

THE PARISH COUNCIL OF ST MARGARETS-AT-CLIFFE

Minutes of the Ordinary Monthly Meeting of the above Parish Council held on Monday 9th May 2016 at St Margarets Hall, Reach Road at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Cllrs B Paul, J Harris, R Simcox, E Cooke, P Evans, A Fielding). Apologies received from Cllr Fagg (work commitments) and C Smith (holiday).. Apologies received from Community Warden Lee Kidd. County Cllr Steve Manion in attendance briefly.

Following issues raised during Public Question Time:-

David Hall raised the following:-

He sought permission for the farm hedgecutter to cut back the hedge along the verge on Dover Road, Westcliffe – believes some of the trees here may have ash dieback disease. This would be done in winter months and PC has no objections.

Noted 14 cars parked on dangerous section of Reach Road at weekend, possibly due to plant sale event at National Trust centre. This will be brought up at meeting with NT later this week.

Resident raised question of the future of Bluebirds Café and asked if PC had any information on this. No planning application has been received and PC not in possession of any further information although it is understood the property may be up for sale.

Peter Wells – noted that caravanettes had been parking in the South Foreland Valley last weekend and feels relevant signage may not be clear. Raised concern re Bay Hill, opposite Hotel Road junction where there is a large drop which could be a risk to cars/pedestrians.

Sandy Liggins – raised question re noticeboards in bus shelters – wires need tightening. Raised question of CCTV equipment housed in the Church – does this now need updating? There may be an issue with tripod placed on flat roof which will need investigation.

(A) As he had two further meetings to attend, County Cllr Steve Manion gave a brief report. Kent Highways currently have some extra funding from Central Government for potholes, with a new “find and fix” programme to be entered. Re Queen’s 90 th Birthday celebrations - £200 available from his Members Grant Scheme – it was agreed that this could be used for the boat/further community funding. Clerk will make contact.	Clerk to deal
1. IT WAS RESOLVED that Cllr Brenda Paul be nominated as Chair for the year 2016-2017 – all in favour.	
2. IT WAS RESOLVED that Cllr Tony Fielding be nominated as Vice Chair for the year 2016-2017 – all in favour.	
3. Cllr Brenda Paul to attend meetings of the County Association of Local Councils.	
4. Cllrs Jennifer Harris and Emma Cooke to act as representatives on the Dover Area Committee of the KALC.	
5. Meetings with Action with Communities in Rural Kent – attendees to be dealt with at time of notice.	

6. Cllr Richard Fagg to continue as a representative for the Parish Council on the Village Hall Management Committee.

7. Jane Cook was appointed the Responsible Financial Officer for the year 2016-2017.

8. The minutes for the meeting on 11th April 2016, having been circulated, were confirmed as a true record and signed.

9. Declarations of interest

None declared on agenda items.

10. Clerk Report

- Recent planning applications re Lighthouse did not appear to make provision for extra parking – can this be investigated at forthcoming meeting.
- Advised that Mr Sanalidro had been unable to attend Annual Parish Meeting.
- Further quotes from Robert Claringbould received - met with Channel Windows on Friday and quotation under Finance.
- Meeting held with Clerk, ex Councillor Bob Beasley and David Hart re meeting on Tesco grant – as long as we meet same aspirations and written agreement obtained, not too prescriptive on type of equipment.
- Annual Return now with external auditor – reply awaited.
- Nothing received from Cllr Fagg re gates on footpath or village ponds. Clerk will arrange to meet with Mr Miller to inspect gates to see if he is able to repair them; in case of need contact to be made with Vurleys.
- Cllr Simcox and Clerk will attend Planning conference on Thursday p.m arranged KALC – cheque under Finance.
- Clerk had arranged purchase of 30 pickers/jackets/gloves for litter group – cheque payable to Clerk under Finance. Bag hoops relatively expensive and Clerk will liaise with Cllr Smith in this respect.
- Kirk Alexander not able to make Annual Parish meeting – further possible meeting to be arranged after meeting with National Trust on Wednesday.
- Number of emails/telephone calls received re lack of current website – site now states “under construction”.
- Brief report read from Community Warden. Clerk to place contact details in magazine.

Clerk to deal

Clerk to liaise with Mr Miller

Clerk to deal

Clerk to note

Clerk to deal

11. Planning

The following applications, delegated to Clerk at last meeting, were duly ratified:-

DOV/16/00318 Conversion of garage to habitable room and erection of a single storey front extension –
33 The Freedown *No objections*

DOV/16/00333 Erection of rear extensions incorporating balcony and external staircase, conversion of existing garage to summer house incorporating a single storey extension and construction of decking (existing external staircase to be removed) –
Penthouse, 34 Salisbury Road *No objections*

The following observations were made on the applications considered:-

DOV/16/00253 Erection of a single storey side extension, two storey front extension and double carport (existing conservatory to be demolished – Foreland Cottage, 15 St Margarets Road (re-advertised) *No comment, as no amended drawings available on website*

Clerk was delegated to deal with the following applications:-

DOV/16/00359 Erection of a rear dormer roof extension and balustrade, installation of front rooflight and first floor side window – 20 Reach Close *No objections*

DOV/16/00423 Installation of front gate – Land fronting Sea View Road and rear of Palmerston, Lighthouse Road *No objections (4 Councillors) with Cllrs Cooke and Paul abstaining*

12. Finance and Accounts

Cheque for £124.98 for litter equipment, purchased by Clerk, and cheque for £312.00 to Loting Industrial Doors paid since last meeting were duly ratified.

IT WAS RESOLVED to accept insurance quotation from Zurich Insurance in the sum of £2,153.32, this for a three year fixed deal. Clerk to deal

Councillors considered quotation received from Channel Windows for the King George V Pavilion at cost of £6,736 for replacement of windows and doors – Cllr Paul agreed she would source two further quotes. Cllr Pau to deal

Clerk had receive 3 quotes in respect of replacement guttering/soffits etc at the Alexander Pavilion. It was agreed that the third quote be given the opportunity to provide a further figure, with greater detail of the work to be provided. Clerk to deal

IT WAS RESOLVED that under the new Workplace Pension provisions of auto enrolment, the Parish Council would provide Clerk with a pension amount of 7% of salary through the NEST (National Employment Savings Trust) Government scheme, with the staging date for the PC set as 1st October 2016. Clerk to deal

13. South Foreland Valley

A meeting has been arranged with the National Trust, with members of the Parish Council and representatives of the road associations to attend – this meeting to discuss various issues of condition of roads, problems with parking, possible assistance by NT with Valley management. Mr David Hart and Mr Chris Little also to attend.

14. **Correspondence**

- Mr G Irvine – email re new signage on fields abutting Sea Street. Letter from Mr Irvine cites contact with the Trust stating that they would be prepared to meet with the PC to see if a solution could be found to allowing access to this land.
- PMC Chartered Surveyors – re Bay Trust land.
- KCC – Inspector’s report on the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2013-30.
- Penny Bailey – re recent parking problems in Royston Gardens, together with response from Community Warden.
- Petitions Team, UK Government – re petition on right to appeal planning decisions.
- Bob Beasley – emails re next step in securing grant from Tesco Bags of Help for South Foreland Valley equipment.
- Action with Communities in Rural Kent – request for Trustees.
- Laura Cory re damaged dog waste bin – reported.
- DDC Community Development Officer re Queen’s 90th Birthday.
- Chris Little – correspondence sent/received re Beach Road. Cllr Harris asked if Clerk could contact rep at Kent Highways who had been dealing with this issue, to ask if he would be prepared to speak to PC.
- DDC Community Development re Club and Coach Forum Even – placed on noticeboard and forwarded to sports club reps.
- Assistant Chief Inspector Guy Thompson – re 2016 Parish Forum invitation – it was agreed that Cllrs Simcox and Evans would attend.
- Invitation to official opening of The Coastguard public house – Cllr Fielding will attend on behalf of the PC, with other Councillors to follow later.
- Mr A Sanalidro – emails re planning application for Foreland Cottage.
- SECAMB – request for Community First Responder – to be placed in magazine.
- Cllr Smith – re litter picking – next event to be held on 22nd May, with Clerk to liaise re collection by DDC.
- Neighbourhood Watch newsletter
- Sandra Killick re Neighbourhood Forum meetings 2016-2017.
- Stephanie Wadhams, Kent Highways – reply to email re potholes in Reach Road.
- Mrs C Harley – email re fencing surrounding Glebe Field – Clerk had replied.
- Richard Haynes – re Chewing the Cud – The Kent Conservation Grazing competition.
- Cllr Steve Manion – re funding of £200 available for Queen’s birthday celebrations. PC would like to donate funds to “the boat” and other causes.
- Mr M Shepherd – email re village ponds which had been passed to Cllr Fagg who will respond re any proposals for their improvement.
- Mr Heyworth – letter re Beach Road.

Cllr Paul will speak to Trust

Clerk to place in magazine

Clerk to deal

Clerk to deal

Clerk to liaise

Clerk to deal

Cllr Fagg to deal

15. **Reports from Councillors**

Cllr Paul had recently visited Wissant, France to discuss a friendly “link” between this village and St Margaret’s – the School are interested in setting up a penfriend arrangement. This would not be a Parish Council initiative and Cllr Paul did explain to the local Mayor that the PC would have no funding in this respect.

Cllr Harris provided a report of her recent meeting at the KALC Dover Area Committee (attached).

Cllr Evans reported a successful event in the South Foreland Valley where he had arranged a geo-catching event. 40 people had attended and enjoyed the day. Cllr Evans will provide details of dates of any further events planned, so that insurers can be advised re public liability.

Cllr Evans to deal

Cllrs Simcox and Harris had met with Registrar Mr Miller to inspect burial records re the Civic Cemetery, which are kept at his home address. A new fire-proof box is required for the books and a back-up copy of burial book is needed. Councillors asked to think re printing outlets which may be able to undertake this. Clerk will check with own contacts. Cllrs Simcox and Harris will liaise re fire-proof box.

Clerk to deal

Cllrs Harris and Simcox to deal

Cllr Harris had spoken to rep from the Football Club before today's meeting. Steve Bass is retiring from the Club with effect from this week. It is claimed that Walleys Court club have not provided any funding as previously agreed.

Cllr Harris noted that recent delivery of large construction equipment to the Portal House site had brought the village to a standstill. "Is it possible that PCSO/Warden could be pre-advised of deliveries so that suitable arrangements could be put in hand re traffic"?

Clerk will investigate

Cllr Cooke raised the issue of signs being placed at end of The Drove way by adjacent businesses – this obstructs the view of cars exiting the road. It was suggested that Community Warden liaise in this respect.

Cllr Cooke will contact

Cllr Cooke asserted the poor condition of The Bay and in particular the car park. She has written to District Cllr Keith Morris in this respect. Clerk will check with DDC if repairs to railings have been completed, or whether further work is planned.

Clerk to deal

Cllrs Paul and Simcox had attended a KALC event re Emergency Planning. A plan prepared by Smarden PC exhibited by Cllr Paul. Such a plan could take a good amount of work and Cllr Paul will sound people out in the village before any firm proposals are made.

Cllr Smith had provided written report re the current point of proposed new website – site has been amended to show "under construction" for anyone trying to access. Cllr Smith would like to take photographs for insertion at/before next meeting.

Cllr Smith will deal

16. Village Maintenance / Matters affecting the Parish

Cllr Simcox had spoken to Mr Miller today in the Play Area, which seemed in good order.

Cllr Fielding will deal

Cllr Fielding noted that with the Coastguard pub newly opened, the car park is filling up and part of the original car park now contains tables and chairs. Agreed that Cllr Fielding will speak to Shepherd Neame at the official opening on the 11th May re parking provision as previously vehicles have created danger by parking on Bay Hill.

Mrs T Evans had raised idea of opening a separate account re the King George V Field – although registered at the Charities Commission many years ago, it has never operated as a separate charity. Councillors will consider whether setting up a new charity with governing document is valid.

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

Confirmed:

Chairman

9th May 2016

Correspondence received prior to meeting
13th June 2016

KALC

Dover Area Committee - 27th April 2016

AGM

Chairman: Keith Gowland

Vice Chairman: Carole Pickaver

Area Secretary: Cathy Skinner

KALC Committee: Keith Gowan/Carole Pickaver

Sub: Jennifer Harris

Meetings: 27th July 2016/26th October 2016/25th January 2017/26th April 2017

Meeting:

KALC Chairman – Cllr. Ray Evison

Cllr. Evison spoke about the essential role that Parish Councillors have in their community, working to enhance the environment in which they live and how this role is going to change in the near future.

Devolution is the statutory granting of powers from the central government of a sovereign state to govern at a subnational level, such as a regional, local, or state level. It is a form of decentralization. Devolved territories have the power to make legislation relevant to the area.

This will happen, in some areas during this parliament and in others the next parliament.

County and District Councils as we know them will go –

The Cornwall Model:

The Devolution Deal gives Cornwall greater powers over public sector funding and is the first stage of a longer journey towards delivering the full Case for Cornwall.

The Council is already working with partners to develop an integrated health and social care system, and deliver significant economic growth, with enhanced business support, greater access to employment and training opportunities, together with a much improved public transport network and more efficient use of public sector buildings.

Under the terms of the Deal, which is based on the proposals set out in the Case for Cornwall which were formally agreed by the full Council, Cornwall will have greater powers over areas of public spending which are currently controlled by London.

The Deal covers a range of key areas including:

- Integrated health and social care
- Transport
- Employment and skills
- EU funding
- Business support
- Energy
- The public estate
- Heritage and culture

As well as having powers devolved to Cornwall from London, [Cornwall Council is also devolving services and assets to local councils, groups and organisations within Cornwall](#)

Durham County Council Context

- Unitary Authority – formed in 2009 following LGR former County Council and seven District Councils
- Population of 513,000 with major areas of deprivation and high levels of unemployment
- At time of CSR June 2010 the new authority was already progressing a large scale rationalisation of service provision
- Gross expenditure budget in 2013/14 = £842m excluding schools and housing benefit payments

- Net expenditure budget - £466m

What is apparent is that whatever model is chosen in Kent, Parish Councils will be expected to take on more responsible – there will be no district councils. Small parishes will need to work together and join up to be effective and efficient.

This may well have an impact on who becomes a parish councillor. Predominately retired, older councillors at the present but younger people, still in employment with updated skills, might be needed.

The clerk will have a bigger responsibility and consequently a raised salary with annual review. Clerking may well become a full time job.

Area Committee will also increase their responsibilities and will need to bring policies forward – there will be not District Councils.

Presently KALC committee formed from areas within the district but this will change with reformation.

Changes to Parish Councils can only be made by government not by District Councils.

It is possible that Urban councils will be formed from Town Councils and Parish Councils – collaborative parishes.

Mandatory Training for councillors almost certainly will become a requirement – similar to School Governors who must now undertake formal training.

Other Items:

Discussion regarding Cllr. Evison's presentation. Parishes will have to work together – should this happening more now? Parishes intend to be insular to their own area. We should think more about working together i.e. large developments effect more than just the parish they are being built in. There are 250 new homes to be built off Station Road, Deal and the 1000+ at Whitfield - the traffic on the Dover/Deal road is making it more and more difficult to for cars to get out of St Margaret's, what affect will this have in the future? Not only to St Margaret's but Langdon and Ringwould and the other local parishes needing to access the Dover/Deal road?

Parishes are asked to adopt the forthcoming Training Policy legislation – all councillors , starting from the Chair, will be required to take training.

(As a Parish Council perhaps we should look at the traffic problems likely to occur from the new builds which potentially will have an effect on traffic into and out of St Margaret's on the very busy Dover/Deal road. There are 250 new homes to be built at Walmer, traffic coming from Station Road and, several phases of large new builds at Whitfield some now nearing completion.)

Jennifer Harris

April 2016