

THE PARISH COUNCIL OF ST MARGARETS-AT-CLIFFE

Minutes of the Ordinary Monthly Meeting of the above Parish Council held on Monday 11th January 2016 at St Margarets Hall, Reach Road at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Cllrs E Cooke, R Simcox, R Beasley, C Smith, A Fielding, B Paul, P Evans, J Harris. Apologies 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:-

Mr Jim Stone raised serious concerns re cars parked in Reach Road, at the end of Vicarage Lane and outside Heath Court Flats. Mr Stone was advised to visit the Community Warden/PCSO at the surgery to raise issues. This issue has been raised with Kent Highways who are unwilling to undertake any work re double yellow lines. Idea mooted of writing to Heath Court residents asking for considerate parking

Mr Peter Wells noted a vote of thanks to the Parish Council – small ditch arranged at top of Foreland Road by previous Councillor David Hart has worked well during recent heavy rain. He noted that if the PC arranges for clearance of the cattle grids, any silt must be taken away under EU legislation.

Mrs Viv Verren asked if convex mirrors at apposite sites in the village might be useful – County Councillor Steve Manion advised that Kent Highways were not in favour of this as they can prove dangerous.

1. The minutes for the meeting on 14 th December 2015, having been circulated, were confirmed as a true record and signed.	
2. <u>Declarations of interest</u> None declared on agenda items.	
3. <u>Report from Community Warden</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Written report received from Warden and read by Clerk. Since last report no reports or sightings of Flytipping, vandalism or graffiti. Noted new programme entitled WISK (Winter Intervention Support Kent) Programme which offers support to those at risk. Home improvement agency caseworkers undertake home visits to raise awareness of the risks of living in a cold environment and offer support. Checks include: energy efficiency measures, benefit support, energy tariff and loft insulation. They will also assess if individuals need provision from the winter warmth support fund. A Community Engagement Initiative has been started in this respect.• Cllr Simcox had spoken to Lee today; the subject of football traffic parking in The Freedown was discussed but he is of the firm opinion that these cars are not parking illegally. Broken window glass at the library could be possible vandalism.	
4. District Councillor Keith Morris gave brief overview of the services managed and offered by Dover District Council, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Council is the local planning authority.- Undertake Local Plan re housing needs.- Social housing in conjunction with East Kent Housing.	

- Waste collection through Veolia – contract shortly due for consideration.
- Community Safety Unit.
- Play parks.
- Environmental health.
- Inward development investment.
- Setting of Council Tax/Precept.
- Car parks.
- Health and transport – feed into County Council.
- Licensing.
- CCTV.
- Building Control.
- Tourism/heritage.

Question of traffic warden visits to the village raised. Although visits not regular, Cllr Morris confirmed that wardens had visited on a number of occasions when requested to do so re parking infringements. Cllr Cooke had emailed photographs of the poor state of the Bay car park – work is due to improve this by the District Council.

Cllr Morris advised that car parking charges are due to increase from 8th February. Advised that neighbourhood grant applications close on Friday 15th January.

County Councillor Steve Manion provided short précis of different areas dealt with at County level, including: libraries; country parks; roads; waste disposal; emergency planning; coroner's court; trading standards; services re drink and drugs; adult social care; children's services; adoption; planning re schools etc.

He referred to Operation Stack – Kent Highways have been instructed by Central Government to come up with a proposal for a lorry park, envisaged for 3,500 vehicles.

Cllr Harris noted that Highways had acted very efficiently in last few days of heavy rain in arranging to fill a dangerous pothole that had opened up in the Dover Road.

5. Clerk Report

- Reported problem with no receipt of tree report from tree surgeon, despite messages left on answerphone. IT WAS RESOLVED that Clerk would contact D & A Tree Surgeons to seek a quotation on pollarding of the trees, given the continuing reports from residents in The Freedown with problems of growth into their gardens and outbuildings.
- IT WAS RESOLVED that Councillor Simcox would deal with the preparation of name badges for Councillors.
- Surgery hours for Community Warden placed on noticeboards.
- Questioned again type of noticeboard required for village car park – suggested that merely small plinth of wood would be sufficient, with Clerk to approach DDC to seek permission.
- Grant form completed and submitted for defibrillator to Members Grant Scheme.
- Dates discussed for Annual Parish Meeting – Clerk to go back to Hall Manager to see what dates are available in April.
- Cllr Paul suggested that a representative from the Coastguard might be an appropriate speaker – she will provide contact details and Clerk to deal.

Clerk to deal

Cllr Simcox to deal

Clerk to deal

Clerk to deal

Clerk to deal

- Nothing heard from Claringboulds re Bowls Club roof.
- Reference to bus shelter removed from agenda as nothing heard.
- Clerk provided following notes put forward by maintenance contractor Mr Miller:-
 - Send a thank you letter to William Hickson's men re cutting of hedge along Dover Road – agreed.
 - Could thank you letters be sent to helpers with the erection and dismantling of Christmas tree – agreed.
 - Reported handrail still missing from footpath steps from The Freedown to Kingsdown Road – reported previously but Clerk will report again.
 - Two small trees across path from Alexander Field to The Avenue – it was felt this was the responsibility of land owner.
 - Christmas tree recycling well received.
 - It was agreed Mr Miller buy a new padlock for access gate at Cemetery through to Westcliffe Church.

Clerk to deal

Clerk to deal

Clerk to deal

8. Planning

The following comments were given on the applications considered:-

DOV/15/01213 - Erection of seven detached dwellings, creation of vehicular access and associated car parking (existing shed to be demolished) – Townsend Paddock, Townsend Farm Road

Following objections/comments made:-

- *Overdevelopment of site.*
- *No demonstrated need for this size of dwelling, as per DDC LDF.*
- *Policy CP5 re sustainable development not considered.*
- *Concern expressed re building height.*
- *Because of narrow access road, insufficient parking provided on site.*
- *Policy LA43 in Land Allocations Plan (Adopted 2015) should apply.*
- *Any streetlighting should be of low level pavement type.*
- *Archaeological survey required.*

DOV/15/01215 - Erection of two detached dwellings with associated vehicular access (existing building to be demolished) – Barrow Hill, 36 The Droveaway

Following objections/comments made:-

- *Strongly object.*
- *Overdevelopment of site.*
- *Design and Access Statement is inconsistent with plans.*
- *Development would see a significant loss of biodiversity on site.*
- *Inappropriate design in a rural setting.*
- *No archaeological required – site known for Saxon burials.*

Cllr Harris noted that the recent decision to refuse the application in respect of The Old School had shown “insufficient parking for Curfew House” as the main reason for DDC refusal.

7. Mr Miller re Civic Cemetery

- Mr Miller provided brief history and background to Cemetery.
- Cemetery was set up through virtue of land donated by the Dare family in around 1996.
- Mr Miller was appointed as Registrar in 1997.
- First burial rights were sold in same year.
- Land originally surveyed by Leslie Cudmore; marked out with 122 burial plots; 159 ashes plots.
- Claringbould family have family plot option – taken in 2005 for 25 years with 15 plots set aside.
- Since inception 77 burial plots sold; 70 cremation plots.
- Cost for burial plot at inception was £255; now £452.
- Overall income say £23k for burial plots; £3k for cremation plots.
- Mr Miller believes current charges are low, with maintenance costs set to increase in future years. Cited £1,400 as comparable cost for DDC burial plots.
- Stated Registrar fees need to be at professional level.
- Details on Cemetery to be placed on new PC website.
- Clerk to email Councillors copy of rules and fee sheets.

Clerk to deal

(Councillor Beasley left the meeting at 9 p.m.)

8. Proposal re Parish Council Payment for South Foreland Valley Steward

Following recent proposal put forward by Kirk Alexander of the White Cliffs Countryside Project and following two meetings with Councillors, it was proposed from the Chair that the Parish Council meet a cost of £5,000 to WCCP for one year only, to commence in the financial year commencing April 2016.

The PC would then assess what this cost provides on an ongoing basis.

This was agreed in principle, dependent on formal contract being prepared and accepted by PC. This should set out hours, days, etc of the cover for the South Foreland Valley

It was noted that it would be a good idea to have regular articles in the magazine re volunteer days, work undertaken, etc.

Clerk to contact Kirk Alexander accordingly

10. Finance and Accounts

The following cheques were agreed for payment:-

Jane Cook – repayment re BT office phone bill	£99.26
Isle of Wight Computer Geek – website set up costs	£890.00
Mr I Miller – labour/Registrar fees/fuel/expenses	£872.00
Mr T Porter – expenses re finance conference 2015.	£43.35
Jane Cook – salary December 2015	£1,065.50
Jane Cook – expenses	£29.69
Affinity Water – water rates	£162.84
KALC – induction course for J Harris	£20.00
Petty Cash	£33.98
	£3,216.62

Precept – IT WAS RESOLVED to increase the Precept request by 23.6% equating to £12 per annum or £1 per month for a Band D property, this following 3 years of no increase. The Parish Council faces new obligations under staff pension and ongoing costs for the South Foreland Valley.

During discussions, question was raised as to the toilet cleaning at the King George V Pavilion, the cost of which is met by the PC during the cricket season. It was agreed that this could be discussed at next meeting when Sports Club representatives are invited to make reports.

IT WAS RESOLVED to renew Mr Miller's maintenance agreement for a further four year term commencing April 2016. (4 Councillors in favour; 2 against). It was felt the final year of this agreement should include some form of apprenticeship/training for future jobholder.

Item re consideration of pay/salary rates to be deferred to next meeting.

Clerk to make arrangements

Clerk to place on agenda

Councillor Cooke left the meeting at 10 p.m.

10. Correspondence

- Reply from Fabweld re metalwork for climbing frame – they will be in touch when work is complete.
- Mrs Amanda Brown – further email re problems with parking/traffic in the village – this had been passed to Community Warden and he feels that traffic is not parking illegally.
- KALC – re Provisional Local Government settlement – referendum principles.
- KALC re Pensions and Auto Enrolment.
- Anne Barnes, Kent Police and Crime Commissioner re Council Tax 2016-2017.
- Notification re Endurance Life marathon 16th Jan.
- DDC – re Annual Town and Parish Council event – 18th Jan – Councillors Simcox and Evans to attend.
- Email from Terry Porter, forwarded from Mrs Amanda Brown re trees in Kingsdown Road – quotation to be sought re pollarding.
- David Hart – re cattle grids in South Foreland Valley – 2 grids had been cleared urgently to move cattle.
- Colin Sumner – re footpath ER33 – work reported had not been undertaken by PC.
- KALC – re Chairmanship Conference 26th Feb.
- Neighbourhood Watch Office – re database information.
- KALC – Dover Area Committee Meeting 27th Jan – Cllrs Harris and Cooke to attend.
- Response received from NALC re issue of Beach Road – Councillors agreed this should be a separate agenda item for February.

Clerk to monitor

Cllrs Simcox and Evans to deal

Cllrs Harris and Cooke to deal

Clerk to place on agenda

11. Due to absence of Cllr Fagg, his report re the village ponds to be deferred to February.

Clerk to add to agenda

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

- Cllr Cooke had been approached by resident re alleged closure of doctor surgery but PC not aware of any such move.
- Cllr Evans reported re trees fallen on to footpath off The Avenue – he will advise re owner.
- Cllr Harris reported concerns re land to rear of Vale View, Station Road where excavation works appear to be starting – Clerk advised this had been reported before but will report to DDC Planning.
- Cllr Paul agreed to take on responsibility of Civic Cemetery and Maintenance Contractor Mr Miller (Cllr Simcox happy to continue re Cemetery and Mr Miller's role).
- It was agreed that information held on welcome packs could be better placed on new website.
- Cllr Harris will become second representative for KALC Dover Area Committee.
- King George V Field/Cricket Club will be dealt with by Cllrs Paul and Fielding.

Cllr Evans to deal

Clerk to deal

There being no further business, the meeting closed 10.25 p.m.

Confirmed:

Chairman

11th January 2016