



**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL ON
MONDAY 7th OCTOBER 2024 IN THE HALL, ELHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL STARTING AT
7.30pm.**

190.24 Those Present: Councillors: Cllr K Lamb (Chair) and C Chapman (Vice Chair) B Swan, G Clements, C Francis and 3 members of the public. **Apologies:** S Peall and K Allen and the Clerk received and accepted.

It was **agreed** in the absence of the Clerk Cllr Chapman would take the minutes of the meeting.

191.24 To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI), Other significant Interests SI's) or a Voluntary interest relating to items on the agenda. None were declared.

192.24 Public Contribution

A member of the public – Asked how the parish council were responding to the Emerging Local Transport Plan consultation as he has concerns regarding the lack of transportation to the village and feeling isolated. The Chair explained that Councillors will respond to the consultation as individuals. He reiterated that KCC have no funds available to further subsidise the bus companies and as previously discusses there was the possibility of funding for a minibus via KCC Cllr Carey in conjunction with Age UK. D.Cllr Scoffham confirmed that KCC were aware of the lack of rural transport and that FHDC have this on the agenda as part of their District Corporate Plan.

Elham Community Shed - A Report of the Progress of the Elham Community Shed

The organising committee would like to have our gratitude recorded to the great number of individuals, the organisations, the parish council, members of the District Council and of Kent County Council who have taken an interest in, donated to, supported and helped in the realisation of this project.

There remains much to do before we can officially 'open', but much has already been achieved. Saturday 14th September 2024 was an open day show case to meet as many people as could attend (about 80) and have an enjoyable fund-raising celebration. It clearly demonstrated that with the ethos of positive friendly inclusivity, people, whatever their age, gender or experience, are eagerly anticipating using the Community Shed.

We look forward to completing the landscaping and the fitting out of the interior and then Elham Community Shed will be a resource available to benefit the whole community.

193.24 Minutes of meeting.

- 1) **Resolved:** The minutes of the Staffing Committee meeting of 2nd September were **approved** and were **signed as a true record** by the Chair of meeting.
- 2) **Resolved:** The minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council of 2nd September were **approved** and were **signed as a true record** by the Chair of meeting.
- 3) **Resolved:** The minutes of the Community and Amenities Committee meeting of 9th September were **approved** and were **signed as a true record** by the Chair of meeting.

194.24 Chairmans Report

Elham Valley Football team were victorious again this week with a 4-0 win against Tunbridge Wells Foresters.

195.24 Finance

- 1) The Accounts from August 2024 were a **true record** and were signed by the Chairman of the meeting.
- 2) The Bank Reconciliation from August 2024 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 2024.
- 4) It was **noted** that all Councillors received the Bank Reconciliation for September 2024.
- 5) The following half year virements were considered and **agreed:**

Amount	From Budget Provision	To Budget Provision
£26180.00	R/fenced C&A Contingency	R/fenced Churchwall
£5000.00	C&A	R/fenced Churchwall
£3414.50	R/fenced Tree Maintenance	R/fenced Churchwall
£6263.50	Churchwall	R/fenced Churchwall
£500.00	R/fenced Grounds Maintenance	Grounds Maintenance
£500.00	R/fenced Tree Maintenance	Tree Maintenance
£87.17	Contingency	Insurance
£300.00	Contingency	Donations
£25.00	Contingency	Donations
£650.00	R/fenced Community Orchard	Community Orchard
£2700.00	General Reserves	Clerks Salary

- 6) The September 2024 invoices were **agreed** and payments were **approved**. *Please see appendix 1.*

196.24 Planning

- 1) Applications received were **noted** and comments **agreed:**

Planning Application	Address	Description	Comments / Views
24/1305/FH	Greenhills, High Street, Elham CT4 6SX	Works to tree subject of TPO No 13 of 1995 T1 Beech Crown raise to 3m over drive and footpath. Reduce crown away from neighbouring house, to give 2.5m clearance. Reduced two over extended branches on village hall side to crown by approx 2m, to blend.	No Objection.

- 2) There were **no** applications received since the agenda was issued therefore no comments needed to be agreed.
- 3) The following decision were, made by Folkestone and Hythe District Council:

Planning Application	Address	Description	Decision
24/1208/FH/TCA	War Memorial, High Street, Elham, CT4 6SY	Situated in a Conservation area T1 - Lime - Crown lift to 6 meters above ground level. T2 - Horse Chestnut - Crown lift to 6 meters above ground level. T3 - Horse Chestnut - Crown lift to 6 meters above ground level. T4 - Lime - Crown lift to 6 meters above ground level.	No Objection.
24/1273/FH/TCA	St Marys Church, The Square, Elham, CT4 6TT	Works to trees situated in a Conservation area - T13 (Amelanchier spp) Removal of east facing limb, T19 (Lime) remove the epicormic growth, T21 (English Oak) Remove split, hung branch on north eastern side, T27 (Holly) Prune back north facing canopy to give 1 meter clearance from the Church, and T28 (Cupressus spp) Removal of this tree and the adjacent Elder tree.	No Objection.

197.24 Community and Amenities

- Church Wall** – We are awaiting written confirmation of the faculty being granted. It was **agreed** that the Parish Council will work in conjunction with the FoSM to commission the new railings to the West entrance of the Churchyard.
- Grounds Maintenance** – After considering the tenders received it was **agreed** to accept a long-term agreement of 5 years with Harmers and Son.
- The Gore** – Cllr Lamb and Cllr Swan recently attended a Meet the Funders event organised by FHDC. They met a charity whose sole purpose is to mentor and assist with raising money for projects such as the pavilion. A Crowd funding page is to be set up.
Cllrs are meeting contractors over the next couple of weeks for tender purposes.
- Community Orchard** – Following the visit from Brogdale, it was suggested that we purchase a water bowser to maintain the importance of the watering of the new trees. KCC Cllr Carey has generously granted a £300 contribution towards this purchase. It was **agreed** to purchase a towable water bowser at the cost of £965.00.
During the same visit Brogdale reported that some of the new trees had strimmer damage. The grounds maintenance contractor has offered his apologies and has agreed to replace the damaged trees. The Clerk will issue a list of these trees for the contractor to order directly from Brogdale.

- 198.24 Twinning** – The cost of a minibus for the trip agreed at £1305.00 with the deposit of £150.00 and the Eurotunnel fare of £310.00 being paid immediately.
- 199.24 Remembrance Day** – The Clerk will do the PA system for the school Remembrance Service and Remembrance Sunday. Volunteers are needed for the road closure.
- 200.24 Meetings** – The proposed meeting calendar was considered and **agreed**.
- 201.24 County Councillor Susan Carey - Member for Elham - Valley Kent County Council Report received in absence.**

October is also Stoptober where KCC's Public Health Team have a special campaign to get the county's remaining 145,000 smokers to quit the habit. There's information on the KCC website about the services available to help people and they include trained advisors offering face-to-face, phone or video support, prescription products and a personal quit plan. Please encourage any smokers you know to take advantage of this.

The Public Health Team are also joining with the NHS to encourage all those eligible to take up the vaccinations they are offered this autumn. Covid is still with us and flu is always a risk in the winter. New for this year is the RSV vaccine for those between 75 and 79 years old which helps protect against respiratory syncytial virus.

Also on the KCC website is KentTogether which pulls together all the various schemes on offer to people who may have financial or mental health problems. There are many schemes available and discretion to help those in need who don't precisely fit any category.

There are a number of consultations under way including education strategies and support services for children and you can take part at <https://letstalk.kent.gov.uk/> Following the inspection of the community orchard on 31 August which identified need for more watering, I have been pleased to arrange a grant of £300 towards the cost of a water bowser for the Parish Council.

Susan Carey
Member for Elham Valley
Kent County Council

District Councillor Elham Parish - Report 7.10.24 - Cllr Stephen Scoffham
Raise the Rate: Food Waste

'Raise the Rate' is new campaign to increase recycling rates. At the moment the recycling rate for the District is stubbornly stuck below the 50% barrier. We need to break through this and get to the point where we are recycling more than we are sending for disposal. Over the last few months, I have been involved in discussions about how best to go about this. One new initiative which has just started is to work with Kent County Council on a joint project targeting food waste. The idea is that all refuse bins will be stickered with a message that says 'no food in here'. Free caddy liners and reduced rates for external waste caddies will provide a further incentive. Further details are on the website: [Raise the rate](https://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/raise-the-rate)
[Raise the rate campaign | Folkestone & Hythe District Council \(folkestone-hythe.gov.uk\)](https://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/raise-the-rate)

Electrical waste disposal

I was pleased to attend the opening of the new electrical recycling point which has been recently set up in the centre of Folkestone. If you have any small items of electrical waste such as kettles or old radios just drop them off on a Saturday morning with the volunteers who will be manning the stall in Sandgate Road near the old Debenhams building.

Road to rail

With the new EU Entry/Exit system due to come into force in a few months' time and continuing concerns about congestion at the port of Dover impacting on roads in and around Folkestone this seems a timely moment to refresh the discussion about getting more freight off the roads and onto rail. We have highlighted this in our response to the consultation on the KCC Transport Strategy and I have written to MPs Sojan Joseph and Tony Vaughan to see if we can enlist their support. There is a good economic case for making the shift and the benefits in terms of carbon reduction could be significant.

Youth Forum

At the end of September, I helped to facilitate a Youth Forum attended by pupils from Folkestone College, Brockhill School and the Marsh Academy. The pupils visited the Civic Centre and shared their vision for the district and ideas relating to the new corporate plan. There are plans to continue and develop the Forum in the months ahead.

New trees

The Council is looking for places to plant new trees across the district. There are a large number of whips which need to be planted in November. If the Parish Council has any sites which it would like to identify, please do let me know. This is a chance to do something different which would have real impact.

Planning Reforms

The government has an ambition to build 1.5 million new houses and has now published details of proposed planning reforms. The immediate effect will be to create significant pressure on the Council to grant planning permission for new homes and to allocate additional development sites. The annual housing requirement for the Folkestone-Hythe district has increased by 14% from 735 to 838. The requirement for Dover has increased by 41% and by 58% for Sevenoaks whilst Ashford has seen a 5% decrease.

Biodiversity resolution-In late July I brought a resolution to full Council affirming the importance of biodiversity and wildlife and the way that it can be supported across the District. I am pleased to say that after a short debate the resolution was passed unanimously.

Planning quotas- You will probably know that the new national government has re-introduced housing targets for Local Authorities. As I understand it, the quota for our District has increased slightly and now stands at a little over 800 houses a year. Finding land for these developments is not going to be easy. It will be important to watch carefully what is proposed as the new Local Plan is developed this autumn

Corporate plan consultation - Finally, please do take part both individually and as a Parish in the Corporate Plan consultation which sets priorities for the District. Simply search for 'Folkestone-Hythe Corporate Plan' or go directly to <https://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/policies-plans-documents/corporate-plan>

202.24 Correspondence

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

203.24 Consultation – It was **agreed** Councillor would respond as individuals to Emerging Local Transport Plan – KCC are consulting on the draft new Local Transport Plan.

204.24 Date of next meeting and Close

The next Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council will be on Monday 21st October 2024 at 7.30pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.35pm.

Appendix 1 – September 2024 invoices approved at October meeting.

Payee	Cheque No.	Amount	VAT	Net	Comments
EDF	ONLINE	£57.78	£2.75	£55.03	Electric
Clerk expenses	ONLINE	£51.00	£0.00	£51.00	Expenses
Castle Water	ONLINE	£27.32	£0.00	£27.32	Burial Ground
Reliable Networks	ONLINE	£49.08	£8.18	£40.90	Microsoft License

* 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 (All invoices have been examined, verified and certified prior to the approval by the RFO)

Appendix 2 – Correspondence Log – September 2024

Date	Email/ Phone Call	From	Re	Action
03.09.24	Email	FHDC Planning	Weekly List.	Informative.
03.09.24	Email	FHDC Planning	Delegated List.	Informative.
09.09.24	Email	Diocesan Registry Clerk	Directions letter.	Sent to Chair. Rev Bates responded.
09.09.24	Email	DAC Secretary	Directions letter.	As above.
10.09.24	Email	Planning Officer	24/1305/FH – Greenhills.	Sent to all Cllrs.
11.09.24	Email	Resident	The Gore hedge.	Sent to Chair.
12.09.24	Email	FHDC Planning	Weekly List.	Informative.
12.09.24	Email	FHDC Planning	Delegated List.	Informative.
12.09.24	Email	Woodlands Trust	Delivery of whips.	Advised Environment Group.
12.09.24	Email	FHDC	Precept 2 remittance advice.	Informative.
12.09.24	Email	Rev Bates	St Marys Church Wall in response to the Directions letter.	Informative.
14.09.24	Email	Resident	Fly tipping at The Gore – reported to FHDC.	Informative.
18.09.24	Email	KCC Members Grant	Awarded grant from C.Cllr Carey.	Clerk to action.
19/09/24	Email	FHDC Planning	Weekly List.	Informative.
19.09.24	Email	FHDC Planning	Delegated List.	Informative.
19.09.24	Email	FoSM	Replacement railings to Churchyard.	Agenda item.
19.09.24	Email	FHDC Planning	24/1208/FH/TCA – War Memorial decision notice.	Sent to Cllrs.
19.09.24	Email	FHDC Case Officer	24/0540/FH/CON – Planning conditions The Gore.	Clerk to action.
22.09.24	Email	P Roberts	Twining Schedule.	Sent to all parties.

23.09.24	Email	FHDC Planning	24/1273/FH/TCA – St Marys Churchyard tree decision notice.	Sent to Cllrs.
24.09.24	Email	KCC Highways Steward.	Drain cleaning and yellow lines.	Highways lead chasing a site meeting.
24.09.24	Email	D Cllr Godfrey	Street lights and yellow lines.	Informative.
25.09.24	Email	D Cllr Scoffham	19 The Orchards – Yew Tree.	Informative. Sent to Tree Warden.
26.09.24	Email	FHDC Planning	Weekly List.	Informative.
26.09.24	Email	FHDC Planning	Delegated List.	Informative.
03.10.24	Email	FHDC Planning	Weekly List.	Informative.
03.10.24	Email	FHDC Planning	Delegated List.	Informative.