



**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL ON  
MONDAY 2nd OCTOBER 2023 IN THE HALL, ELHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL.**

**198.23 Those Present:**

Councillors: K Lamb, C Chapman, B Swan, G Clements, S Peall, no members of the public and Clerk.

**Apologies:** Cllr K Allen received and accepted.

**199.23 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.

**200.23 Public Contribution**

No members of the public present.

**201.23 Minutes of meeting.**

1. **Resolved:** The minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council of 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023 were **approved** and were **signed as a true record** by the Chairman of meeting.
2. **Resolved:** The minutes of the Staffing Committee meeting of the Parish Council of 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023 were **approved** and were **signed as a true record** by the Chairman of meeting.
3. **Resolved:** The minutes of the Wellbeing Committee meeting of the Parish Council of 21<sup>st</sup> September 2023 were **approved** and were **signed as a true record** by the Chairman of meeting.

**202.23 Chairmans Report**

The Community Orchard event 'Plant a Tree with Us' is taking place on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October, meeting at the Triangle at 10am.

This is Our Village event is taking place on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> October in the Village Hall 10am-2pm. This event is for new and old residents of Elham.

Volunteers are required for Remembrance Day service, without volunteers the road closure will not be able to be put in place.

**203.23 Finance**

1. The Accounts from August 2023 were a **true record** and were **signed** by the Chairman of the meeting.
2. The Bank Reconciliation from August 2023 was a **true record** and was **signed** by the Chairman of the meeting.
3. It was **noted** that all Councillors received the Accounts for September 2023.

4. It was **noted** that all Councillors received the Bank Reconciliation for September 2023.
5. The External Auditors Report and Certificate were reviewed, and it was **agreed** that no action is required.
6. The grant application from Elham PTA for improvements to the Wellbeing Room was considered, it was **agreed** to grant the sum of £450.00
7. The September invoices were **agreed**, and payments were **approved**. *Please see appendix 1.*

#### 204.23 Planning

1. To **note** the receipt of applications and **agreed** comments:  
**22/1595/FH** - Mount Hill Cottage, Chapel Lane, Rhodes Minnis, Canterbury, CT4 6YB - Erection of an agricultural barn. **RESOLVED: TO OBJECT –Comments of the Council are that our previous comments still stand; that the proposed barn is excessive in size and that they have concerns regarding its proximity to the road and that should the Planning Officer be minded to approve this application Elham Parish Council request that it be called in to committee.**  
**23/1458/FH** - Elham Church Of England Primary School, Vicarage Lane, Elham, Canterbury, CT4 6TT- Subject of TPO No. 1 of 1955 - T 1 - Sycamore (group of 3 ) - fell to ground and T2 - Sycamore - fell to ground, all situated in a Conservation area. **RESOLVED: No objection.**
2. No applications were received since the agenda was issued.
3. Decisions made by Folkestone and Hythe District Council were received **and noted**: None were received.

#### 205.23 Committees

1. **Wellbeing** – This is Our Village event is taking place on 21<sup>st</sup> October in the Village Hall, all plans are in place and all the attendees have been sent instructions for the day. We have leaflet dropped the main areas in the village.
2. **Community and Amenities**
  - i. **The Gore** – We are still waiting for a decision on the submitted planning application.
  - ii. **Community Orchard** – Planting days have been arranged for Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October and Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October. The Clerk has arranged delivery etc and refreshments. Flyers have been distributed.

#### 206.23 Twinning

**Ambleteuse** – report received from Cllr Swan  
 ‘The visit to Ambleteuse on 20<sup>th</sup> September was attended by Ian Sladden, representing the Pentanque group, Cllr Clements and myself representing the Parish Council. Other than Ian no other interested Twinning candidates were available.

The Council was presented with a commemorative leaded glass trophy to welcome us from the people of Ambleteuse.

Due to a delay in the bureaucratic process our hosts were unable to proceed with the signing of the symbolic document for Twinning Elham/Ambleteuse. The Mayor has proposed a signing should take place in Elham in November possibly coincident with the Remembrance weekend. We made it clear that a November date would only be possible if commitments allowed as judged by the Chairman.

It was suggested that if the Clerk were to forward the email addresses of all interested groups, he would pass these on to the equivalent interests there so that collaboration might happen wherever possible. They will forward their 2024 calendar to us shortly in order that we might discover areas of potential cooperation. Their Arts festival in August 2024 has a thematic emphasis on the UK. We did emphasise, however, that August is in the UK peak holiday season and peak cross-channel transport prices.’

**207.23 Kent County Councillor Susan Carey - Report for Elham Parish Council meeting 02/10/23**

There’s been much recent media attention about councils facing bankruptcy. Birmingham Council faces large liabilities because of not paying equal pay over a number of years and other councils are in trouble because of failed property deals. This is not the case with KCC which dealt with equal pay many years ago and which has not bought property for investment. However, all councils that have responsibility for social care have seen rising demand and rising costs. Here in Kent, we face a potential overspend this financial year in social care and in transport costs for children with Special Educational Needs. Work is already under way to bring the budget back into balance and there’s a special meeting on 05 October to review progress and set out in more detail what needs to be done to make the necessary savings. Difficult as this will be, we are confident it can be done.

A unique challenge faced by KCC is the situation with Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) arriving in small boats from France. (UASC are under 18-year-olds travelling on their own). It’s been ruled by the courts that KCC must accept responsibility for all UASC arriving in Kent and that these young people must receive the same care that a young person already in Kent would receive. The numbers involved are far beyond the resources of any single council and the National Transfer Scheme, which shares UASC to other councils, remains voluntary and slow. KCC’s Children’s Services were judged as ‘Outstanding’ by Ofsted but they can’t cope with the scale of the problem we face. We expect the Government to meet the extra costs involved but KCC alone cannot deal with what is both a national and international problem.

KCC is also involved with schemes for refugees who arrive legally in this country. Homes for Ukraine has been one of the most successful of these and it’s been good to see so many people in Kent open their homes this way. There are also schemes for Syrians, Afghans, and those fleeing Hong Kong. These schemes all receive Government funding, but they add to our costs for services such as school places, school transport and social care.

Despite all the above, there continues to be good work being done across KCC in social care, preparation for keeping roads open over winter, our award-winning country parks, a growing network of EV charging points and more. KCC has also won funding from Government for more tree planting and I’m looking forward to joining you later this month for the planting of our community orchard. If you know of other suitable sites in the parish, do let me know. There’s also a new round of Solar Together just started. Solar Together is a group buying scheme for solar panels and battery storage. Nearly 1,400 homeowners have accepted their offer from the most recent auction (lowest price wins) with installations now under way. Solar Together is open

to Kent residents, small businesses, and community organisations. See [www.kent.gov.uk](http://www.kent.gov.uk) and search for ‘Solar Together’.

### **Susan Carey, Member for Elham Valley**

#### **District Councillor – Cllr Scoffham / Cllr Butcher –**

#### **Report received in the absence of Cllr Stephen Scoffham - 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023**

I have been working on a broad front both to support sustainability related initiatives across the District and working to identify options and priorities for the months ahead. The importance of focussing on the chalk downlands has become increasingly apparent.

#### **Site visits**

- Attended a briefing session at Dungeness Power Station (7<sup>th</sup> July)
- Toured the new housing development at Sellindge organised Quinn Homes (20<sup>th</sup> July)
- Supported plans to introduce new plastic recycling bins at Sunny Sands (15<sup>th</sup> August)
- Inspected the sea defences at Hythe Firing Range (25<sup>th</sup> August)
- Met Kate Strong on her Climate Cycle round Britain (30<sup>th</sup> August)
- Attended a site meeting to discuss the application for the Elham Community Shed (18<sup>th</sup> Sept)
- Supported the Folkestone Big Cycle (21<sup>st</sup> Sept)

#### **Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy**

Cabinet adopted the Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy on July 12<sup>th</sup>. This identifies over 100 needs, opportunities and priorities for the District. Work is now being undertaken to identify actions which are within the control of the Council that might usefully be pursued. At the same time, the opportunity to implement the strategy in conjunction with external bodies and organisations such as the White Cliffs Partnership and the North Downs Area of Outstanding is being considered.

#### **District Wide Carbon Reduction Strategy**

The strategy is now being prepared for public consultation which take place during October and early November. A meeting of the Carbon Innovation Lab which forms one element of the carbon reduction strategy was held on 4<sup>th</sup> September.

#### **Community Liaison and Engagement**

A joint meeting attended by Cllrs James Butcher, Elaine Martin, Jenny Hollingsbee and myself was held at Elham Village Hall on 2<sup>nd</sup> September to explore local concerns and priorities. This was an informal and open event, which was designed to gather opinions from across the rural community. Issues which emerged included the need to maintain balanced and vibrant communities with shops and public transport. Green spaces, biodiversity and the countryside/farmland were also discussed. A follow up discussion is planned shortly.

#### **Planning issues**

Residents have contacted me about a number of contentious planning issues within the North Downs East ward. Two of these involve caravan sites and events in Wingmore. Traffic speeds on the A260 in Densole is another very significant concern.

Further afield, and after several site visits and research into the issues involved, I have asked for the proposal for a photovoltaic solar array at Pent Farm, Postling to be called in for consideration by the Planning Committee as it is a matter of public interest.

**208.23 Correspondence**

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

**209.23 Date of next meeting and Close**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Monday 23rd October 2023 at 7.30pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.13pm.

**Appendix 1 – September 2023 invoices approved October 23**

<b>Payee</b>	<b>Cheque No.</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>VAT</b>	<b>Net</b>	<b>Comments</b>
EDF	ONLINE	£59.33	£2.83	£56.50	Electric
Clerk salary **	ONLINE	£1,288.86	£0.00	£1,288.86	Salary
Clerks expenses	ONLINE	£51.00	£0.00	£51.00	Expenses
HMRC **	ONLINE	£227.67	£0.00	£227.67	Salary
Amazon	Debit Card	£20.92	£3.49	£17.49	Stationery
Amazon	Debit Card	£15.69	£2.62	£13.07	Stationery
K Lamb	ONLINE	£140.00	£0.00	£140.00	Twinning
Eurotunnel	ONLINE	£244.00	£0.00	£244.00	Twinning
L Robbins	ONLINE	£120.00	£0.00	£120.00	Internal Audit
Gogirl signs	ONLINE	£36.00	£6.00	£30.00	Wellbeing
Reliable Networks	ONLINE	£49.08	£8.18	£40.90	Microsoft License
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>£2,252.55</b>	<b>£23.12</b>	<b>£2,229.49</b>	

**Direct Debits 2023/2024**

**NEST (Clerks Pension)**

<b>Date Taken</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Amount</b>
08/04/2022	NEST	£56.91
02/05/2023	NEST	£72.13
24/05/2023	NEST	£75.74
10/07/2023	NEST	£69.97
08/08/2023	NEST	£65.63
07/09/2023	NEST	£82.48
29/09/2023	NEST	£65.63

\* 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 4.1 Financial Regs

**APPROVED**

**Appendix 2 – Correspondence Log – September 2023**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Email/ Phone Call</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Re</b>	<b>Action</b>
06.09.23	Email	Reliable Networks	License prices.	Clerk responded.
08.09.23	Email	Hearts Deco	Confirmation re parking on The Gore 26/10/23	Clerk to arrange.
09.09.23	Email	P Roberts	Twinning	Clerk responded.
09.09.23	Email x23	Anti Hunt protestors	Boxing Day.	No action.
11.09.23	Email	KCC Events +Special Projects	Boxing Day	No action.
12.09.23	Email	Hopkins +	Defibrillator Aftercare / Infant Electrodes.	(Invoice to follow).
13.09.23	Email	FHDC Planning	Re-consultation 22/1595/FH Mount Hill Cottage.	Sent to all Cllrs.
14.09.23	Email	FHDC Planning	Weekly List.	No action.
14.09.23	Email	FHDC Planning	Delegated List.	No action.
14.09.23	Email	KCC Tree Strategy Senior Officer	Community Orchard.	Chair replied.
16.09.23	Email	P Robert	Twinning.	Clerk responded.
17.09.23	Email	Brogdale	Community Orchard.	Clerk responded.
17.09.23	Email	Resident	Twinning – Moerlenbach.	Clerk actioned.
19.09.23	Email	P Roberts	Twinning.	Clerk responded.
19.09.23	Email	Elham PTA	Grant application form.	Sent to all Cllrs. Agenda item.
19.09.23	Email to	FHDC Case Officer – Mr Allan	23/0074/FH – The Pavilion, The Gore – update on application.	Awaiting a response.
20.09.23	Email	KCC Highways	Hog Green.	Sent to resident.
20.09.23	Email	Reliable Networks	Confirmation of annual agreement.	No action.
20.09.23	Email	Mazar	Conclusion of External Audit.	Posted on website, in noticeboard. Sent to all Cllrs.
21.09.23	Email	FHDC Planning	Weekly List.	No action.
21.09.23	Email	FHDC Planning	Delegated List.	No action.

22.09.23	Email	P Roberts	Twinning.	Clerk responded.
26.09.23	Email	Brogdale	Community Orchard.	Sent to Chair. Clerk responded.
26.09.23	Email	FHDC Events App	Remembrance Sunday.	Clerk responded.
27.09.23	Email	FHDC Planning	23/1458/FH – Elham C of E Primary.	Sent to all Cllrs.
27.09.23	Email	District Cllr Scoffham	Report.	Clerk responded.
28.09.23	Email	FHDC Planning	Weekly List.	No action.
28.09.23	Email	FHDC Planning	Delegated List.	No action.
28.09.23	Email to	FHDC Case Officer Mr All and Chief Panning Officer	23/0074/FH The Pavilion, The Gore.	Awaiting a response.
29.09.23	Email	District Cllr Godfrey	Apologies.	Clerk responded.
29.09.23	Email	Fields in Trust	New structure.	Clerk to respond.
01.10.23	Email to	District Cllr Scoffham, Godfrey and Butcher	Update on 23/0074/FH.	