

Draft Minutes of Lyminge Parish Council Meeting.
Held on Monday 10th February 2025 in Lyminge Village Hall.

02.01 Present: Cllrs Trayner, Heywood, Wake-Smith, Fagg, Harrison, Arnold and Hall.

In attendance: Chani Sanger (Clerk), Cllrs Susan Carey (KCC), Elaine Martin (FHDC), Jenny Hollingsbee (FHDC) and 15 members of the public.

Welcome and apologies: Cllrs McWhinnie, Burren, Mills and King.

Declarations of interest: None

02.02 Minutes:

02.02.1 Regarding the meeting on 13 January it was noted that the minutes should reflect that it was Cllr Hollingsbee in attendance, not Cllr Carey. It was also noted that a member of the public had been dissatisfied with the record of their contribution in the public open session. It was advised that minutes are a record of actions taken and resolutions passed and are not recorded verbatim. It was also noted that due to the content of the discussion, LPC was required to ensure that they were not in breach of any employment law of contractual obligations. It was noted that the Personnel Committee is liaising with WorkNest. Cllr Heywood noted that she would like the vote taken regarding employment at the meeting on 3 February to be recorded. It was noted that a recorded vote should be requested at the time of voting and cannot be taken as recorded after the fact.

[Motion - To approve the minutes of 3 February.](#)

Proposed: Cllr Hall | Seconded: Cllr Arnold | Motion passed

[Motion - To defer the minutes of 3 February until the Personnel Committee has liaised with WorkNest.](#)

Proposed: Cllr Arnold | Seconded: Cllr Hall | Motion passed

02.03 Public open session:

02.03.1 Residents of Woodland Road attended regarding a planning application under consultation in Woodland Road. Residents outlined their concerns and implored the parish council to object to the application.

02.03.2 A member of the public asked whether the previous Neighbourhood Plan consultant could be reinstated and whether the advisory committee could be set up at a public meeting.

02.03.3 A member of the public asked why information from Age UK had not been circulated. It was noted that the correspondence received from Age UK had been marked 'private and confidential' and was not permitted to be shared. It was noted that the Clerk had requested clarification from Age UK.

02.04 Neighbourhood Plan:

02.04.1 It was noted that an advisory committee would allow for members of the public to be equal voting members to councillors. If approved, the council would set up the new committee in line with guidance from Locality.

[Motion - To approve reconstituting the existing committee as an advisory committee.](#)

Proposed: Cllr Hall | Seconded: Cllr Arnold | Motion passed

[Motion: To move items 5 and 6 to the end of the meeting.](#)

Proposed: Cllr Fagg | Seconded: Cllr Hall | Motion passed

02.05 Lyminge Village Hall:

02.05.1 Councillors discussed ways that the parish council could make the village hall a more user friendly building. This could include incorporating Age UK services. Council would need to be able to research and consider the available options.

[Motion: To approve up to £500 of expenditure on a report to produce options on how to use the space more effectively.](#)

Proposed: Cllr Hall | Seconded: Cllr Fagg | Motion passed

02.06 Climate Action:

[Motion: To approve the planting of whips of native trees and bushes by Lyminge Climate Action to replace whips lost during previous planting efforts around the edges of Tayne Field, Court Lodge Green, Jubilee Field \(especially along the south bank between the play park and the climbing equipment\).](#)

Proposed: Cllr Heywood | Seconded: Cllr Trayner | Motion passed

[Motion: To defer planting of a native, non-thorny, hedge in the grassy area along the length of the tennis court on Jubilee Field, until after the Lyminge Village Hall report is produced.](#)

Proposed: Cllr Arnold | Seconded: Cllr Hall | Motion passed

[Motion: To defer the instruction of a suitable person to clear and mow a path around the bird cherry tree on Tayne Field.](#)

Proposed: Cllr Heywood | Seconded: Cllr Harrison | Motion passed

[Motion: To approve the removal of brambles encroaching on the central areas of Court Lodge Green by volunteers from Lyminge Climate Action.](#)

Proposed: Cllr Heywood | Seconded: Cllr Trayner | Motion passed

02.07 Planning:

Reference:	Location:	Proposal:
25/0038/FH	LITTLE WOODLAND FARM, WOODLAND ROAD, LYMINGE, FOLKESTONE, CT18 8DP	Variation of Condition 8 (hours of site access) of planning permission Y10/0694/SH to allow for increased hours to access the site for emergencies.
<p>The council echoed the issues raised by members of the public which included light pollution, noise pollution and increased traffic. Councillors noted that members of the public should add their own objections.</p> <p>Motion: To object to application 25/0038/FH</p> <p>Proposed: Cllr Fagg Seconded: Cllr Wake-Smith Motion passed</p>		

Motion: To approve the Clerk as representative at the FHDC Planning Committee meeting on 11.02.25.

Proposed: Cllr Fagg | Seconded: Cllr Hall | Motion passed

02.08 Community meeting regarding Age UK:

Motion: To approve Cllr Harrison as representative at the event hosted by the Lyminge Association on 11.02.25.

Proposed: Cllr Harrison | Seconded: Cllr Arnold | Motion passed

02.09 Information and correspondence:

- Cllr Jim Martin (FHDC) is attending the KALC area committee meeting.
- Lyminge Primary School requested the LPC look into ways that they could improve the parking during peak school hours. Cllr Carey noted that she would send some information over.

Motion: To exclude the press and public under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 due to the confidential or prejudicial nature of items 5 and 6 (now items 10 and 11)

Proposed: Cllr Harrison | Seconded: Cllr Arnold | Motion passed

02.10 Grounds Maintenance Tender (originally item 5):

Motion: To remove company three from consideration on the basis of price.

Proposed: Cllr Arnold | Seconded: Cllr Trayner | Motion passed

It was decided that councillors would fill in their tender packs and the Clerk would calculate the scoring and update at the next Full Council.

02.11 Committee membership (originally item 6):

Motion: To remove Cllr Heywood as a parish council representative on outside bodies, for the foreseeable future.

Proposed: Cllr Fagg | Seconded: Cllr Wake-Smith | Motion passed

Motion: To approve Cllr Arnold attending the KALC Area Committee meeting on behalf of the parish council.

Proposed: Cllr Fagg | Seconded: Cllr Wake-Smith | Motion passed

Motion: To approve Cllr Hall joining the Finance and Administration and Community Engagement and Events committees.

Proposed: Cllr Arnold | Seconded: Cllr Trayner | Motion passed

Date of next meeting: 10th March

Meeting closed at 21:49

Signed: _____ Chair (Date __/__/25)

Appendix:

Cllr Susan Carey (KCC)

The Government has rejected the application from Kent County Council and Medway Council to be part of the Devolution Priority Programme. This means we must still produce plans for unitary councils (putting the district councils together with KCC) but we won't have elections for a mayor in 2026 or the extra funding and powers that were promised to go with this. Elections will however go ahead as planned for KCC in May.

KCC has its all-day meeting to debate and agree its budget for 2025/26 on Thursday 13 February. The proposal is for a 5% rise which is the maximum that can be set without holding a referendum. Most councils in England are also setting the maximum allowed - either 5% if they have social care responsibilities or 3% otherwise (parish and town councils are not limited in this way). A few have been given permission by the Government for higher rises ranging from 7.49% to 9.99%.

During the General Election campaign Labour promised a one-year council tax freeze. The last council tax freeze took place over ten years ago when the Conservative Government offered councils the equivalent of a 2% council tax increase if they kept their council tax charges the same as the year before and most councils accepted the offer. This was also the same time that the requirement for a referendum was introduced for council tax rises above a limit set annually by the Government. The new Labour Government has not made such an offer and whilst it has raised funding for councils the increase falls short of the increased costs (both direct and indirect) from National Insurance and Minimum Wage increases. This means that even with a 5% increase KCC needs to make savings.

The Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Kent & Medway is now available for public consultation at Let's talk Kent and everyone is invited to give their views on what's now proposed following much work including workshops across Kent and the opportunity for both individuals and organisations to contribute. Called 'Making Space for Nature' this policy will be crucial for identifying the land that's available or needed for nature and how we will measure success. Please give your views.

I was pleased to see that the Chancellor has indicated support for the Lower Thames Crossing. The new Government had announced a delay in making a decision until May 2025 and that is still the date when a Development Consent Order is expected. This project is a nationally important one and particularly key for Kent. At present most HGV traffic uses the M20 and, if there is disruption to cross Channel traffic, congestion and delays spread out across our local roads and the M20 used to manage queuing HGVs. These delays have become a major disruption to people's lives and businesses. The Lower Thames Crossing will offer a better route for Dover bound HGV traffic and KCC will be pushing for the upgrades needed to Kent's roads to accommodate the expected change in traffic flows.

Cllr Jenny Hollingsbee (FHDC)

Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation - In view of the Government Reorganisation Programme with Kent County Council, Medway Council and the Districts and Boroughs likely to disappear over the next few years, I put forward a motion to full Council on 29 January to ask the Secretary of State for permission to remain as a Cabinet/Leader style of Governance. This is to allow resources, Officer and staff time and funding to be focused on ensuring our residents get the best deal possible moving forward. The motion was passed by 16 votes to 13.

It is extremely disappointing that Kent is not in the priority programme as some funding was promised. However, Kent and Medway are still expected to put forward a proposal by the end of March on how many Unitary Council's Kent and Medway should have with a full programme of implementation by the autumn. In the meantime Kent County Council elections will take place this May.

Kent & Medway Police & Crime Panel – I attended the Budget Police & Crime Panel on 4 February. In order to balance the budget, there is a need to make savings of £10m – for details Agenda for Kent and Medway Police and Crime Panel on Tuesday, 4th February, 2025, 10.00 am In the circumstances, it was unanimously agreed to an increase in the precept to £14 per year for a Band D Property. Meetings are held quarterly and I can put one question to the Commissioner on policy (not operations), the next meeting is in June.

Scrutiny Programme – 2025-2026 - Residents have the opportunity to shape the programme of the council's overview and scrutiny committee. Ideas do not have to be limited to the council or its services – but cannot include planning applications, licensing matters, housing appeals or disciplinary issues. For further details Getting what matters to you on the agenda | Folkestone & Hythe District Council

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Cllr Elaine Martin (FHDC)

Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation

We have been informed that KCC is not on the priority list for devolution, meaning that the KCC Elections in May of this year will be going ahead as originally planned. It is, however, having to go through the Government's plan for local government reorganisation. This means that the District Council will be absorbed into a Unitary Council at some point in the future. The make-up of the Unitary Council is yet to be decided.

Lyminge Age UK

The District Council have said there will be a lot of work to be done before they can consider what to do about Everist Court. They have done a condition survey on the building to update their stock condition records. They have said that the work is at a very early stage and a final

decision about what can be done with the building as not yet been made. However, to continue to make use of the building as a community facility would need to keep the fire alarm, lift, boilers, fire extinguishers, etc. compliant, maintained and serviced and the council do not have the resources to do this.

Otterpool Park

Agreeing the final collaboration agreement is moving into a final stage. Interviews have recently been carried out for the post of Home England's project manager. Homes England have decided to appoint their own project manager in order to independently report on progress during the collaboration agreement period.

Pension Credit

If you are over 66 and are not eligible for pension credit you could be entitled to vouchers worth £200 to help pay for food, energy or both, via the KCC Just Missing Out Scheme. Visit kent.gov.uk/justmissingout to apply or call your local Citizens Advice branch for support – 0300 304 8003. Applications close 28 February 2025 or when funds are all spent.

Also the FHDC Home Essential Fund is back open for white goods and beds. You need to be on a means tested benefit with less than £1,000 in savings. To apply visit www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/help-support-cost-living/home-essential-fund

Green Grants

FHDC are to launch a Green Grants scheme later this month. The money will be available over the next two years and is targeted at groups whose aim is to enhance social cohesion, increase climate resilience and reduce carbon footprints by increasing energy efficiency, enhancing green spaces and areas for local wildlife. This will be available across the district and are for varying amounts depending on the project. Applications will be invited from parishes, community groups and other organisations and can be used for anything from rewilding and tree planting to parish premises improvements.

Social Housing Decarbonisation

Work has been completed on another 120 council-owned homes with a range of energy efficient measures which will help tenants manage their energy bills. Insulation, solar panels, and air source heat pumps have been installed where appropriate by FHDC and match funding by the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund. The first phase has already seen the decrease in the total CO2 emissions of just under 295 tonnes per year.

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