

THE PARISH COUNCIL OF ST MARGARETS-AT-CLIFFE

Minutes of the Ordinary Monthly Meeting of the above Parish Council held on Monday 9th November 2015 at St Margarets Hall, Reach Road at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Cllrs E Cooke, R Simcox, R Beasley, C Smith, D Maddison, A Fielding. Apologies for absence received from Cllr R Fagg (work commitment). District Cllr Keith Morris and County Cllr Steve Manion in attendance.

Following issues raised during Public Question Time:-

Following query, Clerk confirmed that the PC has instructed the rabbit exterminator to continue with regular visits to the Civic Cemetery in order to control the rabbit population.

Penny Bailey raised the question of the resurrection of the litter picking group, as started by ex Councillor Sara Little. Councillors will give this consideration.

Peter Wells asked if any further thought had been given to the installation of “no camping” signs in the Valley – this can be brought up at this week’s meeting with White Cliffs Countryside Project.

Resident asked if planning application re The Hope Inn had been approved – it was confirmed this was the case but at present PC not aware of any conditions applied.

Viv Verren raised the question of a community noticeboard. It was noted that boards now exist in the bus shelters for such a purpose and this may be sufficient but Clerk will investigate prices for a board, possibly to be placed in the village car park.

Sandy Liggins raised question of absences by Councillors and what the legality is in this regard.

Resident reported that route from The Drove way to Chapel Lane is being churned up by vehicles. It was advised that residents have a private right of access on this route.

Clerk advised of resignation of Cllr Terry Porter from the Council – DDC have been advised and their advice on co-option awaited.

1. The minutes for the meeting on 12 th October 2015, having been circulated, were confirmed as a true record and signed.	
2. <u>Declarations of interest</u> Cllr Beasley declared an interest in planning application 15/00533 re Land fronting Sea View Road and rear of Palmerston as he is a close neighbour. Cllr Fielding declared an interest in planning application 15/01047 re Royston, Reach Road – this is a neighbouring property to that of his son.	
3. <u>Report from Community Warden</u> Brief written report received from Warden:- <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Crime in the village remains low.• Warned of vigilance re possible fuel thefts which take place this time of year.• One case of Flytipping reported in the area – removed by District Council.• Has seen an increase in dog fouling in recent weeks – has placed up posters in the area warning of possible fines.	

4. **Clerk Report**

- Order confirmation received from Wicksteed re donkey springer – lead in time for repair 4-6 weeks but will advise before site visit. Clerk to monitor
- Manhole cover at junction of Townsend Farm Road and Station Road reported as a fault – work order in place.
- Following resignation of Cllr Porter, it was agreed that Cllr Fielding would speak to Mr and Mrs Fish of Wayside re reported problems of cricket balls on their property. Cllr Fielding to deal
- Highways have refused all requests for a meeting – replies under Correspondence.
- Beach Road response under Correspondence.
- Despite two contacts, nothing received from shutter firm – now approached Lotinga Doors – quote awaited. Clerk to monitor
- Tree surgeon Mark Jones has been instructed to undertake report on trees at far end of Kingsdown Road. Clerk to monitor
- Myself and Terry went to Finance Conference on 22nd October - main emphasis were devolution to neighbourhoods, new licensing regulations and pension obligations.
- Copies of electric bills received from Football Club – very large swings and some estimated bills – Cllr Fielding will liaise with Club re regular meter readings before reporting back to PC on proposal. Cllr Fielding to deal
- Clerk reminded Councillors of informal meeting agreed on Monday 7th December between 9-11 at the Hall to have a chat about the Precept. Councillors to diarise
- Nigel Claringbould will take a look at the roof of the Bowls Club pavilion – corrugated iron section – and provide quote for any necessary repairs. Clerk to await quotation
- Salt supplies – can be provided later in the season but vagaries of weather may prevail. Clerk was therefore asked to place an order for supply with Kent Highways, with courtesy call to Mr Lyon re storing at his farm. Clerk to deal
- Simon Brown has been out of the country but will speak to Mr Miller re bench positioning on the Madge field.
- KALC AGM – 21st November – Terry Porter had agreed to attend but further Councillor may be able to attend in his place. Cllr Simcox will check with her diary. Cllr Simcox to deal
- Cricket Club would like to put up sign at entrance to KGV “welcome to St Margaret’s Cricket and Tennis Clubs” – Councillors had no objections to this
- Cricket Club would like to place mobile cricket net near pavilion for use during summer – Councillors had no objections to this.
- Clerk reminded Councillors of new pension obligations and will take this up with new Chair on appointment. Clerk to liaise
- Advised that Kent Highways had responded that they would not be prepared to clear the end of Kingsdown Road to Hogs Bush as this is not maintainable at their expense; they would not intervene with land owner as they do not consider road is impassable.

5. **Planning**

DOV/15/01047 - Erection of a single storey side extension –
 Royston, Reach Road
 (Cllr Fielding abstained)

No objections

DOV/15/01049 - Replacement roof to pool house –
Stillpoint, 19 Granville Road

No objections

KCC/DO/0348/2015 - Refurbishment of original Portal House building alongside
demolition of later extensions and existing teaching buildings.
Construction of a new three storey teaching block and gymnasium
with associated hard and soft landscaping –
Portal House School

*No objections to building but have
reservations over lack of parking for staff
(34 spaces for 50 staff). Security fencing
around perimeter abuts both the AONB
and Conservation Area and fencing should
be of an appropriate design for a rural
setting*

Clerk was delegated to deal with the following application:-

DOV/15/00533 - Variation of Condition 2 of planning permission DOV/14/00021 to
allow amendments to approved drawings (application under
Section 73(amended plans) –
Land fronting Sea View Road and rear of Palmerston,
Lighthouse Road

*Strongly object on the grounds of
overlooking of surrounding properties
creating lack of privacy; building is
overbearing in the landscape and out of
keeping with the area*

6. Finance

The quotation of £200 from Mark Jones for tree report was duly ratified.

Discussion surrounding future plans for Council website – Cllr Smith advised on site
provider Computer Geek – this would cost £1,077 + annual hosting fee £38. Asserted
that current PC website is not fit for purpose, and is cumbersome to manage.

Cllr Simcox provided a one-page brief showing all current options, including remaining
with present system, setting up the free Weebly site, using Weebly Pro at £96 a year +
domain name, or the Computer Geek system proposed by Cllr Smith. It was decided
that Councillors would canvass public opinion at their public meeting on 27th November
with final decision to be made at December meeting.

IT WAS RESOLVED to accept the quotation from Stone Farms for £1,500 + VAT in
respect of clearance of the 12 cattle grids on the South Foreland Valley.

(Cllr Manion arrived at 7.55 p.m.).

Clerk to place on
December
agenda for final
decision

Clerk to deal

Clerk had received no quotation in respect of the proposed bus shelter with this to be deferred to next meeting.

Clerk to deal

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Parish Council would contribute total of £75 to Dover District Council in respect of the new dog control order signs.

Clerk to advise and await invoice

Given that no further quotation has been forthcoming from local firm re repairs to the King George V Pavilion interior, IT WAS RESOLVED that the original quotation from R C Claringbould & Son in the sum of £465 + VAT be accepted.

Clerk to advise

The following cheques were passed for payment:-

Dover District Council re public toilets – 3 rd quarter	£2,079.34
KALC re Finance Conference	£144.00
Mr I Miller – labour costs/fuel	£1,058.00
Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal	£50.00
Jane Cook – October salary	£1,065.30
Jane Cook – office expenses	£21.72
H M Revenue & Customs	£193.64
Petty Cash	£8.50
The Landscape Group – grasscutting	£524.78
The Old Chapel Tea Rooms – footpath walk	£84.50
	£5,229.78

Receipts:-

Burial Ground fee £87.00
Credit interest £1.55 + 16p

10. Correspondence

- Kent Police – advice re Parish Forum.
- Copy of letter sent by County Cllr Steve Manion to Secretary of State for Transport re Operation Stack.
- Andy Steele DDC – re Kingsdown Conservation Area Character Appraisal.
- Andrew Hutchinson, KCC Rights of Way re “Public Footpath ER38” – Beach Road. Clerk was asked to contact KALC re any further action which can be taken in establishing this as a road rather than a footpath.
- Kent County Council re draft Budget 2016-2017.
- KALC – re Community Awards Scheme 2016. It was agreed that PC would register with this scheme.
- Kim Tatman, Ickham and Well Parish Council re A257 – no local roads meet the criteria on which she is seeking information.
- Phil Lightman, Kent Highways re temporary road closure – Bay Hill – now deferred.
- Anne Barnes, Police and Crime Commissioner re “Policing and Austerity”.
- Mr and Mrs Brown – re reported traffic/parking problems on Kingsdown Road.
- Andy Steele DDC re free parking in DDC car parks in run up to Christmas.

Clerk to deal

Clerk to deal

- Colin Sumner – re footpath walk – comments noted.
- Revd Fawcett re access gate from Civic Cemetery to St Peter’s Church. IT WAS RESOLVED that Clerk would advise that PC would be looking for cost of access gate from the Church.
- Miles Thompson re petition on GP surgery – number of emails. Clerk to advise Mr Thompson that nothing has been put formally to the PC as regards any proposed new surgery, although PC would support the principle of a new surgery. It was agreed that reference to Parish Council support should be removed from the petition form.
- Kent Highways response re traffic/highway issues raised – no meeting can take place as there is no funding for any “local issues” – all funding is going to roads where there are crash records.
- Kent Voice magazine.
- Mrs J Tindall – request for speed bump in High Street.
- Revd Harley – request for speed limits in the village.
- Mr T Porter – asking that yew tree at Post Office Corner is cut back as it is encroaching on property of Mr and Mrs Stone. It was agreed that Mr Miller would undertake this work.
- Mr A Denton – re “no vehicle” signs at Beach Road.
- Mandy Pile DDC re Christmas recycling and waste collections.
- Joanne Hadfield DDC advising that the Glebe Field has been added as an Asset of Community Value.
- Mr A Denton for Lighthouse Road Residents Association – re plans to provide a soak away/removal of spoil. It was agreed that distribution of spoil could be discussed at meeting with White Cliffs Countryside Project.
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Clerk to deal

Clerk to write, with Cllr Fielding to talk to surgery

Clerk to deal

8. Reports from Councillors / Advisers

District Cllr Keith Morris advised re site visit for Old School/Curfew site next Tuesday.

County Cllr Steve Manion advised of severe pressure being placed on KCC by the arrival of unaccompanied asylum seeking children. KCC is working with DDC on the rehoming of asylum seekers.

Cllr Cooke had been approached by residents bemoaning the amount of dog fouling.

Cllr Beasley made the point that more volunteers are required for ongoing work/scrub clearance in the South Foreland Valley.

Cllr Simcox asked if Councillors could be provided with name badges when attending events etc.

Cllr Simcox asked of the possibility of setting up an interest group within the PC on the responsibilities of residents living on unadopted roads. She will check with one of the local residents groups already in existence.

Cllr Simcox had been approached by a resident following the Remembrance Day Service alleging that a traffic warden had clamped someone visiting the service.

Cllr Maddison had been asked by a resident to express thanks to Mr and Mrs Stone for use of their electricity during the Christmas period for the tree.

Clerk will investigate

Cllr Simcox to deal

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

Notices to be prepared for the “meet the Councillor” event on 27th November.

Clerk to deal

Cllr Simcox raised the question again of the rusted element of the climbing frame at the childrens play area – she will meet with contractor Mr Miller to discuss.

Cllr Simcox to deal

Ian Miller:

- Things he will need to do:-
 - Repair and reposition little bench in KGV Play Area – with draughts board on top – this was agreed.
 - Christmas tree recycling – has made contact with tree surgeon that will shred material for nominal cost – D & A Tree Surgeons. This was agreed.
 - Needs to buy contact breaker and time switch for Christmas tree – this was agreed.
 - Salt bin at Convent Close – needs to meet Cllr on site to determine position – Cllr Simcox will deal.
 - Transfer old salt/grit to existing bins - Clerk to ask Alistair Lyon to bring up from farm.
 - Remove old shrub from bed next to “best kept village” bench and replace with Cyanosis(blue flowering).

Cllr Simcox to deal

There being no further business, the meeting closed 9.35 p.m.

Confirmed:

Chairman

9th November 2015