

THE PARISH COUNCIL OF ST MARGARETS-AT-CLIFFE

Minutes of the Ordinary Monthly Meeting of the above Parish Council held on Monday 8th April 2019 in St Margarets Hall, Reach Road at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Cllrs R Simcox (in the chair), B Paul, C Smith, A Newton, Apologies for absence received from Cllr Wilkie (work commitment), Cllr Harris (family commitment). Cllr Macgregor not present – no apology received.

District Cllr Jull in attendance. Cllr Manion present for the latter part of the meeting.

Following issues raised during Public Question Time:-

- Mr D Hall – asked what could be done to reduce speed of traffic entering village via Reach Road, past the Holiday Camp. Cllr Simcox affirmed the current investigations being made by the Gridlock Group. He also raised the question of the pothole near the Duke of York roundabout (Deal bound) – this has been previously reported (ref. 422733). Mr Hall asked if PC had arranged any meetings with Langdon PC re possibility of a roundabout/traffic lights at the St Margarets/Martin junction.
- Mrs Liggins – vegetation near Holiday Camp needs cutting back as the 30mph speed limit sign is obscured.
- Mr Blake asked what was the situation re any proposed walking path around the King George V Field – Cllr Newton confirmed that she will now seek quotations from contractors before reporting back and this will appear on future agenda.
- Dawn Maddison attended to bring to the attention of the PC the Dementia Friends event she is organising to be held at the Village Hall on 24th May from 9.30 – 12.30. There are 17 different organisations attending, to include care organisations etc. Suggestion made that all Councillors undergo dementia training. Clerk asked to place an item on agenda for next month to suggest that PC meet the cost of the hall hire for this event.

<p>1. <u>Confirmation of Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held 11th March 2019</u> Following small amendment re response for planning application re bus shelter, the minutes, having been circulated to all members, were duly confirmed as a correct record.</p>	
<p>2. <u>Declarations of Interest</u> – Cllr Smith declared an interest in the financial point re PC funding for B17 memorial event on agenda.</p>	
<p>3. <u>County / District Councillors Reports</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cllr Jull advised that DDC have arranged new contract for asbestos removal for housing stock; further 4 houses have been taken back under Local Authority ownership.• Re Rapid Bus Transit – consultation is still ongoing – outline planning application will be put in soon.•	

4. **Clerk Report**

- Clerk had met with carpenter re climbing frame at Play Area – under Finance.
- Cllrs Smith, Harris and Clerk had held first joint meeting re contracting new maintenance person – notes provided to them by Clerk. This to be an agenda item in May with previous notes to be emailed to all Councillors.
- Clerk reminded Councillors of Footpath Walk on 28th April.
- Re postbox in The Drove way – removed – Clerk had contacted Royal Mail for explanation.
- Problem with light being left on in Reach Road car park toilets – reported.
- Re Idverde – grasscutting costs as last year, PC had signed up for two year contract.
- Tree Warden Martin Hunt will provide a brief note and attend May meeting – to be placed on agenda.
- CPR training – well attended by public + Clerk and Chair.
- Litter bags collected from DDC for WI litter group– risk assessment/Health and Safety forms provided to them.
- Re Smart Water project – only 4 responses so far.
- Cheque will follow re grazing rights at Old Bottom Freedown at £1,100.
- Re wooden sign on bend on Bay Hill – this is not a Highways sign (perhaps placed by a previous resident). Clerk will contact Highways to see if an alternative can be provided.
- Have received Council tax invoice for Alexander Pavilion confirming zero registration.
- Mr Gregory of Royston Gardens – provided with PC permission to cut tree/hedge down on his property at back of Reach Road Pond.
- Re Affordable Housing vacancy – advertised. ERHA will contact PC in due course re confirmation of applicant’s details etc.

Clerk to deal

Clerk to arrange boards

Clerk to continue to monitor

Clerk to deal

Clerk to deal

5. **Planning**

The following comments were made on the applications considered:-

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|--------------|---|--|
| DOV19/00280 | Erection of a rear dormer roof extension to facilitate a loft conversion together with a rooflight to front elevation -
Swn Y Wylan, Station Road | <i>No objections</i> |
| DOV/19/00332 | 1 x holly tree - crown reduce one holly tree by one metre
1 x holly tree – Crown reduce one holly tree by 0.5 metres
Moonraker, 32 Granville Road | <i>No objections</i> |
| DOV/19/00318 | Erection of 2no. pillars, installation of 2400m high automated gate across driveway and replacement of 2 no. 2000m high pedestrian gates
Littledown, 36 Granville Road | <i>Strongly object as the proposal would be imposing and incongruous in this part of the village Conservation Area</i> |

DOV/19/00363	Variation of Condition 2 (approved plans) and 4 (obscure window) to allow design changes to planning permission DOV/18/000969 (application under Section 73) Upontop, 76 The Droveaway	<i>No objections</i>
DOV/19/00338	Erection of two storey side extension and a single storey rear and front extensions (existing rear extension to be demolished) Coral Cottage, Hardy Road	<i>Express concern re apparent lack of provision of off-road parking given property is moving from 2 to 5 bedrooms</i>

7. Finance

7.1 The Annual Governance Statement on the Annual Return 2018-19 was approved and duly signed by Chair.	Clerk to send to auditors
7.2 Section 2 Accounting Statements of the Annual Return 2018-19 were approved and duly signed by Chair and Clerk	
7.3 Quote received from Mr P Woodward for new Cemetery sign at £900 – Clerk to seek further quote.	Clerk to deal
7.4 IT WAS RESOLVED to give instructions to Mr A Liversidge to Undertake repairs to climbing frame at cost of £200.	Clerk to instruct
7.5 IT WAS RESOLVED that Parish Council would meet the cost of B17 memorial event lunch, to be held on 18 th May to host American visitors. Health and safety concerns means numbers at plaque site will be limited but public meeting at Hall later in the afternoon. Cost to PC, to include lunch and cost of two “slow” warning signs to be £216. (Cllr Smith declared an interest in this item).	Clerk to order signs
7.6 IT WAS RESOLVED that annual payment to the White Cliffs Countryside Project of £5,000 be continued for financial year 2019-20.	Clerk to await invoice

The following payments made since March meeting were duly ratified:-

National Trust re padlocks for tunnels	£157.68
Action Carpets – carpeting for Bowls Club	£2,557.10
Mr I Miller – invoice for March 2019	£3,085.00
Mr A Fielding – travel expenses re Highways meeting	£27.30
Jane Cook – March salary	£1,138.98
Jane Cook – phone/internet	£27.32
HMRC – PAYE and NIC	£245.05
NEST Pension	£163.34
	£7,401.77

Receipts:

VAT Refund	£2,736.76
Bowls Club re flooring	£2,130.92
Cemetery fee	£475.00
Credit interest	£2.92

(Cllr Manion arrived at 8pm)

- Provided brief resume of lorry/freight traffic following any Brexit deal, including |Operation Brock – Stage 1 at Whitfield, Stage 2 on M20; Stage 3 at Manston and Stage 4 on M26.

8. **King George V Playing Field**

- Cllr Newton has only just been provided with dimensions in relation to exterior of King George V Field. She will now speak to contractors for prices in relation to a “walking path” at this location.

9. **St Margaret’s Church Clock**

- The clock at the Church stopped working in 2014 – various parts of the mechanism are worn and the clock is now partly seized, needing refurbishment. PCC has sought quotations ranging from £11k to £24k – they are limited to providers by instructions from the Diocese. Next PCC meeting is due in June, where this will be a further subject for discussion. Although Parish Council is not averse to providing a contribution to the cost, it is felt that some initial fund-raising needs to be undertaken by the Church before any firm decision is made.

10. **Gridlock Group**

- Cllr Simcox had attended a meeting on 19th March with Kent Highways and members of the Gridlock Group, to talk over with Kelly Garrett any initiatives suggested by the Group. Following issues and/or costs discussed:

– Highways committed to help Parish councils – new initiative - but unlikely to be money unless casualty reduction can be seen or a deprived area.

Mobile Speed Sign SID - need to use their recommended manufacturer – approx. cost £7,000 – less battery life. Lighter than the one we were proposing. Positions of poles need to be agreed in safe locations. Could be shared with other PC.

Gates - we have to use their standard timber effect gates (cannot use own supplier.). On Station Road where we want to build out, it will required a Road Safety audit (£3,000) Design & CAD. They charge 15% on top. We would have to pay design upfront. Total cost approx. £12,000. May need to move centre lines – traffic lights are £250/day. On Reach road maybe nearer £3,000 as no build out. Land ownership needs checking – Highways will do this.

Surfacing - red high friction pads - same level. Can’t be laid on a bad surface and may have to resurface first. Highways will not maintain this - approx £5,000

Raised table – tarmac (buff, grey, black red) between £8,000 - £12,000. Require signage. Granite sets would be dearer.

Around School - only problems for an hour /day – School must be involved. Following mentioned: where would parking be displaced to? May increase speed in other direction. Cars will park half on foot path.

Priority in other direction - problems could be: potential over-engineering; visibility; may increase speed in other direction; no causalities at the moment so may be working; will need full safety audit .

Yellow Lines – discussed in general.

Pelican crossing - average speed need to be around 25mph (ours fall in this category). Need to have decent pavements either side (We haven't so can't be considered).

KG recommendations: do not over engineer; sign and line solutions; suggest we audit our signage – simplify it and maybe add in strategic places.

Gridlock Group will take forward and Highways rep to visit.

11. **Correspondence**

- Rebecca Brough DDC re retiring Parish Councillors.
- ERHA re Ash Grove property for sale (part share).
- KALC re Operation Brock on M20
- Lee Kidd re new Community Warden – Oliver Parker.
- Mr R Hulks re suggestion of walking track at King George V Field.
- NALC Chief Executive's Bulletin
- Mr D Cousins re use of village car park
- Email from resident re nuisance caused by off-road bikes on footpath from Reach Close to Lighthouse. Clerk will speak to new PCSO in this regard.
- Ms L Thornton re planning application for Littledown, 36 Granville Road.
- Response from Roger Walton (via MP Charles Elphicke) re BT phone boxes.

Clerk to deal

12. **Reports from Councillors**

- Re South Foreland Valley access land – it was agreed that Jon Barker at National Trust could investigate the idea of this acquisition further – any legal costs to be borne by NT.
- Cllr Paul advised that WI group had undertaken 3 litterpicks so far with 3 more arranged, next being 13th April. After the Keep Britain Clean campaign, WI hope to continue with regular litter-picks.
- Cllr Simcox spoke briefly following her recent magazine article on the Smart Water initiative. Only 4 positive responses received so far. She has contacted Police Officer who introduced the idea at recent DDC meeting as to how they can help – further report to be received.

Clerk to place on May agenda

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

- Playing field inspection not undertaken by Cllr Macgregor who was not present at meeting.
- Reach Road Pond – in discussions with Mr and Mrs Gregory to rear of the Pond, Cllr Newton advised that Mr Gregory may be prepared to take on the maintenance of the pond, assuming it is first cleared. Clerk will investigate clearance companies re sludge etc.

Clerk to deal

- Cllr Simcox advised bus shelter planning application is due to be decided by 20th April.
- Cllr Simcox confirmed she had attended a meeting with Community Safety Unit and NT reps and Warden re nuisance resident.
- Cllr Simcox raised a question re an old horsebox vehicle which had been seen in the South Foreland Valley – this is on an SSSI and should be reported.
- Councillors confirmed that they did not wish to pursue adverse possession in respect of land to the rear of The Avenue.
- Chair and Councillors noted a vote of thanks to Cllr Paul who is to retire from the Parish Council following this term of office.

Clerk to deal

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

Confirmed:

Chairman

8th April 2019

Correspondence received
for Parish Council meeting 13th May 2019

Date forwarded

10 Apr	Stephanie Wadhams re Bay Hill sign.
10 Apr	High Street resident re traffic speed through village.
15 Apr	Email re changing Council tax bands – request for grant.
25 Apr	Chris Little re clearance works in Valley.
25 Apr	Steve Manion re Road and Footway Asset Team Interim Programme 2019-20.
25 Apr	Ian Loftus, Stagecoach, re turning circle at Bay Hill.