

THE PARISH COUNCIL OF ST MARGARETS-AT-CLIFFE

Minutes of the Ordinary Monthly Meeting of the above Parish Council held on Monday 14th October 2019 in St Margarets Hall, Reach Road at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Cllrs R Simcox (in the chair), A Newton, C Smith, A Fielding, J Harris. Apologies for absence received from Cllr Blake (holiday).

Apologies for absence received from District Cllr Richardson due to a DDC Scrutiny meeting. County Cllr Steve Manion also in attendance. It was advised that District Cllr Keith Morris had resigned as Leader and from the Council which will trigger a bi-election.

Following issues raised during Public Question Time:-

Penny Bailey – problems still being experienced with lorry parking on the corner of Royston Gardens – Clerk will liaise again with Community Warden

Peter Wells – expressed concern that cycle racing had again taken place on Bay Hill recently. It was agreed this may be an issue for PCSO to investigate.

Rebecca Morris – she had witnessed problems with rats previously in Chapel Lane and asked what the applicants for the planning application on the White Cliffs Hotel would be doing to address any similar problems.

Rapture Rosette – advised that overflow of car parking from the Hotel is already a problem in the area, especially in Chapel Lane. When traffic issues are seen in the High Street, she advised that Chapel Lane is sometimes used as a “rat run” for vehicles. Drainage/sewage issues have been in evidence in that area of the village recently. She stated that the front of the Hotel does not even now have sufficient car parking provision for the Hotel.

Susan Hodges – parking in Chapel Lane an issue, with overflow from Hotel already. Other vehicles which have historically used the land behind the Hotel for parking may be displayed to elsewhere in the vicinity (Fred Hodges).

Mr Gavin Oakley spoke briefly concerning the upcoming planning application by him for the White Cliffs Hotel:-

He has run the White Cliffs Hotel for 12 years but investigation has shown that the business model at present is likely to be heavily impacted post-Brexit.

He has followed professional advice from many sources, taking pre-planning advice from Dover District Council. To keep the business in its present form would be very financially challenging.

Proposal is to convert 2 existing buildings to the side of the Hotel and add 3 additional properties to the rear. He believes that this allows him to make plans for a sustainable business future.

1. <u>Confirmation of Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held 9th September 2019</u> The minutes, having been circulated to all members, were duly confirmed as a Correct record.	
2. <u>Declarations of Interest</u> – Cllr Fielding declared an interest on item 5, where he has a family connection for the planning application in respect of the White Cliffs Hotel.	

3. **County / District Councillors** –

County Cllr Steve Manion:-

- Advised that Mr Roger Gough is to become new Leader of KCC, following the resignation of Paul Carter.
- KCC are working hard to “keep Kent moving” post-Brexit.
- A meeting later this week will be looking at education issues, with particular reference to special educational needs in Kent.

4. **Clerk Report**

- Registration complete re CCTV with ICO – annual direct debit re registration fee set in place at £40 – first payment around 18th October.
- Approach by Mike Parnell of Cricket Club – after Mr Miller has left, can Club undertake grasscutting for whole of the King George V Field? Confirmed that Parish Council has no objections.
- Approach by resident re promotion of business – Clerk had responded.
- Approach from Monica Russell re contact for SFV – Cllr Newton had agreed.
- Offer re Pond weed for Chapel Lane – referred to Phil Bean.
- Have written to Mr Gibbons re next year’s Dover Patrol service.
- Clerk asked if anything done re WW1 Airfield memorial – Cllr Harris had visited site with Mr D Hart and could see no issue with placing of memorial at the site. Clerk will pursue this.
- Approach from resident re litter clearing in Dover Road layby.
- Clerk had spoken to Mr Miller who will provide a cost for the areas where he would like to continue after official “retirement”.
- Photos of buses parking/reversing from bus turning circle sent to Highways – response later under Correspondence re provision of double yellow lines.
- Reply from Highways re request for salt bin at Granville Road – turned down on “point scoring” system. Cllr Manion will follow this up.
- Re Play Area – unaccompanied visit despite original request – suggest we use another company next year. This to be considered next summer.
- No reply from Mike Whitehead after sending Gridlock proposals to Kent Highways but recent Cabinet changes at KCC may lead to a delay in this respect.
- £100 sent to IOW Computer Geek re accessibility for website.
- “Leaning” bus stop sign at Nelson Park reported, asking whether this can be moved to opposite side of the shelter.

Clerk to deal

6. **Maintenance Contract**

- Cllr Simcox thanked Cllr Smith for his hard work in preparing and investigating the tender process in respect of the Council acquiring a new maintenance contract. However, it is felt that an alternative approach should now be investigated, to look at local or smaller business – this was agreed by 4 Councillors; Cllr Smith voted against and advised he was not happy with this approach and would not take any further part in the process of moving away from the tender process he promoted.
- Cllr Smith advised that he felt cost of equipment would be a real issue.
- Cllrs Blake and Fielding will meet shortly to look at paperwork prepared by Cllr Smith and move process forward.

Cllrs Blake and Fielding to deal

7. **Finance**

- (a) Clerk advised that completion of external audit report had been completed by PKF Littlejohn with no adverse comments.
- (b) The following payments, made since September meeting, were ratified:-

Isle of Wight Computer Geek	£100.00
Playforce Ltd	£180.00
Affinity for Business Ltd – water rates	£125.00
NEST – Clerk/Council Pension	£172.89
Isle of Wight Computer Geek	£165.00
Greenlands Insurance Services Ltd – tractor	£209.80
Petty Cash	£38.20
Jane Cook – salary	£1,185.73
H M Revenue and Customs	£231.51
Lynne Hopwood - cleaning	£56.00
Jane Cook – internet/phone calls	£22.02
Mr Ian Miller	£1,779.53
Idverde Ltd – grasscutting	£227.11
PKF Littlejohn LLP – audit fee	£408.00
	£4,900.79

Receipts - £4.52 credit interest; Burial Ground fees £845.00

- (c) Re work on Freedown Bank, Kingsdown Road – one quote at £1,180 received – Cllr Blake is pursuing a further quote.
- (d) Quotation received at £380.00 + VAT from R J Playground Services Ltd for repair of the zipwire in the Play Area – IT WAS RESOLVED to accept this quotation and Cllr Blake will arrange to meet on site.

Clerk to place completion of audit notice

Cllr Blake to deal

Cllr Blake to deal

8. **CCTV**

- Cllr Fielding had prepared a CCTV Policy together with a Privacy Impact Statement in respect of the systems operated by the Parish Council and that at the Village Hall. With one small amendment on how the images can be viewed, it was agreed that this be taken forward. At present 2 operators are Cllr Simcox and Cllr Fielding – should be one rep from both organisations in future.

Cllr Fielding will take forward

<p>9. <u>Gridlock Group</u> – nothing to report as no response as yet from Mike Whiting at KCC. Clerk was asked to contact Kent Highways to see if a site visit is possible to view possible sites for double yellow lines.</p>	<p>Clerk to deal</p>
<p>10. <u>Correspondence</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gareth Wiltshire re access for UK Power.• Kent Highways re National Highways & Transport Network Public satisfaction survey.• KALC re Draft Kent and Medway Housing Strategy 2019-23• NALC Chief Executive’s Bulletin• J Shepley re A2 traffic during M20 Operation Stack.• Steve Manion re film “Stand Up to Cancer”.• KALC re Brexit Bulletin 19 September.• DDC – minutes of Town and Parish Council meeting 25th July.• Kent Highways – re Parish Seminar – no attendees.• Steve Manion – Members newsletter.• KALC re Brexit Bulletin 27 September.• Meeting pack for Dover Area Committee Meeting of KALC 30th October. Cllrs Harris and Newton will attend.• NALC Chief Executive’s bulletin.• Kent Highways – details of local road closures.• DDC re Code of Conduct Meeting – for Clerks only.• Mr D O’Connell – re sale notice re Glebe Field – Clerk had responded.• CPRE AGM 5th November – no attendees.• Sara Ellcock, Kent Highways re bus turning circle.• Mr W Stewart – request re metal detecting in the Foreland Valley – denied in view of possible associated risks.	<p>Cllrs Harris and Newton to deal</p> <p>Clerk will attend</p> <p>Clerk to respond</p>
<p>11. <u>Reports from Councillors</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cllrs Simcox and Harris had met with Jane Driver at Old Bottom Freedown to view the situation. Ms Driver wants to replace old paddock fencing and requested whether a longer “lease” period was possible. It was agreed that this was not possible, with the present system of considering on an annual basis to stand. However, Clerk to write advising that PC hopes to continue with the current arrangement in the coming years.• Cllr Smith advised that Village Hall had been booked for 8th December for a village Christmas celebration – both VJ from the shop and Peter from the Smuggles are happy with this arrangement. Cllr Smith is to meet with all parties on 6th November to take forward. The Village Hall plans to have its own Christmas tree and lights.	<p>Clerk to deal</p>

- IT WAS RESOLVED that the Parish Council purchase its own tree for Post Office Corner, but will all celebrations to take place at the Hall to avert risk. (3 Councillors in favour, 2 against).
- Cllr Harris mooted the idea of providing a “Twelve days of Christmas” tour of businesses in the village, with each business to have one item at that location. Cllr Harris will take this idea forward.
- Cllr Simcox had been in liaison with Mr Hart re provision of a large screen to be erected at the Hall, for general use. It was stated that the Parish Council would be happy to contribute. This idea is currently under discussion by the Hall Management Committee.
- Cllr Smith advised of new opening hours at the library from 30 September. New librarian is trying to organise various clubs, reading groups, etc at the library. Advised there is also a home delivery service. Book collection is to be increased. It is understood an article is to be placed in the Parish magazine but this to be checked. On PC website.
- Cllr Fielding advised he has prepared an article for the Parish magazine in terms of the planning process.
- Cllr Smith advised that Dover District Council are looking to take East Kent Housing back “in house” given issues with tenanted properties – this is on PC website.
- Cllr Harris had attended KALC Executive Committee meeting. Formal training policies for Councillors continue to be pushed. Advised that more Police Officers for Kent are being recruited.

Clerk to arrange ordering of tree

Cllr Harris to deal

12. Village Maintenance

- Given Cllr Blake’s absence, Clerk was asked to place this on the agenda again for November. Councillors asked to consider different style of swing for Play Area.
- Cllr Fielding advised that the showers at the Alexander Field are not working (possibly the pump at fault). Clerk to check on previous plumber and approach re a visit.
- Cllr Simcox would like to investigate idea of a Parish Council Facebook page, following an approach from a resident assuming that the St Margarets social site is organised by the Parish Council. Cllrs Simcox and Smith to take forward.
- It is possible the Royal British Legion Ladies Section may be disbanded by the end of the year.
- Suggestion re re-claiming VAT on work undertaken at the King George V Pavilion by Cricket Club was re-visited. Clerk explained the rationale behind refusal of this previously and this was accepted.

Clerk to deal

Clerk to deal

Cllrs Smith and Simcox to deal

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.