



Dymchurch Parish Council Meeting Minutes

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at 7 pm on Monday, 8th September 2025, at the Scout Hut, Chapel Road, Dymchurch.

MINUTES

Present:

Cllr. C. McCreedy (Chair)	Cllr. L. Finch (Vice Chair)	Cllr. D.Young
Cllr.C.Young	Cllr.A.Weatherhead	Cllr.A.Pegler
Cllr.V.McCreedy	Cllr.M.Wright	Cllr.C.Cooper

Also present:

Mr. J.Lawrence (Parish Clerk) , District Councillor Tony Hills

1. APOLOGIES

Members are reminded to inform the Clerk of any apologies with a reason for absence if they cannot attend. Members will then confirm acceptance of the reasons given.

All present

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a. To declare any personal interests in items on the agenda and their nature.
- b. To declare any prejudicial interests in items on the agenda – any councillors with prejudicial interests must leave the room for the relevant items.

No declarations made

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 7 July 2025, to be agreed upon by the members present.

Proposed by Cllr. Finch

Seconded by Cllr. C. Young

Minutes signed by chair.

4. RESPONSE TO PRESENTATION BY FRIENDS OF DYMCHURCH RECREATION GROUND CHARITY AND TO CONSIDER THE POSITION OF THE EXISTING PAVILION.

The Chair thanked the Friends of Dymchurch Recreation Ground Charity for the presentation held before this meeting, and members acknowledged the progress towards the aim of building the new pavilion.

Members debated that the current pavilion, although now surrounded by a fence, was a potential for damage and ongoing costs, although since the erection of the fence, incidents had reduced.

PROPOSAL BY CLLR D YOUNG-

To demolish the existing pavilion at the earliest opportunity, subject to planning, budget, and safety considerations.

Seconded by Cllr.A.Weatherhead

VOTE FOR- 5

VOTE AGAINST-4

DECISION as proposed above.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION/PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Members will propose adjourning the meeting to allow for Public Participation. Standing Orders provide the opportunity for members of the public to speak at Council meetings. The allotted time for Public Participation is 15 minutes, and each person may speak for no longer than 3 minutes, at the discretion of the chair.

At the end of the Public Participation section, the Council meeting will resume.

No members of the public present.

6. TO DEAL WITH MATTERS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE IN CIRCULATION

1. Speeding and Crossing Safety – The Sands

Correspondence has been received from a resident regarding the ongoing dangers of speeding and difficulties in crossing near The Sands. The resident refers to the reports submitted by PC Putland and stresses the need for a coordinated approach between the Parish Council, Kent County Councillor, and PC Putland. A site visit involving all parties has been requested.

The same correspondent also reported an abandoned vehicle in the Parish car park, which is taking up valuable space during the busy holiday period.

It was agreed that all highway matters will be dealt with using the Highways Improvement Meetings, the next will be held early in October.

2. Local Government Review Working Group

Minutes of the latest meeting of the Local Government Review Working Group have been received and circulated to Parish Councillors. A response has been invited should the Parish Council wish to submit comments.

Noted

3. A259 Vegetation Cutback and Road Signage

A resident has written to thank the Parish Council for arranging the clearance of reeds and bushes near The Sands Estate, noting improved pedestrian visibility at the crossing point. However, the resident reports that traffic speeds remain high and that a previously hidden, very old warning sign has been revealed following the cutback. They suggest this may have been a pedestrian crossing sign and request that replacement signage be installed.

The resident further notes that FHDC have rejected the recent speed reduction request but have recognised the need for traffic calming measures, which they describe as a positive step forward.

It was agreed that all highway matters will be addressed through the Highways Improvement Meetings, the next of which will be held early in October.

4. Living History Craft Sessions

Several emails were received thanking the Parish Council and organisers for the Living History Craft Sessions held on the seawall over the summer. The sessions were described as enjoyable and well-received.

Noted

5. Fun Fair Noise Complaints

Residents submitted two reports over the summer regarding excessive noise from the funfair.

Residents have been signposted to the District Council, which is the authority that can deal with noise complaints.

7. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

- i. Kent County Council- Cllr Osborne- Apologies received
He reported that he is continuing to work on the request from the Parish Council to extend the 30mph speed limit from Burmarsh Corner.
- ii. District Council- Cllrs Tony Cooper and Tony Hills
See Appendix 1 for the summary of the report by Cllr Hills and Appendix 2 for Cllr Cooper (not present).
- iii. KCC Warden- Carol Coveney- Not present
- iv. Kent Police- PC's Putland and Hockless- Not present

8. CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair will provide an update on any additional Council activities and meetings attended.

- The Seawall Gate is now finished with a locking mechanism.
- Attended a video meeting with New Romney Town Council to discuss asset transfer when the Local Government Reorganisation occurs.
- With the vice chair held a meeting with the manager of New Beach to discuss flooding concerns. The meeting revealed that he was not aware of all the issues. He did accept that the drainage along the edge of the car park was inadequate, and he would consider this.
The clerk was instructed to arrange a progress meeting with the manager at the end of October or early November.
- Reported on the visit to Salbris with the Twinning Association and reminded Councillors of the reception to be held in Dymchurch on 12th September.

9. MEMBER REPORTS

Members will update the Committee on non-agenda items regarding any meetings or events attended on behalf of the Parish Council.

CLLR.L.FINCH

- Dymchurch in Bloom was held earlier this year, with congratulations to the winner from the Redoubt estate.
- Reports issues with the dweeding process at The Redoubt, resulting in potholes being left that are causing trip hazards.
The clerk was instructed to contact the District Council with the concerns and to suggest that spraying might be a safer method in the future.

CLLR.A.PEGLER

- Reports that there is a lot of vegetation covering traffic signs in the area of The Fairway-

Clerk was instructed to report these to Highways Department

CLLR.V.McCreedy

- Resident reported that offensive graffiti had been seen along the Sea Wall- this was reported and has now been removed
- Produced information for New Church Parish Council on soil makeup up which was felt may assist their objections to the proposed Solar Farm
- Contacted by a Sands Estate resident who had some flooding issues- Southern Water attended to assist and provided water butts.
- Provided an update on the recent visit to Salbris.

10. HIGHWAYS SAFETY UPDATE- CLLR. V. McCREEDY

To receive an update and any proposals relating to Highways Safety

- The hedges have been cut back at the bends on the A259 near the Sands /Tower Estate. This was reported using the fault reporting system provided by KCC
- Some traffic signs have now been replaced in the area The Fairway
- Still tryingto arrange a meeting with the KCC member peter Osborne although the hope of reducing the speed limit in the area of the Sands Estate and getting an additional crossing seems to be an issue.
- Received information that during a speed check 139 people were found to be driving in excess of the speed limit.

11. SEAWATER BATHING QUALITY- CLLR. D. YOUNG

To receive updates and any proposals related to Seawater Bathing Quality, the latest Seawater testing results will be provided at the meeting.

The Clerk showed the latest see water quality resultd for Dymchurch which compared to last year seem very good.

Cllr. Young reported as follows.

- Attended a water quality meeting on behalf of the Parish Council and noted that yet again the Environment Agency were not in attendance
- He questioned why additional testing was not being carried out by the EA
- Noted that Tony Vaughan MP is pushing for the EA to attend these meeting.
- Still no answers as to how many people are reporting becoming ill after swimming in our seas where swimming is not advised
- This season did seem quieter, and he felt that some local businesses are not doing us any favours by making negative comments.

- It was agreed that, given the good water quality reports this year, we should receive a Step Change in the same way that St Mary's Bay did, rather than wait for the algorithm to produce the accepted figures.

12. FLOODING CONCERNS – CLLR. L. FINCH

To receive an update and any proposals relating to this subject, including Parish Council's response to the Section 19 Flood report

Cllr Finch highlighted his report, which was circulated to members (see Appendix 3 for summary).

It was agreed that the Clerk should use this report as a response to the Section 19 Flood report prepared by KCC

13. CLERK'S UPDATE

1. Beach Wardens

- Contracts for the beach wardens have now concluded.
- Both wardens appeared to enjoy their time with the Parish Council.
- They successfully managed various incidents, including:
 - Locating lost children
 - Recovering found property
 - Attending several first aid situations

2. Green Grant Application

- The Green Grant application has progressed.
- The contract has been signed.
- Installation of solar panels may commence as early as next week.

3. School Road Crossing Data

- A letter was sent to Dymchurch Primary School requesting data on the number of children crossing the main road.
- No response has been received to date.

4. Heras Fencing – Recreation Ground Pavilion

- Heras fencing was purchased to secure the old pavilion.
- Sections of fencing have been repeatedly removed by members of the public.
- Local police were informed and attended the site.
- A group of youths was found, resulting in one arrest for a drug-related offence.

5. External Audit

- The external audit has been completed.
- The Parish Council is awaiting the closing certificate and any accompanying comments.

6. Other Matters

- All other matters remain ongoing.
 - Members will be updated as further information becomes available.
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13. TO CONSIDER RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE ASSETS AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE

- i. To consider engagement of Living Histories Workshops for the Summer period 2026
It was agreed unanimously to request Living Histories Workshops to return for 2026
- ii. To consider the Christmas window competition and agree on the prize fund.
It was agreed that a trophy will be awarded with a £25.00 cash prize for the winner.
- iii. To consider authorising payment to contractors for Christmas lights and required work to check connections and potential replacement of lights for Council stock.
It was agreed that the quote to inspect connections, check current lights, and replace any faulty units was necessary.
The Clerk was instructed to contact the contractors and arrange.

14. REPLACEMENT OF BENCH – THE FAIRWAY BUS STOP

The decision to purchase a bench had been agreed at a previous meeting- The Clerk confirmed that KCC had no objections to the replacement.

The Clerk was instructed to purchase the bench and arrange installation.

15. TO CONSIDER MEMORIAL BENCH APPLICATION

The application was considered by members and agreed.

16. BUS STOP FUNDING- KCC

To consider the current KCC Bus stop funding opportunity for stops at the following locations-

- i. Wraights Field Stop- installation**
- ii. High Knock- replacement**

It was decided that both locations require attention—Wraights Field for a new installation and High Knock for a replacement. The Clerk was instructed to gather quotes for the October meeting, so members can consider proceeding to the KCC funding stage.

17. PLANNING

Application Number	Location	Details	Comments
25/1535/FH	35 TARTANE LANE, DYMCHURCH, ROMNEY MARSH, TN29 0LJ	Erection of a single storey front extension and two storey side extension with rooms in the roof to the main house, together with the erection of a front extension to existing garage with increase in height of roof to form dummy pitch and enlargement/alteration of parking layout to the front.	No objections
25/1442/FH	MARTELLO TOWER NUMBER 25, DYMCHURCH ROAD, DYMCHURCH	Variation of condition 11 (scheme to dispose of foul and surface water and roof drainage) of planning permission Y18/1256/FH to allow the condition to be a pre-occupation condition rather than pre-commencement.	No objections

18. FINANCE

a. Breakdown of expenditure/income since the last meeting.
Noted no matters raised

b. Authorisation of Payments – Members will review the list of invoices for payment and identify two Councillors to authorise the payments online.

PAYEE	DETAILS	AMOUNT
SH Bureau	PAYE services	164.33
WAGES GROSS	Employees	4077.47
Living Histories Workshops	Beach Entertainment	3000.00
M. Coleman	Grass cutting	690.00
Folkestone and Hythe District Council	Parking Enforcement	257.14

c. Additional items requiring authorisation:

Any additional items for authorisation will be introduced at the meeting.

No additional matters raised

19. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AT FUTURE MEETINGS- PLEASE NOTE DECISIONS CANNOT BE MADE ON ITEMS INTRODUCED HERE

- Feedback on meeting with New Beach Holiday Centre
- Feedback from traders relating to the 2025 holiday season and the effects of Seawater Quality.

20. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

6th October 2025 Dymchurch Parish Council Offices Orgarswick Avenue
Dymchurch

Please note the cut-off date for items to be included on next month's agenda is 29th September.

APPENDIX 1

Summary of report from Cllr. Tony Hills

Solar Farms

- Ongoing discussions with Tony Vaghn MP's office promoting nuclear at Dungeness as a cleaner alternative to large solar farms.
- Concern over proposed industrial-scale solar farms, especially Shepway Energy Park.
- Raising public awareness through the action group HOOM (Hands Off Our Marsh).
- Intends to bring the issue to the next F&H District Council meeting.

Water Quality

- Monitoring government/EA test results for local beaches.
 - St Mary's Bay: best results in recent memory.

- Dymchurch: excellent results.
- Littlestone: still a concern.
- Concern about 'over pumping' with wet weather.
- Attended Southern Water meeting on bathing water quality – praised presentation and attendance by swimmers.
- Criticism that Environment Agency declined to attend.
- Submitted a formal question to council leader requesting a strategic working group with EA and other stakeholders.

Romney Marsh Visitor Centre

- Visited centre and spoke with Jo Wynn-Carter regarding speed limit concerns on A259 (request to reduce from 60mph to 40mph).
- Emailed KCC cabinet member Peter Osbourne to check for progress on this request.
- Awaiting response.

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

- Raised concerns about role of Parish Councils and residents in the reorganisation process.
- F&H DC Communications & Engagement Manager confirmed:
 - A social media survey ran in July.
 - A campaign and website (kentcouncilleaders.org.uk) promoting awareness.
 - Posters distributed to libraries and parish/town councils.
- Believes F&H DC is ahead of others, having already set up a cross-party working group on the challenges ahead.

APPENDIX 2-

Summary of report from Cllr. Tony Cooper

Parking Issues

- District acknowledges there is a parking problem in Dymchurch.
- Commitment made to allocate **two parking wardens** for future bank holidays and busy weekends.

Civic Duties

- Attended Ukrainian Flag raising at Civic Centre on **24 August** as Vice Chair of the District Council.
- Made a speech to mark Ukrainian Independence Day.
- District Council will **fly the Ukrainian flag in solidarity**, unlike other councils.

Licensing

- Chaired the Licensing and Licensing Act Sub Committee.
- Decisions made to:
 - Revoke a taxi driver's licence.
 - Revoke the alcohol licence at Littlestone Stores.

Sea Bathing Water Quality

- Steering Group met at Civic Centre.
- MP Tony Vaughan asked to write to the **Environment Agency** requesting a representative to attend.
- Awaiting EA response and attendance at the next meeting.
- **St Mary's Bay** water quality results are positive.
- Dymchurch and Littlestone still receive **negative publicity**.
- Hope expressed for improvement this year.

Grants and Funding

- Parish Council awarded **£5,000** from the Green Grants Programme.
- District awarded **£180,000** extension to the Rural England Prosperity Fund.
- Urged Parish Council, local businesses, and groups to **apply for funding**.

Electoral Register

- Residents receiving email or paper form to confirm electoral register details (2025 canvass).
- Follow-ups: email, telephone reminders, and home visits (Oct–Nov).

Local Government Reorganisation

- Short social media survey run by Kent councils.
- Awareness campaign ongoing.
- Information available at **kentcouncilleaders.org.uk**.

Weed Killing

- Discussions ongoing with KCC over poor weed killing efforts.
- **Second treatment** scheduled soon.

Contact

- Cllr Tony Cooper remains available for help, appointments, and support.

APPENDIX 3-

Summary of report from Cllr.Finch in response to section 19 flood report

Acknowledgement of Section 19 Report

- Thanks given to KCC for preparing the Section 19 Report on the November 2023 flooding at Uden Road and Beverley Gardens.
- Report provides good detail on Uden Road flooding.
- Concern: No outline or explanation for lack of drainage system between New Beach Holiday Park car park and Beverley Gardens.
- Report shows existing drainage for Beach Estate and surrounding areas, but **omits drainage on this boundary**.
- Council should ask KCC/Herrington Consulting Ltd why this was not included in the survey.
- Believed to be crucial to understanding **why Beverley Gardens persistently floods**.

Questions Raised on Conclusions and Recommendations

- Who owns and is responsible for maintaining the ditch (from surface water outfall to Culvert B) and Culvert A?
- How often should these be surveyed and maintained to ensure they remain fit for purpose?
- Request to Southern Water: Carry out an assessment of the surface water outfall behind Beverley Gardens to determine if it can be replaced with a backdrop including a high-level overflow into the ditch (to reduce impact of future sewer surcharging).
- Are Southern Water responsible for surveying/assessing the foul sewer network to confirm how foul drainage entered the surface water system (as noted in the report)?
 - If yes, when was the last survey completed?

Resident Survey Issues

- Flooding surveys were sent to affected residents.
- Some residents did not return them due to concerns about disclosure affecting house sales.

Progress Since November 2023 Flooding

- Culvert B replaced shortly after the Uden Road flooding event.
- Culvert A recently installed, reconnecting drainage system to Willop Sewer — described as a positive development.
- Need for clarification on ownership and maintenance responsibilities remains.
- Ongoing liaison required with **Southern Water** and **Highways** to ensure assessments and surveys confirm systems are fit for purpose.