



**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL ON  
MONDAY 8<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2024 IN THE HALL, ELHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL.**

**01.24 Those Present:**

Councillors: K Lamb, C Chapman, G Clements, B Swan, S Peall, 2 members of the public and Clerk.

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

**02.24 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.

**03.24 Public Contribution**

Members of the public present raised their concerns regarding Goldpark Leisure caravan park in Wingmore, it was suggested that they contacted District Cllr Scoffham.

**04.24 Minutes of meeting.**

1. **Resolved:** The minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council of 4<sup>th</sup> December 2023 were **approved** and were **signed as a true record** by the Chairman of meeting.

**05.24 Chairmans Report**

Members of Ambleteuse will be visiting on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January to sign the twinning documentation.

The Clerk is to meet with the Environment Group to discuss the areas of the King George V that would like the Parish Council to take responsibility of the maintenance for.

**06.24 Finance**

1. The Accounts from November 2023 were a **true record** and were **signed** by the Chairman of the meeting.
2. The Bank Reconciliation from November 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 December 2023.
4. It was **noted** that all Councillors received the Bank Reconciliation for December 2023.
5. The virement of £3700 from General Reserves to Clerks Salary was considered and **agreed**.

6. The December invoices were **agreed**, and payments were **approved**. *Please see appendix 1.*

#### **07.24 Planning**

1. To **note** the receipt of applications and **agreed** comments:  
*23/1830/FH* - Bankside, High Street, Elham, Canterbury, CT4 6SY - Proposed Timber Cabin for Ancillary Use. **Resolved: No Objection.**  
*23/1961/FH/TCA* - The Vicarage, Vicarage lane, Elham, Canterbury, CT4 6TT - Works to trees in a Conservation area comprising of G01 Holly x 6 & Sycamore x 11 prune away from utility lines 1.5-2.0m clearance, trim back low growth from roadside, strip main stems of ivy to 2.5m above ground level, G02 Plum x 2 crown lift to 5.2m, G03 Elder x 2 & Sycamore x 20 lift trees to clear fence line, T02 Silver Birch lift tree by 2m, T03 Sumac coppice, T07 Yew prune back tree to fence line to give 1m clearance of utility line, T08 Western Red Cedar lift canopy to clear fence, T09 Ash remove deadwood greater than 25mm, sever/strip ivy from to approx 2.5m above ground level, T10 Sycamore prune away from neighbouring property to give 3m clearance, T12 Holly & T13 Ash - strip trees of ivy & T14 Lime remove central stem. **Resolved: No Objection.**
2. The following application was received since the agenda was issued.  
*23/1944/FH* -20 Fairfield, Elham, Canterbury, CT4 6UT- Proposal: First floor front extension. **Resolved: No Objection.**
3. Decisions made by Folkestone and Hythe District Council were received **and noted**:  
*23/1765/FH* - Wise Follies, The Square, Elham, Canterbury, CT4 6TJ- Listed building Consent for the demolition of non-original extensions and a proposed single storey rear extension – **withdrawn by applicant.**  
*23/1783/FH* - Elham Village Hall, High Street, Elham, CT4 6SX - Erection of a community timber shed – **approved with conditions.**

#### **08.24 Community & Amenities**

- 1) **The Gore** – Nothing to report since the last meeting.
- 2) **The Gore Working Party** - The Terms of Reference were considered and **agreed**.
- 3) **Churchyard** - Council was informed that we haven't received further correspondence / advice from the Diocese of Canterbury since April 2023, nor had we heard anything from the DAC Consultant Engineer following the site meeting with DAC Secretary and DAC Archaeological Consultant present. Since the site meeting and lack of communications the Council instructed a Survey by a Civil and Structural Engineer. The Clerk is to write the Diocese of Canterbury raising concerns that the lack of guidance since the site meeting is a contributing factor to the further deteriorating on the wall.

Cllr Peall suggested that a valuation of the church wall be carried out.

#### **09.24 Kent County Councillor Susan Carey - Report for Elham Parish Council meeting 08.01.24**

This is an edited version of a recent review of 2023 by KCC Leader Roger Gough which I thought would make a better report than anything I could produce.

“There are significant challenges we as an authority, like many others across the country, are facing. We are not a council that has been reckless with its finances, far

from it, and our sound decisions have given us the best possible chance to stave off what has been coming down the track at us. However, we are not immune to the impacts.

Increased costs and demands on our services have meant we have had to face some very hard budgetary decisions. In Kent we have specific issues, such as travel disruption at our ports, and the response to migration and unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. Despite what we shoulder, central government funding has fallen far short. There is no doubt that times are exceedingly tough.

We cannot focus only on survival but on continuing to change and innovate, while delivering good services to the people of Kent. Looking back on 2023, there have been some notable moments, some of which have seen us rising to support our residents through shock after shock, not least the cost-of-living crisis and helping people in the most difficult circumstances.

Our solid collaboration with the NHS has seen some excellent work on seasonal campaigns and the development of the Integrated Care Strategy. Our task in 2024 will be to start turning this into practical delivery across our county and our communities.

RAAC (reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete) entered the common vernacular in 2023. Our swift action following the change of national rules, helped in no small part by the rapid flexibility of our school community, kept disruption to a minimum.

We are a key partner in the Kent Resilience Forum, responding to the pressures on our extensive and much-travelled road network with Kent Police, National Highways and others. Our highways and other staff respond to emergencies on our own road network in all weathers.

We have an exceptional record in responding to the diverse issues of asylum, migration and resettlement, including responding (across many parts of our organisation) to the referral of more than 2,000 unaccompanied asylum-seeking children into our service in the last year, and working with district and borough colleagues in response to the requirement to empty the Afghan bridging hotels in the late summer.

We are committed to the environment, balancing everything we consider with nature's voice and its unrivalled positive impact on health and wellbeing, and preserving the enduring appeal of the Garden of England. I look forward to taking forward our initiatives, such as Making Space for Nature, in 2024.

These could be viewed as the 'big ticket items' and are only a small selection of the services that KCC provides. I am incredibly proud that some of the greatest effects of our work can be felt in the quiet, often unseen, interactions full of kindness, compassion and thoughtfulness from across all of our teams.  
Roger Gough, Leader, Kent County Council"

I send my best wishes to you and the parish for the year ahead.

**Susan Carey, Member for Elham Valley**

**District Councillor – Cllr Scoffham**

My apologies for the Parish Meeting given the fact that the last month has been dominated by Christmas I don't have anything particular to report.

**10.24 Correspondence**

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

**11.24 Date of next meeting and Close**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 7.30pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.02pm.

*Appendix 1 – December 23 invoices approved at January 24 meeting*

<b>Payee</b>	<b>Cheque No.</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>VAT</b>	<b>Net</b>	<b>Comments</b>
EDF	ONLINE	£149.33	£7.11	£142.22	Electric
Clerk salary **	ONLINE	£1,422.66	£0.00	£1,422.66	Salary
Clerks expenses	ONLINE	£51.00	£0.00	£51.00	Expenses
HMRC **	ONLINE	£322.88	£0.00	£322.88	National Insurance
Harmers and Son	ONLINE	£9,828.00	£1,638.00	£8,190.00	Grounds Maintenance
Harmers and Son	ONLINE	£732.00	£122.00	£610.00	C&A The Gore
Hermance Gush Aits	ONLINE	£13.98	£0.00	£13.98	Environment Group
Land Registry	Debit Card	£24.00	£0.00	£24.00	Church wall
Castle Water	ONLINE	£17.09	£0.00	£17.09	Water Supply
Reliable Networks	ONLINE	£49.08	£8.18	£40.90	Microsoft License
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>£12,610.02</b>	<b>£1,775.29</b>	<b>£10,834.73</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	£72.12
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
21/11/2023	NEST	£74.78
07/12/2023	NEST	£220.19

\* 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 – December 2023**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Email/ Phone Call</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Re</b>	<b>Action</b>
07.12.23	Email	FHDC Planning	Weekly List.	No Action.
07.12.23	Email	FHDC Planning	Delegated List.	No Action.
08.12.23	Email	Zurich	27230060132 St Marys.	Informative.
11.12.23	Email	FHDC Planning	23/1830/FH Bankside.	Sent to all Cllrs.
11.12.23	Email	McLarens	MUK 230689 St Marys.	Sent to Chair. Information requested sent.
11.12.23	Email	Hopkins +	Defibrillator aftercare.	Informative.
11.12.23	Email	FHDC Finance	Tax Base.	Informative.
12.12.23	Telephone / Email	McLarens	St Marys – Information requested.	Sent to Chair. Information sent.
12.12.23	Email	M Pape	Burial Ground enquiry.	Clerk responded.
13.12.23	Email	McLarens	St Marys.	Sent to Chair who responded.
14.12.23	Email	KCC Highways Steward	Trees to The Old Vicarage.	Responded.
14.12.23	Email	FHDC Planning	Weekly List.	No Action.
14.12.23	Email	FHDC Planning	Delegated List.	No Action.
15.12.23	Email	Resident	Bench adjacent to the War Memorial.	Clerk to respond.
15.12.23	Email	FHDC Planning	23/1961/FH/TCA – The Vicarage.	Sent to all Cllrs.
15.12.23	Email	Sport England	Confirmation of user information.	-
16.12.23	Email	P Roberts	Twinning.	Clerk to respond.
16.12.23	Email	Resident	Requesting date of next meeting.	Clerk responded.
18.12.23	Email	Resident	Cc correspondence from FHDC re Goldpark Leisure.	Clerk to respond.
18.12.23	Email	Resident	Cc correspondence from FHDC re Royale Life.	Clerk to respond.
19.12.23	Email	Resident	Cc correspondence re Goldpark Leisure.	Clerk to respond.
20.12.23	Email	Sports England	Checking contact details.	Clerk responded.

21.12.23	Email	Kent Resilience Forum	Community Emergency Planning.	Clerk attending free training course.
21.12.23	Email	Flood Warden	Requesting info re sandbags.	Clerk responded.
21.12.23	Email	FHDC Planning	Weekly List.	No Action.
21.12.23	Email	FHDC Planning	Delegated List 23/1765/FH 23/1783/FH.	Sent to all Cllrs.
22.12.23	Email	KALC	Elham Community Orchard.	Clerk to respond.
02.01.24	Email	AGE UK	January newsletter.	On website.
03.01.24	Email	FHDC Planning	23/1944/FH 20 Fairfield.	Sent to all Cllrs.