

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at 7 pm on Wednesday, 11th March 2026, at The Committee Room, Lympne Village Hall, Aldington Road, Lympne

MINUTES

Present:

Cllr. M. Boor (Chair) Cllr. J. East Cllr. M. McAuley
Cllr. J. Sinclair Cllr. P. Murphy (Co-opted at Item 4)

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

Cllr. C. Yates

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 February 2026 to be agreed by members present.

Agreed by all present and signed by the chair

4. CO-OPTION TO LYMPNE PARISH COUNCIL

Members will consider the applicant and vote to co-opt to the office of Parish Councillor

Mr Peter Murphy, present at the meeting, was proposed for co-option by Cllr. McAuley and was seconded by Cllr. East.

A vote was held and Cllr. Murphy was co-opted unanimously and took his place on the Council.

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.

No members or the public present

6. TO DEAL WITH MATTERS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE IN CIRCULATION

1. Letter from resident concerned about litter levels in Otterpool Lane and the potential for strimming to take place and spread the dropped litter across the agricultural fields.

The clerk explained that he had written to the District Council, which confirmed that the litter clearance will take place between 12th and 13th March. He had also written to the County Councillor and was awaiting a reply.

7. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE SPEAKERS

Summary of report from District Councillor Speakman

- Budget Balanced budget approved for 2026/27 (£20m for services); council tax up 2.99% (17p/week for Band D)
- Affordable Housing ,44 new homes at Risborough Barracks, Folkestone; 6 more in Lyminge, all let at affordable rents, EPC rating B
- Local Gov Reorganisation , Government consultation (open until 26 March) on restructuring Kent councils; F&H supports "Option 3a" ,joining Dover, Thanet, Canterbury and Ashford in an east Kent unitary authority
- Play Area , £750k refurbishment of Lower Leas Coastal Park playground underway; due to open for summer 2025, with new inclusive equipment and extra seating/parking
- Rail Freight , Government to resume rail freight across the Channel, potentially removing 140,000 lorry journeys from the M20 annually
- Town of Culture , Folkestone exploring a bid to become the UK's first Town of Culture, with £3m prize funding for 2028 cultural events
- Business Support, Free mentoring and workshops for high street and rural businesses; contact economy@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk
- Healthy Food , Seven east Folkestone shops joining a project promoting healthy, budget-friendly eating
- Town Centre Regeneration (FABF) , £22m scheme now over halfway done; new bus station progressing, next works on Cheriton Place
- Economic Strategy , Residents and businesses invited to contribute to a new district economic strategy via drop-ins or survey (open until 16 March)

8. 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.

See items 14 and 15 for update.

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

Reported that the first meeting of the subcommittee will take place on the 24th March- Attendance at the Hub and the Digital Champion drop-ins remains popular.

10. YOUTH CLUB UPDATE - Cllr. C. Yates

No update this month

11. MEMBER REPORTS

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

12. CLERK'S UPDATE

- Contact has been made with Folkestone and Hythe District Council to request a litter pick takes place at Otterpool Road prior to any strimming occurs. Initial response indicates that FHDC who complete the litter pick link in with KCC who carry out the strimming. I have written to the KCC Councillor and FHDC Cllrs to see if this can be married up to prevent the dispersal of the litter.
- An article has been placed as requested within the Newsletter to highlight the issues caused when parking on verges and close to junctions
- The Annual Parish Meeting has been advertised to begin at 7pm on the 8th April. However, due to a new hirer of the hall finishing at 7pm on the same night the start time will need to be put back to 715pm
- Written to the Public Rights of Way Department at KCC to get confirmation of responsibility for maintenance of HE369 Belcaire Close and Harmen Avenue.
- Updated the planning department about the Council comments on Castle Barn development 25/1974/FH. I have since heard that this matter will be dealt with by the Planning Committee, having been called in. A date for this meeting has not been set yet.
- Funding has been received for the replacement Bench at Berwick Lane- This will be purchased soon.
- Informed nominees for the Community Award who have decided not to attend the main ceremony in Faversham, preferring to receive their certificates at the Annual Parish Meeting.

13. PLANNING

Application Number	Location	Details	Comments
26/0276/FH	1 OCTAVIAN DRIVE, LYMPNE, HYTHE, CT21 4JG	Works to trees subject to TPO No 05 of 1993 comprising of T1 Sycamore crown reduction reduce height by 4 metres and 2 metres laterally. T2 Oak cut back lateral branches	No objections

		approximately 2 metres.	
26/0174/FH/CON	ASHDEN LODGE, ALDINGTON ROAD, COURT-AT-STREET, HYTHE, CT21 4PE	Approval of details pursuant to condition 4 (tree protection) of planning permission 25/1982/FH.	No objections

14. PLAY PARK UPDATE

Members heard that the Playpark is on target to open on the 7th April- Equipment is due to be delivered this Thursday, and the surface is to be laid next Monday.

15. TRIM TRAIL UPDATE

Members heard that the original quote for work will be less than expected. It is hoped that the grant residue can be used to landscape the area where the old play park was, extend the planned path to join Aldington Road, and work with the School, Youth Club, Brownies, and Guides to design information panels.

The clerk was instructed to contact the Grant Holders to outline our request and to update District Council Officers of our intention to commence work.

16. VILLAGE SHOP LEASE- UPDATE

Members heard that there had been a delay in completing the new lease due to issues with trustees. It is hoped this will be dealt with soon.

17. ASSERTION 10- AUDIT PROCESS- POLICY ADOPTION

Adjourned

18. DISCLOSURE AND BARRING SERVICE

Members will consider and agree on the procedure for obtaining DBS checks for new volunteers for the Health and Wellbeing Group and Youth Club.

An umbrella company is still being identified to carry out checks on behalf of the Council. It was agreed that all costs to carry out these checks would be covered by Parish Council funds.

19. 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.

Payee	Details	Amount
Mazars LLP	External Audit	378.00
Sandgate Printers	Newsletter	294.00
PAYE	PAYE	1297.74
Colemans	Grass cutting	408.00
Lympne Village Hall	Bin Clearance	65.00
Lympne Village Hall	Hall Hire	60.00

Above authorised for payment

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

a. County Members Public House Future

21. DATE OF NEXT MEETING- Wednesday, 8TH April 2026 at the Harry Margary Hall commencing at 7.15pm. The Parish Council meeting will commence after the Annual Parish Meeting

Noted