

THE PARISH COUNCIL OF ST MARGARETS-AT-CLIFFE

Minutes of the Ordinary Monthly Meeting of the above Parish Council held on Monday 11th November 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, P Blake. Apologies for absence received from Cllr Harris (family illness).

County Cllr Steve Manion and District Councillor Oliver Richardson also in attendance.

Following issues raised during Public Question Time:-

Mr P Wells reported fallen tree on Foreland Road, with further fallen tree further along – Clerk will liaise.

Mr T Gilham – has any progress been made re slowing down speeding vehicles on Reach Road? Cllr Fielding reported on Gridlock proposals to have two crossing points in Reach Road. Mr Gilham asked if 30mph signs could be moved towards Wanstone as they are not easy to see. Cllr Fielding also cited idea of placement of white gates at entrance here to the village.

Mr D Hall advised that he had spoken to Kent Highways re flooding in Reach Road which is happening more frequently – this has been raised over the last six years. He asked whether culverts need digging out. Clerk will investigate report on-line. (ref. 462238).

Mr Marinello – advised on recent problems seen in the South Foreland Valley, including anti-social behaviour, illegal camping and a recent rave. Police did attend the rave party. Cllr Newton had spoken to people in the area asking that they clear their rubbish which they appeared to do. Idea of “gating” roads was mooted. Cllr Newton will liaise with National Trust re security firm used by them.

Mrs Liggins raised issue of hedge in village car park – this is overgrown and taking up a partial parking space. Clerk will investigate. Mrs Liggins raised question with Cllr Manion re replacement of street lighting previously removed by KCC under safety concerns.

Mr A Denton raised issues re overgrown hedges – at The Droveaway (opposite the Surgery); at pinch point opposite the School (ivy). Clerk will write to KCC. Mr Denton raised the issue of likely retirement of Dr Bahadur and questioned whether PC would consider any application for new surgery facilities. Cllr Smith advised that previous application in this respect had shown no real sign of affordable housing and was therefore not supported. Cllr Simcox advised that the PC would keep an open mind in this respect.

Mr Gilham – properties 1 and 24 Churchill Close (local authority owned) – box hedges are on the pavement. Clerk will advise.

1. <u>Confirmation of Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held 14th October 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 planning application for the White Cliffs Hotel where he has a family connection.	
3. <u>County / District Councillors</u> – County Cllr Steve Manion:- - Hopes to get new Cabinet Member for Highways involved in the Gridlock discussion re highway improvements. Advised that this week is multi-faith week.	

- District Cllr Richardson – new Leader of DDC is Trevor Bartlett. Cllr Richardson new portfolio is that of Environment and Commercial Services. DDC has declared a climate change emergency and he is to chair a forum in the near future in this respect. ON question raised by Cllr Smith, he advised that the question of use of East Kent Housing remains to the fore, and there is currently a Scrutiny Committee meeting taking place in this regard. Advised that he believes the situation in this respect is getting better – a consultation will be going out to social tenants in near future. ON 30th November and 24th/25th/26th December all DDC car parks will have free parking. Local Plan is being taken forward and PC should have information by the end of January. Advised there are 2 more Police Officers in Dover, with 1 further in Deal.
- Stephen Noddings, new Community Warden – introduced himself and the role of Warden. Had met with Chair of PC recently to discuss issues which are to the fore. He has been in the post since 5th August and has tried to look at all areas of the village, providing a visible presence. He uses the Parish magazine to disseminate information and his contact details remain in there. He attended the recent meeting re Christmas arrangements but a prior engagement means he will be unable to attend the event. Although he has no enforcement powers, he can take names/addresses of persons involved in anti-social behaviour and provide information to relevant agencies.

4. **Mr Martin Hunt, Tree Warden**

- Advised that he has written 3 Parish magazine articles so far. Has started a tree nursery in his garden with saplings donated (confirmed that he welcomed all such donations). Advised that local Beaver and Scout groups have contacted him to give a talk on the subject of trees and their importance to the environment.
- Questioned whether the PC had any areas which could be identified for tree planting. He has been looking at sites and will come up with plan of possible sites.
- Tree Preservation Orders – advised of website where locations of trees with TPO's can be viewed.
- Raised issue of litter problems under trees at Alexander Field – would like to organise a working party to remove this. Given ongoing WI litter picking group, Clerk will liaise with Brenda Paul to check on this. Clerk will liaise with Mr Miler re tyres at the field. Clerk confirmed that PC had insurance in place which covers volunteers but advice re any planned events would be welcome.

Clerk to deal

5. **Mr Mike Fielding for St Margaret's Bowls Club**

- Club had provided a briefing paper before the meeting setting out Club's desire to improve the heating and insulation systems at the Pavilion.
- Club is keen to improve all facilities in order to encourage new members.
- Club has brought in contractors to provide estimated costs for installing gas central heating throughout the pavilion (estimated at £7,000 + VAT). Also looked at modern and efficient electric German radiators (estimated costs £3,296 + VAT).

- Club's preferred option is for the German radiators.
- Allied to this, insulation needs to be improved – this would include installation of a suspended ceiling in the Snooker Room to include insulation. Local builder John Ford could oversee the work.
- Club is seeking assistance from the Parish Council for the ceiling materials, estimated at £1,500. IT WAS RESOLVED that this Parish Council would accede to this request. VAT to be dealt with by the Parish Council as property owner on whole sum with all invoices etc to be addressed to the Council.

6. Clerk Report

- No doubt Councillors saw Community Warden's report in magazine about parking etc – has no direct power.
- Asked Environmental Health re any rat problem in Chapel Lane – checked on last reported occasion but nothing found, similarly this time.
- Cycling on Bay Hill – this is Thanet Road Club – reported to Highways to check re licence and also PCSO. On their website only one occurrence in a year in St Margarets – time trials.
- “Retainer” fee to Registrar included in this month's invoice for Mr Miller.
- Site meeting arranged with Kent Highways – report later in meeting.
- Clerk attended meeting at DDC re Code of Conduct.
- Ordered Christmas trees x 2 (one for Village Hall) – both to be delivered on Thursday 5th November – both to be 20' – possibly Ian Miller and David Hart will visit Cloughs to “pick out” trees.
- Christmas tree recycling – Mon 6th and Tuesday 7th Jan – confirmed that Parish Council will again provide this service.
- Streetlight (removed in Glebe Close) – DDC light – report to be received.
- Reply received from from KCC to Gridlock proposals.
- Thanks to Cllr Manion for grit bin for Granville Road, arranged through his Members Grant.
- Cllr Fielding had not had any luck with arranging plumber for Alexander Pavilion although he advised that showers appeared to be working well recently.
- Copy dates for magazine – 12th November for December edition; 4th December for January edition. Clerk will place notices re PC grants in January edition.

Clerk to place notices and in magazine

Clerk to chase

Clerk to check re alternative plumber

Clerk to deal

7. Planning

The following application, delegated at last meeting, was duly ratified:-

DOV/19/01227 Removal of ensuite from stairwell serving ground floor bedroom, relocation of ground floor w.c. and installation of new stud wall, together with other internal works –
1 Hope Court, High Street

No objections

The following comments were made on the applications considered:-

DOV/19/01113 Conversion of 2no. annexe buildings from self-catering to residential units. Unit 4 internal alterations to remove and insert new partitions, infill & insert new openings to form ground floor living accommodation. Unit 5 replace front elevation door with window. Internal alterations to remove and insert new partitions to form ground floor wc & first floor ensuite, bathroom & bedroom. Insert access gate with new piers to boundary wall
The White Cliffs Hotel, High Street
Given this application is materially linked to application 19/01112, previous objections still apply

DOV/19/01166 Replacement of existing first floor windows, installation of cladding to upper front and side elevations
The Leazes, 17 Salisbury Road *No objections*

DOV/19/01249 Erection of a detached dwelling and garage (existing garage and sheds to be demolished)
Brooklands, 22 The Droveaway *Object given access issues to proposed development*

DOV/19/01262 Erection of single storey side, rear and front extensions (existing lean-to extension and conservatory to be demolished)
Highlands, 50 The Droveaway *No objections*

DOV/19/01282 Erection of two storey side extension, detached garage, extension to front dormer window with terrace and balcony to front, alterations to windows/doors, patio, steps with retaining wall to front and rendered facade (existing side extension to be demolished)
The Wheel House, 42 Granville Road *No objections*

DOV/19/01311 Raise roof to facilitate a loft conversion incorporating French doors and balcony
Pembroke, Nelson Park Road *No objections*

Clerk was delegated to deal with the following 2 applications, received since publication of the agenda:-

DOV/19/01332 Variation of Condition 2 (approved plans) to allow design changes to the proposed dwelling of planning permission DOV/18/00431
The Dial House, 23 St Margarets Road *No objections*

DOV/19/01354 Erection of a rear extension and internal alterations –
Jean, Vincent Road *No objections*

8. Maintenance Contract

- Cllr Blake had met with Mr Miller to discuss ongoing maintenance following his retirement next year. Cllr Blake had looked at 5 separate maintenance areas. It was agreed that current arrangement with Idverde be kept in place (renewable annually) – covering the Alexander Field, the Madge Field, the larger area of the Cemetery.
- Question was raised as to whether Idverde could be approached to undertake cutting of the grass path leading from Westcliffe to the village.
- Suggested that Hedgecutting at the Cemetery continue to be arranged by Mr Miller.
- As requested, Mr Miller had provided a quote for maintenance of the Cemetery – this at £2,000 for one year. IT WAS RESOLVED to accept this price, conditional on reviewing the situation after a year. Cllr Smith expressed his concern at the lack of comparison for this quotation.
- Mr Miller had provided quote of £1,500 to undertake works at land outside Merzenich, Chapel Lane Pond and Christmas tree recycling – IT WAS RESOLVED to accept this quote. Cllr Smith again expressed his concern at the lack of comparison for this work.

Clerk to deal

Clerk to advise

Cllrs Blake and Fielding to liaise re remainder of maintenance schedule

In both cases, Mr Miller to be contracted for these two areas of maintenance for one year only.

9. Finance

Cllr Blake had yet to receive further quotation for work on Freedown Bank.

The following payments, made since October meeting, were duly ratified:-

IOC – Annual fee	£35.00
Affinity for Business – water rates	£125.00
R J Playground Services Ltd – work on zipwire	£360.00
Dover District Council – election costs	£193.87
Mr I Miller – labour Oct 2019 + Registrar fees	£1447.00
Jane Cook – salary	£1185.73
Jane Cook – office expenses	£21.96
H M Revenue and Customs	£231.51
Dover District Council - Reach Road car park toilets	£1730.06
RBP Poppy Appeal	£50.00
Idverde Ltd – grasscutting	£227.11
Mr I Miller – Cemetery retainer fee	£300.00
NEST – pension	£172.89
	£6080.13

Income:-

Credit interest	£4.36
Burial fee	£550.00
Donation re SFV filming	£200.00

10. **Playdale Report / equipment**

- Cllr Blake met with rep from R J Playground Services Ltd re zipwire. Unfortunately, the make-up of the spring mechanism is such that it cannot be removed for repair. Therefore, quotes had been provided for:
 - Replacement of cable/springs/braking system using Playdale parts at £2750.00, and
 - As before but using non-Playdale parts at £1425.00.
- Given that it is currently a Health and Safety risk, IT WAS RESOLVED that the price of £1425.00 be accepted, with R J Playground Services to undertake the work.
- Cllr Blake had gone through the recent Inspection Report undertaken by Playdale with the rep – it is felt that a maintenance programme should be instigated, with next ROSPA inspection to be brought forward to early June next year.
- As regards the idea of a new swing, it was agreed that this be considered after next ROSPA report, taking onto account cited wood rot problems below ground on current swings.

Clerk to deal

11. **Correspondence**

- Mrs S Liggins re swing seat.
- Mr S Willett, Langdon Parish Council, re Local Development Plan – Councillors do not want to take up Cllr Willett's offer.
- KALC re VE Day 8th May 2020 – Church bells.
- Kent Highways (sent on behalf of Mike Whiting) – response to Gridlock report.
- Heather Waller re footpath ER275 – cleared obstruction.
- River Oak Strategic Partners re Manston Airport proposal – meeting invitation.
- KALC re AGM 30 November.
- KALC re KCC Budget Consultation.
- KALC re Dynamic Councillor event 30th November.
- Notice re rejection of appeal on The Anchorage, Bay Hill (18/00341).
- Kate Stephen re proposal for defibrillator at The Coastguard – Clerk to write advising that Ms Stephen approach the Council for a community grant in February for this purpose.
- Draft Precept Demand Notice for 2020-2021.
- (Postal notification re appeal on refused decision on Cledge, The Avenue 19/00238).

Clerk to advise

Clerk to advise

12. **Reports from Councillors**

- Cllr Simcox reported on recent meeting with Kent Highways where locations for double yellow lines and signs were discussed. This included:
- RE-marking of junction lines at Bay Hill roundabout – an enquiry has been raised for the lines to be refreshed – should be done in 6-8 weeks.

- KCC start consultation on double yellows by “roundabout” – needs to be included in HIP. KCC will then prepare a design for PC to approve. Will also need to be included in HIP.
- Bus cage – KCC will pay for a 31m bus cage (marked on road).
- Looking at making the roundabout one way – again will need inclusion in HIP – a design will then be prepared for PC informal consultation. Signs on Granville to stop coaches. – KCC will pay for the installation of 1 new “unsuitable for HGV’s” sign illustrated for foreign vehicles. Should be supplied and installed in 6-8 weeks.
- 3 sites suggested for double yellow lines - junction Reach road/Royston Gardens near village hall; in the dip in Sea Street (on left when facing towards village) to allow cars to pass during school drop off times; beyond the car park at the beach (on right when facing the village) to stop cars parking along Bay Hill up to the hairpin bend with St Margaret’s road
If all 3 added together, can be considered under one initial cost.
- Cllr Smith reported on recent meeting on Christmas arrangements. Event has now been moved to Sunday 8th December. There will be food (provided by VJ at the shop), a film for children and the lights to be turned on at the Hall together with visit by Father Christmas. New lights are to be added to the High Street (qualified electrician required). Cllr Smith will provide Clerk with website details for new lights. A further meeting is set to take place on 20th November.
- Cllr Newton advised of some fallen trees in the Valley and questioned when last survey was done. Idea suggested that Tree Warden may like to be involved in this. Clerk will check re fallen trees.
- Advised re recent “rave” in the Valley, together with detritus left after a firework party. Cllr Smith had also spoke to motorbike rider in the area, with two 4x4 vehicles apparently also involved. It was agreed that Cllr Newton could liaise with National Trust re security firm used by them.
- Cllr Newton advised on attendance at recent KALC Dover Area Committee meeting. Question of imposition of parking charges at Martin Mill station was again discussed. Reported that an increase has been seen locally in Flytipping. Reported re recent occurrence of travellers at Betteshanger Park. Motor homes are now being seen parked on the seafront at Deal. A speaker at the meeting was the Rural Crime Co-ordinator who provided an interesting report on rural crime.
- Cllr Simcox had attended seminar at Manston by River Oak Partners – she had been provided with a questionnaire to complete to gauge opinion on the future use of the airport. It was agreed that Cllr Simcox/Newton and Clerk would complete this on behalf of the PC.
- Cllr Simcox advised she has obtained advisory stickers / notices for CCTV which she will deal with.

Clerk to deal

Cllrs
Simcox//Newton
and Clerk to deal

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

- Cllr Blake had sought a further quotation re clearance of Reach Rod Pond – this to be awaited before further action considered.
- Cllr Blake advised that in recent high winds, a tree had fallen from land to the rear of the Play Area in the King George V Field – this had been removed by Nigel Claringbould, with no damage caused to the “summer house” structure.
- Cllr Blake had completed playing field inspection which was passed to Clerk. He raised the question of fallen fences in the far corner of the King George Field – Clerk to check on responsibility for this. Also, age limit sign is missing from the Play Area – Clerk will investigate.
- Cllr Blake asked if old “dug out” at Alexander Field could be removed – to include old electrical wiring/post etc. – Clerk will liaise with Mr Miller to see if he is able to do this, or seek an alternative.
- Cllr Blake had received a quotation to deal with asbestos (closed type) at the bus shelter - £60 materials and £40 labour) . IT WAS RESOLVED to accept this price.
- Cllr Blake raised the question (requested by Cricket Club) of banning dogs from the King George V Field. Clerk had contacted AJ in Environmental Health at DDC (872096) who had advised this would come under the auspices of an Environmental Spaces Protection Order. Such Orders are cyclical with the current ones due to expire in 2021. As such, nothing could be done before that time. AJ asks that any issues of dog fouling/nuisance are reported to DDC at the time, to help build up an evidential base, although he sees this as a “last resort”. Councillors confirmed that they would not support the banning of dogs in the area, as most dog walkers are responsible.

Clerk to deal

Clerk to deal

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.45 p.m.

Confirmed:

Chairman

11th November 2019

Correspondence received ahead of Parish Council meeting
9th December 2019

Date sent

12 Nov	Sutton Parish Council re grounds maintenance.
17 Nov	Liz McNaughton re Dementia Café
21 Nov	Kent Highways re speed restrictions for “Enchanted Walmer Castle”
25 Nov	Kent Highways re temporary closure of Crabble Hill 14 December.