

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF DYMCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL** held on  
**MONDAY, 7<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER, 2016**, at 13 Orgarswick Avenue, Dymchurch.

**PRESENT:** Chairman Cllr. Roger Wilkins, Cllr. Russell Tillson, Cllr. Richard Blackwell, Cllr. Arran Harvey, Cllr. Karen Lewis, Cllr. Denise Meyers, Cllr. Ian Meyers, Cllr. Terry Mullard, Cllr. Merlin Redding.  
2 correspondents from The Looker

**APOLOGIES:**

Parish Clerk – prior engagement made before council re-arranged its schedule of meetings.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

Non-pecuniary interest for Cllrs. Blackwell and Denise Meyers regarding item 13 on the agenda.

**PUBLIC SESSION:**

No members of the public present.

**MINUTES:**

**MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING:**

Proposed by Cllr. Mullard, seconded by Cllr. Blackwell, that the Minutes of the meeting held on 3 October, 2016 be approved as a true record. All agreed.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

**Shepway District Council:**

1. Consultation has started on SDC's Planning and Policies Local Plan Preferred Options. Clerk forwarded notification to councillors prior to the meeting with public presentation dates. Hard copy document is available at the parish council offices.

2. SDC has appointed consultants to undertake a district-wide open space study and a review of SDC play areas, which will form the basis of a new Play Strategy.

Action: When information comes in to DPC, both working groups will work up proposals.

3. In response to the parish council's letter to SDC's chief executive regarding lifeguards. SDC is developing a Water Safety Policy. A risk assessment is being undertaken in partnership with the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents and SDC will take all reasonable steps to protect people from danger and an option may include lifeguards.

**Kent Association of Local Councils:**

The 69<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting will take place on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November, 2016. To be held at Ditton Community Centre, Kilbarn Road, Ditton, Aylesford. Two voting and two non-voting councillors are able to attend from each council.

Cllrs. Blackwell and Denise Meyers will attend as voting councillors, Cllrs. Mullard and Karen Lewis will attend as non-voting.

**Society of Local Council Clerks:**

For information only, SLCC, together with other bodies, is campaigning to draw the Government's attention to the growing shortage of new grave space in many market towns and rural communities. DCLG officials acknowledge that whilst planning authorities should ensure an adequate supply of land is available to meet local infrastructure needs they also admit cemeteries are not mentioned in either the National Planning Policy Framework or supporting guidance. The Society believes that neighbourhood plans and district local plans

should address this matter, and is pursuing this view. Council reiterated that there are no grave spaces anywhere on the Marsh.

**The Marsh Academy:**

An invitation has been received for a councillor to attend the School Awards Evening on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December, beginning at 7pm. Chairman and Cllr. Karen Lewis agreed to attend.

**Pageantmaster – National Events:**

Arrangements are being made for a major event in 2018; The Battle's Over – A Nation's Tribute and WWI Beacons of Light, on 11th November 2018. Dymchurch has been invited to join in by lighting its beacon. Clerk has already registered this parish council's participation. Council would also like local school and/or band participation.

**St. Mary in the Marsh Parish Council:**

Will host a presentation by SDC officers on Otterpool Park Development. The presentation will be held at St. Mary's Bay Village Hall on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November, at 10am. All councillors from Marsh parish/town councils have been invited to attend. Seven parish councillors expressed interest in attending.

**Complaint from Lee Gramson, Dymchurch resident:**

Mr. Gramson has made complaint that the web-cam is far too close to those walking on the promenade and is intrusive. He has suggested this could raise child protection issues and breach of privacy. The clerk is seeking KALC's legal advice on this matter.

**PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**

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|---|---|
| <b>Y16/0805/SH</b><br>41 The Fairway                  | Erection of single storey side extension<br>Approved by SDC.  |
| <b>Y16/122/SH</b><br>108 High St.                     | Felling of an Ash tree<br>Approved by SDC.  |
| <b>Y16/0953/SH</b><br>49 High Street                  | Coppicing of a Willow tree within a conservation area.<br>Approved by SDC.  |
| <b>Y16/0688/SH</b><br>New Beach Holiday               | Erection of a replacement clubhouse<br>Refused by SDC, by virtue of its overall size, massing and poor design.  |
| <b>Y15/0774/SH</b><br>Land adjoining<br>24 Hythe Road | Erection of a detached two storey dwelling. Re-submission.<br>Proposed by Cllr. Wilkins, seconded by Cllr. Tillson, that<br>Objection be raised on the grounds of over-intensive development<br>of the site and the application being incongruous due to its close<br>nature to a bus stop and access issues.<br>Voting: Unanimous. |

**ACCOUNTS:**

The Annual Return for the year ending 31 March 2016 has been approved by PKF Littlejohn, the Government's appointed accountants. The parish council's accounting is in accordance with proper practices and there are no matters causing concern.

The accountant did highlight that a few boxes had not been ticked correctly by the internal accountant (Metcalf and Sharp) but these comments are immaterial to the actual accounting practices of the parish council.

Proposed by Cllr. Tillson, seconded by Cllr. Harvey, that the accounts be accepted. Agreed.

Salaries:	£1696.41
HMR&C	544.68
PKF Littlejohn	480.00
SDC	257.14
PJC Electrical	55.26
Axis Land Surveying	1,452.00
Keith Rouse	84.00
Malcom Wood	260.00
Contract Security	299.66
Guy Ashby	137.00

### **DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT:**

Cllr. Meyers has attended a number of Audit and Governance Committee meetings and Personnel Committee and outlined various aspects of the proposed Otterpool Park development, explain that scrutiny was rigorous. Budget consultation is now commencing; scrutiny committees have an opportunity to have an input, though much will depend on national government policy.

Cllr. Wilkins explained that the Grants Advisory Committee had recently reviewed applications.

Cllr. Wilkins suggested a letter be sent to KCC Cllr. Carole Waters asking her to ensure KCC's road maintenance budget for 2017/18 includes adequate provision for properly monitoring/maintaining Eastbridge Road.

Proposed by Cllr. Blackwell, seconded by Cllr. Denise Myers that a letter be sent to KCC Carole Waters accordingly. Voting: Unanimous.

### **CLERK'S REPORT:**

1. In the absence of the clerk, Cllr. Tillson reported that the Planter to go at the top of Orgarswick Avenue has been promised imminently by The Forge.
2. Payment from Dymchurch Cricket Club has been received for use of the pitch and pavilion.
3. Parish council will need to consider its budget and precept during Dec/Jan. Clerk will prepare budget forecast for next meeting.
4. Clerk has put together a poster to raise awareness of the live web-cam at Dymchurch beach.

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:**

Chairman reported that Dave Henley has had an accident, we will be kept informed about his condition and wish him a speedy recovery.

Chairman reported there will be 2 new cameras installed to the CCTV system, from the beach kiosk towards the High Street and from the kiosk towards St. Mary's Bay.

Christmas lighting has been arranged and the window competition will go ahead again this year. Cllr. Meyers again promised a bottle of Champagne with the prize money and cup.

Mr. Flisher has confirmed he will again supply a Christmas Tree in the High Street.

### **TO RECEIVE REPORTS ON MEETINGS ATTENDED:**

Cllr. Mullard and Blackwell attended a SDC Heritage meeting and outlined the contents of the proposed register. Preservation of heritage will become a material consideration in future planning applications.

## **TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS:**

### **Assets and Amenities Working Group - 19 October.**

Minutes of the meeting had been circulated previously.

Cllr. Tillson briefed council on the meeting an opportunities for the car park and recreation ground.

Proposed by Cllr. Tillson, seconded by Cllr. Denise Meyers that there is no formal recommendation to council other than council support the suggestion that the clerk engage in discussion with planning officers at SDC to obtain their initial thoughts and gauge potential for submitting planning applications in the near future. Voting: Unanimous.

### **Beach Advisory Group - 26 October.**

Minutes of the meeting had been circulated previously.

Cllr. Tillson briefed council on the meeting.

There was no formal recommendation to council, only that the content of the Minutes be noted. All Agreed.

### **Planning and Strategy Working Group - 2 November.**

Minutes of the meeting had been circulated previously.

Cllr. Blackwell reported on the detailed discussions with Dave Illsley and Catherine Igoe. It was considered that the £10K expended on the Dymchurch report had represented poor value for money.

Recommendation to council:

That Catherine Igoe be invited to attend a parish council meeting in the new year to inform council of her work on the Romney Marsh Partnership. All agreed

2. A Christmas Window Competition be held again this year. Already in hand

3. That a parish council newsletter be produced and distributed by parish councillors in Spring 2017. All agreed.

## **DYMCHURCH HISTORIC BUILDINGS TRUST:**

An application has gone to English Heritage and The Charity Commission to set up a trust with Cllrs. Blackwell and Denise Meyers as chairman and secretary. Council agreed that 11 Orgarwick Avenue could be the mailing address. It is hoped the tower will be open from Easter 2017. There are already 22 volunteers offering to man the tower.

## **PARISH COUNCIL STAFFING MATTERS:**

Proposed by Cllr. Blackwell seconded by Cllr. Tillson that the public be excluded for this item.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

None.

Meeting closed at 8.45pm.

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the next meeting of **DYMCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL** will be held on **MONDAY, 5<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2016** at 7.00pm, at the Parish Council offices, 13 Orgarswick Avenue.

## **AGENDA**

- 1) Receive apologies for absence
- 2) Declaration of Interest (*Councillors should disclose pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest/s in any item/s on this agenda. Councillors with a pecuniary interest must describe and give details of the interest. Unless the pecuniary interest amounts to a prejudicial interest, he/she may participate fully in the meeting.*)
- 3) Public Session
- 4) Approve the Minutes of the last meeting and discuss matters arising
- 5) Read Correspondence
- 6) Consider Planning Applications
- 7) Consider Payment of Accounts
- 8) District Council Report
- 9) Clerk's Report
- 10) Chairman's Report
- 11) To receive reports on meetings attended
- 12) To receive reports from Working Groups
- 13) DPC Budget
- 14) Any other business (at Chairman's discretion)

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Clerk to Dymchurch Parish Council.