



**Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held at 7 pm on
Wednesday, 11th February 2026, at The Committee Room,**

MINUTES

PRESENT-

Cllr. M. Boor (Chair) Cllr. C. Yates Cllr. M. McAuley

Cllr. J. East Cllr. J. Sinclair

Also present:

**Mr J Lawrence- Parish Clerk, District Cllr John Wing, a representative from the
Development Team from Lymyne Castle and one resident.**

1. APOLOGIES

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

Cllr. M. Potter- Work Commitments

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.

Cllrs East and McAuley declare personal interests in item 8- Members agreed that both may remain within the meeting but will be prohibited from voting or speaking directly about the application

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 7th January 2026 are to be agreed by members present.

Accepted and signed by the Chair

4. NOTIFICATION OF CASUAL VACANCY LYMPNE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council notifies the Casual Vacancy due to the resignation of Cllr. Anne Beales.

Noted by members- The clerk informed the meeting that once permitted, the Council will advertise the vacancy once the co-opting powers come into force.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION/PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Members will propose an adjournment to allow Public Participation.

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

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

In order to allow attendees to contribute to the debate, item 8 was heard-

The meeting heard from a member of the public who raised objections to the most recent application (25/1974/FH) at the castle, and requested that the Parish Council object to the application and ask for it to be called in to the Folkestone and Hythe Licensing and Planning Committee. The objection cited an unacceptable change of land use, harm to the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty that cannot be mitigated, and concerns over noise and disturbance to the village. The Council noted these points for consideration in its response.

6. TO DEAL WITH MATTERS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE IN CIRCULATION

Items Raised by Residents

Litter – Lower Otterpool Lane

- A request was received asking that the Parish Council remind Folkestone & Hythe District Council of its commitment to address the litter along Lower Otterpool Lane.
- Concern was expressed that vegetation will soon cover much of the existing litter if action is not taken.

The clerk was instructed to contact the relevant departments at the District Council.

Parking in the Village

- A request was made for the next Lympe Newsletter to include a reminder regarding illegal parking on kerbs.
- Residents also asked that the newsletter highlight the dangers and illegality of parking on or close to road junctions.

The Clerk was instructed to include this request in the next Parish council newsletter.

Speed Checks in the Village – Kent Police

- Kent Police carried out speed enforcement in the village.
- Officers reported that average speeds had increased since their previous visit, likely due to recent weather preventing Speedwatch sessions.
- Most vehicles were recorded travelling at approximately 36–37 mph.
- Two vehicles were recorded at 45 mph and 47 mph; both drivers were stopped and issued fixed penalty notices.

It was also noted that a new coordinator for Community Speed Watch had not come forward, and that the Speed Indication Device was being held by Sellindge Parish Council, which assisted with the purchase of the equipment some years ago.

Dirty Road Traffic Signs

- A concern was raised regarding dirty and algae-covered traffic signs at the traffic-calming entrance to the village.
- It was noted that unclear signage may cause confusion for drivers, particularly regarding give-way priorities on Stone Street.
- A request was made for the signs to be cleaned.

The clerk reported that he believes the signs had been cleaned.

7. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE SPEAKERS

Cllr. Speakman provided a written report, a summary is included at the end of these minutes.

8. Adjourned Item- Planning application

25/1974/FH	CASTLE BARN, LYMPNE CASTLE, THE STREET, LYMPNE, HYTHE, CT21 4LQ	Agricultural barn structure extended and rebuilt to provide an event space with associated landscaping and car parking.
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Members will decide on comments now that all relevant information has been uploaded to the planning portal.

The Council noted the concerns raised by residents and acknowledged the strength of local feeling. Members reviewed the amended plans and supporting documents submitted to the planning portal, together with the applicant's clarifications and all public representations, including those living in very close proximity to the site. The broader implications for the village as a whole included easing traffic issues along the Street and reducing the number of Castle-generated vehicles using the village hall's car park. Following further discussion, the Council concluded that the additional information— including revised parking layout, transport statement, flood risk and drainage details, and arboricultural assessment—was sufficient to form a view. Based on the available material and recognising its advisory role, the Council resolved unanimously to support the application.

Note - Cllrs East and McAuley took no part in the debate or vote due to their interest in the matter.

The Clerk was instructed to update the planning department with the comments from the Parish Council.

9. CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair will provide an update on any additional Council activities and meetings attended. This will include an update on the Playing Fields Development and Trim Trail Footpath.

- The most recent Boot Fair raised about £385.00 for the village hall.
- A meeting was held with Kompan to confirm the order for the new play park with an anticipated installation by Easter.
- A further donation of £5000.00 from Ballards lettings has been received, meaning that £16,000 will need to be found. It was requested that this be included as an agenda item at the next Council meeting.
- The proposed footpath through the Trim Trail has been quoted at £16,500. This is less than the money granted through the Green Grant Fund. Which was 80% of £20,000. Permission will be requested to spend the original grant money to improve the village's green spaces, namely the old playpark and the movement of equipment, which will, in effect, provide a starting point for walking through the village using the Trim Trail.

The Clerk was instructed to write to the Grant Managers to confirm that this will be an appropriate use of the funds. It was accepted that if it is not permitted, that the Parish Council would be awarded 80% of the final cost of the project.

- It was reported that the projector in the old village hall is no longer working, and a new one will need to be purchased.

10. HEALTH AND WELLBEING UPDATE- Cllr. J. Sinclair

This item will allow members to consider whether the Health and Wellbeing Group should be confirmed as a committee of the Parish Council or as a standalone group.

- The Digital Champion drop-ins are still proving popular.
- The Wednesday craft group is continuing and is well attended.
- The Terms of Reference for the Health and Wellbeing Subcommittee previously circulated to members by the Clerk were accepted by members. Cllr. J. Sinclair was appointed as the Parish Council member on the committee.

11. YOUTH CLUB UPDATE - Cllr. C. Yates

- Currently, 12 young people are attending, and this is the expected number for this time of year.
- Volunteers are still sought.
- The Youth Club will be opening to Year 6 before the end of the school year to encourage attendance. It was noted that year 9 pupils were still attending the club.
- The end-of-term trip was paid for, and it was agreed that this be refunded to Cllr Yates.

For items 10 and 11, the Clerk was instructed to progress DBS checking facilities.

12. MEMBER REPORTS

Members will update the Committee on any meetings or events attended on behalf of the Parish Council, as well as other relevant matters.

- Cllr. East reported that the tree work in the recreation ground had been completed, and the invoice was due to be paid. It was confirmed that this was on the list of payments for this month.

13. CLERK'S UPDATE

- Funding for a new bench has been received from KCC Councillor Peter Osbourne, and this will be ordered to replace the bench at Berwick Lane.
- A thank you has been received from The Lympe Lunch Club, who have received the Fordred Donation.
- The Terms of Reference for the Wellbeing Group have been created, and this will be discussed at Item 10
- Community Award has been requested via the Kent Association of Local Councils- They informed me that normally they only accept one nomination from each Parish, but have agreed to accept our two names.

The Clerk was requested to contact the nominees to invite them to attend the ceremony in Faversham.

- The Council pay each year for a domain name that is used for our website This is www.lympne.net. It was agreed that this is no longer required.
- The ANNUAL PARISH MEETING has been booked for 8th April 2026 in the Harry Margary Hall
- The bench installation at Folkeswood Way Playing field is hoped to be completed over the next few weeks-
- Work is commencing for the end-of-year audit, with the internal audit planned for early May.

14. PLANNING

No planning applications this month

15. FOOTPATH DEFECTS BELCAIRE CLOSE/HARMEN AVENUE (HE369)

To consider the current condition of the footpath HE 369

Members discussed the current state of the above footpath, which also forms part of a road used by residents. It was agreed that this was not acceptable.

The Clerk presented a set of options to encourage the responsible authority to improve the pedestrian surface, as it is registered as a footpath.

The Clerk was instructed to commence correspondence with Kent County Council to ascertain the status of the footpath and identify those responsible for its maintenance.

16. LITTER LOWER OTTERPOOL LANE

Members will comment on current litter levels and confirm action to be taken.

Members noted that litter levels in the area had increased.

The Clerk was instructed to contact the District Council to arrange a litter pick of the area; however, it was requested that this be done prior to the strimming and verge maintenance, as, if timed incorrectly, the strimming and verge maintenance would only serve to chop up the litter and spread it over a wider area.

17. ASSERTION 10- AUDIT PROCESS

The clerk provided members with a short overview of the impact of assertion 10, which now forms part of the yearly Audit Process.

The Clerk was instructed to ensure that the Parish Council complied with assertion 10 to comply with the audit process this year.

18. FINANCE

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

No Matters raised

b. Authorisation of Payments – Members will review the list of invoices for payment and identify two Councillors to authorise the payments online.

Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Payment Ref.	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
Software Subscriptions	21/01/2026		UNITY TRUST BANK		Accounts Software	Starboard Systems	S	444,00	88,80	532,80
Newsletter	04/02/2026		UNITY TRUST BANK		Newsletter	Sandgate Printers	Z	294,00		294,00
Audit Fees- External and Interr	04/02/2026		UNITY TRUST BANK		External Audit	Mazars LLP	S	315,00	63,00	378,00
Software Subscriptions	04/02/2026		UNITY TRUST BANK		Mapping Software	Geosphere (PARISH ONLIN	S	88,00	17,60	105,60
Village Hall Phone Line and Brc	04/02/2026		UNITY TRUST BANK		Broadband	Callflow	S	41,25	8,25	49,50
Grasscutting	04/02/2026		UNITY TRUST BANK		Grasscutting	Coleman	S	340,00	68,00	408,00
Litter Bin Clearance	04/02/2026		UNITY TRUST BANK		Bin Clearance	Lympne Village Hall	Z	65,00		65,00
Tree works	09/02/2026		UNITY TRUST BANK		Tree works	N.J, APPS	S	120,00	24,00	144,00
Clerks Home Office Use	27/02/2026		UNITY TRUST BANK		PAYE+HMRC	Lympne Parish Council	Z	26,00		26,00
Clerks Wages (NET)	27/02/2026		UNITY TRUST BANK		PAYE+HMRC	Lympne Parish Council	Z	687,27		687,27
HMRC	27/02/2026		UNITY TRUST BANK		PAYE+HMRC	Lympne Parish Council	Z	584,47		584,47
Total								3,004,99	269,65	3,274,64

19. ITEMS FOR INCLUSION AT A FUTURE MEETING- MATTERS RAISED HERE ARE NOT FOR DISCUSSION.

- i. Finance for the new playpark
- ii. 1st Aid Training
- iii. DBS Checks
- iv.

20. DATE OF NEXT MEETING- Wednesday, 11th March 2026.

Noted

COPY OF DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

Lympne Parish Council Meeting 11 February 2026

District Council Report Cllr Jeremy Speakman

Swimming under the spotlight

Councillors will be considering funding proposals to help re-open Folkestone Sports Centre pool and make much-needed improvements to the council-owned Hythe Pool.

Cabinet members will discuss at a meeting on 11 February a one-off £2.4million grant to help The Sports Trust to refurbish the Radnor Park Avenue pool, changing rooms and pool plant machinery.

Once this work is carried out, attention could then turn to Hythe Pool. Consideration is to be given to funding improvements from the Section 106 agreement which compels housing developers to offer investment into a community to support the needs of families moving into new homes.

Lower Leas cliff work

Stabilisation work has just begun near The Vinery in Folkestone's Lower Leas

Coastal Park.

The work involves regrading the cliff edge, soil nailing and the installation of netting and is necessary following the 2024 landslide.

Once the work is completed (expected early April), the upgrade of equipment in the park's adventure playground can begin.

Greatstone coastal opportunity

The new beachside destination is to be known as the Changing Tides Coastal Centre when it opens later this year.

Alongside the 93 beach huts ([the last few are still available](#)) is a café concession and anyone interested in operating it should register their interest through [Motis Estates](#) .

Shaping the district's economic growth

Residents and businesses are urged to have their say in the council's plan to support sustainable and inclusive growth across the district.

A [short survey](#) can be completed online or by picking up a paper copy from the Civic Centre. It will inform work by the council in areas such as green innovation and low-

carbon growth, strengthening the visitor economy and making better use of land and employment sites.

The survey needs to be completed before 16 March 2026

Next step for Folkestone regeneration

Work on a key aspect of the £20m project regenerating Folkestone town centre has begun.

A new "green heart" is replacing the former Folkestone bus station at Bouverie Square with a more inviting space being created, including an area for play.

The work is part of the Folkestone – A Brighter Future programme. This is being largely funded by central government after the district council successfully bid for a share of what was known as Levelling Up investment.

Folca building

Members of the council's Cabinet are due to be asked this month to agree moving forward with a commercial, mixed-use development for the Folca 2 building in Folkestone town centre.

This would also include the provision of a medical centre in the Art Deco section of the building.

Meanwhile progress is being made on the sale of Folca 1- the Edwardian part. Six bids were submitted and the council has now identified a preferred bidder whose intention is to restore this part of the building to its former glory. Funds from the sale will go towards the development of Folca 2.

Pathway to net zero

A district-wide strategy for tackling the urgent challenge posed by climate change and ecological decline has been launched.

The launch was at a community and business partnership meet up held in Folkestone in January.

It was the opportunity for business owners, charity and community members to come together to create and strengthen pathways to a more sustainable future.

Volunteer award scheme

The search is on for volunteers who go that extra mile in dedicating their time and skills for others in the district.

Nominations are open for the [Folkestone & Hythe Excellence in Volunteering Awards](#) run on behalf of the council by Kent Coast Volunteering.

Awards will be presented in June and the deadline for nominations is Friday 17 April.