

**0024/OCTOBER/2017**

**MINUTES OF DYMCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL** meeting held on  
**MONDAY, 2<sup>nd</sup> OCTOBER, 2017**, at 13 Orgarswick Avenue, Dymchurch.

**PRESENT:** Chairman Cllr. Roger Wilkins, Cllr. Richard Blackwell,  
Cllr. Arran Harvey, Cllr. Karen Lewis, Cllr. Denise Meyers, Cllr. Ian Meyers, Cllr. Terry  
Mullard, Cllr. Merlin Redding, KCC Cllr. Martin Whybrow.  
Parish Clerk and 10 members of the public.

**APOLOGIES:**

Cllr. Russell Tillson - Conference

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

None

Cllr. Blackwell informed he disapproved of the public session being moved to the end of the agenda. DPC's Newsletter clearly states that a public session will be held at the beginning of each meeting and this should be adhered to.

**MINUTES:**

Proposed by Cllr. Denise Meyers, seconded by Cllr. Karen Lewis, that the Minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> September, 2017, be approved. Agreed.

**MATTERS ARISING:**

None.

**HIGHWAYS AND KCC MATTERS:**

Chairman welcomed KCC Cllr. Martin Whybrow to the meeting.

Cllr. Whybrow informed he has a meeting planned with the local school head teacher regarding a crossing on the A259. KCC Highways has experienced huge budget cuts recently and this will impact on new project proposals.

The chairman informed Eastbridge Road has been a concern for several years and the road is being monitored by Kent Highways. Heavy goods vehicles and grain lorries are speeding causing disturbance to houses. The road has been identified by KCC as an emergency access route, yet chicanes remain in situ and clear sight lines have not been maintained, which hinder and prevent the flow of traffic. A mock emergency scenario cannot be conducted because the road is not in an acceptable condition. A 20mph speed limit and weight restriction would be welcomed.

Cllr. Whybrow has a meeting arranged with officers to discuss the road and invited a representative from DPC to attend.

Cllr. Blackwell informed that parking on double yellow lines by the mini-roundabout should be prevented and suggested railings be installed. The railings would also offer protection to pedestrians from larger vehicles that have been known to mount the pavement in this restricted area.

Other matters raised included a suggested re-paint of the mini roundabout and instead of closing roads for maintenance the use of traffic light systems be used.

Cllr. Whybrow highlighted the KCC fault-reporting system and urged people to use the system as it provides a clear tracking and monitoring service.

**0025/OCTOBER/2017**

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

**Shepway District Council:**

A draft Charter for Otterpool Park has been produced; councillors were provided with a link to the document prior to the meeting.

Cllr. Mullard expressed concern regarding GP surgeries and general health care provision.

Cllr. Blackwell expressed reservations regarding the rain water and whether the development will meet the needs of local people on the housing waiting list. Cllr. Ian Meyers agreed to report DPC's concerns.

**Dept. of Communities and Local Government:**

A technical consultation on the 2018/19 LG Financial Settlement has been issued.

Government expects parishes, in setting their precepts, to consider all available options to mitigate the need for council tax increases, including the use of reserves where they are not already earmarked for particular purposes. Any revised proposals will be set out at the time of the provisional local government finance settlement later in the year.

**KCC Highways:**

The annual parish seminar will take place on 1<sup>st</sup> November at Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce, Ashford Business Point, at 1pm to 5pm. Cllrs. Denise Meyers and Roger Wilkins agreed to attend.

**Asbestos Survey:**

A survey has been conducted on the fabric of the pavilion and asbestos containing materials have been identified. The report will be considered by the Assets and Amenities Working Group.

**Friends of Martello 24:**

The Friends of Martello24 have received over 3180 visitors to the tower and received over £530 in donations. Cllr. Blackwell thanked Cllr. Karen Lewis for key holding services.

**Dymchurch Village Hall Management Committee:**

The village hall is to change to a new type of Charity known as 'Charitable Incorporated Organisation'. Clerk read communication from Diana Wimble. Cllr. Mullard highlighted some key reasons for the change and informed the AGM will be held on 7<sup>th</sup> November.

**Dymchurch & District Heritage Group:**

In conjunction with Martello 24, a Heritage Afternoon is being organised on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October from 2-4pm. Clerk read information from D&DHG.

**Lydd Town Council:**

The annual Christmas Concert will be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> December, at 7.30pm. Tickets are £4 each.

**Turn the Tide Festival:**

The organisers expressed thanks to the parish council and ward councillors for their support. The event has also attracted funding from Roger De Haan Charitable Trust and Magnox. A programme of events is to be printed shortly.

**0026/OCTOBER/2017**

**PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**

- Y17/0809/SH**           Erection of a first floor flat.  
5 High Street.           Approved by SDC
- Y17/0902/SH**           Erection of a single storey side extension  
102 Hythe Road           Approved by SDC
- Y17/0916/SH**           Retrospective application for erection of agricultural building  
Key Barn Farm           Approved by SDC
- Y17/0987/SH**           Erection of single storey rear extension and car port  
3 Crossway Close       Proposed by Cllr. Mullard, seconded by Cllr. Wilkins, that  
No Objection be raised.  
Voting: For: 8 Against: 0 Abstentions: 0 Interest declared: 0
- Y17/1004/SH**           Erection of single storey front and side extension.  
47 High Knocke       Proposed by Cllr. Blackwell, seconded by Cllr. Mullard, that  
No Objection be raised.  
Voting: For: 8 Against: 0 Abstentions: 0 Interest declared: 0
- Y17/1179/SH**           Prune back overhanging branches in conservation area  
9 Mill Road           Proposed by Cllr. Mullard, seconded by Cllr. Blackwell, that  
No Objection be raised.  
Voting: For: 8 Against: 0 Abstentions: 0 Interest declared: 0
- Y17/1075/SH**           Erection of single storey side and rear extensions and side porch  
24 Mill Road           Proposed by Cllr. Mullard, seconded by Cllr. Blackwell, that  
No Objection be raised.  
Voting: For: 6 Against: 0 Abstentions: 0 Interest declared: 2 (DM & IM)
- Y17/1076/SH**           Listed Building Consent  
24 Mill Road           Proposed by Cllr. Mullard, seconded by Cllr. Blackwell, that  
No Objection be raised.  
Voting: For: 6 Against: 0 Abstentions: 0 Interest declared: 2 (DM&IM)
- Y17/1031/SH**           Erection of a front porch  
45 Kingsway           Proposed by Cllr. Mullard, seconded by Cllr. Blackwell, that  
No Objection be raised.  
Voting: For: 8 Against: 0 Abstentions: 0 Interest declared: 0

**ACCOUNTS:**

Proposed by Cllr. Blackwell, seconded by Cllr. Denise Meyers, that the accounts be accepted.

All Agreed

Salaries:	2007.45
HMR&C:	629.65
B.E. Ames Ltd.	1008.00
SDC	265.70
Keith Rouse	84.00
Geerings Ltd	87.59
Ashe Alarms Ltd	507.60
Ashford Borough C	1200.00

**0027/OCTOBER/2017**

PKF Littlejohn	480.00
Contract Security	288.00
BT	96.26
Veolia ES	45.94

Income: £23350.00 Precept.

**DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT:**

SDC Cllr. Ian Meyers informed SDC is embarking on the development of four holiday lets at Greatstone. Martello Tower no.25 is for sale and will be auctioned in November. A fashion photo-shoot took place at Dymchurch beach recently.

SDC Cllr. Roger Wilkins informed plans for Princess Parade, Hythe, are due in a couple of weeks; the complex will comprise of housing, a swimming pool and an industrial area.

Cllr. Richard Blackwell informed Friends of Martello24 would be interested in Martello 25.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:**

A meeting has been arranged with interested groups in the village to discuss activities for the commemoration of the end of WW1. Meeting will be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> November. Chairman asked Cllr. Richard Blackwell to host.

Councillor training is arranged for 20<sup>th</sup> October. Commencing at 9.00am. Chairman requested all Councillors to attend.

**TO RECEIVE REPORTS ON MEETINGS ATTENDED:**

Cllr. Mullard attended the Village Hall Management Committee meeting and there is a vacant seat for another representative from DPC on the committee. If no other councillor wishes to represent the council on the committee, DPC should notify the management committee and the number of representatives can be reduced to one.

Cllr. Denise Meyers reported that Friends of Martello24 have met and are very pleased with visitor numbers and the positive response received from the public. Timings have been agreed for next year and activity work sheets for schools are being planned. Local history groups are planning to visit the tower over the winter months.

The Chairman congratulated Friends of Martello24 on their outstanding achievements.

**TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS:**

Beach Advisory Committee: Minutes circulated prior to meeting.

Cllr. Blackwell informed the Planning and Strategy Working Group will meet on 4<sup>th</sup> October and a joint leaflet with other town/parish councils will be considered. Cllr. Blackwell informed he has looked back over past minutes and the public toilets at Seawall Road have been a complete failure. SDC has failed to maintain them and if a replacement payment mechanism cannot be sourced elsewhere the toilets should be free.

**CAR PARKING DURING AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY:**

Cllr. Ian Meyers introduced the item and stated that exceptional weather over the bank holiday weekend resulted in insufficient parking in the village. He suggested the recreation ground be offered to the Day of Syn Committee to operate as an overspill car park during weekends in August, 2018. As the parish council is looking at austerity measures and cannot

## **0028/OCTOBER/2017**

guarantee offering grants to event organisers, it was suggested that revenue raised from any such parking charges be offered in its entirety to the Day of Syn Committee for use towards their activities. There would need to be provisos that the ground would be returned to a usable condition, within a timescale, and the Day of Syn Committee would require insurance cover for condition of the ground and eventualities. A local agreement could be offered. Proposed by Cllr. Ian Meyers that an offer be made to the Day of Syn Committee, seconded by Cllr. Karen Lewis. Voting: Unanimous.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

Cllr. Redding wished to discuss a letter that had been sent to him. The chairman informed it was a personal matter and any discussion should be held with the personnel committee.

Cllr. Karen Lewis did not agree with the content of the letter and said it should not have been sent. Chairman informed it was not the appropriate forum to discuss such matters.

Cllr. Redding enquired how a newspaper had acquired an agenda for the council meeting.

Cllr. Blackwell informed that all councillors, except Cllr. Redding, had been subjected to a tirade of abuse on social media. He and other councillors have been called the most foul names, with the most abusive language used. One particular message was placed by a person he has never met and apparently lives in New Romney. Cllr. Blackwell called for the defamatory and slanderous comments on social media to stop. He stated that it is totally acceptable not to agree with each other, but to make libellous comments on social media vilifying councillors who volunteer their time and good will is totally unacceptable. The practice must stop.

Cllr. Ian Meyers commented he has served on the council for over 21 years and considers himself as very community minded. However, comments in recent months on social media are beyond acceptance. The community and councillors should be working together for the good of the village. The comments on social media should be deleted.

Cllr. Denise Meyers enquired when the planter would be installed. Chairman agreed to visit the forge and enquire.

Cllr. Terry Mullard said councillors are not given respect. He received a letter from the chairman that gagged his criticism and bullying of the clerk, yet the clerk has not provided the information requested and refuses to contact the Inland Revenue regarding a pay-off to a member of staff who does nothing. The clerk requested Cllr. Mullard not to discuss personnel matters in front of the public. Cllr. Mullard said as an elected member he has every right to criticise and raise matters as he chooses. His request to dispose of a member of staff has been totally ignored yet the person allegedly does nothing except read books all day. Cllr. Mullard said he had been approached by Vanessa McCreedy who informed her second letter of correspondence has not received a reply from the clerk. Cllr. Mullard said he (and other councillors) should be given a free car park pass in recognition of his hard work, and that all councillors should receive the privilege of free parking, similar to that afforded by SDC to its councillors. Cllr. Mullard returned to the subject of staffing and costs to get rid of staff. At this point Cllr. Blackwell raised a point of order that staff terms and conditions should not be raised in front of the public.

Meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

**0029/OCTOBER/2017**

**PUBLIC SESSION:**

Sally Cook informed a letter to the parish council from Vanessa McCreedy has not been presented to council and expressed her view that all correspondence should be presented to councillors.

Mr. Young enquired how accurate public session should be on Council Minutes as his question to council regarding The Royal British Legion event on August Bank Holiday had not been recorded correctly. Mr. Young emphasised that The Royal British Legion should have applied for a licence to Shepway District Council.

Sheila Jones requested the parish council forward a letter to The Day of Syn Committee to consider the offer of car-parking management at the council's recreation ground during weekends in August.

Clive Dudley enquired if directors of Oportunitas are required to declare interest in developments within Shepway. Cllr. Meyers explained that dispensations are granted to appointed directors.

Mr. Young commented that he disapproves of councillors' attitude at public session and lack of response to questions.

John Williams informed the twitten opposite Country's Field had not been cleared of weeds. Cllr. Karen Lewis informed the twitten is on private land and SDC will not attend to it. Cllr. Lewis and Community Warden have volunteered to weed the path and she asked Mr. Williams to volunteer with them to help keep the path clear. Mr. Williams enquired who had paid for the end of Chapel Road to be resurfaced and bollards installed. The parish council is unaware of the road being resurfaced and considered it likely that the land in question is in private ownership. Mr. Williams informed a doctor had resigned from Martello Practice and the centre is struggling to attract doctors to the area.

Public session concluded at 8.55pm.

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the next meeting of **DYMCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL** will be held on **MONDAY, 6<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER, 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) Recreation Ground:
- 13) Village Green Application:
- 14) Vexatious Communications Policy
- 15) Any Other Business (at Chairman's discretion)
- 16) Exclusion of Public:

---

Clerk to Dymchurch Parish Council.