

## DYMCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

*The Parish Council meets in full once a month. There are other Group meetings that take place every eight weeks and these are; Asset and Amenities Working Group, Planning and Strategy Working Group and Beach Advisory Group. All Councillors offer their services on a voluntary basis and aim to do their best for the community.*

### **The Parish Councillors:**

Roger Wilkins, Chairman  
Russell Tillson, Vice-Chairman  
Richard Blackwell  
Arran Harvey  
Karen Lewis  
Denise Meyers  
Ian Meyers  
Terry Mullard  
Merlin Redding

### **Council Meetings Dates.**

January 9th  
February 6th  
March 6<sup>th</sup>  
April 3<sup>rd</sup>  
**April 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Parish Meeting**  
May 15<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting  
June 5<sup>th</sup>  
July 3<sup>rd</sup>  
August 7<sup>th</sup>  
September 4<sup>th</sup>  
October 2<sup>nd</sup>  
November 6<sup>th</sup>  
December 4<sup>th</sup>

*Council meetings commence at 7pm. There is a public session at the beginning of each meeting, where residents can discuss any local matter with the council.*

**Shepway District Councillors:** Roger Wilkins and Ian Meyers

**Kent County Councillor:** Election to take place in May/June 2017

**Member of Parliament:** Damian Collins 01303 253524

**The Parish Council Office is at :** 13 Orgarswick Avenue, Dymchurch, TN29 0NX  
**Tele:** 01303 872708

### **Open times to the public:**

Monday 9.30 – 12.30  
Tuesday 9.30 – 12.30

e-mail: [dymchurchparishcouncil@btconnect.com](mailto:dymchurchparishcouncil@btconnect.com)  
[www.dymchurch.org](http://www.dymchurch.org)

## DYMCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

# NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2017

### *Dear Resident,*

Last year I did not send out a newsletter because I was informed, by many, that most people nowadays read through social media. How misinformed I was. I received so many enquiries as to what had happened to the newsletter, the parish council decided to produce it again.

As parish councillors will be delivering the newsletter by hand, helped by our Local Community Warden, it may take a few weeks before you all receive a copy, but we will endeavour to deliver to every house in Dymchurch over the next few weeks.

The wonderful weather in July and August last year made the village busy, trade was good and holiday-makers had a wonderful time.

The parish council paid for children's entertainment on the beach last season and this was well supported by holiday-makers and local children. For this reason, a similar programme of events has been organised and will be increased for August 2017.

The purpose of this newsletter is to provide you with information on some of the projects and activities the parish council has been implementing. I hope there are matters that may encourage you to attend our Annual Parish Meeting on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April, at 7pm at the Village Hall and discuss with us.

Kind regards,

***Eller. Roger Wilkins***

Chairman, Dymchurch Parish Council

## **THE BEACH**

A web-cam has been installed at the slipway and is already proving very popular. The site is the second most visited page on the Romney Marsh web-site. It allows people to look at the weather and the tide before visiting the village.

CCTV monitoring has been installed to enhance safety and security. CCTV is monitored 24/7 by a professional monitoring service that has direct links to Police and Emergency Services. CCTV is governed by strict legislation which is why a professional organisation with total knowledge of the Law is best suited to manage such operations. Government is encouraging towns and villages to install CCTV, security lighting and alarms in order to prevent or detect crime. The parish council has installed zoom cameras to capture activity in the high street and seawall areas in order to keep our village safe.

As the old kiosk near The Ocean Pub was constantly being broken into, the parish council took the decision to knock it down and turn the site into a picnic area. Two benches were donated by the previous owners of The Ship Inn and have been renovated and moved to the site of the old kiosk. They have proved very popular and on a pleasant evening it is a very nice place to sit and admire the view. The previous tenant at the kiosk now operates a mobile ice-cream van by the site, which has proved beneficial to all.

## **PRECEPT:**

As of April 2017, the parish council increased its precept by 5% (an

increase of approximately £1.72 per year for Band D properties). It has been necessary to increase the precept to meet the rising costs of utilities and services.

## **BEACH ENTERTAINMENT:**

During August 2016, the parish council paid for children's entertainment at the beach. It proved so popular that the parish council has agreed to engage the entertainers again this year and to increase the number of days on which the entertainment is to be provided.

## **PLACES AND POLICES**

### **LOCAL PLAN:**

Shepway District Council is producing a plan to determine where new homes should be built to meet the Government's demand for new homes throughout the country. The parish council has suggested options and will be discussing the proposals at its annual parish meeting on April 28th. Please come along and share your views.

### **EASTBRIDGE ROAD:**

The condition of the road is worsening each month. For four years, the parish council has continuously asked Kent Highways to reinforce the road. However, KCC claim it is not in need of repair! We are continuing to battle with KCC for improvements.

### **MARTELLO TOWER NO. 24:**

Over the years, the parish council has tried, in vain, to persuade English Heritage to open Martello Tower No.24 during the summer season. But a group of keen volunteers have set up a Trust - Friends of Martello Tower No. 24 -

are making progress with English Heritage with a view to opening the Tower at weekends and bank holidays during the summer season. Talks are still ongoing and progress will be reported on their web-site. [www.martello24.net](http://www.martello24.net)

## **RESIDENT PARKING**

### **PERMITS:**

Resident parking permits for the car park (next to and at the rear of the village hall) will again be on sale this year at the Post Office. Permits remain at £20 and can be purchased from February until the end of May, with proof of residency.

## **CHRISTMAS SHOP**

### **WINDOW COMPETITION**

The Christmas shop window competition was won by Beach 48, although all the shops and the Christmas Trees made the village look very festive this year.

## **DYMCHURCH CRICKET**

### **CLUB:**

After over 120 years, the cricket club will no longer play at Dymchurch. Village cricket is facing great difficulties across Kent with numbers of playing and non-playing participants and volunteers falling. For this reason Dymchurch Cricket Club is to combine and eventually amalgamate with Brookland Cricket Club. Brookland Cricket Club has its own ground and pavilion with bar and catering facilities. It is therefore only natural that they will use the Brookland ground for their sport.

## **RECREATION GROUND:**

The recreation ground has seen league football teams playing at the ground, but due to drainage

problems in certain parts of the field, it has become difficult to keep the grass suitable for playing on during the winter months. There are no football teams using the ground at the current time.

## **HANGING BASKETS and PLANTERS:**

Dymchurch is very fortunate to have such a talented Blacksmith in the village who has made two planters that are situated at the top of Orgarswick Avenue. The floral displays, coupled with hanging baskets in the high street, will help to make the village look colourful again this year.

## **WELL-BEING EQUIPMENT:**

Two items of equipment have been placed at the slipway for those who wish to keep fit. Depending on usage, the parish council will consider installing additional equipment around the village.

## **NHS – GP SURGERY**

The lack of local GP surgeries and the difficulty residents are having in making an appointment to see a GP are very worrying for all. The parish council has informed NHS South Kent Coast Commissioning Group of its concern and has requested improvements.

## **ECONOMIC PLAN:**

The parish council has produced an economic plan for the village. It outlines projects that would make the village a still better place to live and work. Some of the projects have come to fruition and the council is hoping to work with other organisations to bring more improvements to the village. The plan can be viewed on our web-site: [www.dymchurch.org](http://www.dymchurch.org)