



**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD
ON
MONDAY 1st MARCH 2021 AT 7.30PM.**

77/21 Those Present:

Councillors: K Lamb (Chairman), E Arnold Newing (Vice-Chair), G Clements, B Swan, C Stanyon, C Chapman, S Jones, S Peall County Councillor S Carey, 9 members of the public and the Clerk.

Apologies: Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Allen.

78/21 To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI), Other significant Interests (OSI's) or a Voluntary interest relating to items on the agenda.

None were declared.

79/21 Public Contribution

Member of the public: The coverage maps received for the pre-planning consultation application consultation - proposed 12m column in the style of a telegraph pole at Longland Farm, Exted Hill, Elham, Canterbury, CT4 6UD are not reader friendly, perhaps this could be relayed to the network provider. There is great anticipation that something may come of the Exted Hill proposal, as well as apprehension to the South side of the village that they are on the wrong side of the village to receive any benefit.

80/21 To note and agree minutes of *(will be signed in person by the Chairman at the next available opportunity.)*

- 1) **Resolved:** The Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council of 1st February 2021 were **agreed** and are to be **signed as a true record** by the Chairman of meeting at the next available opportunity.
- 2) **Resolved:** The Telecomms Committee meeting of 8th February 2021 were **agreed** and are to be **signed as a true record** by the Chairman of meeting at the next available opportunity.
- 3) **Resolved:** The Extraordinary meeting of the Parish Council of 10th February 2021 were **agreed** and are to be **signed as a true record** by the Chairman of meeting at the next available opportunity.
- 4) **Resolved:** The C&A Committee meeting of 15th February 2021 were **agreed** and are to be **signed as a true record** by the Chairman of meeting at the next available opportunity.
- 5) **Resolved:** The Wellbeing Committee meeting of 24th February 2021 were **agreed** and are to be **signed as a true record** by the Chairman of meeting at the next available opportunity.

81/21 Chairman's Report

With a great amount of effort from Cllr Swan, Cllr Chapman and Reliable Networks, the Elham Parish Council new website has gone live, a big thank you to all involved. This will become a great communications tool for the Parish.

82/21 Little Stour and Nailbourne Management Group

1. An update on the situation in Elham was given by the Flood Warden. The issue in Hog Green was resolved very quickly by Southern Water. The pumping station at The Orchards had been turned onto manual, once turned back on to auto the situation was rectified. There are 4 tankers on 24 hours 7 days a week duty operating in Duck Street, for which we are extremely grateful to Southern Water for organising. The tankering operation is preventing the need for over pumping into the Nailbourne. The Environment Agency have informed Southern Water permission will not be granted for over pumping all the time the tankers are containing the situation.

After the near disaster of 2014, after many requests, Southern Water fitted a non-return valve at the junction of the drain from Water Farm with the main sewer on Duck Street, this worked magnificently in 2019 however, this year it failed. The level in the drain was low enough for an inspection to be carried out where it was found that the flaps were missing. This was either caused by them being washed off or by being taken out and not replaced. A letter will be sent to the CEO of Southern Water regarding this situation and other concerns relating to this matter in the near future.

The problems are the result of the infiltration of surface water and spring water. This has been an ongoing problem for at least the last twenty years.

I am pleased to report that the springs are slowly deactivating because of the dryer weather we have recently been experiencing. However, these climatic extremes are becoming more and more frequent, so I reiterate my call for a moratorium on new developments until Southern Water come up with a solution to this issue.

2. The purpose of Little Stour & Nailbourne Management Group is that of communication between Southern Water, Environment Agency, Canterbury City Council and all representatives of villages along the routes. At the most previous meeting, it was reported by Ian Nunn of the Environment Agency, that the fast flow of the Nailbourne is very welcomed because it shifts a lot of the silt downstream making the riverbed slightly lower.

I would like the Parish Council to nominate a deputy representative for the Little Stour & Nailbourne Management Group. It was **agreed** that this would be discussed after the meeting.

83/21 Finance

1. **Resolved:** The Accounts from January 2021 were a **true record** and are to be signed by the Chairman at the next available opportunity.
2. **Resolved:** The Bank Reconciliation from January 2021 was a **true record** and to be signed by the Chairman at the next available opportunity.
3. It was **noted** that all Councillors received the Accounts for February 2021.
4. It was **noted** that all Councillors received the Bank Reconciliation for February 2021.
5. **Resolved:** It was **agreed** to cancel and replace cheque 1458 for £10.00 (19/20 financial year) to Methodist Church Hall.

6. **Resolved:** It was **agreed** to cancel cheque 1464 £95.00 to ICCU and replace with an online payment.
7. **Resolved:** A virement of £150.00 from Training budget provision to grounds maintenance budget provision was **agreed**.
8. **Resolved:** A virement of £306.37 from Training budget provision to Clerk's office expenses budget provision was **agreed**.
9. **Resolved:** A virement of £500 from Grants/donations budget provision to Ring fenced community memorial was **agreed**.
10. **Resolved:** The membership of Rural Kent was **agreed**, and online payment would be made.
11. **Resolved:** It was **agreed** to employ L. Robbins as the Internal Auditor.
12. **Resolved:** The February invoices were **agreed**, and payments were **approved**.

84/21 Planning

1. The receipt of received application was **noted** and comments **agreed**:
21/0197/FH - Northview House, Exted Hill, Elham, Canterbury, CT4 6UD - Erection of a single storey rear extension. **Resolved: no objections.**
2. The receipt of received application since the agenda was issued were **noted** and comments **agreed**:
21/0375/FH - Single storey, timber frame garden office and gym outbuilding - The Coal House (Land Adjacent to Sleepers Cottage) The Halt, Duck Street, Elham, CT4 6TP. **Resolved: No objections. Comments of the Parish Council: That a condition be requested to restrict the use of the building to domestic use, including a home office. We ask F&HDC to consider whether this is an opportunity to incorporate biodiversity enhancements, via tree planting and building design, as per policy HB10, bullet point 4 and policy NE2, bullet points i, ii and iii. To ensure the proposed building remains ancillary to the newly built property (The Coal House).**
3. The decisions made by Elham Parish Council prior to the meeting due to FHDC deadline were **noted**:
21/0178/FH/TCA - Windlass Cottage, Cullings Hill, Elham, Canterbury, CT4 6TE - Crown reduction back to previous pruning points of one Beech tree situated within a conservation area. **No objections.**
4. The decisions made by Folkestone and Hythe District Council were **noted**.
20/2025/FH - Harpole, Canterbury Road, Elham Canterbury, CT4 6UE- Demolition of existing garage and sheds and rear wall to house, erection of rear extension to form pool house, additional bedrooms and extension of rear portion of house. Replacement of flat roof with pitched roofs to match existing. Associated landscaping to rear garden. – **Refused.**
20/1966/FH - Elham Valley Holiday Park, Canterbury Road, Wingmore, CT4 6LP - Lawful Development certificate (proposed) for siting static caravans for permanent residential accommodation. – **Refused.**
21/0002/FH - Woodlands, Droveway, Stelling Minnis, Canterbury, CT4 6AJ - Erection of single storey side extension – **Approved with conditions.**
21/0066/FH/TCA - Elham Manor, The Row, Elham, Canterbury, CT4 6UL - Proposal: Works to trees situated within a conservation area comprising of: Apple (T3) reduce to 2.5 metre pollard; Apple (T4) reduce in height by approximately 1.5 metres – **No Objections.**
21/0111/FH - Elham Manor, The Row, Elham, Canterbury CT4 6UL - Proposal: Overall crown reduction by approximately 1.5 metres of one Acer (T1)

and re-pollard back to previous pollard points of one Hornbeam (T2), both subject of Tree Preservation Order No 1 of 1996. - **Approve with conditions.**

5. A discussion, including members of the public, took place regarding 20/0304/FH - Longland Farm, Exted Hill, Elham, Canterbury, Kent - Use of land for the stationing of a mobile home for a temporary period for key agricultural workers and the use of part of an agricultural building for the incubation and hatching of poultry. FHDC Enforcement are aware for the current situations at Longlands and are investigating, the case reference number is 21/0065/CM.

Cllr Peall advised the members of the public, subject to the recommendations from the Case Officers, a planning application can be “called in” to the Planning and Licensing Committee. Therefore, if it is recommended that an application is approved, it can be called in. The Planning and Licensing Committee then review the information presented to make a final decision.

85/21 Meeting Calendar

The calendar of meetings for 2021 was **agreed**. The location of the meetings would be agreed upon receipt of guidance from the Government at a future meeting.

86/21 C&A Committee

Progress is being made with the Community Memorial. We have a design in mind and Cllr Chapman has requested costings for this from the local charity The Fifth Trust. We were hoping that we would have this by this meeting but unfortunately this is not the case. We are in the initial stages of discussing the possibility of planting around the memorial. Once this is agreed, it will need to be discussed with the landowner, Elham Village Hall prior to recommendations to full council.

87/21 Telecomms Committee.

A response to the pre-planning consultation application consultation - proposed 12m column in the style of a telegraph pole at Longland Farm, Exted Hill, Elham, Canterbury, CT4 6UD was submitted to Harlequin. Harlequin have acknowledged our request for the progressing of the two sites (Exted Hill and Lickpott Hill) and will relay this information to EE. The Telecomms Committee meeting, due later this month, has been postponed until further information or an application is received.

88/21 Staffing Committee

Further to the Clerks half yearly appraisal at the Staffing Committee meeting on 15th March 21, the full Council **agreed** to the Staffing Committees recommendations that the Clerk to remain on increased hours.

89/21 Highways Committee

1. An update was given from the committee regarding correspondence received in relation to plans by Highways England to infill/demolish bridges along the old Elham Valley Railway line.
2. The tankers pumping in Duck Street are causing a substantial amount of damage to the road surface to The Square and Pound Lane. KCC Highways are inspecting the highway each day. Whilst the tankering is taking place, KCC Highways will only take temporary action should the matter become a safety issue. Once the tankering has ceased a complete resurface will need to be carried out.

90/21 Environment Working Group

There is a meeting this week where we will be discussing our main focus, the wildflower area to the King George V.

**91/21 Verbal reports were received from:
County Councillor – Susan Carey**

Today, it was officially announced, that KCC has successfully applied for grants from the Government for the Public Sector Decarbonisation fund. These are essentially projects that are going to get us to our target of net-zero emissions. We have a net-zero target for carbon emissions for our own buildings and services by 2030. We know how much it will cost us to do that, we costed it at £27 million.

About a week ago we received £2,478,000 to support the development of a low carbon heat network in Maidstone. It is a project we've been working on for some time and this grant takes us a big step forward.

Today, we have now had a further £20,643,013.64 which is going to: buy 2 solar parks both of which will be used for KCC energy needs with energy going back into the grid; further photovoltaic cells on our buildings; further funding for the Heat Network project in Maidstone which will exploit the difference between the temperature of the River Medway and the surrounding areas, it will take roughly 1 degree heat from the river which will heat County Hall, the prison, the library, a couple of other public sector building and approximately 150 houses and further funding for LED funding projects.

Converting the energy to electricity is how we get to Net-Zero!

Helping Hands - *The Helping Hands Scheme* includes a raft of support – ranging from assisting just-managing families with heating bills and helping struggling firms stay afloat, to tackling digital poverty and match-funding crowdfunded community projects providing vital local assistance. The scheme is the latest initiative to help people and businesses in Kent under pressure, because of Coronavirus restrictions, funded by the £95m Emergency COVID Grant – money awarded to KCC by government over recent months to help contain the outbreak.

Working with district and borough councils, and other key partners, KCC will distribute the latest tranche of grant to relevant services and organisations to award to those most impacted by the current national lockdown. *The Helping Hands Scheme* includes a range of targeted help, including:

£4m for low-income individuals and households and those in financial crisis – which will be made available via council services such as the Kent Support and Assistance Service, as well as district and borough councils, voluntary and community organisations, including Kent Community Foundation, and utility companies, such as South East Water.

£3m for businesses and the self-employed – which will be allocated through council services, district and borough councils, voluntary and community organisations, and business networks, including the Chamber of Commerce.

£2.5m to tackle digital poverty – working with schools and colleges, district and borough councils and voluntary and community organisations, and

£500,000 to match-fund crowdfunded community projects – that support local communities respond and recover from COVID.

There are 3 ongoing broadband enhancement projects taking place in Rhodes Minnis, BT Openreach as trenching at the moment, we are steps closer to people in that part of the Parish receiving better broadband signal. There have been no costs

to the residents, the funding has come from the Government and KCC has covered the costs of the projects so far.

District Councillor – Stuart Peall

A man who fly-tipped on five separate occasions in the space of just over a month has been fined by magistrates - thanks to a resident who caught him in the act on CCTV.

FHDC, KCC and the Environment Agency are working together to see how we can impact on large fly tips / commercial fly tips.

FHDC have agreed to a 1.99 per cent rise in Council Tax for 2021/22. This means that the average annual district council element of the council tax at band D will increase by just £5.34 to £273.72, which is an increase of 10p a week.

Go ahead for action plan to reduce carbon emissions. A 33-point plan to continue Folkestone & Hythe District Council on its journey to reduce its carbon emissions to zero by 2030 has been given the go-ahead. The range of actions, some of which can be tackled quickly and others which will take longer to implement, focus on six key areas - energy; behaviour change; transport; water; contracts and biodiversity/green space.

New Romney business centre starts taking shape. A major milestone has been reached with the foundations being installed for the new business centre in New Romney. Breem Construction, the contractors building the Mountfield Road centre, began the initial groundwork in December and the first concrete for the building's foundations has just been poured. The hub is designed to provide flexible workspace for small businesses with the potential to create employment in the Romney Marsh area by attracting new companies to the area, including those who might be currently operating online from home. Creating the £2 million centre has been made possible through Folkestone & Hythe District Council securing a funding package with the not the profit regeneration company East Kent Spatial Development (EKSDC) and the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority's (NDA) socio-economic programme.

Princes Parade scheme moves step closer to reality. Folkestone & Hythe District Council has appointed BAM Construction to deliver a new leisure centre, promenade and infrastructure works to facilitate this and the residential developments at Princes Parade in Hythe. Construction will begin on site during the first quarter of 2022, however, preparatory work will begin on site as early as next month.

Census 2021. The census is a once-in-a-decade survey that gives a picture of all the people and households in England and Wales. Organised by the Office of National Statistics, it helps draw an understanding of what our society needs now and what is likely to be needed in the future. The information collected helps plan and fund services in the area. This could include transport, education and healthcare. Without the census, it would be much more difficult to achieve this.

The Methodist Church planning application has been “called in” to committee.

92/21

Correspondence

Date	From	Contents	Action Required
03/02/21	FHDC	Press release – Test and Trace	Issued to Cllrs.
03/02/21	Resident	Hedge to Triangle	Clerk responded.
03/02/21	Sir John Williams Trust	Method of communication	Informative.
03/02/21	LS&NMG	SWS tankering etc operations	Issued to Cllrs.
03/02/21	Resident	Highways England – Elham Valley Railway line	Issued to Highways Committee.
04/02/21	FHDC	Green Infrastructure reminder	Issued to Cllr Stanyon.
05/02/21	Resident	Elham Valley Railway line	Informative.
05/02/21	Census	Newsletter	Informative.
07/02/21	Resident	Fundraiser	Informative.
08/02/21	KALC Shepway Area Committee	Agenda / minutes	Issued to Cllrs.
08/02/21	EVHA	Electric charging points	Clerk responded.
08/02/21	FHDC	Press release – New Business Hub	Issued to Cllrs.
09/02/21	Resident	Elham Valley Railway line	Issued to Highways.
10/02/21	KALC	Advice to clerk	Informative.
10/02/21	LS&NMG	River Charts	Issued to Cllrs.
11/02/21	Flood Warden	Southern Water update	Issued to Cllrs.
12/02/21	FHDC	Press release - Fly tipping	Issued to Cllrs.
12/02/21	Resident	The Nailbourne	Clerk responded.
15/02/21	Harlequin	Response to PC Comments	Issued to Cllr Swan.
18/02/21	FHDC	Census	Informative.
19/02/21	Resident	Hedge to Triangle	Informative.
22/02/21	Resident	Plant pot bin – Methodist Church	Clerk to respond.
22/02/21	Kent Wildlife Trust	Spring Newsletter	Clerk to put on Social Media.
23/02/21	FHDC	Press release – Princes Parade	Issued to Cllrs.
25/06/21	FHDC – Case Officer	20/0304/FH - Longlands	Clerk responded.
26/02/21	FHDC	Press release – Carbon Action plan	Issued to Cllrs.

26/02/21	Flood Resilience	Groundwater flooding update.	Informative.
26/02/21	FHDC Enforcement	21/0065/CM – Longlands Farm	Informative.
01/03/21	Resident	Elham Valley Caravan Park.	Clerk to respond.

93/21 Date of Next meeting and Close

An Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council will take place virtually on Monday 12th April 2021 at 7.30pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.35pm.

Appendix 1

February 2021 invoices for approval at March 2021 meeting

Payee	Cheque No.	Amount	VAT	Net	Comments
NEST ***	Direct Debit	£39.38		£39.38	Pension Feb 21
Clerk salary **	ONLINE	£1,017.24		£1,017.24	February Salary
Clerks expenses *	ONLINE	£66.38		£66.38	February expenses
HMRC **	ONLINE	£91.27		£91.27	National Insurance
KALC**	ONLINE	£60.00	£10.00	£50.00	CLlr Planning Training
EDF*	ONLINE	£12.89		£12.89	Electric The Gore
B Passmore*	ONLINE	£240.00		£240.00	Payroll
Harmers*	ONLINE	£9,636.00	£1,606.00	£8,030.00	Grouns Main.
Harmers *	ONLINE	£48.00	£8.00	£40.00	Tree Work
K Taylor Aggregates*	ONLINE	£1,440.00	£240.00	£1,200.00	The Gore floor
Hopkins +@	ONLINE	£177.36	£29.56	£147.80	Replacement battery/electrode
Reliable Networks@	ONLINE	£108.00	£18.00	£90.00	Website
Viking*	ONLINE	£19.04	£3.14	£15.90	Stationery
TOTAL		£12,955.56	£1,914.70	£11,040.86	

* Bacs / Card payment to be authorised by 2 Councillors

** Bacs / card payments authorised by 2 Councillors prior to meeting

*** Nest Direct Debit set up agreed with February 2019

© transaction authorised by Chairman prior to meeting