

**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING OF THE ABOVE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 9th JANUARY
IN THE DURLING VILLAGE HALL STARTING AT 6.30PM**

001/24 To Record those Present and list any Apologies

Those Present: Councillors S Parish – Chairman, L Cronin, N Fursdon, J Triton, and G Worthy, also present were S Carey – KCC, J Hollingsbee – F&HDC, 5 members of the public and the PC Clerk

Apologies were received from S Bull – Sellindge PC and accepted and E Martin – F&HDC

002/24 To Declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI), Other Significant Interests (OSI's) or a Voluntary interest relating to items on the agenda.

None were declared

003/24 To agree and sign the minutes of the December Council meeting

Due to the current work load and the Christmas and New Holidays these were deferred until the next meeting.

004/24 Open Session

Members of the public raised:

1. The Lees = a suggestion that a residents' group or similar be set up to help run look after The Lees was made. The Clerk replied that given the short time since the hand over to the PC, no work had been done to arrange a management plan, however it had already been discussed in general terms at F&GP Committee meetings and previous past comments from residents had already been listed.
2. Potholes is there any updates - KCC would do more if more money, a lot of money is going into social care. It was noted that one of the Cllrs had been around the village this week and had reported many of the potholes. Residents are reminded that the best way to get these repaired, is not to complain on the social media pages, but to go on to the KCC website reporting page.
3. It was mentioned that Highways have stated that come October when the full biometrics that are required to be checked at Dover Docks, they are expecting delays of considerable length and that Operation Brock may well have to be put in place for some long time. This will have an impact on the village and the surrounding the areas.

ACTION;

Clerk to monitor and liaise.

005/24 To hear Reports from

- a) Cllr S Carey –KCC report will be on the website.
- b) Cllr J Hollingsbee – F&HDC – this will be on the website.
- c) Cllr Martin – F&HDC – sent apologies, therefore there was no report.

ACTION: Clerk to send reports to be placed on the website.

006/23 Finance

a) To note & agree the following invoices and payments

Having been given time to read the list, all councillors were happy to accept these.

Name	Reason	Gross Amount
Sellindge V/Hall	Invoice 23/261 Electricity	£337.85
	Invoice 23/262 Hire of Hall	£22.00
D Prior	Reimbursement Paper for office	£21.99
	Reimbursement Tape	£16.99
	Reimbursement Teak Oil, filler etc	£47.68
	Reimbursement Wheelbarrow	£64.95
	Reimbursement Angle grinder/accessories	£473.70
	Reimbursement Brackets/mending plate	£10.17
	Reimbursement Locks for 3 salt bins	£49.58
	Reimbursement Bin bags	£9.99
	Reimbursement Vodafone top up	£10.00
	Reimbursement All planner	£16.35
WellersHedley	Invoice land transfer 48144.001/ASM/SB	£1,800.00
S Bull	Reimbursement Dog bags	£78.85
	Reimbursement Dog bags	£77.88

b) To agree the budget and precept recommendation from the F&GP

Those Cllrs who had seen the budget circulated last week and had no comments or questions to make: The Chairman read out a statement as follows

Compared to the previous year's budget of £123,178.00 we have reduced the budget this year to £116,141.00 by only including those projects that we hope/expect to finish by the end of the financial year, with the balance coming from other sources.

With the increase of the minimum wages going up by nearly 10% we have had to increase the precept and have managed to keep this increase down to 5%, from £70,000 to £73,500

In addition, he added that although we have employed 2 additional staff in the last few months, we have noted due to the extra work load The Lees will generate, we may need to increase the number of hours for the existing staff or recruit further staff.

Having been proposed and seconded the vote was unanimous.

ACTION:

1. Clerk to send precept request for £73.500 to F&HDC Finance department
2. Clerk to file invoices

007/24 Planning

- a) To **note** any decisions made by the District Council
There were none reported since the last meeting.
- b) To **note** receipt of any applications received and agree comments
23/1774, Airport Café. Demolition & rebuilding of 4 commercial units & a new utility block. It will tidy it up. Would like to see that the leaving of the lorries is made as such, to the Cafe, to prevent the lorries from turning right and going through the village. It was agreed that a comment should be made. The current planning permission for the 15 lorries at the rear of the area has expired on 31st December 2023, the Clerk was asked to contact the planning department to raise with the concerns of this Council.

ACTION:

Clerk to send comments to F&HDC

008/24 Correspondence and Updates

1. Speedwatch update – Training with the equipment, on Tuesday 31st January, the Clerk will send out a group email to those who have completed their on-line training. It was noted that should people want to take part they can still log on to the Speedwatch website to register and carry out the initial training.

009/24 Matters of General interest

None was highlighted.

010/24 To Co-opt to fill casual vacancies

Applicants will be given the chance to give a 3-minute presentation to the Council

Mr Haining had sent in an application form. He gave a short presentation,

He Lived in the village for 23 years, works at Dover border force, he has a young family, so will do his best, to be involved as much as possible.

He also highlighted that he was disappointed so few people had come forward given that the village is growing.

It was proposed by Cllr Fursdon and seconded by Cllr Worthy to co-opt him. The vote was unanimous.

ACTION:

Clerk to advise F&HDC of co-option

011/24 Date of next meeting and close

The next meeting will be on 13th February, there being no further business the closed at 7.30pm