

# LYMPNE PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

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Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held  
at 7pm on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at The  
Committee Room, Aldington Road, Lympe

**Parish Council**

## Minutes

### Present:

**Cllr. M. Boor (Chair)**

**Cllr. A. Beales (Vice Chair)**

**Cllr. C. Yates**

**Cllr. J. East**

**Cllr. M. Potter**

## 1. APOLOGIES

Members are reminded of the need to tender apologies with the reason for absence directly to the Clerk if they are unable to attend. Members will confirm acceptance of the reasons for absence.

### **Cllr. M. McAuley**

Reasons for absence accepted by members present.

## 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a. To declare any personal interests in items on the agenda and their nature.
- b. To declare any prejudicial interests in items on the agenda – any councillors with prejudicial interests must leave the room for the relevant items.

**No declarations made.**

## 3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 11th December 2024 to be agreed by members present.

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted by members present and signed by the Chair.

## 4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION/PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Members will propose to adjourn the meeting to allow Public Participation.

Standing Orders provide the opportunity for members of the public to speak at Council meetings. The allotted time for Public Participation is 15 minutes, and each person may speak for no longer than 3 minutes, at the discretion of the Chair.

At the end of the Public Participation section, the Council meeting will resume.

**No members of the public present.**

## **5. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE SPEAKERS**

**Cllr. J. Speakman gave a verbal report – the following is a summary:**

- Limited local updates due to the Christmas break.
- Councillors and staff reviewed the Government's Devolution White Paper (published 16 December).

### **Key points of the White Paper:**

- Government prefers every area in England to have a mayor.
- Creation of new 'strategic authorities,' ideally led by mayors.
- Strategic authorities will have devolved powers in transport, skills, economic development, public health, etc.
- They will be responsible for various local plans, including growth, transport, skills, and employment.
- Additional funding will be given, with mayor-led authorities receiving the most.
- Government aims to replace the two-tier council system with unitary councils (population over 500k) as principal authorities.
- Mayoral elections expected from May 2026, requiring councils to engage in devolution planning soon.
- KCC likely to submit a Devolution Priority Programme request by 10 January, potentially postponing May 2025 elections to May 2026.
- Elections in 2026 for a Mayor of Kent and the establishment of a cross-county Strategic Authority.
- FHDC expected to continue in its current form until 2027, when elections will be held for new unitary authorities.
- Unitary authorities will begin as 'Shadow Authorities' in 2027 and become fully operational by 2028.
- Estimated creation of three unitary authorities covering KCC and Medway areas.
- Fate of KCC councillors in 2026 and whether KCC/Medway will cease to exist.
- Whether FHDC will continue until 2027 or 2028.
- How district and county functions will be managed during the transition.
- Transition planning is underway at the unitary (KCC/Medway) and ministerial level.
- District councils have no decision-making power but have been widely consulted by KCC.
- Anticipated high workload for all involved in the transition.

## **6. CHAIR'S REPORT**

The Chair will provide an update on any additional Council activities and meetings attended.

- Attended a Kent Association of Local Councils meeting where the Devolution White Paper was discussed. See above from the district councillor.
- An agreement has been reached with Homes England to fund the water treatment facility. This will be the start of the Otterpool Garden Town development.
- There has been a circular regarding the solar farm proposed to be built at Court-at-Street. No firm decisions have been made at this time.
- Due to the recent icy weather, it was agreed that salt bins should be provided at the village hall car park.

It was agreed unanimously that the Parish Council would purchase a salt bin for use in the village hall car park.

- It was agreed that the Chair would provide an article in the newsletter about the Parish Council budget.

## **7. MEMBER REPORTS**

Members will update the Committee regarding any meetings or events attended on behalf of the Parish Council.

### **Cllr. C. Yates**

- Informed members that the youth club continues to be well attended.
- 42 young people attended during Christmas.
- It was explained that running the club was hard work but very rewarding, especially when the young people are unable to use the outside space. 45 young people within the village hall is safe with the number of staff working, but things will ease when the evenings start to lighten up and the outside space can be used.

## **8. CLERK'S UPDATE**

No update this month.

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### **Council Business:**

## **9. TO DEAL WITH MATTERS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE IN CIRCULATION**

No matters arising.

## **10. WELLBEING UPDATE**

**Cllr. A. Beales provided the following update:**

- The digital well-being initiative is up and running with James as our digital champion. He is able to visit home addresses and assist people with various online activities.
- It was agreed that James should be provided with a mobile phone to support the initiative.
- Plans are in place for a mixed-ability table tennis club to be started at the village hall.
- A grief and loss group will be set up. Funding has been applied for, and it is hoped that £1,000 will be provided to train volunteers to run these groups.
- Free training in suicide prevention is available with M.I.N.D. seeking volunteers from councils.
- As the initiative continues, we will start to receive support for age and disability within the village.
- A partnership is being developed with the Pilgrims Hospice.
- The next meeting of the health and well-being initiative will take place in February.

## **11. LYMPNE CASTLE DEVELOPMENTS**

Item raised by Cllr. East to discuss work being carried out on Lympne Castle grounds.

Concerns had been raised regarding various developments within the conservation area at Lympne, which are being carried out by the owners of the castle.

The Clerk informed members that no planning applications had been received for comments, and no comments or concerns had been raised by members of the public.

It was agreed after discussion that Mr. McAuley (not in his role as Councillor) would be invited to address the Council with any information about building work or future proposals at the castle.

## **12. TREE DESTRUCTION CONCERNS – ALDINGTON ROAD NEAR TO THE RIDGEWAY**

To discuss concerns over the apparent destruction of trees on the verge in the above location.

After discussion, it was agreed that KCC Highways would be contacted to confirm the work being carried out in the area identified.

## **13. PLANNING**

<b>Reference</b>	<b>Site address</b>	<b>Proposal</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<a href="#">24/1950/FH</a>	LILAC COTTAGE, BERWICK LANE, LYMPNE, HYTHE, CT21 4JX	Proposed porch to front elevation and single storey rear extensions.	No Objections
<a href="#">24/1954/FH</a>	2 MALVERN VILLAS, STONE STREET, LYMPNE, HYTHE, CT21 4JY	Single storey side/rear extension.	No Objections
<a href="#">24/1965/FH/TCA</a>	LYMPNE CASTLE, THE STREET, LYMPNE, HYTHE, CT21 4LQ	Works to trees in a Conservation area comprising of 4 x Beech to be felled	Objections- The plan does not show which trees are to be felled and the purpose for the removal.
<a href="#">24/1934/FH</a>	LYMPNE CASTLE, THE STREET, LYMPNE, HYTHE, CT21 4LQ	Retrospective application for: - change of use of ancillary store area to Class E (b) to provide kitchen and back of house facilities for the bistro; - internal reconfiguration of the bistro to provide an internal partition and bar; and - replacement of external plant.	No Objections
<a href="#">24/1948/FH</a>	LYMPNE CASTLE, THE STREET, LYMPNE, HYTHE, CT21 4LQ	Retrospective Listed Building Consent for: - change of use of ancillary store area to Class E (b) to provide kitchen and back of house facilities for the bistro; - internal reconfiguration of the bistro to provide an internal partition and bar;	No Objections

Reference	Site address	Proposal	Comments
		and - replacement of external plant.	

## 17. FINANCE

a. Breakdown of expenditure/income since the last meeting.

No matters raised.

b. Authorisation of Payments – Members reviewed the list of invoices for payment and identified two councillors to authorise the payments online.

Items shown in Appendix 1 were agreed for payment.

c. Additional items requiring authorisation:

No additional matters raised.

## 18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

12th February 2025.

**Noted.**

## Appendix 1

### PAYMENTS (AWAITING AUTHORISATION) LIST

Vouche	Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Cheque No	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
106	Hall Hire	01/01/2025		UNITY TRUST BANK		Village Hall Hire	Lympne Village Hall	Z	60.00		60.00
109	Newsletter	02/01/2025		UNITY TRUST BANK		Newsletter	Sandgate Printers	Z	294.00		294.00
110	Donations(OUT)	08/01/2025	11th December 2024 Item 9	UNITY TRUST BANK		Donation to Lympne Guides	Lympne Parish Council	Z	100.00		100.00
111	Litter Bin Clearance	08/01/2025		UNITY TRUST BANK		Litter Bin Clearance	Lympne Village Hall	Z	65.00		65.00
107	Loan Repayments	20/01/2025		UNITY TRUST BANK		Public Works Loan	Public Works Loan Board	Z	4,075.63		4,075.63
120	Software Subscriptions	23/01/2025		UNITY TRUST BANK		Accounting Software	Starboard Systems	S	345.60	69.12	414.72
119	Village Hall Phone Line and Bro	23/01/2025		UNITY TRUST BANK		Village Hall Broadband	Callflow	S	41.25	8.25	49.50
108	Clerks Wages (NET)	30/01/2025		UNITY TRUST BANK		Wages+Office	Lympne Parish Council	Z	668.58		668.58
108	Clerks Home Office Use	30/01/2025		UNITY TRUST BANK		Wages+Office	Lympne Parish Council	Z	26.00		26.00
108	HMRC	30/01/2025		UNITY TRUST BANK		Wages+Office	Lympne Parish Council	Z	505.76		505.76
<b>Total</b>									<b>6,181.82</b>	<b>77.37</b>	<b>6,259.19</b>