

THE PARISH COUNCIL OF ST MARGARETS-AT-CLIFFE

Minutes of the Ordinary Monthly Meeting of the above Parish Council held on Monday 13th February 2017 at St Margarets Hall, Reach Road at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Cllrs B Paul, A Fielding, C Smith, G Macgregor). Mrs Anna Newton co-opted to the PC and present for meeting). Apologies for absence received from Cllrs J Harris and R Simcox). County Cllr Steve Manion and District Cllr Keith Morris also attended.

Following issues raised during Public Question Time:-

Mr C Hall - Streetlight at end of St George's Place not working – Clerk will report.

Mr Peter Wells – expressed concern that the junction of Reach Road and up to Bay Hill did not appear to have been gritted during recent icy weather. Also reported car parked at top of Bay Hill which he believes causes a sight obstruction for traffic coming from Lighthouse/St Margaret's Road.

Sandy Liggins – could planning decisions from DDC be placed in minutes. Clerk will arrange.

David Hall:

- Hedge – on left/hand side of Sea Street from Portal House (Trust side) needs cutting back.
- Hedge – from Knoll Flats down needs cutting back.
- Hedge – on A258 Swingate sign can't be seen – needs cutting back.
- Asked Parish Council to check that National Trust have permission via change of use for land acquired alongside the lighthouse.
- Advised that ex Parish Councillor Doris Phillips had recently passed away.

Representative from Cricket Club provided a brief resume of Club's performances etc. Club has two league sides playing on a Saturday, 2nd team achieved 2nd place in league. Youth section run by Mark Parnell and coaching takes place three times a week. Club has an under 1 side in the Saxon Shore League. During recent storm, side screen and practice netting both damaged – claimed via insurance., also receiving grant via DDC of £730. Club is working with PC to replace windows/doors/shutters and will be seeking grant to help via Kent Cricket Board. PC confirmed no objection to Club erecting a marquee for an event in September – they will advise date.

Resident stated that he felt the roads in the South Foreland Valley should be maintained.

1. The minutes for the meeting of 9 th January 2017, having been circulated, were declared as a true record and duly signed.	
2. Declarations of interest – Cllr Smith declared an interest in the grant application for the History Society; Cllr Macgregor declared an interest in the grant application for the Nursery and After School Club.	
3. The co-option of Mrs Anna Newton as a Parish Councillor was unanimously approved. Clerk provided relevant paperwork with Cllr Newton to complete a declaration of interests form before next meeting.	Clerk to deal

3a. **District Cllr Keith Morris** – work continues on the St James’ development re hotel, cinema and shops. Retailers hope to move in by Christmas 2017. Also planning consent given for new Lidl store at Whitfield, again hoping to be operational by end of 2017. Advised that Dover District Council will shortly be looking to “refresh” the Local Plan. Advised that, as regards by proposal to merge 4 district councils, there should be no big hike in Council tax as rates will gradually converge. All 4 Councils will meet on their own “patch” on 22nd March, but a meeting then of all four Councils in July. He believes that any merger would create opportunities for Parish Councils in taking on services.

County Cllr Steve Manion – expressed concerns on the proposal for “super councils”. Having read the business case report, he feels that residents have been poorly considered. He will be voting against the proposal. Kent County Council has passed budget for next year – rise of just under 4% to include fun ding for social care. Greater funds to be made available in budget for Highways.

4. **Clerk Report**

- Re litter bin in car park – this is apparently being overfilled as domestic waste is being placed in it –it was resolved that this be checked on new CCTV system, with the question to be reconsidered in two months’ time.
- Donkey has now retired.
- Darren Belsey – yet to start work on Alexander Pavilion.
- Position re Cricket Club windows/doors still being pursued.
- Ian Miller – investigation by Clerk had shown prohibitive costs in relation to training certification for herbicide/pesticide use. Ian will continue to use substances available over the counter for use in case of need.
- Ian has started work on the “flower bed” outside the shop (in his invoice). Currently has shrubs in it and looks a lot better.
- Nothing heard from Bradleys yet re Madge Field registration – Clerk will continue to liaise.
- Following meeting and emails from Tessa O’Sullivan at Action with Communities in Rural Kent, further site search may be necessary. Following Freedom of Information information on very limited housing stock, Cllr Smithy stated that the PC must do what it can to increase low cost (rentable) housing stock.
- £293 received from Wallests Court re white-lining fees outstanding; further invoice this month which will advise Club.
- Precept request completed and with DDC – 8% increase.
- Have written to DDC Conservation re quote on Bowls Pavilion – nothing heard so far.
- Emails sent re mobile mast proposal at Alexander Field – Cllrs Paul and Fielding to take forward and report to future meeting.

Clerk to deal

Clerk to deal

Clerk to speak to Tessa

Clerk to deal

Clerk to deal

Cllrs Paul and Fielding to deal

5. **South Foreland Valley**

- Following meeting with National Trust last year, it was agreed that a further meeting be arranged with National Trust, together with Kirk Alexander.
- Road repairs in Valley – Chair had taken photographs showing very poor potholes at far end of Lighthouse Road – quotation sought for planings but not yet received.
- Clerk was asked to investigate signage pointing out that vehicles use roads at their own risk and validity in law with repairs to be re-visited at next meeting.

Clerk to liaise with Chair

6. Planning

The following decision, delegated from the January meeting, was duly ratified:-

DOV/16/01365 Erection of a single storey rear extension with balcony over, dormer roof extensions to front and rear, double garage with studio over (existing garage to be demolished) – Burley, 48 Salisbury Road *No objections*

The following comments were made on the applications received:-

DOV/17/00147 -| Fell one pine to ground level (T1) - fell one Sycamore to ground level (T2) - Due to close proximity and fell one Lime and two Sycamores (T3,4,5) – The Old Vicarage, Vicarage Lane *Defer to Trees Officer at DDC*

7. Finance

- Cllr Macgregor had inspected hot water system at Alexander Pavilion – current system inefficient as two water cylinders with immersion heaters are heavily scaled. This means that water does not get to a high enough temperature which could be a health and safety issue re bacteria.
- Options would be (a) replace two cylinders at approx £1,000 or (b) replace immersion at approx. £400.
- Also shower heads are heavily scaled – cost to replace at£25 each = £200.
- Idea of new instant boiler also mooted (could cost overall £2,000).
- Cllrs Fielding and Macgregor to discuss further and report back.
- IT WAS RESOLVED to accept the grasscutting contract in the sum of £2,408.62 for the coming financial year (a 1.89% increase).
- Cllr Harris had sought quotations for new bus shelters at Nelson Park (provided to Council). It was agreed that this matter stand until next agenda.

Cllrs Fielding and Macgregor to deal

Clerk to deal

Clerk to place on agenda

The following cheques were passed for payment:-

Dover District Council – toilets	£1,779.42
KALC – conference re Cllr Harris	£72.00
Affinity Water – water rates	£15.24
NEST – Clerk/Council Pension	£139.78
Idverde – white-lining for Walleys Court	£62.10
Action with Communities in Rural Kent – subscription	£50.00
Petty Cash	£28.49
Jane Cook – January salary	£1,087.60
Jane Cook – office expenses	£23.36
HMRC – Tax/NIC	£214.30
Mr Miller – labour/extra hours/expenses etc	£1,658.00
	£5,130.29

IT WAS RESOLVED to increase Clerk’s salary by4%; IT WAS RESOLVED to increase maintenance contractor Mr Miller’s payment rate by 2%; IT WAS RESOLVED to increase Lynne Hopwood’s cleaning payment rate by2%, with effect from 1st April 2017.

8. Grants to Local Organisations

The following Section 137 (LGA 1972) grants were approved:-

St Margaret's History Society	£250
St Margaret's Nursery and After School Club	£200
Pegasus Playscheme	£1,000
Parent, Baby and Toddler Group	£400

Also a sum of £80 was committed to the churchyard volunteers to defray fuel costs on mowing.

An approach by the Football Club for a grant of £8,520.36 was refused – Clerk to respond that the PC will consider the installation of a defibrillator at the pavilion.

Clerk to deal

An appeal for donations by Kent Air Ambulance was refused.

9. Proposal re merging of 4 District Councils

- Cllr Smith expressed deep concerns at this proposal – stated that cost of merger would be £6.8m with a 5.5% increase in Council Tax every year for five years. Dover will probably feel the impact more than any other District due to lower Council tax at present.
- Councillors asked to study Business Case for merger in detail with Clerk to place back on agenda for March.

10. KCC Consultation on Freight Action Plan

- Consultation for new lorry parking provision due to end 12th March.
- This does not solve all the problems – what can be done by way of enforcement of lorries filling up lay-bys.
- What can be done re heavy freight traffic using the A2.
- Opinion to be sought from MP Charlie Elphicke and County Cllr Steve Manion.

Clerk to deal

11. Correspondence

- DDC re Historic Village Panels – no action required.
- KALC re Neighbourhood Planning Workshop – now full.
- Email re Valley tunnels – Clerk to check re key.
- DDC re Freedom of Information request on housing stock
- A Kennett re reproduction Kent plaques – no action.
- Mr C Hall and J Willcocks re St George's Place
- KALC re Draft Kent Drug and Alcohol Strategy 2017-2022
- KCC consultation – Freight Action Plan.
- Helen Williams re Valley roads.
- Email re Owl House Stables
- Shared Access re possible mobile phone installation – Cllrs Smith and Fielding to meet with company reps before next meeting and report back.
- KALC – Executive Bulletin
- KALC – re Information Event 28th Feb – Cllr Harris will attend.
- RE metal detectorists in Valley
- Tessa O'Sullivan re local needs housing
- Christine Waterman re meeting with Bay Trust

Clerk to deal

Cllrs Smith and Fielding to deal

Cllr Harris to attend

12. **Reports from Councillors**

- Cllr Fielding confirmed that CCTV was fitted in the car park last week, with monitor in toilet block loft. Engineer will return next week to try and put link to the office at the village hall.
- Cllr Smith reported many bags of litter were collected at litter pick on 22nd Jan. KCC are running a litter initiative on 5th March but Cllr Smith is not free to undertake then; however such an event will be held the week before on 26th February, concentrating on centre of village.

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

- Issue of overgrown hedge outside Butchers Cottage had been raised by Mr Miller – although Clerk had written, this had prompted no action. It was agreed that a further letter be sent.
- Cllr Paul had viewed, in company of Cricket Club reps, the pavilion and surrounds at the King George V Field – there are a number of trees which require work, with some leaning into the boundary wall. It was agreed that Clerk could contact tree surgeon D Austin to seek a quotation in this regard.
- Cllr Paul advised she had spoken to Charlie Elphicke MP re tree work at his property and had referred him to DDC Conservation Dept.
- Cllr Paul advised that Mr Miller will be cutting back growth from the PC bench opposite the Old School in Kingsdown Road.

Clerk to deal

Clerk to deal

There being no further business, the meeting closed 9.40 p.m.

Confirmed:

Chairman

9th January 2017

Correspondence received before meeting
On 13th March 2017

15 Feb	Steve Manion reply re gritting of Sea Street/Bay Hill.
19 Feb	Rod Springett re The Old School/Curfew House – Construction Management Plan.
20 Feb	KALC re Kent Estates Partnership Board
23 Feb	KCC Consultation – Freight Action Plan (Charles Elphicke)
27 Feb	Chris Clayson re development of The Old Chapel.
2 Mar	Betteshanger Parks – details of Easter events.
2 Mar	DDC Press Release re increase in Council Tax decision
4 Mar	DDC Press Release re new town wall for Dover.
4 Mar	Rachel Collins DDC re Volunteers Fair.
6 Mar	Kirk Alexander re Memo of Agreement / proposed safety works in Valley.
6 Mar	Stephanie Wadhams, Kent Highways re highway issues reported.
6 Mar	Phil Wright, Shared Access re proposed mobile mast at Alexander Field.