



**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL ON
MONDAY 9th JANUARY 2023 IN THE HALL, ELHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL STARTING AT 7.30pm**

01.23 Those Present:

Councillors: K Lamb (Chair), C Chapman (Vice Chair), B Swan, G Clements, K Allen, S Peall, the Clerk and 3 members of the public.

Apologies: Received and accepted from Councillor S Jones.

02.23 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.

03.23 Public Contribution

Members of the public requested an explanation of the 28-day notice process and in particular the consultation of application 22/2034/FH/PA. Cllr Peall explained the process to the members of the public.

04.23 Minutes of meeting.

1. **Resolved:** The minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council meeting of 5th December 2022 were **approved** and were **signed as a true record** by the Chairman of meeting.
2. **Resolved:** The minutes of the Extraordinary meeting of 20th December 2022 were **approved** and were **signed as a true record** by the Chairman of meeting.

05.23 Chairman's Report

Nothing to report.

06.23 Finance

1. It was **agreed** that the Accounts from November 2022 were a **true record** and were signed by the Chairman of the meeting.
2. It was **agreed** the Bank Reconciliation from November 2022 was a **true record** and was signed by the Chairman of the meeting.
3. It was **noted** that all Councillors received the Accounts for December 2022.
4. It was **noted** that all Councillors received the Bank Reconciliation for December 2022.
5. The December invoices were **agreed**, and payments were **approved**. *Please see appendix 1.*

07.23 Planning

1. The received planning applications were **noted**, and comments **agreed**:

22/2030/FH - Land Opposite Hamble Cottage, White Horse Lane, Rhodes Minnis, Kent - Outline planning application with all matters reserved for the erection of a chalet bungalow. **Resolved: TO OBJECT. Comments of the Council:** 1)The plot is only 212 sq. metres which is far too small for this proposed development of a chalet bungalow, parking for 2 cars plus a rear garden plus the need to possibly install a septic tank etc. 2)Southern Water have reported that no public foul sewers in the area serve this proposed development and raised concerns over adequacy of soakaways and the need for the Environmental Agency to be consulted regarding the use of private wastewater treatment works or septic tank drainage.3)This is also within the AONB and it is our belief that this development will not enhance the natural and scenic beauty and is not in keeping with the National Planning Policy Framework – see relevant paragraphs below from the NPPF. The AONB unit raised concerns that the new dwelling would be outside the existing settlement in the open countryside. 4) It is our belief that the land was classified as ‘Sui generis’ back in 2020 (buildings are those that do not fall within any particular use class). The surrounding area is grade 2 agricultural and we are unable to confirm whether it has subsequently been changed to allow a residential home to be built. 5)It currently looks like it’s being used to store down chopped trees – looking at previous photos of the site, it also raises concerns on a lack of biodiversity / harm to wildlife as it appears hedges and trees have been cut down.

22/2023/FH/TCA - The Old House, High Street, Elham, Canterbury, CT4 6TB - Rolling consent to pollard to a height of 3 meters 4 Limes and 3 Sycamores every 2 years for a maximum of 10 years situated in a Conservation area. **Resolved: NO OBJECTION.**

2. The planning applications received since the agenda was published were **noted**, and comments **agreed**:

3. The decisions made by Folkestone and Hythe District Council were **noted**:

22/2034/FH/PA- Land Opposite Gate House, North Elham Hill, Elham CT4 6UY - Prior Notification of erection of an Agricultural Hay and Machinery Storage Building under Part 6 Class A of the General Permitted Development Order 2015 (Amended). **DECISION: PRIOR APPROVAL NOT REQUIRED in accordance with the planning application and plans.**

08.23 C&A Committee

- 1) **Agreed** that discussing actions going forward for the refurbishments to The Gore would be deferred until February Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council.
- 2) Play for Elham reported that the facilities at The Gore were not fit for purpose. Play for Elham are continuously carrying out minor repairs / unblocking the drains or carrying out remedial plumbing works. Play for Elham would like to thank Brain Swan and Scaf for their continued support with remedial works.
- 3) **Agreed** further discussion regarding the Community Orchard would be deferred until February Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council.

09.23 Wellbeing

The initiative of the Warm Hub has been greatly received. It was a slow up-take, but we feel that is because of the recent freezing weather conditions and people not

wanting to leave their homes in case of a fall on the ice. We will report back at the March Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council.

10.23 Twinning

An article is to be written to go in the February edition of the Elham Parish newsletter and from the response of this article we will discuss how we proceed with the twinning idea.

11.23 County Councillor – Susan Carey

KCC Report to Elham Parish Council 9th January 2023.

I am planning to be with Newington Parish Council tomorrow evening so please accept my apologies. I would normally compose my own report for your meeting, but I think KCC Leader, Roger Gough has written an excellent New Year message which I can't improve on.

Here's Roger's New Year statement.

2022 has been a tumultuous year – for the world; for our country, which lost its longest-reigning monarch and saw three Prime Ministers hold office; and also for all of us here in Kent.

In addition to the effects of the invasion of Ukraine, we have seen record arrivals from small boat crossings of the Channel to our shores; a record-breaking heat wave and failures of water supply on the Isle of Sheppey in the summer (and subsequent water supply disruptions in many parts of Kent in the run up to Christmas); massive pressures on our bus network, at their most intense over the summer but which have not gone away; and frequent reminders of how quickly a range of issues at the Channel border can escalate into a crisis which, even when Operation Brock is in place, can spill over into disruption on our county's road network.

Amid all these pressures and crises, and in the vital day to day delivery of services, our staff at KCC have been there to support residents and communities with dedication and commitment.

The return of war to Europe through Putin's invasion of Ukraine has had a most dramatic effect. People in Kent have responded to this in an extraordinary way; we remain the part of the country which hosts the largest number of Ukrainian guests under the Homes for Ukraine scheme. KCC and our partners have worked to support this, most recently by introducing – ahead of many councils and of any national policy – higher rates of support for hosts. I hope that this move will not only reassure current hosts in these financially challenging times, but also encourage more people in the county to sign up to the scheme. More Ukrainian guests are still arriving every day, and more homes are desperately needed.

The economic havoc unleashed by the invasion of Ukraine has exacerbated already serious pressures on the cost of living. With funding from government, we have sought through our Helping Hands and Financial Hardship programmes to provide help to those most in need, through holiday Free School Meal programmes, support with energy and water bills, financial help and advice and much more. We continue to work with our public sector partners and with the voluntary and community sector to do everything we can to help those most in need – once more building on the spirit and

actions of Kent Together that were brought forward during the pandemic. We will maintain this support into 2023.

Economic disruption from the aftermath of the pandemic and from the Ukraine war, the highest inflation in 40 years and severe labour shortages have had a massive impact on the council's services and finances. This will remain a huge challenge for us in 2023.

In the short term, the government's Autumn Statement was a real help. It was particularly welcome to see local government, and social care in particular, being given higher priority. But what we face in local government – and this was the point of the letter that the Leader of Hampshire County Council, Rob Humby, and I wrote to ministers in October – is the lasting crisis of an unsustainable model.

To meet this challenge, and to do more than just struggle to get through the next crisis, we need to do three things.

The first is to put our finances on a sustainable course. That will mean that we still have to take some very difficult decisions, with the focus always on providing our services in the most cost-effective way we can.

The second is to work in ever closer partnership, above all with the NHS. Like areas across the country, we are developing an Integrated Care System for Kent and Medway, working together to make the best use of our resources to tackle the pressures that we face over this winter and beyond and ultimately improve the lives of our residents. What we have done so far – under the phrase “Together, We Can” – is a good start, and I believe it is one of the most hopeful developments of 2022 but we must take it much further in 2023.

Finally, we must ensure that the County Council is the strong organisation that people in Kent need it to be. Not just to manage the unprecedented risks and pressures that we now face, and not just to deliver our core statutory services, above all to vulnerable people – vital though that is. We must also address the really big challenges that we face as a county: organising and providing public services in times of growing need but with limited resources; addressing the pressures we face as a frontline, border county; securing the infrastructure that we desperately need; continuing to support and champion local businesses and the Kent economy; and helping to achieve energy transition, net zero and adaptation to climate change.

To do this, we have already brought about big changes in how the council is run. We must also respond to changing national policies; both government (through the Levelling Up White Paper, published in February 2022) and the opposition (in Gordon Brown's Commission on the UK's Future) have set out plans to change our over-centralised system. We can expect to hear a lot more of devolution and county deals in 2023. I look forward to the opportunity of taking part in and influencing this debate in relation to the future of the county.

2022 has been a tough year, and its challenges are still very much with us. But people across this county responded in an amazing way to those challenges, and we look to 2023 with realism but also with hope and optimism.

Roger Gough,
Leader KCC.

Susan Carey
Member for Elham Valley
Kent County Council

District Councillor – Stuart Peall

Dog owners told to pick up or pay up. Pick up after your pooch - or pay the price. That is the message from Folkestone & Hythe District Council in its latest campaign designed to reduce dog fouling in the district. Residents and visitors are being reminded of their responsibility to clean up after their four-legged friends. Failing to do so can lead to fines of up to £1,000. The drive will see hotspot areas targeted with increased patrols, as well as new signage aimed at discouraging those who don't clean up after their dog. And even those without a canine can play their part by reporting dog fouling when they see it. It only takes a few minutes and enables the council to not only clean the area but monitor it moving forward.

Learn more about being a councillor- Four events for those interested in becoming a councillor in Folkestone & Hythe are to be held in the coming weeks. All 30 district council seats in 13 wards will be up for election on 4 May 2023. There will also be a number of town and parish council elections on the same day. The non-political sessions will cover a range of topics including the role played by councillors, the nomination and election process, and the council's governance for decision-making will be explored. Although the role is a voluntary one, successful candidates do get a monthly allowance and the satisfaction of making a difference to the community. District councillors play a key role in shaping the district - ranging from determining planning applications, setting council tax and other charges, and addressing issues on the behalf of residents. No formal qualifications are required. Training is provided and being a councillor is more enjoyable if you're well-organised and good at communicating and working with other people. There is no need to be a member of a political party to stand for election. Visit folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/elections for more information.

Community questions invited about temporary asylum accommodation -We're seeking questions from the local community for a virtual community event about the use of accommodation in the district to temporarily house those seeking asylum in the UK. The council has organised the online engagement event to answer resident questions around the Home Office's use of local accommodation, health and wellbeing, community safety and what support network is in place for those seeking asylum.

ID to Vote -There is a new legal requirement for voters at the polling station from 04 May 2023. Voters will have to present a valid form of photographic ID to be issued a Ballot Paper. This requirement is for all elections, including any by-elections that take

place after this date. It will be the law - If a person can not provide ID they will not be able to vote.

The Electoral Commission will be starting their advertising campaign next week and it will be ongoing until the election. To make all our lives easier we need to make sure voters are educated and engaged with this to avoid questions and queries late in the day.

12.23 Correspondence

The receipt of correspondence was **noted**, and any required actions **agreed**. *Please see appendix 2.*

13.23 Date of next meeting and Close

The next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council will be on Monday 6th February 2023 at 7.30pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Appendix 1 – December 2022 invoices approved.

December 2022 invoices for approval at January 2023 meeting

Payee	Cheque No.	Amount	VAT	Net	Comments
EDF	ONLINE	32.52	1.55	30.97	Electric
EDF	ONLINE	38.06	1.81	36.25	Electric
Clerk salary **	ONLINE	1,260.31	0.00	1,260.31	December 22 Salary
Clerks expenses	ONLINE	61.49	0.00	61.49	December 22 Expenses
HMRC **	ONLINE	207.14	0.00	207.14	HMRC
Elham Primary School	ONLINE	60.00	0.00	60.00	Room Hire
Reliable Networks	ONLINE	50.16	8.36	41.80	Microsoft license
TOTAL		£1,709.68	£11.72	£1,697.96	

* Bacs / Card payment authorised by 2 Councillors

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

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

© transaction authorised by Chairman prior to meeting

APPROVED

Appendix 2 – Correspondence December 2022

Date	Email/ Phone Call	From	Re	Action
05.12.22	Email	Resident	CC Cllr Carey re Stream Clean debris.	Sent to all Cllrs.
06.12.22	Email	FHDC	Information regarding precept.	Informative.
07.12.22	Email	FHDC Planning	Weekly Planning List.	No Action.
	Email	FHDC Planning	Delegated List.	No Action.
07.12.22	Email	Resident	Shepway Food Bank.	Clerk shared on social media and put in noticeboards.
07.12.22	Email	East Kent Sabs	Boxing Day.	No action.
08.12.22	Email	Chittendens	Benge funeral.	Clerk actions.
08.12.22	Email	KCC Highways	Cc email re Wingmore accident point.	No action required.
09.12.22	Email	P Roberts	Twinning.	No action required.
09.12.22	Email	NHW	Fraud alert.	Shared on social media.
09.12.22	Email	Resident	Burst Pipe at Burial Ground.	Clerk to action
09.12.22	Email	FHDC	Tax Base.	Informative.
10.12.22	Email	EVHA	General updates.	No action required.
12.12.22	Email	Chittendens	Benge.	No action.
13.12.22	Email	FHDC	Press Release – pick up or pay up.	Sent to all Cllrs.
15.12.22	Email	FHDC Planning	Weekly Planning List. 22/2023/FH/TCA, 22/2030/FH, 22/2034/FH/PA.	No Action.
15.12.22	Email	FHDC Planning	Delegated List.	No Action.
15.12.22	Email	Chittendens	Benge.	No action.
15.12.22	Email	KCC Highways	Salt delivery.	Clerk actioned.
19.12.22	Email	East Kent Sabs	Boxing day.	No action
22.12.22	Email	FHDC Case Officer	Cc email to Cllr Peall re 22/2034/FH/PA.	Noted.
22.12.22	Email	FHDC Planning	Weekly Planning List.	No Action.
22.12.22	Email	FHDC Planning	Delegated List.	No Action.
23.12.22	Email	FHDC	Press Release – Budget Consultation.	Sent to all
30.12.22	Email	East Kent Sabs	Boxing Day.	No action.
03.01.23	Email	Kent SLCC	Election training.	Clerk registered.
04.01.23	Email	FHDC	Press Release - Learn to be a Cllr.	Sent to all Cllrs.

04.01.23	Email	KCC	Unsuccessful grant application.	Clerk to action.
04.01.23	Email	East Kent Sabs	Boxing Day.	No action.
04.01.23	Email	Beefriendly Seeds	Cc email from E.W.G	Informative.
04.01.23	Email	EWG	cc. email to Beefriendly seeds	Informative.
05.01.23	Email	FHDC	New laws for elections.	Shared on social media and in noticeboard.