



Dymchurch Parish Council Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at **7 pm on 3rd March 2025** at the Parish Council Offices, 13 Orgarswick Avenue, Dymchurch.

MINUTES

1. APOLOGIES

Members are reminded of the need 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. A Weatherhead

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, councillors with prejudicial interests must leave the room for the relevant items.

No declarations were made.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The meeting minutes held on 3rd February 2025 **are** to be agreed upon by members present.

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted by the members present and signed by the chair.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION/PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Members will propose to adjourn the meeting to allow Public Participation.

Standing Orders allow 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.

The Council meeting will resume at the end of the Public Participation section.

Jane Stevens gave an update on the War Memorial to be placed at the seawall in May. She confirmed that £1960.64 had been raised, which is more than the required amount.

Arrangements for the day will be confirmed, but it is hoped that the council chair will open proceedings and that a regiment member will be present during the unveiling of the memorial.

Proof of the final version of the plaque was shown to members.

Jane Stephens was thanked for her efforts in bringing this project to its conclusion.

5. CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair will update members on additional Council activities and meetings attended.

- Attended the 10K Dymchurch run at the seawall. Over 200 runners took part this year. He thanked the councillors who were able to attend for their support.
- One concern that was raised was the amount of dog waste on this table. The clerk was instructed to report this to the enforcement officers at the District Council.
- On the 18th of February, he attended a steering group chaired by Southern Water to discuss sea water quality. He reminded members that the parish council was holding a public meeting on the 19th of March 2025 and outlined those who had been invited to attend. This meeting will be held at the village hall in Dymchurch.

6. MEMBER REPORTS

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

Cllr. Anne Pegler:

- The scouts are looking for helpers. Due to a lack of support, they have been unable to run certain events.
The Clerk offered to contact the scout master and highlight this issue in an effort to recruit volunteers.
- World Day of Prayer will take place on Friday, the 7th of March. This year, the theme is the Cook Islands.
- A resident from Winton Way offered her thanks for the parish council getting the footpaths repaired.

Cllr. L. Finch

- Reported a good response from Southern Water when a recent report of toilets backing up occurred in Uden Road.

Cllr.C.McCreedy.

- Updated members that he mentioned last month that the EA was carrying out seawater testing. This has since been found to be Southern Water. It is not known why they are doing this.
- Attended burial and cemetery management with the Parish Clerk, which has highlighted a lot of useful information, including the need to update burial ground maps and to ensure we have a non-combustible container for records.

7. CLERK'S UPDATE

1. Pathway and Clearance Issues

- **Winton Way:** Uneven pathways reported (Ref: 861300).
- **Seawall Steps:** Clearance reported, awaiting confirmation.
- **The Fairway:** Path clearance to Beach Car Park reported, follow-ups conducted.

2. Noise Issues at New Beach

- KCC Warden Coveney provided advice on noise disturbances.
- Email contact provided for residents to report concerns.

3. Burial and Cemetery Management

- Attended a management session, gaining valuable insights.
- Identified updates needed, including reproducing the Burial Ground map.
- Current working map to be reviewed at next meeting.

4. Community Assistance

- Assisted a resident in reporting a nuisance fire in Marshlands, followed up to ensure resolution.

5. Public Meeting Update (19th March)

- Organisations invited to attend, with responses as follows:
 - **Confirmed:** Internal Drainage Board, Surfers Against Sewage, The Looker, Jim Martin (pending emergency meetings).
 - **Waiting Confirmation:** Southern Water, Tony Hills.
 - **No Reply:** Environment Agency, OfWat, Tony Cooper, Jenni Hawkins, Tony Vaughan MP, Stephen Scoffham (FHDC Environment), Rich Holgate (FHDC Tourism), BBC South East, Kent Online, Kent Messenger, Folkestone Express.
 - **Declined:** None specified.
- Publicised online and via local noticeboards.

6. Upcoming Events & Requests for Agreement

- **CPR Training (May):** Andy Preston (Kent Fire & Rescue) has confirmed a date; updates will follow.
- **Food Bank Support:** KCC Warden working to establish a food bank in Dymchurch. Parish Council to decide on support, considering resource impact and location. Seeking a Councillor to lead the project.
- **Kiosk Refuse Bin:** Tenants requesting permission to place a blue refuse bin behind the kiosk.

Members agreed to this request for a three-month trial and to ensure that the bin is lockable.

8. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES:

- i. KCC Councillor – Jenni Hawkins

No report this month

- ii. District Councillors – Tony Cooper/Tony Hills

District Cllr. Tony Hills- Summary of report follows-

Local Democracy

- Kent not included in 'Strategic Mayoral Authority' plans.
- Unitary authorities still being pushed forward.
- Folkestone & Hythe District Council leader must submit unitary council proposals by 28th November.
- Concern over the gap between unitary councils and local communities.

Local Bus Services

- Kent received extra government funding for 'Bus Back Better' scheme.
- Marsh Bee bus service has seen early success with 223 trips.
- Romney Marsh Community Hub's dial-a-ride service praised, efforts to secure more support.

Sea Water Quality

- Meeting planned with the Environment Agency to discuss water quality testing.
- Concerns over testing methods and transparency on health risks.
- Focus on water quality issues in Hythe Bay and solutions.

South Kent Energy Park

- Strong opposition to large-scale solar farms on Romney Marsh.
- Meeting planned with Lo Carbon to discuss water management.
- Support for Old Romney residents and need for local benefits.

Dungeness Power Station

- EDF reinforcing the nuclear station with additional shingle.
- Kent pushing for Small Modular Nuclear Reactors to protect jobs.
- More site meetings with the government planned for late spring.

Roads and Potholes

- Cold weather and road salting worsening pothole issues.
- Need for additional funding to repair roads.
- Pushing for A259 speed reduction from 60mph to 40mph for visitor safety.

Good News – Green Grants

- New funding available for sustainability and carbon reduction projects.
- Grants of up to £20,000 for community groups, businesses, and schools.
- Application deadline: 21 April 2025.
- Online info session: 11 March, In-person forum: 1 April in Folkestone.

iii. KCC Warden – Carol Coveney

No report this month

iv. Kent Police – PC James Hockless

No report this month

10. TO DEAL WITH MATTERS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE IN CIRCULATION

- Devolution Priority Programme Update: Kent not accepted onto the programme; elections will proceed as planned. Awaiting updates from Kent County Council and Medway Council. More info on KALC website.
- Resident Concern – The Fairway: Resident frustrated with lack of action on road safety; requests a crossing or speed cameras due to dangerous driving. Reports excessive speeding and overtaking.
Noted by members and reference made to Highways Safety Plan
- Passing of Shirley Maile: Former Dymchurch Parish and Shepway District Councillor Shirley Maile passed away on 29 January at age 90.
Noted
- Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024-39: Inspector's Report now available for review.
Noted
- East Kent Urgent Treatment Centre Review: Public engagement survey on patient experience available.
Noted
- Kent & Medway Local Nature Recovery Strategy: Public consultation now open.
Noted
- Folkestone & Hythe Heritage Strategy Consultation: A revised draft is open for public consultation and has been updated for legislative changes and accessibility.
Noted

11. PAVILION UPDATE

From Cllr.C.McCreedy

- Contact was made with the contractor for costing up the full project—this will include the building with changing rooms and without.
- Once this has been done then the Charity can go to funders with more confidence.

12. HIGHWAYS SAFETY UPDATE- CLLR.V. McCreedy

- School has been contacted regarding their survey of people crossing the road to support a crossing. This has not been received . It was requested that a letter be sent to the school should the update not be sent soon.
It was noted that during an afternoon, 14 children with parents were seen crossing the road, but the school has yet to provide full details.

- It was also noted that KCC can provide the facilities for closing roads (this is not the A259) serving the school to assist with safety.
- A review of 40mph roundels for the road surface along the A259 with additional repeater signs for 40mph.
It was agreed unanimously to support the installation of all possible signage by KCC to encourage sensible driving.
- The KCC will be asked about 20mph roundels through the village
- A site meeting with the KCC Councillor will be used to show her the very narrow roads through the estates adjoining the A259 which are unsuitable for use as a diversion route should there be an accident on the main road.
- The request for speed cameras will be pursued, as well as moving the 30MPH to the location identified with the Highways Survey carried out last year (The Fairway and Sands Estate area). The argument that moving this will encourage overtaking will be negated with a site visit planned for the 5th of March.
- It will also be emphasised that the pedestrian survey would be more suitable for completion during the Summer Months due to the higher traffic volumes.

13. FLOODING CONCERNS – UPDATE IF AVAILABLE

No update this month

14. PLANNING

Reference	Site address	Proposal
25/0309/FH/CON	FLAT 2, 9 SYCAMORE GARDENS, DYMCHURCH, ROMNEY MARSH, TN29 0LA	Approval of details pursuant to condition 3 (external materials, window and cladding) of planning permission 24/0634/FH.
25/0310/FH	NEW BEACH HOLIDAY VILLAGE, 133 HYTHE ROAD, DYMCHURCH, ROMNEY MARSH, TN29 0JX	Change of use of land for 6 holiday lodges, including landscaping and associated works.
25/0234/FH/NMA	72 BROCKMAN CRESCENT, DYMCHURCH, ROMNEY MARSH, TN29 0UA	Non Material Amendment to planning permission 24/0132/FH to change the render of the rear extension to Cedral Lap Cladding

25/0310/FH Newbeach—No objections were carried unanimously. The plans note that the area currently used for a car park is shown within this application as landscaped. The Clerk was instructed to query this separately from our response this evening.

15. FINANCE

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

Noted

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

Cllr Young will complete the authorisations shown at appendix 1.

c. Additional items requiring authorisation:

1. Fence installation Recreation ground.
Awaiting a further quote
2. To consider Solar Panel installation for Parish Officer with a view to applying for Green Grant through District Council
It was agreed that once all quotes are obtained, they will be circulated before the next meeting for ratification to ensure we meet the deadline for applying for the green grant.
3. Payment Authorisation of Parish Council Insurance
Members agreed unanimously to enter into a long-term agreement with Zurich insurance for the Council's needs.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

7th April 2025- 7 pm Parish Council Offices 13 Orgarswick Avenue Dymchurch

After discussion, it was agreed that the next Parish Council meeting would be combined with the Annual Parish Council meeting to be held at the Methodist Chapel. This will take place on Tuesday: April 15th, starting at 7 p.m.

The meeting closed at 2045hrs.

Appendix 1 Financial report-

Dymchurch Parish Council

Finance Summary – March Meeting

Bank Reconciliation @ 25th Feb 2025

A	Bank Reconciliation at 25/02/2025		
	Cash in Hand 01/04/2024		121,506.79
	ADD Receipts 01/04/2024 - 25/02/2025		144,941.27
	SUBTRACT Payments 01/04/2024 - 25/02/2025		266,448.06
	Cash in Hand 25/02/2025 (per Cash Book)		140,785.81
B	Cash in hand per Bank Statements		
	Petty Cash 25/02/2025	722.89	
	Unity Trust Bank 25/02/2025	20,276.95	
	Barclays Bank Current 25/02/2025	0.00	
	Barclays Bank Business Reserve 25/02/2025	1.44	
	NSI 25/02/2025	97,210.06	
	PayPal 25/02/2025	209.69	
	Unity Savings Account 25/02/2024	23,596.29	
			142,017.32
	Less unrepresented payments		16,378.87
B			125,638.45
	Plus unrepresented receipts		23.80
	Adjusted Bank Balance		125,662.25
	A = B Checks out OK		

Payments to be Authorised

Dymchurch Parish Council PAYMENTS (AWAITING AUTHORISATION) LIST

25 February 2025 (2024-2025)

Vouche	Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Cheque No	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
344	PAT Testing	10/02/2025		Unity Trust Bank		PAT Testing	NKF Seymour Electrical	X	170.00		170.00
345	Seating	10/02/2025		Unity Trust Bank		Memorial Bench	JC Building Contractors	X	200.00		200.00
346	Maintenance	10/02/2025		Unity Trust Bank		Tree Work	M Coleman	S	450.00	90.00	540.00
347	Grass Cutting & Weeding	10/02/2025		Unity Trust Bank		Grass Cutting	M Coleman	S	575.00	115.00	690.00
348	CCTV Monitoring	10/02/2025		Unity Trust Bank		IT Support	Total Computer Services	X	150.00		150.00
358	Handyman Tools & Consumabl	24/02/2025		Unity Trust Bank		Handyman Tools	J H Youngs Ltd	S	28.27	5.66	33.93
Total									1,573.27	210.66	1,783.93

Payments Made in February

Dymchurch Parish Council

20 February 2020 (2024-2020)

PAYMENTS LIST

Vouche	Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Cheque No	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
329	Handyman Tools & Consumabl	03/02/2025		PayPal		Handyman Tools	TTI UK Ltd	S	89.99	18.00	107.99
330	Handyman Tools & Consumabl	03/02/2025		PayPal		Handyman Tools	Prime Tools Ltd	S			
331	Management Fee & Charges	03/02/2025		Petty Cash		Car Park - P&D Cash	Dymchurch Parish Council	X	2.00		2.00
332	Bank Charges	03/02/2025		Unity Trust Bank		Bank Charges	Unity Trust Bank	X	11.25		11.25
333	Water, Electricity & Sewage	03/02/2025		Unity Trust Bank		Electricity	British Gas	L	75.70	3.78	79.48
334	Salaries	03/02/2025		Unity Trust Bank		Salaries	Dymchurch Parish Council	E	3,165.12		3,165.12
335	Management Fee & Charges	03/02/2025		PayPal		PBP Fees	Paypal	X	0.04		0.04
336	Water & Waste	04/02/2025		Unity Trust Bank		Waste Disposal	Veolia Env Serv UK	S	46.81	9.36	56.17
339	Community Fund	04/02/2025		Unity Trust Bank		Grant	Friends of Dymchurch Recr	E	500.00		500.00
340	Website	10/02/2025		Unity Trust Bank		Website Bronze Subscription	Hugofox limited	S	9.99	2.00	11.99
341	Management Fee & Charges	10/02/2025		Unity Trust Bank		PBP Fees	Your Parking Space	X	0.84		0.84
342	Management Fee & Charges	10/02/2025		Unity Trust Bank		PBP Fees	Your Parking Space	X	0.48		0.48
343	Management Fee & Charges	10/02/2025		Unity Trust Bank		PBP Fees	Your Parking Space	X	0.48		0.48
344	PAT Testing	10/02/2025		Unity Trust Bank		PAT Testing	NKF Seymour Electrical	X	170.00		170.00
345	Seating	10/02/2025		Unity Trust Bank		Memorial Bench	JC Building Contractors	X	200.00		200.00
346	Maintenance	10/02/2025		Unity Trust Bank		Tree Work	M Coleman	S	450.00	90.00	540.00
347	Grass Cutting & Weeding	10/02/2025		Unity Trust Bank		Grass Cutting	M Coleman	S	575.00	115.00	690.00
348	CCTV Monitoring	10/02/2025		Unity Trust Bank		IT Support	Total Computer Services	X	150.00		150.00
349	Utilities	11/02/2025		Unity Trust Bank		Electricity	Valda Energy Ltd	L	14.61	0.73	15.34
350	Management Fee & Charges	11/02/2025		PayPal		I Zettle Fee	Paypal	X	1.06		1.06
351	Electricity	17/02/2025		Unity Trust Bank		Electricity	British Gas	L	107.14	5.36	112.50
352	Travel Expenses	17/02/2025		Petty Cash		Travel Expenses	J Lawrence	X	39.60		39.60
353	Water & Waste	17/02/2025		Unity Trust Bank		Car Park Pass	Castle Water	X	22.36		22.36
354	First Aid & Fire Safety	17/02/2025		PayPal		Maintenace	Fire Protection Online Ltd	S	102.37	20.47	122.84
355	Communications	18/02/2025		Unity Trust Bank		Phone & Broadband	BT	S	89.90	17.98	107.88
356	Communications	18/02/2025		Unity Trust Bank		Phone & Broadband	Onecom	S	94.01	18.80	112.81
357	Communications	24/02/2025		Unity Trust Bank		Mobile Phone	3 Business Services	S	10.00	2.00	12.00
358	Handyman Tools & Consumabl	24/02/2025		Unity Trust Bank		Handyman Tools	J H Youngs Ltd	S	28.27	5.66	33.93
Total									5,957.02	309.14	6,266.16

YTD Income & Expenditure

Dymchurch Parish Council Summary of Receipts and Payments Summary - Cost Centres Only

Cost Centre	Receipts			Payments			Net Position
	Budgeted	Actual	Variance	Budgeted	Actual	Variance	+/- Under/over spend
Bulls Field Car Park		-16.68	-16.68 (-1668%)	14,250.00	13,407.83	842.17 (5%)	825.49
Burial Ground			0.00 (N/A)	2,150.00	439.25	1,710.75 (79%)	1,710.75
General Maintenance			0.00 (N/A)	5,000.00		5,000.00 (100%)	5,000.00
Highways and Other Village Amenit			0.00 (N/A)	12,600.00	18,150.52	-5,550.52 (-44%)	-5,550.52
Income	123,000.00	136,510.70	13,510.70 (10%)		1.48	-1.48 (-148%)	13,509.22
Office Costs			0.00 (N/A)	27,170.00	12,437.83	14,732.17 (54%)	14,732.17
Projects			0.00 (N/A)	15,000.00		15,000.00 (100%)	15,000.00
Promotion of the Village			0.00 (N/A)	3,200.00	2,327.42	872.58 (27%)	872.58
Recreation Ground			0.00 (N/A)	3,750.00	6,063.99	-2,313.99 (-61%)	-2,313.99
Seawall			0.00 (N/A)	15,200.00	21,471.22	-6,271.22 (-41%)	-6,271.22
Staffing			0.00 (N/A)	46,500.00	57,080.22	-10,580.22 (-22%)	-10,580.22
NET TOTAL	123,000.00	136,494.02	13,494.02 (10%)	144,820.00	131,379.76	13,440.24 (9%)	26,934.26
Total for ALL Cost Centres		136,494.02			131,379.76		
V.A.T.		8,447.25			10,702.80		
GROSS TOTAL		144,941.27			142,082.56		