

**0030/NOVEMBER/2017**

**MINUTES OF DYMCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL** meeting held on  
**MONDAY, 6<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2017**, at 13 Orgarswick Avenue, Dymchurch

**PRESENT:** Chairman Cllr. Roger Wilkins, Vice-Chairman Cllr. Russell Tillson, Cllr. Richard Blackwell, Cllr. Merlin Redding. Parish Clerk and 14 members of the public.

**APOLOGIES:**

Cllr. Denise Meyers - away

Cllr. Ian Meyers. - away

Cllr. Arran Harvey - working

Chairman informed parishioners will be asked to leave for the last item on the agenda.

**DECLARATION OF INTEREST:**

None declared

Proposed by Cllr. Tillson, seconded by Cllr. Blackwell, that the meeting be adjourned for public session. All Agreed. Meeting adjourned at 7.03pm

**PUBLIC SESSION:**

Mr. Musquin raised questions about the attendant at the car park and enquired if speeding in the village had been addressed.

Mr. Young did not support comments made in the Looker and made personal criticism that will not be recorded in the Minutes.

Mrs. Cook made a similar comment.

Mrs McCreedy thanked council for its financial support for the Turn the Tide festival and praised the organisers for their commitment. Mrs. McCreedy expressed disappointment that her letters referring to Minutes of the Assets and Amenities Working Group were not placed before other councillors not on that committee.

Mr. Williams enquired if councillor training had been successful and asked if all councillors will attend training in the future. Enquired about the election at St. Mary's Bay. Enquired if a response had been received from Day of Syn Committee regarding parking at the recreation ground. Enquired what progress has been made with the village green application. Addressed an article in the Express newspaper that quoted the clerk. Clerk informed she had not spoken to anyone from the Express and the quote must have been provided by the person initiating the article. The twitten is in need of resurfacing and the grass at Country's Field needs cutting.

Mr. Young questioned the process of filling a casual vacancy.

Mrs Jones informed the Day of Syn Committee will consider the proposal for operating an overspill car park on 22<sup>nd</sup> November.

Mrs Cook asked why the casual vacancies had not been notified to SDC.

Meeting resumed at 7.25pm

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

Proposed by Cllr. Blackwell, seconded by Cllr. Wilkins that the minutes of the meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2018 be approved. Carried.

Cllr. Blackwell informed that Martello Tower No.25 had been withdrawn from auction.

**0031/NOVEMBER/2017**

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

**Councillor resignations:**

Resignations have been received from Terry Mullard and Karen Lewis. Chairman thanked both for their time and commitment.

**Shepway District Council:**

- 1.SDC requires notification of the parish council's precept by 31 January, 2018. The exact council tax base for the parish will be available from SDC in December.
- 2.Enforcement Officer has advised that painting works to the exterior of 60 and 58A High Street are due to start in a few weeks.
- 3.A networking forum is to be held at the Romney Marsh Day Centre, New Romney on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November from 1.30pm-4.30pm. Topic for discussion is 'Health and Wellbeing on Romney Marsh'.

**KALC:**

- 1.UK Parliament has decided to reduce the number of parliamentary constituencies and therefore MPs, from 650 to 600. The Boundary Commission for England is currently conducting a review of parliamentary constituencies.
- 2.Notification that Dept. of Communities and Local Government is to strengthen rules to prevent anyone found guilty of serious crimes from serving on parish councils.
- 3.KALC AGM will be held on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November at Ditton, at 9.30am.

**Kent County Council:**

KCC plans to increase Council Tax by 3.99%, (£41.84 per year for a Band C property). Information is available on [www.kent.gov.uk/budgetconsultation](http://www.kent.gov.uk/budgetconsultation)

**Damian Collins, MP.**

Further to the parish council's letter regarding Policing, a response has been received from The Minister of State for Policing and the Fire Services. Clerk read the letter. Cllr. Blackwell informed there has been a reduction of 8000 Boarder Force staff and 20,000 Police. There is one cutter to patrol 370 miles of coast line and the content in the letter should be rejected. Proposed by Cllr. Blackwell, seconded by Cllr. Wilkins that a letter be sent to Nick Hurd MP, Minister of State for Policing and the Fire Service that resources be made available to protect our shores. Voting Unanimous.

**Dymchurch Village Hall Management Committee:**

Minutes of the last meeting have been received. The AGM will be held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November. The parish council is required to have a representative at the meetings.

**New Romney Town Council:**

Is hosting a Flood Training Session at the Assembly Rooms on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November. DPC councillors have been invited.

**Dymchurch & District Heritage Group:**

AGM will take place on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm in the Methodist Church.

**0032/NOVEMBER/2017**

**Mr. Kewer:**

Has informed he wishes to video the parish council meetings.

**PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**

**Y17/1004/SH**           Erection of single storey front and side extension

47 High Knocke       Approved by SDC

**Y17/0040/GPD**       Erection of single storey rear extension.

17 Orgarswick Ave.   Approved by SDC

**Y17/0987/SH**       Erection of single storey rear extension and car port

3 Crossway Close     Approved by SDC

**Y17/1031/SH**       Erection of front porch.

45 Kingsway           Approved by SDC.

**Y17/0830/SH**       Erection of a replacement dwelling

47 Kingsway           Proposed by Cllr. Blackwell, seconded by Cllr. Tillson, that

No Objection be raised. Voting: Unanimous

**ACCOUNTS:**

Clerk informed relief to business rates at the car park has been awarded at £955.18, for this year only.

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

Salaries:                       £1634.18

HMR&C                         539.45

The Romney Marsh Net       180.62

Contract Security           288.00

Keith Rouse                 95.00

Veolia UK                     69.58

**DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT:**

Cllr. Tillson informed he has attended Scrutiny, and Licencing & Planning committee meetings and has met with numerous officers regarding residents' issues.

Cllr. Wilkins has attending Licencing & Planning committee meetings and Oportunitas has purchased a property in Folkestone.

Cllr. Blackwell enquired if the chimney and tiles to a shop have been inspected by SDC.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:**

Nothing to report.

**TO RECEIVE REPORTS ON MEETINGS ATTENDED:**

Cllr. Blackwell and Cllr. Tillson attended the Romney Marsh Forum; topics discussed included a Speed Indicator Device to be shared by the Marsh parishes, health services on the Marsh and the lack of trained GPs. CCG is looking at expanding health facilities on the Marsh. Burial Grounds are an ongoing issue and a joint tourism leaflet is being considered for the Marsh.

## **0033/NOVEMBER/2017**

Cllr. Blackwell informed Friends of Martello24 attracted over 4000 visitors to the tower this season.

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

**Assets and Amenities Working Group:** Minutes circulated prior to meeting.

Cllr. Tillson addressed Mrs McCreedy's question made during public session and agreed to accept as accurate the quote in Mrs McCreedy's letter that the 'Majority of play equipment was installed with funding achieved by Dymchurch Parish Plan Action Group'.

Cllr. Tillson briefed councillors and made the following Recommendations to Council:

1. That the Minutes be accepted. – All agreed.

2. Proposed by Cllr. Tillson, seconded by Cllr. Wilkins that council approves a budget for maintenance to the play equipment. Voting: Unanimous.

3. The working group is of a view that no further expenditure should be made to remove the asbestos at the pavilion, but to ask Council if it wishes to lift the present embargo on no further capital expenditure on the building.

Proposed by Cllr. Blackwell, seconded by Cllr. Redding to defer a decision until the asbestos report has been read by councillors and clarification of safety has been considered. Voting: Unanimous.

Proposed by Cllr. Tillson, seconded by Cllr. Wilkins that no capital expenditure be made on the pavilion. Voting: For: 3 Abstentions: 1

4. Proposed by Cllr. Tillson, seconded by Cllr. Blackwell that council provides Children's Entertainment for 2018. Voting: Unanimous.

5. Proposed by Cllr. Tillson, seconded by Cllr. Wilkins that Council supports a letter be sent to the owner of the neighbouring property regarding the pre-emption agreement and a valuation be undertaken by the District Valuer. Cost of the DV is likely to be about £1K. Voting: Unanimous

6. That budget provision be made annually to provide for a replacement clock. All Agreed.

7. That Council supports contact be made with The Royal British Legion with a view to that body joint funding a disabled access at the Memorial. All Agreed.

8. Budget provision be made for a new telephone system at the office and for renovation. All Agreed.

**Planning and Strategy Working Group:** Minutes circulated prior to meeting.

Cllr. Blackwell briefed councillors of the meeting and made the following recommendations to council:

1. That the Minutes be accepted. All Agreed.

2. Proposed by Cllr. Blackwell, seconded by Cllr. Wilkins that a capital budget of £2000 be allocated towards a Paul Nash Seawall Trail, pending approval from SDC and EA. Voting Unanimous

3. Proposed by Cllr. Blackwell, seconded by Cllr. Tillson, that DPC liaise with New Romney and Lydd Town Councils to seek views on a joint Marsh leaflet. Voting: Unanimous.

**RECREATION GROUND:** A request has been received from Mr. Burger who wishes to use the ground for football practice. The request is for council to consider permanently installing the goal-posts so youths can just turn up and play.

### **0034/NOVEMBER/2017**

Proposed by Cllr. Wilkins, seconded by Cllr. Blackwell that goal-posts be erected, but if they are vandalised the posts will not be replaced and nothing further is to be added to the request. Voting: Unanimous.

### **VILLAGE GREEN APPLICATION:**

Further information has been requested from KCC. Clerk had previously forwarded correspondence to each councillor. Clerk asked councillors to provide her with any specific matter they wished her to address in the response.

### **VEXATIOUS COMMUNICATIONS POLICY:**

Cllr. Tillson informed that other local town and parish councils have adopted a policy on vexatious communications. The aim is to preserve legitimate communication and ensure that staff time is not taken up in dealing with communications of a vexatious, malicious or frivolous nature. A draft copy was tabled for councillors to consider and an electronic copy will be forwarded to absent councillors. An agenda item will be included at the December meeting for formal consideration and adoption.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

Cllr. Blackwell informed he attended an event on The Fifth Continent held at the Visitor Centre. The Fifth Continent has received lottery funding to restore, rediscover and reclaim Romney Marsh.

Proposed by Cllr. Wilkins, seconded by Cllr. Blackwell that the public be excluded for the following item: Voting: Unanimous. All parishioners left the building.

### **EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC:**

Clerk tabled Minutes of the Personnel Committee.

Chairman informed that the Minutes must be left on the table after the meeting and matters discussed are not to be reported outside the council chamber.

1. Proposed by Cllr. Wilkins, seconded by Cllr. Tillson that Standing Orders section 1, parts d,e,f,g,h, be amended to provide for written questions at public session. Voting: Unanimous.

2. Proposed by Cllr. Wilkins, seconded by Cllr. Blackwell that costs for office security be obtained. Voting: Unanimous.

3. Proposed by Cllr. Wilkins, seconded by Cllr. Blackwell that the attendant to the car park be retained. Voting: Unanimous.

4. Proposed by Cllr. Wilkins, seconded by Cllr. Blackwell that council makes provision to comply with new Data Protection Bill. Voting: Unanimous.

5. Proposed by Cllr. Wilkins, seconded by Cllr. Tillson that where a source of libel and slander can be traced, DPC will pursue legal action. Voting: For: 3 Abstentions: 1.

Meeting closed at 9.35pm.

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the next meeting of **DYMCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL** will be held on **MONDAY, 4<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2017**, 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) Chairman's Report
- 10) To receive reports on meetings attended
- 11) To receive reports from Working Groups
- 12) Budget / Precept
- 13) Vexatious Communications Policy:
- 14) Any other business (at Chairman's discretion)
- 15) Personnel matter: (Public will be asked to leave)

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Clerk to Dymchurch Parish Council.