

THE PARISH COUNCIL OF ST MARGARETS-AT-CLIFFE

Minutes of the Ordinary Monthly Meeting of the above Parish Council held on Monday 13th July 2015 in St Margarets Hall, Reach Road at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Cllrs T Porter, A Fielding, E Cooke, R Simcox, C Smith, D Maddison, R Fagg, R Beasley, T Purchase. County Cllr Steve Manion and District Councillor Keith Morris also in attendance.

Following issues raised during Public Question Time:-

David Hall – asked if the PC could pursue the idea of placing double yellow lines from the top of Bay Hill into the dip on the footpath side, as traffic jam problems persist here. A vehicle parking opposite the old bakery near the High Street layby is also causing problems, particularly to larger vehicles – could PC pursue the idea of the double yellow lines being continued beyond this point. Also problems persist with residents/visitors to the flats at the end of Reach Road. With more people walking in Reach Road and particularly given the imminent opening of the Fan Bay site, asked if the PC could pursue the idea of continuation of a pavement near to the Holiday Camp.

Jenny Harris – asked the PC to give careful consideration to the planning application for The Old School in Kingsdown Road as many residents of The Avenue and surrounds have severe concerns re parking provision for visitors/residents.

Jim Stone – endorsed comments made by Mr Hall on traffic problems. Reported problems experienced with a lady resident of Beach Road who had stopped his car and advised him that he must turn around as she asserted this was only a footpath. Clerk has written to PROW and response awaited.

Sandy Liggins – footpath ER28 overgrown with nettles etc – can this be cleared. Is the old CCTV monitor in the Church likely to be removed – Cllr Fielding confirmed this may be the case in the future but can remain in situ for the time being. Can the pavement through to the village car park be cleared as vegetation is causing an obstruction.

Peter Blake – advised that if PC allows provision of a further bench on the tennis courts, this would be maintained at the Club's expense.

1. The minutes for the meeting on 8 th June 2015, having been circulated, were confirmed as a true record and signed.	
2. <u>Declarations of interest</u> Councillors Beasley and Purchase declared an interest in the planning application for Palmerston, as being directly affected.	
3. <u>Bacchus Partners re amended plans for The Hope Inn</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provided amended plans which see the height of property at the rear reduced by 1.5m to allay overlooking fears of residents.• All boundary hedges would be maintained and future cutting/management could be added to a management contract if necessary.• Cllr Fielding raised question re access through the front of the site, through the archway, for a fire tender – it was advised that the developers have complied with current guidance which would allow access to a certain point, then allowing for fire hose to the remainder of the site.• They have spoken to many of the neighbours and hope they have dealt with some of their objections in this amended plan.	

3a) Item moved up agenda.

Councillor Smith re proposals for new Council website.

- Provided written brief to give to prospective website providers showing PC needs of any new site.
- Gave short slideshow display from Earswick PC.
- Explained that current site has 89% bounce rate; visitors only stay on the site very briefly and feels new site is paramount for communication.
- This would not be intended as any competition re the Parish magazine but rather complementary to it.
- Any website provider would be required to give training on use.
- Brief asks for quotations by 21st August to then be considered at September meeting, with plan to go live by April 2016.
- Brief to be sent to a number of website providers.
- Cllr Simcox raised concerns re monitoring and editorial content of the site – “it is only any good if it is up to date”.
- Also George Simcox to be asked to consider designing a website to be considered alongside other quotations.
- Cllr Fielding suggested that “Fastcoast” be considered as a low cost option.
- Budget could be from £1,500 to £2,000 (or possibly less than this).

4. Clerk Report

- Bank mandate – bank signatories now in order – all now signatories including Clerk for internet banking purposes.
- Nothing heard from Royal Mail re postbox – have again written to CEO and Chairman of Royal Mail.
- Stone Farms – rabbit fence completed, invoice awaited.
- Now that fence is in place, we need a “please close the gate” sign – confirmed by Councillors.
- Clerk to also provide letter to St Peter’s Church Committee advising that access through the new gated section of the rabbit fence is provided at the discretion of the PC.
- IT WAS RESOLVED that during periods of absence of Cemetery Registrar, i.e.annual holiday, any requirement to reserve a grave space or cremation space, or to hold a funeral, would need to await his return.
- Cheque received from Braeside £1,050 re grazing rights.
- IT WAS RESOLVED to adopt the CCTV protocol provided by Clerk, with keyholders to be Councillors Fielding and Simcox.
- DBS have confirmed no requirement for Councillors to be checked re CCTV.
- Clerk advised of following dates for New Councillor Inductions – 21st July, 30th July, 6th August..
- Monitor for CCTV now in place – cheque under Finance for R Fagg.
- Brief budget provided to Councillors.
- Contacts re South Foreland Valley provided to Kirk Alexander of White Cliffs Countryside Project and John Barker of National Trust – Cllrs Beasley and Cooke had held initial meeting.
- Reported to BT re damaged phone box – unlikely that PC could undertake repairs given extent of damage – Clerk to chase any action by BT re repair.
- Terry cannot now make Veterans Association Parade on 26th July – Cllrs Purchase and Cooke will attend.
- As previously advised by Cllr Manion, Coalfields Community Grants are not available to Parish Councils.

Clerk to monitor

Clerk to deal

Clerk to deal

Clerk to deal

Clerk to deal

Clerk to advise

- Wicksteed visited re donkey springer – report provided – this comes in at £583.32 against original cost of £977. Cllr Fagg and others will investigate possibly replacing with alternative piece of equipment.
- Manufacturers of climbing frame have gone into liquidation – Councillors will investigate contacts to seek welding work to rusted section.
- Ian Miller thinks there may be ash dieback at the Cemetery – Cllr Porter will investigate to see if this is the case.
- Signs re CCTV arranged – cheque under Finance.
Telephone call from lady to comment re Garden Safari – map not good enough, no flowers at numbers 24-27.

Councillors to investigate

Councillors to investigate

Cllr Porter to deal

5. Planning

DOV/14/00533 Variation of Condition 2 of planning permission 14/00021 to allow amendments to approved drawings (application under Section 73) –
Land fronting Sea View Road and rear of Palmerston, Lighthouse Road *Object on grounds of the increased height of the property, creating overlooking of neighbours and giving an inappropriate appearance in this area*

(Councillors Beasley and Purchase abstained)

DOV/15/00121 **Amendment**
Erection of a dormer to rear catslide and associated internal and external alterations to facilitate conversion into 2 dwellings (existing extension and outbuildings to be demolished –
Hope Inn, High Street *No objections*

DOV/15/00584 Erection of single storey rear extension –
Mariners Beach, St Margaret's Road *No objections*

Clerk was delegated to deal with the following applications, received since publishing of the agenda:-

KCC/DO/0181/2015 Demolition of existing pottery building and stores.
Provision of new mobile building and relocation of existing mobile to a new location within the site boundary –
Portal House School, Sea Street *No objections to current plan; However, we feel a more detailed plan for whole site would be more appropriate*

DOV/15/00639 Alterations and extension to Curfew House for supported living use; erection of 1no. detached dwelling; change of use and conversion of Old School House into 2no. dwellings; creation of parking and formation of vehicular access to The Avenue –
Old School and Curfew House, Kingsdown Road *No objections*

DOV/15/00640 Conversion of Old School House into 2no. dwellings with associated internal and external alterations – Old School and Curfew House, Kingsdown Road *No objections*

DOV/15/00570 Erection of three detached dwellings with associated vehicular access (existing building to be demolished) – Barrow Hill, 36-38 The Droveaway *Object on grounds of over-development of the site, height of buildings out of keeping with neighbouring properties*

6. Finance and Accounts

- IT WAS RESOLVED to ratify purchase of CCTV monitor in sum of £78.26.
- IT WAS RESOLVED to accept quotation of £60 x 3 for noticeboards in PC bus shelters.
- IT WAS RESOLVED to ratify payment of £87.16 to British Telecom mad since last meeting.
- IT WAS RESOLVED to accept quotation from Stone Farms - £100 re repair to access gate to Civic Cemetery.
- Clerk provided Report from External Auditor on completion of audit – notices and completed Return now to be displayed, on boards and website.

Clerk to deal

Councillor Maddison left meeting at 8.30 p.m.

The following cheques were passed for payment:-

Signright – re CCTV signs	£54.00
Lynne Hopwood – cleaning	£102.00
R Fagg – purchase of monitor	£78.26
Freight Direct – van hire re South Foreland Valley	£405.00
PKF Littlejohn – audit fee	£360.00
The Landscape Group – grasscutting	£412.80
Jane Cook – June salary	1,065.50
Jane Cook – internet/phone	£26.70
H M Revenue & Customs – PAYE/NIC	£193.44
Mr I Miller – June labour/fuel/expenses	£1,113.00
Affinity Water – water rates	£348.15
	£4,158.85

7. Correspondence

- David Whittington, DDC Senior Planner re replacement in post.
- Kent Film Office – re filming request in South Foreland Valley; 2nd request re suitable locations/properties for The Great British Sewing Bee.
- Robert Culkin at DBS – re CCTV.
- Alec Clayson – copy email re parking problems at Village Hall.

- Colin Sumner –
 - Re overgrown path ER37;
 - Re overgrown kissing gate on Goodwin Road – dealt with by Mr Purchase.
 - Copy email sent to NT re use of herbicides (this found to be drift from local farm).
- Peter Drever – re amended planning application for 15/00296.
- Coalfield Community Trust – reply re grants.
- Rebecca Brough DDC re Declaration of Pecuniary forms and membership of multiple local authorities.
- Mr P Goj.
- Chris Oakley – re tennis court damage to nets (x 2)
- Christopher Parker – re car damaged by cricket ball – provided Cricket Club details.
- Lynda Butt – re Beach Road.
- Mrs Jane Dymond – re Beach Road.
- Amanda Patfield – copy letter re planning application 15/00296.
- Paul Neagle DDC re Public Spaces Protection Order,
- Tessa O’Sullivan – re Community Land Trust meeting
- Mr D Galvin – re Bowls Club windows.
- White Cliffs Walking Festival – information.
- Mr B Blake, Tennis Club – re bench request/locking arrangements. Agreed that PC had no objections to bench provision, as long as Club meets maintenance cost.
- Amanda Scott, Wicksteed re repairs to donkey springer.
- Oast to Coast magazine Summer 2015.
- Information re White Cliffs Walking Festival.

8. **Reports from Councillors/Advisers**

- District Cllr Keith Morris advised he had recently made a visit to the newly refurbished EK College Campus in Dover – he advised excellent improvements had been made and this should be a viable choice option for local students.
- Question of weed growth along length of Sea Street raised, covering parts of footpath.
- Cllr Simcox had received thanks re contact points put in Parish magazine; Mr Wells had advised her that the Bay Trust had closed the road during a recent large event at the Pines. Advised that the rubbish bin near the war memorial is constantly overflowing and raised question of further bin to be placed here. Clerk to check how often this is emptied.
- Cllr Fag raised question of speeding cars into the village from Nelson Park – asked if representation can be made to Kent Highways re imposition of speed limit, or at least signage to show vehicles are entering a village.
- Cllrs Beasley and Cooke had met with Kirk Alexander re South Foreland and will be undertaking further meeting.
- Cllr Cooke raised question of dogs on beach outside of season and litter at Lethercote Point – Clerk will raise with DDC and check on emptying schedule of bins.

Clerk to report

Clerk to deal

Clerk/Cllr Smith to liaise

Clerk to report

- As Cllr Maddison had to leave meeting early, her item for discussion to be added to next agenda.

Clerk to deal

Item 9 re communication dealt with earlier in meeting.

10. **Village Maintenance / Matters affecting the Parish**

- Footpath Walk to be arranged for Sunday 18th October, to start from Chapel Tea Rooms.
- Councillors discussed idea of locking tennis courts but felt they did not want to take this forward at present, but could be reconsidered at a future date. It may be that over next 12 months courts may need to be locked in the case of very severe hot weather.
- Following representations received from residents of Kingsdown Road and The Freedown re trees/vegetation on bank at the end of Kingsdown Road, it was agreed that Cllr Porter would set up an all-party meeting with interested parties to discuss.
- As under Clerk's Report, letter to be sent to St Peter's Westcliffe re access.
- Clerk advised that cheque for £60 to Dover Patrol Memorial Trustees had been cancelled as it had been outstanding since February.
- Mr Miller will liaise with David Hart/Chris Little re mowing of path alongside Dover Road.
- A problem at the Cemetery reported by Mr Miller with two graves having pots/grave furniture not permitted under rules. Also advised that he believes the main gate and sign board for the Cemetery will need to be replaced within the next 2-3 years.
- Cllr Porter had spoken to resident at The Patch re recently installed hedge – it is his intention hopefully to lift the base of the trees to allow more light as the hedge grows and he will manage the cutting of this.
- Mr Miller advised that a lady had slipped badly on the Church steps – asked if PC would authorise these being jet-sprayed as before, or he could scrub down. This is to be left in the hands of the Church

Cllr Porter to deal

Clerk to deal

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.25 p.m.

Confirmed:

Chairman

13th July 2015