



Minutes of Dymchurch Parish Council meeting at 7 pm on Monday 2nd June 2025 at the Parish Council Offices, 13 Orgarswick Avenue, Dymchurch.

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Cllr. C. McCreedy (Chair)

Cllr. L. Finch (Vice Chair)

Cllr. C. Young

Cllr. D. Young

Cllr. V. McCreedy

Cllr. M. Wright

Cllr. A. Pegler

Also present- Mr J Lawrence (Parish Clerk), Mr Adrian Lawson (Projects and Finance Officer), KCC Councillor Peter Osbourn, District Councillor Tony Hills and 4 members of the public.

1. APOLOGIES

Members are reminded to tender apologies with the reason for absence directly to the Clerk if they are unable to attend. Members will confirm acceptance of the reasons for absence.

Cllr. C. Cooper- Unwell

Cllr. A. Weatherhead-Unwell

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, 12 May 2025, to be agreed upon by the members present.

Proposed for acceptance by Cllr. Finch seconded by Cllr. Wright, the minutes were then signed by the Chair.

4. 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.

- a. Mrs Stephens provided an update on the unveiling of the plaque to remember the 22 men who lost their lives at Dymchurch beach during the Second World War. She thanked everyone for their support in bringing this to fruition.

The Parish Council thanked Mrs Stephens and her husband for all of their hard work over the past 11 months, culminating in a very fitting ceremony.

- b. Residents from the Redoubt Estate raised continuing concerns about noise and other environmental disturbances from New Beach Holiday Camp, which is affecting their quality of life.

They also raised that a promised meeting with the site manager had not taken place.

It was agreed that a report would be compiled to address concerns over planning at New Beach and to report environmental health and nuisance issues to be submitted through our District Councillors for further investigation.

It was agreed that the Clerk will arrange a meeting between the Parish Council and the manager of New Beach Holiday camp. This had not taken place previously due to a misunderstanding that the promised flood mitigation had already been implemented, and therefore, the meeting was not required.

5. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

i. Kent County Council- Cllr Osborne

KCC Cllr. Peter Osborne gave a verbal update covering the following:

- He is aware of the highway issues being discussed within the Parish and is working with Simon Jones from KCC, looking at the speed limits from Burmarsh Corner.
- £14.4 million has been allocated for the repair of potholes.
- He has been appointed to the County Council's Highways and Transport board

ii. District Council- Cllrs Tony Cooper and Tony Hills

Cllr. Tony Hills:

- Applauded the community coming together for the unveiling of the plaque at the seawall
- Reported that seawater quality results are good at the moment, which is expected. A review after July will determine if this is maintained, and it has raised concerns that a more proactive approach needs to be adopted.
- Raised concerns over the number of solar farms being proposed. He will be asking questions at the full council about the intensity and the effects on farming and flooding.
- He indicated that Folkestone and Hythe District Council are approaching Parish Councils about taking over assets.

It was noted that Dymchurch has not had such approaches.

iii. KCC Warden- Carol Coveney

No report this month- On leave

iv. Kent Police- PC's Putland and Hockless

No update this month

6. CHAIR'S REPORT

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

- Attended the memorial application at the Seawall
Nothing additional to report this month

7. MEMBER REPORTS

Members will update the Committee on any meetings or events they attend on behalf of the Parish Council.

Cllr. V. McCreedy-

- Highlighted the good work of the Dymchurch Players, who regularly put on performances in the Village.
- Highlighted that a public exhibition will take place in Dymchurch on the proposed solar farm north of Newchurch. This will take place on June 19th at the Village Hall.

Cllr. A. Pegler

- Asked if there has been any progress regarding permission for a replacement bench at the bus stop near the fairway.
The clerk was instructed to follow up on this.
- Reminder: The dementia café is taking place every Thursday.

Cllr.D.Young

- Thanks to all those who took part in the memorial ceremony.
- Represented the Parish Council on a radio Kent interview to speak about seawater quality. He emphasised the importance of being as positive as possible about the latest classification.

Cllr. L. Finch

- Highlighted that he is waiting for the flood report investigation report from KCC. He has emailed KCC Cllr Osborne for an update.
- Has been in liaison with residents about the ongoing concerns in Beverley Gardens
- Reported missing handrails leading to the beach, and that it is the intention of the Environment Agency not to replace the rails but to put in signage warning members of the public.
- Reported an increase in dog waste on the seawall-
The clerk informed members that this has been reported to the enforcement officers from the district council. A discussion about bins in the district reminded everyone that these are for dual use and can be used to dispose of both dog waste and other waste.

8. CLERK'S UPDATE

The Clerk provided a verbal update highlighting the following matters for note or action.

- Bench repairs are in progress around the Parish
- Report has been sent to District Councillors to investigate what measures the district takes to monitor air quality.
- A request to join the Institute of Cemetery and Cremation Management was approved to support the Parish Council in updating burial ground processes.
- Paperwork is underway regarding the employment of the Beach wardens for 2025
- Hanging baskets have been placed in the High Street- These were again provided by Canterbury Oast Trust and made by their residents.
- The defective tap at the Seawall Shower /toilet block has been reported
- Overgrown Hedge has been reported at Hythe Road, Dymchurch
- The External Audit has been published, and the period of public examination of accounts will be open from the 3rd June until the 14th July.

Council Business:

9. TO DEAL WITH MATTERS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE IN CIRCULATION

- NHS Health Checks will take place on the seawall at a future date.
- The public consultation on the Dog Control Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) 2025 is open until 25th June. The Parish Council has responded to confirm that Dymchurch does not have an enclosed play area.
- Concerns raised by residents about a Gay Pride event being held in the Village and their views on this. The Parish Council noted the comments by the resident, and no response will be made to the resident. There are no circumstances under which any event cannot be held within the Parish unless concerns exist regarding public safety and criminal activity.
- Residents have reported that an area of grass which had been cut for many years in Tritton Gardens by the District is no longer being cut, as this is private land. The residents have been informed and are making further enquiries.
- Shepway Energy Park Romney Marsh north of Newchurch. It was agreed that the Chair would respond on behalf of the Parish Council to inform the planning inspectorate of our concerns as a Parish. It was noted that there is a public consultation event at the Village Hall on Thursday 19th June 230-530pm

10. PAVILLION UPDATE

Cllr. McCreedy gave the following update-

- Friends of Dymchurch Recreation Ground Charity have now raised more than £100,000
- A final update on the planning consent is awaited.
- Several events will take place over the coming months.

At this point, Cllr. D. Young proposed that if there was no progress on the pavilion by September, a serious discussion should take place regarding the existing pavilion, including ongoing costs and the deterioration of the structure.

Cllr. C. Young seconded this proposal. However, due to the way the discussion unfolded, the procedure for introducing this proposal was not followed precisely.

Although the proposal could be introduced as it fell within the scope of the agenda item, the meeting was difficult to follow and potentially misinterpreted; therefore, the proposal was not confirmed.

However, it was agreed that the September meeting would include an agenda item to discuss the future of the existing Pavilion.

The Clerk will issue a statement explaining the correct procedure for introducing a proposal within an agenda item and providing guidance on how to introduce an emergency agenda item at a meeting.

11. HIGHWAYS SAFETY UPDATE

Cllr. V. McCreedy provided the following updates-

- Confirmed the appointment of KCC County Cllr Peter Osborne to the Highways and Transport cabinet within KCC
- Confirmation of the location of 40 mph roundels and repeater signs between Redoubt and Tower Estate
- Older people's signs will be installed in the area of The Fairway. It had been highlighted that the original proposal would have meant the loss of a junction warning sign. This has been addressed.
- Noted a resident from Kingsway had already contacted the new County Councillor in support of the actions the Parish Council is taking.
- A copy of the Parish Council Highways Consultation Report was handed to KCC Councillor Osbourn
- Requested a meeting with KCC Councillor to guide him around the areas of Parish Council concern for road safety.

12. SEAWATER QUALITY UPDATE

Proposal to appoint a Parish Council Lead on Water Quality and to receive updates

It was unanimously agreed that Cllr. D. Young would be the spokesperson for the Parish Council on water quality.

He reported that he will be attending his first meeting on the 13th of June

13. FLOODING CONCERNS - UPDATE IF AVAILABLE

Cllr. L. Finch- No additional comments to add- see earlier in minutes

14. PARKING ON COUNCIL LAND POLICY

To receive and consider the adoption of a policy to manage unauthorised parking on Council Land.

The policy was accepted unanimously. This will be published on the Council website and give a framework for the Council to deal with vehicles left on private Parish Council land.

15. BEACH WARDENS 2025

To consider the delegation of authority to the Personnel Committee to employ Beach Wardens for 2025

It was agreed unanimously to delegate the process of employing Beach wardens for 2025 to the personnel committee

16. PLANNING

Planning Applications:

Application Number	Address	Details of the Application	Comments
25/0890/FH/TCA	NEW HOUSE, 6 SYCAMORE GARDENS, DYMCHURCH, ROMNEY MARSH, TN29 0LA	Works to trees in a Conservation Area comprising T1 & T3 Ash's pollard to 4 metres height, T2 Ash Tree remove dead stump to ground level, T4 & T5 Sycamore's pollard to 4 metres height, T6. Calery pollard to 4 metres height.	No Objections

17. FINANCE

a. Breakdown of expenditure/income since the last meeting.

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.

Items shown in Appendix 1 agreed for payment.

c. Additional items requiring authorisation:

i. Fencing- Recreation ground Entrance

Three quotes were reviewed-

It was unanimously agreed that the quote from Apps Fencing would be accepted

d. Parish Council Grants

i. Twinning Association

A vote was held to donate £500.00 to the twinning association- This was carried unanimously

ii. Catholic Church Renovations

Adjourned until the next meeting- awaiting details

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

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

- Update on toilet block tap
- Suggestion to publish the latest Seawater Quality figures at the meeting.

19. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

7TH July 2025

APPENDIX 1- Payments for authorisation

PAYEE	DETAILS	AMOUNT
Quick Chill	Freezer repairs	123.60
Canterbury Oast Trust	Hanging Baskets	475.00
Broxap	Seawall Skier	1542.00
Marc Coleman	Grasscutting	690.00
Sandgate Printers	Newsletter	300.00
Salaries	Salaries/HMRC	3531.34
TOTAL		6661.94