DRAFT MINUTES of the meeting of Lympne Parish Council held on Wednesday 7th October 2026 at 7.00 pm in the Committee Room, Lympne Village Hall

Present: Cllr. P. Murphy (Chair), Cllr. J. Sinclaire , Cllr. C. Yates

In attendance: J. Lawrence, Parish Clerk

1. Apologies

Cllr. M. Boor

Cllr. M. Potter

Cllr. J. East

Cllr. M. McAuley

2. Declarations of interest

None declared.

3. Acceptance of the minutes of the meeting held on 9th September 2026

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

4. Public session

No members of the public were present.

5. Chair's report / updates

The Chair's written report was received and read to the meeting. It covered the following matters.

- **Local government reorganisation.** A meeting of five parishes with Jim Martin on local government reorganisation had been planned. This is now on hold.
- **Otterpool – 300 houses.** The application for 300 houses at Otterpool had been discussed. A further meeting is to be held in a couple of weeks' time, once everyone has looked at the application documents.
- **Otterpool Quarry.** The Chair of Sellindge Parish Council had expressed concern about the latest Otterpool Quarry application, particularly extra traffic and odour. The Chair's report shared those concerns (see item 10).
- **Youth Club.** Volunteers appear to have pulled back from any supervisory role, and paid help is proving hard to source. It was considered unlikely that anything would be in place before Christmas. The report suggested accepting this and using the weeks after Christmas to source paid help and to re-energise volunteers who come forward.
- **Men's Shed.** Despite being a very good idea and the best efforts of everybody, nobody has yet come forward at the drop-in sessions, although several people have asked for help at home. The report cautioned against the Council becoming an unpaid odd-job service. If a shed were provided it was thought it would be well attended, but the Council should proceed with caution on location, planning and cost.
- **Trim Trail.** To be finished in a couple of weeks. The invoice is to be submitted as soon as possible.
- **Wellbeing Gardens.** Funding is in place and the gardens should be complete by Christmas.
- **Lympne Castle parking.** The Council has stated its position that, on balance, additional parking is required and so supports the current applications provided they include the

mitigation measures. This was agreed with the Castle. The Council will scrutinise all future applications closely and decide on the basis of what is best, on balance, for the parish as a whole. There are certain things the Council would not contemplate supporting.

- **Newingreen junction.** It was reported that nothing is going to happen at Newingreen for at least another five years. This was returned to under item 13.
- **Otterpool Quarry proposal.** The Council objects due to unknown impacts of additional traffic and of odour generated by the change in input materials. The application gives no baseline information on impacts and changes the conditions without explanation or justification.
- **Manor Farm.** A mail drop had been made to local residents. There had been no particular complaints and some positive support. The Council did not object previously and sees no reason to object now.

6. Members' reports

- **Youth Club. Cllr. C. Yates-**

  A circulated information round had brought interest from people, but none were willing to run the club. A further volunteer had come forward, so there were probably three people but no one prepared to take the lead. Members did not want to lose the Youth Club. A hoped-for volunteer from Hythe Youth Club had the member's contact details but had not been in touch. The club had been advertised widely, including on Facebook, for months. Faith groups had been approached to ask whether anyone employed might run a non-faith youth club, without result. It was noted that a paid post had probably not yet been advertised as an option, and that members had hoped to avoid a full recruitment process. The Council noted that the position remained that more people were needed.
- **Cllr. J. Sinclaire (Digital Champions).** A Digital Champions drop-in had been held that day and a couple of people attended. A home visit was planned for the following day to help with printers. A new presentation on scam awareness was possible, although it was unclear whether it was still needed, given the amount of scam coverage on television and in police newsletters.

7. Clerk's report

- **KCC Highways.** The Clerk had emailed Kent County Council Highways about visibility at the junction of Aldington Road and Castle Road for people crossing the road, and about getting hedges cut back. Highways are slow to reply.
- **Grant.** The Green Grant second-round grant information had come through that day. £1,977.81 had been awarded, which it is hoped will allow the work in the garden to be finished.
- **Manor Farm Close play area.** The Clerk had approached the District Council, who initially said the Council could apply for a grant to get it sorted out. Further debate will be needed in relation to this as taking on such an area would be an expensive operation if the park is not handed over in a good state of repair.
- **Millennium Wood.** The Clerk is still reviewing the relevant agreement. The Clerk had checked with the insurer, who confirmed the Council is covered for public use of the wood because the Council is in control of it.
- **Village Hall hire for the Youth Club.** The Hall is reserved for the Youth Club and the Council has been charged, £80 on the latest invoice, with the cost being roughly £100 a month. Members discussed whether to keep the slot in case the club restarts after Christmas, bearing in mind that the booking would otherwise be released to others.

RESOLVED: to keep the Village Hall booking for the Youth Club until Christmas.

- **Clerk's leave.** The Clerk will be on leave from Friday 9th October for two weeks, returning on 23rd October.

8. Invited speakers

There were no invited speakers in attendance- See appendix 1 for written report from District Cllr. Jeremy Speakman.

9. Correspondence and communication, and matters arising

The Clerk reported the following.

- A resident had raised concern about the level of traffic near a home. A response from Kent County Council Highways is awaited. The location was not stated in the report.
- Another resident had asked for help with overgrown trees at a junction at Manor Farm Close. This had been reported to the District Council's grounds maintenance team.

10. Planning

KCC/FH/0133/2026 – Otterpool Quarry, Ashford Road, Sellindge, Kent TN25 6DA. Section 73 application to vary conditions 3, 21, 24, 25, 27 & 32 of planning permission FH/25/1739 to allow changes to the types of waste to be handled within the Materials Recycling Facility (to include food, street litter arisings, highways mechanical sweepings and clinical waste types) and to change the permitted hours of operation to allow for Sunday and Public & Bank Holiday working between 0700 and 1300 hours.

Members noted that the site has only been operating for a number of months. They noted that the Chair of Sellindge Parish Council had spoken to the Chair and was not happy with the application, partly because the extra traffic generated by the Otterpool development itself was not taken into account when permission was first sought. Members noted that food waste would go to the anaerobic digestion system, which seemed acceptable, but that clinical waste is usually incinerated and no need for it had been shown.

RESOLVED: to OBJECT to the application on the following grounds: (1) the extended operating hours will increase traffic movements; (2) no justification has been given for the additional waste types, or how they will be dealt with.

26/1497/FH – Manor Farm, Aldington Road, Court-at-Street, CT21 4PH. Conversion of farmstead buildings to five dwellings, including extensions and reinstatement of oast roof, associated parking and private amenity areas, landscaping and ecology enhancements. Reinstatement of open sided pitched roof structure to the south of the main buildings.

Members noted that the Council did not object to the earlier application, that it understood the objections had mainly concerned ecology and the level of detail in the reports, and that details such as exterior materials are a matter for the planning authority.

RESOLVED: that the Council has NO OBJECTIONS.

26/1561/FH – 33 The Ridgeway, Lympne, Hythe, Kent, CT21 4PW. Works to trees subject to TPO No 5 of 1993 comprising of T1 - Oak raise lower crown by 4m in height and 2m laterally.

RESOLVED: that the Council has NO OBJECTIONS.

26/1542/FH – Beech Cottage, Berwick Lane, Lympne, Hythe CT21 4JX. Works to trees subject to TPO No 15 of 1996 comprising of T1-2 Beech crown reduction of 4 metres vertically and 3 metres laterally. T3-4 Cotoneaster lateral reduction of 2 metres.

RESOLVED: that the Council has NO OBJECTIONS.

11. Finance

a. Bank reconciliation. The Clerk presented the bank reconciliation, which balanced.

b. Review of transactions and budget. No issues were recorded. The Clerk intends to bring a draft budget to the next meeting, to be finalised in December. Members were asked to think of anything the Council wishes to spend money on and to raise it at the November meeting.

c. Payments for authorisation. The following payments were presented:

Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
Line Marking Village Hall Car P:	Utility Support Services Ltd		1,194.00	238.80	1,432.80
Youth Club Hall Hire	Lympne Village Hall		80.00		80.00
Grasscutting	Coleman		357.00	71.40	428.40
Bin Clearance	Lympne Village Hall		65.00		65.00
Website Service	Local Authority Technology		330.00	66.00	396.00
Bench Instalation	Gary Lukehurst		35.00		35.00
		Total	**2,061.00**	**376.20**	**2,437.20**

It was noted that the line marking payment was not to be signed off, as the Clerk believed the amount shown was incorrect (the total amount should have been shown) and would check it again.

12. Youth Club – update

The matter had been covered under items 5, 6 and 7 and no further discussion took place.

13. Local Plan

The Council considered a response to the District Council's scoping consultation, which closes on 16th October. The Clerk had prepared a draft response, which members described as fairly general, because there is as yet little to respond to, while showing that the Council is engaging with the process. Members supported submitting it as an initial response, with added emphasis on the Council's specific infrastructure requirements.

In discussion:

- Members' concerns about homes relate to Otterpool rather than to any identified land in the parish. It was recalled that an earlier survey in the village had not identified a need.
- Infrastructure was a key concern. The Newingreen junction improvement is not expected for at least five years. The Clerk reported having written to the relevant officer, who said that the 300 homes would not in themselves trigger the improvements because the traffic model shows the additional vehicle movements can be absorbed. The Clerk replied that the Council assumed the junction would be built as soon as work on Otterpool started, and was told that it would be early in the development.
- Members felt the junction work should be done before or at the same time as the new houses. It was noted that around £360,000 of Section 106 money is held, that the cost has risen above that sum, that there are many underground cables, and that a lot of work has already been done. A member said the design shown looked dangerous to them, and the highway speed information may be in the Otterpool application pack.

RESOLVED: to submit the draft response to the Local Plan scoping consultation, emphasising the Council's infrastructure requirements.

14. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 11th November 2026 at 7.00 pm in the Committee Room, Village Hall, Lympne.

Signed …… Chair Date ……

APPENDIX 1-

Lympne Parish Council Meeting 7 October 2026

District Council Report Cllr Jeremy Speakman

Monthly briefing – October 2026

Case Work

I have ongoing case work relating to a resident's concerns about the level of traffic near her home. I am awaiting a response from Kent County Council Highways in relation to that matter. Another resident has asked me for assistance in relation to overgrown trees on Folkestone and Hythe District Council land which is blocking her light. I have reported the matter to the Grounds Maintenance team who are responsible for maintaining the land and will continue to monitor. I have also asked for remedial work to be undertaken on urgent repairs required on the Play Park at Manor Farm Close.

Grand Burstin Hotel fire

Residents of Pavilion Court, Folkestone, who had to move out of their flats following the fire, have returned home.

The council moved most of the residents into hotels and other temporary accommodation, while others went to stay with family and friends.

The return went ahead after structural investigations enabled the reduction in the size of the exclusion area around the fire-damaged hotel.

Brittania Hotels is liaising with the Burstin guests over the return of their belongings.

Work on new Local Plan for district

Residents, businesses and local communities are being invited to get involved in the preparation of a new Local Plan.

A Local Plan guides decisions about where new homes, employment space and community facilities should be developed, while helping to protect the environment and respond to climate change.

This first stage, known as the scoping consultation, asks how those living and working in the district want to be involved with the process and what the new plan should include.

There will be further public consultation in 2027 once a draft is prepared.

To get involved visit the consultation portal and provide comments by 4pm on Friday 16 October 2026. More information is available on the Local Plan microsite.

New life for former department store

An application aimed at preparing the Art Deco section of Folca to become an active mixed-used building with commercial units and a medical centre has been submitted.

This forms part of the next phase of work at Folca 2, which will follow the current programme focused on weatherproofing and making good the building.

The key town centre site – on the corner of Bouverie Place and Sandgate Road, has remained vacant since 2020 and the proposal seeks to bring it back to life.

Ensuring support reaches the right people

Over £1.25m of funds claimed fraudulently or in error has been identified in the past year.

Folkestone & Hythe District Council's investigations unit covers council tax schemes, tenancy fraud, housing benefit and parking.
This work has saved £1,266,259 over 466 proven cases in 2025/26 – ensuring the money can be distributed to more eligible residents who need support.
There are several schemes to help residents finding the rising cost of living challenging. Visit folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/cost-of-living-support to find out more.

Support for Folkestone's Grace Hill project
The Grace Hill Steering Group has announced a significant milestone in its ongoing work, with a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) now formally signed by all community partners.
The agreement has been signed by Folkestone Town Council, Creative Folkestone, One Folkestone, Folkestone & Hythe District Council and the local Member of Parliament – Tony Vaughan, demonstrating a shared commitment to working collaboratively to support the future development and success of the Grace Hill project.
The signed Memorandum of Understanding is available to view on the project website 2 Grace Hill – Folkestone Town Council

Help to bring back international rail service
Kent County Council (KCC) is urging residents to help secure the return of international rail services to Ashford and Ebbsfleet by taking part in a survey.
No international trains have stopped in Kent since 2020 when Eurostar withdrew services from Ashford and Ebbsfleet leaving communities disconnected.
This short survey should take just three minutes to complete and may help the campaign to bring international rail services back to Kent.

Better play time at Cheriton
New dynamic play equipment specifically aimed at toddlers and teenagers has been added to Cheriton Recreation Ground.
Using development levies aimed at improving local infrastructure, Folkestone & Hythe District Council has invested over £70,000 into 14 pieces of apparatus to complement the existing offering on Stanley Road.
Plans to update and improve equipment at other play areas across the district are being prepared.

Community Safety events
A **Winter Well** event is being held on Monday 2 November from 10.30am until 2pm at the Hub on the Beach, 103 Coast Drive, Greatstone, TN28 8NR.
The event will focus on supporting residents through the challenges of winter by providing advice and support around food poverty, reducing bills, benefit and financial advice, safeguarding and fire safety checks.
Organisations wanting to join the event with a stand should contact community.safety@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk

A **Spot the Scam** event is being held on Friday 6 November from 10.30am to 3pm at Age UK, Sandford House, Stade Street, Hythe, CT21 6BD.

The event, organised by the council’s Community Safety team, will offer practical advice and support for anyone who wants to learn more about recognising scams and protecting their personal information from scammers.