

**THE PARISH COUNCIL OF ST MARGARETS-AT-CLIFFE**

Minutes of the Ordinary Monthly Meeting of the above Parish Council held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2018 in St Margarets Hall, Reach Road at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Cllrs C Smith (in the Chair), R Simcox, G Macgregor, A Fielding, A Newton, R Wilkie. Apologies for absence received from Cllr Paul (illness), Cllr Harris (holiday). County Cllr Steve Manion and District Cllr Jull also in attendance.

Following issues raised during Public Question Time:-

Mr Denton – following PC’s objection to the development on corner of Station Road, Dover Road, he asked if the PC had any other plans for a new medical surgery in the village. Cllr Smith responded re previous objections, believing that the previous application did not provide enough benefit for the village in terms of affordable housing and size of the development overall. Mr Denton questioned whether a new clinic could be pursued; Cllr Smith advising that the PC currently has no identified land for this purpose.

Cllr Jull asked (on a private matter) re his involvement with a large walking group – approx. 100 walkers will be passing through the village on spring bank holiday weekend (Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> May). They will arrive in groups, including through the night. He will provide further information that can be placed on PC website and in the Parish magazine.

Mr P Wells – asked if the PC was aware of building being undertaken on Bay Trust land near the Pines Gardens – he raised the question as to whether permission is required in this respect. He requested a litterpicker which Clerk will provide.

<p>1. <b><u>Confirmation of Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held 15<sup>th</sup> January 2018</u></b> The minutes, having been circulated, were confirmed as a correct record.</p>	
<p>2. <b><u>Declarations of interest</u></b> – Cllr Smith recorded an interest in any grant considered for the History Society as he is Treasurer of that organisation. Cllr Simcox recorded an interest in any grant considered for the Dover District Scout Alliance, given the involvement of her son. Cllr Fielding recorded an interest in any grant considered for the Mother Baby and Toddler Group given family involvement.</p>	
<p>3. <b><u>Reports for Sports Clubs</u></b></p> <p><u>Cricket Club</u> - Mike Fielding reported Club has two sides in Kent Regional Cricket League. They provide coaching from age 7 upwards. The 1<sup>st</sup> 11 achieved highest place in league even, whilst the 2<sup>nd</sup> 11 finished bottom. Lack of availability of players is a problem, with work and family commitments for players. The Club is trying to attract more players and is putting adverts in local press, on social media and will approach local schools. ECB All Stars Cricket Coaching – currently coaching youngsters through to next generation of players. The Club has 3 qualified coaches. Club expressed thanks to PC for new windows/doors, also wi/fi and CCTV. If more players do not come forward, may have to reduce to one senior side, although have an under 15 side this year. The Club plans to improve the patio area outside the Pavilion, hopefully through self funding.</p>	

Bowls Club - Mike Fielding reported the Club continues with a strong membership with 50 playing members and 60 social members. At end of last year, lost some key members including Chair, Captain and retirement of Ladies Captain. They have a good fixture list for both mens and ladies teams, with full list for the coming year. The Club is financially sound. Expressed thanks to the PC for repairs/maintenance. Advised that the Club's plans for an extension have been approved and Sport England has agreed to provide up to £25k towards the cost. Have had 3 estimates ranging from £36k to £44k. Club hopes to start the work in the summer.

Tennis Club - Peter Blake reported that the Club is still in reasonable shape although numbers are down a bit. The core membership plays 2 or 3 times a week but average age is now in the 70's. However, some younger players still support a mens' team in the Dover District League playing half a dozen or so home matches with mixed results on Monday evenings. Socially the core membership generally tends to meet for coffee/tea after playing + crosswords on Saturdays at various members houses. Main social function is now the annual Wine and Wisdom held at the end of January (written report provided). This year will be the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Club and are hoping to have some sort of celebration in the summer – yet to be arranged. Thanked the PC for their support and particularly for the great playing surface.

Football Clubs - no reports received.

### 3a. County and District Councillor Reports

District Cllr Jull advised that DDC currently going through budgetary process, with firm figure known next month. Pressures on funding include homelessness and business rates (around one-third of business rates come from Channel Tunnel). Advised that Travel Lodge will soon be opening at the St James' Development, and also that Superdrug are moving there from the High Street.

County Cllr Manion advised that KCC are also going through budgetary process. Kent has seen a huge drop in numbers of unaccompanied minors – KCC has to pay for such minors up until the age of 18 and this is a big pressure on funding. 2.993% increase likely + 2% for adult social care. Cllr Smith asked re Highways budget and Steve advised this is not "looking good". Members Grant funds can be used in villages - £15k overall covering all villages. KCC are still supporting subsidised buses. Cllr Smith asked if rumour is true that 16+ Travel Card cost is to be increased by £50 per year – Cllr Manion will investigate.

### 4. Clerk Report

- Reported problem re waste etc at Westcliffe layby – DDC aware and dealing.
- DDC have looked at caravan in village car park and continue to monitor.
- Complaints re motorised caravan parked in St George's Place (sent to PCSO).
- Reported manhole cover / white lines missing and problem with drains in Reach Road.
- 3 new gates in place across Old Bottom Freedown – cheque under Finance.
- Re memorial to B52 crew – cost not yet known but Brian Cole will continue to liaise. (Planning permission will be required).
- Precept request placed with DDC.
- David Carey from Hadlow PC coming to view Pond on 13<sup>th</sup> Feb at 2.30 to provide any advice – Cllr Wilkie will attend with Clerk.

Cllr Wilkie and Clerk to attend



DOV/18/00123      Erection of single storey side and rear extension  
incorporating garage (existing garage to be demolished) –  
Trankwil, Collingwood Road      *No objections*

Clerk was asked to seek a deferment from Planning Dept for the following application, to be considered at next meeting:-

DOV/18/00083      Raising of roof and erection of front and rear dormers  
to facilitate creation of first floor living accommodation –  
16 Langdon Close

Clerk to deal

**6. Finance**

Quotation for grasscutting contract for coming financial year received from Idverde at total of £2,408.62, if fixed for two years; alternative is 3% increase on last year. Clerk was asked to speak to Cricket Club re cutting of King George V Field, and also contact the company for a site visit.

Clerk to deal

The following payments made since January meeting were duly approved:-

KCC – re gates on Old Bottom Freedown (ER14) path	£491.17
R J Darling – CCTV at King George V Pavilion	£1,400.00
NEST Pension – Clerk + Council	£145.36
Mr I Miller – labour/extra hours/fuel/Registrar fees	£1,587.24
Idverde Ltd – white lining	£52.80
Jane Cook – January salary	£1,129.65
Jane Cook – phone/internet	£21.72
H M Revenue Customs and Excise	£227.50
Petty Cash	£24.94
Mrs R Simcox – travel costs re seminar	£29.23

£5,109.61

Receipts:-

Credit interest £2.70; Football Club re line marking £44.00; Cemetery fee £75.00; VAT refund £1,982.71

**7. South Foreland Valley**

Councillors made aware of David Hart's recent accident in the Valley – Chris Little confirmed that Mr Hart wishes to return to volunteer duties in due course, as and when he is able. Chris confirmed that new volunteers had recently come forward.

Following request from volunteers IT WAS RESOLVED to purchase further equipment to help with maintenance, in the total sum of £1,455.

Cllr Simcox reported following her meeting with Phil Holyer/Kirk Alexander and Jon Barker regarding access to the underground structures in the South Foreland Valley.

Around 4 years ago Kent Bat Group and Kent Underground Research Group surveyed these structures – PC then paid for them to be secured. SFV structures are known across the web and there is a substantial group of people who are interested in exploring such sites some of whom think nothing of using bolt cutters to access the tunnels. Either these groups then leave the gate open which could be very dangerous for children or the unwary of they put their own lock on it which we then have to replace.

Phil Holyer, amongst other things, is part of the Urban exploration movement – he has written his name on the tunnels and is therefore able to monitor traffic and interest in advance. He allows applicants to collect keys from his home and controls when the keys are returned. He and his friends also regularly check the structures are secure and clear out mud etc to make it safer.

PC treads the line between making structures safe but accessible – Clerk was asked to contact insurance company to make them aware of the situation with the underground structures. Clerk will then report to next meeting

#### **8. Proposal re Traffic Management Consultants**

Cllr Fielding – the Parish Council over many years has seen complaints on various traffic issues; the original Neighbourhood Plan was to include a traffic plan but this had to be excluded following change in legislation which did not permit highways issues in the plan. Following liaison with the village Gridlock Group, a consultancy company Hamilton-Baillie Associates was contacted – they carry out traffic consultancy work in the UK and across Europe.

The proposal is to ask Hamilton-Baillie to carry out a study in St Margaret's and produce a plan to solve problems being experienced. The company has done a lot of work in Dorset villages where traffic problems were being experienced. Consultant would cost £800 per day + expenses – looking at an overall cost of £5,000. An assessment would be undertaken by them; before this could commence we would be expected to use the Village Toolkit to carry out a preliminary survey of the village – Gridlock Group members would be prepared to assist.

St Margaret's could be a pilot project for the district and county. Gridlock Group is preparing to meet with KCC Cabinet Member to discuss.

Cllr Smith expressed concern that the initial cost of £5,000 may be wasted if no plan is then put in place – any works likely to be hugely expensive. Cllr Simcox stated that the PC needs to do something – assessment may throw up new ideas.

IT WAS RESOLVED that the PC earmark £5,000 towards such a study – 5 Councillors in favour; Cllr Smith voted against proposal).

#### **9. Grants to Local Organisations**

The following grants were approved under Section 137 of LGA 1972:-

St Margarets History Society	£350.00
St Margarets Nursery and After School Club	£415.80
Pegasus	£1,000.00

St Margarets Parent Baby and Toddler Group	£511.32
Spirit of St Margarets (Bay Boat etc)	£300.00
Dover District Scout Council	£100.00

Clerk to prepare cheques

It was also agreed to allow a sum of £80 to the Parochial Church Council to defray fuel costs for volunteer lawn mowers.

10. **Correspondence**

- Kent Police and Crime Commissioner Report – January 2018.
- KCC re proposed works on A2 at Whitfield and Lydden during Jan/Feb.
- KCC alert re Avian influenza.
- John Edwards, British Trust Volunteers reply re pond.
- Resident request re newspaper delivery service.
- NALC Chief Executive’s Bulletin 3.
- David Carey – Volunteer Pond and Tree Warden for Hadlow PC – due to meet with Clerk and Cllr Wilkie on 13<sup>th</sup> Feb.
- KCC re emergency road closure, St Margarets Road.
- NHW message re burglary in St Margaret’s.
- KALC re Local Government ethical standards consultation.
- DDC press release re Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) System to Accelerate Housing Growth.
- DDC re Local Plan Review – map shows Glebe Field as a designated open space – how is this protected? Clerk to contact Planners and seek protection status of land off Sea Street.
- Electoral review of Dover – warding arrangements – it was agreed that Councillors study the consultation document, with Clerk to place this on agenda for March.

Clerk and Cllr Wilkie to deal

Clerk to deal

Clerk to deal

11. **Reports from Councillors**

Cllr Newton reported on consultancy visit by Tim Dean to KGV Play Area where she and Cllr Harris met with him. Following some concern expressed about the angle of the ladder on the slide, he suggested that one idea may be to fence off the “early years” section to stop younger children using this equipment. It was agreed that this be marked as an agenda item for next month, with Cllr Harris to speak to Toddler Group re perceived risks.

Clerk and Cllr Harris to deal

Cllr Newton and Cllr Harris had attended KALC Dover Area Committee meeting. One subject which came up was the use of Thanet Community Transport Association – this began in 1999 as a dial-a-ride service. Now operates in the Dover and surrounding area, offering shopping trips, hospital appointments rides, etc. Also offer social trips for disabled people – 5,000+ wheelchair users in last year. Cost is for £20 at start of year, then £2-£2.50 per trip. They work 7 days a week.

Cllr Simcox advised she had written to MP Charlie Elphicke re clearing litter on A2 whilst highway work is being undertaken.

Cllr Simcox advised she had spent a lot of time viewing CCTV over last week – difficult to pin down to a precise time. Company rep is to call back to user instructions.

Clerk was asked to investigate what is happening re Community Warden as it is understood that St Margaret's is to lose theirs.

Clerk to deal

Pond report to come to next meeting, following re-arrangement of site visit.

Clerk to deal

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

Playing field inspection not undertaken as Consultant visit undertaken.

Cllr Fielding reported that there is currently no water pressure at the showerhead in the Alexander Pavilion – believes pump may have gone. Cllr Macgregor will investigate and report back.

Cllr Macgregor to deal

Clerk again asked to report remains of metal bus sign at top of Bay Hill.

Clerk to deal

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9 p.m.

Confirmed:

Chairman

12<sup>th</sup> February 2018

**Correspondence received prior to meeting**  
**12<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

DRAFT