Both beaches are accredited bathing beaches (tested March-September, 25 days per season)
- Dymchurch has two of Kent's worst water quality ratings
- St Mary's Bay received step change in classification; Dymchurch denied equivalent upgrade
- Comparable improvements at both locations (five misconnections corrected, sewer lining, monitoring)
- Key difference: St Mary's Bay received sewage treatment works upgrade; Dymchurch did not
- Environment Agency has been unresponsive
- Southern Water has been helpful and engaging

### **Questions to be pursued:**

1. What environmental changes caused failures?
2. Why different treatment from St Mary's Bay?
3. Role of tidal basin and discharge systems?

**Actions planned:**

- KCC Full Council questions in January
- Request special working group with EA
- Data buoy pilot project in development
- Historical data analysis (2000-2025) to identify change patterns

**Discussion:** Members expressed strong support. Agreed to maintain pressure on authorities and escalate to media if necessary. Suggested compiling historical testing data to identify when problems emerged.

Cllr. Young expressed frustration with lack of agency urgency but commitment to pursuing answers.

**Decision:** Council fully supports continued efforts. Cllr. Young to provide further updates at future meeting.

**14. PAVILION UPDATE – FRIENDS OF DYMCHURCH RECREATION GROUND CHARITY**

No update available. Updates to be provided as project progresses.

**15. HIGHWAYS SAFETY UPDATE – CLLR. V. McCreedy**

Cllr. McCreedy presented a detailed analysis of East Bridge Road using Google Maps imagery, demonstrating:

- No pavements on either side
- Multiple blind bends
- Houses, stable block, holiday units, and Bethany Lodge (vulnerable residents)
- 30 mph limit begins at 58 East Ridge Road
- Residents report difficulty exiting driveways safely

**Options discussed:**

- **Speed bumps:** Concerns raised about emergency access, maintenance, and vehicles speeding over/around them. Not supported.
- **20 mph zone:** Would require traffic regulation order; not currently enforceable but could raise awareness
- **Road markings:** Roundels (painted speed limit circles) identified as cost-effective visual reminder
- **Pedestrian signage:** Warning signs of pedestrians in road
- **Speed enforcement:** Request police checks to demonstrate Council action

**Discussion:** Members debated effectiveness of various measures. Speed bumps rejected. 20 mph signage with roundels and pedestrian warnings favoured as cost-effective awareness measures. Lack of street lighting noted as concern given Bethany Lodge residents.

**Proposal:** Request speed enforcement checks from Kent Police and pursue 20 mph signage with road markings (roundels) and pedestrian warning signage through KCC Highways.

**Decision:** Agreed. Cllr. McCreedy to continue liaison with KCC Highways and report progress.

Cllr McCreedy reported Burmarsh Corner crossing feasibility plan has not progressed. KCC Highways typically carries out planning work in spring, with winter focused on emergency works.

## **16. FLOODING CONCERNs – CLLR. L. FINCH**

No update available. Matter to be addressed at next meeting.

## **17. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AT FUTURE MEETINGS**

**Christmas Decorations Competition:** Beach 48 Café congratulated on winning. Concerns raised about competition format including eligibility of commercial properties and timing of photograph sharing.

**Action:** Clerk to consider format for next year.

### **Village Christmas Tree**

**Proposal:** Write to Mr. Fisher thanking him for his contribution of the Christmas tree in the High Street.

**Decision:** Agreed. Clerk to write letter.

## **18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**Monday, 2nd February 2026, 7:00 PM** Dymchurch Parish Council Offices, Orgarswick Avenue, Dymchurch

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_ (Chair)

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_