

Minutes of Meeting 2025-12 held on Monday 1 December 2025 at The Community Room, Newchurch Village Hall, Newchurch, Romney Marsh, Kent TN29 0DP.

Unique Minute Number	Agenda item	Record	Action
2025-12-1	In attendance	<p><b>Parish Councillors</b> Colin Woollard (Chair), Scott Fielding (Vice Chair), Michelle Barden  <b>Clerk &amp; Finance Officer</b>, Alison Prentice.                      1 member of the general public.                      Apologies received from Cllrs Cooper &amp; Wimble.</p>	
2025-12-2	Declarations of Interest	The Chair reminded all Parish Councillors to declare any conflicts of interest in the business before them. None noted	
2025-12-3	Approval of previous minutes	The minutes of the previous meeting were approved. Proposed Scott Fielding, seconded Michelle Bardon.	ACTION Clerk to file & update notice board and website.
2025-12-4	Matters Arising	These were raised during later agenda items.	
2025-12-5	Invited speakers & public participation	<p><b>Cllr Cooper (KCC Division member)</b> provided a short written report as he was unable to attend as out on district duties.                      “ The district council recently voted for option 3a on local government reorganisation LGR) which basically means when Kent County and all District Councils are abolished in 2028. The district councils preference is for all services in Kent to be delivered by 3 unitary councils. The government will announce its decision next year on what chosen delivery model for Kent has been decided.                      I am still awaiting an application for a Ward Grant from you and the application forms are online. I understand the application from the Rural England Prosperity Fund to improve the playground appears to have stalled for some reason. Please get in touch with the district council if you want to proceed with this. Please let me know what you decide.                      It was extremely disappointing to discover the sea bathing water results had not improved this year through no one's fault. In my view, Dymchurch and its businesses should not be penalised because of this.                      You will be aware I have been unable to attend recent meetings due to commitments with Tony Vaughan, our local MP. I can report that the government has put in place a number of measures dealing with sea bathing waters, including, among other things, no automatic loss of designation after 5 consecutive adverse classification without ministerial approval.                      At the meeting before last of the community sea bathing water group, the local MP was requested to ensure that the Environment Agency was involved. Both as the guardian and regulator. At last week's meeting, both the Environment Agency Regional Director for the whole of the south east and</p>	

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		<p>the MP attended.</p> <p>A request to the EA was made to review the decision not to give Dymchurch a step change like Deal had been given. Just like St Mary's Bay had last year. You will see from my comments in the local press its important we big up the village and make it clear its business as usual for visitors who are more than welcome.</p> <p>The district has been chosen among others for improved health service working as part of its 10 year plan. Part of this includes a campaign to get a proper funded medical centre established on the Marsh. I am supportive of this initiative and support the steps you have taken so far. If you need any further support please don't hesitate to let me know.</p> <p>Please note due to recent health issues I have changed my surgeries from drop-in to appointment based. So please don't hesitate to give me a call or send me an email and I will arrange to see you at a mutually convenient time and place".</p>	
2025-12-6	Newchurch Village website administration	Chair reported he has spoken with Brooker Farms secretary who was in favour of the handover. He would discuss handover arrangements with Andrew Cragg from Brooker Farms to Newchurch Parish Council.	ACTION: Chair to arrange handover.
2025-12-7	Precept 26/27	Finances were reviewed and it was agreed to set the Precept for 2026/27 at £6500 (no increase from 2025/26).	ACTION: Clerk to confirm to FHDC.
2025-12-8	FINANCIAL REPORTS	<p><b>A&amp;B. Current &amp; Deposit account</b> Statements were provided to the meeting and signed. Transfer to new Finance Officer ongoing. As there is an additional £4.99 bank charge per month for the bank account alternative free bank accounts to be sourced.</p> <p><b>Current balance £2978.71</b> (includes cheque £201.50 not presented). <b>Deposit balance £1019.58.</b></p> <p><b>C. Cheques for payment:</b>  Alison Prentice clerk wages £257.60 &amp; Neighbourhood watch stickers £4.40 total= £295.90 cheque 000798  Clerk HMRC Tax £64.40 cheque 000799  <b>(2 cheques in total value £326.40</b></p>	ACTION: Clerk to change over bank Finance Officer details and provide info for next meeting. To also source free banking to present to next meeting.
2025-12-9	Planning	None for consideration	
2025-12-10	Jubilee Fields	<p>The Chair reported that he would review and resolve the issue with the climbing net.</p> <p>Concern raised that a resident in the parish was permitting their dog to foul in the area and not collecting as per the rules. Clerk to obtain evidence for notification to Dog Warden and fine to be issued.</p>	<p>ACTION: Chair – climbing net review</p> <p>Clerk to collect evidence and report to Dog Warden FHDC</p>
2025-11-11	Pond area maintenance	The chair notified the meeting that a new maintenance plan was required for the pond area in front of the church. Denis Peebles and Mike Barclay had tended the area voluntarily over many years and were to be thanked on behalf of the village for all their hard work.	ACTION: Clerk to send thank you cards.

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		Feedback was required from the residents of the parish on the visual nature of the area/to guide maintenance plan and following contractor quote/appointment.	Clerk to seek feedback from residents of parish.
2025-12-12	AOB	<p><b>Neighbourhood watch scheme:</b> A further 50 stickers had been purchased for £4.40 and would be delivered in the parish</p> <p>Grant application to District Councillor for <b>purchase and installation of Cycle repair station post</b> to be installed in the Pond area.</p> <p><b>Highways – Norwood Lane roadway</b> was collapsing and needed urgent repair.</p> <p><b>New councillor appointment:</b> Mrs Valerie Denby volunteered to join the parish council, which was gratefully accepted. There remains only 1 vacancy to be filled.</p>	<p>ACTION: Clerk to obtain best quote and submit grant application.</p> <p>Clerk to submit report on KCC website.</p> <p>Clerk to undertake admin changes &amp; FHDC notification.</p>
2025-11-13	Date, time & place of next meeting	Monday 5 January 2026 at 7.30pm in the Community Room, Newchurch Village Hall.	

The Chair thanked all those present and declared the Parish Council meeting closed at 8.45pm.