

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

Minutes of the Ordinary Monthly Meeting of the above Parish Council held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020 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, J Harris.

County Cllr Steve Manion and District Councillors Oliver Richardson and Martin Bates also in attendance.

Following issues raised during Public Question Time:-

Mr David Hall expressed his total opposition to the proposal by DDC to impose parking charges in rural car parks, including St Margaret's Reach Road site.

Mrs Verren asked if any progress had been made by Kent Highways in resolving the flooding issue on Reach Road near the Holiday Camp – Clerk confirmed that KHS are looking at more robust engineering works to try to deal with this matter.

Question of toilets not being open yesterday in car park raised – will be reported.

<p>1. <b><u>Confirmation of Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held 9<sup>th</sup> December 2019</u></b> The minutes, having been circulated to all members, were duly confirmed as a Correct record.</p>	
<p>2. <b><u>Declarations of Interest</u></b> – None declared on agenda items.</p>	
<p>3. <b><u>County / District Councillors</u></b> –</p> <p>County Cllr Steve Manion:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Advised that KCC consultation on services out at present, ending beginning of February. KCC is looking at budget for next year – likely to see Council tax rise of 1.99% + 2% for social care. Advised that extra funding from Central Government is to be made available for highways.</li></ul> <p>District Councillor Oliver Richardson -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Local Plan likely to be out quite soon – all Parishes will be consulted. Advised that current lane/road closures on A256 near Pfizers are due to a drainage / sewer problem. Special engineers are being consulted and likely to cause problems for some time. East Kent Housing has been taken over by the Districts temporarily – EKHA Chief Executive has resigned – it is hoped to rectify the problems quickly.</li></ul>	
<p>4. <b><u>Proposal by Dover District Council to introduce car parking charges in St Margaret's Reach Road Car Park</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Clerk had received an email from Ash Parish Council Clerk alerting St Margaret's to this on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> January, as an agenda item for DDC Cabinet today, 13<sup>th</sup> January.</li></ul>	

- No prior advice received of this, despite St Margaret's being advised in 2018 that this was to be taken no further when originally mooted.
- Cllr Richardson had attended at Cabinet Meeting and advised that a strong case had been put by St Margaret's residents in opposition to this, with 210 letters of objection in the one week since residents were alerted to this. Similar proposals are being suggested for Ash, Wingham and Eastry. The proposal would involve the imposition of charges at £1 per hour with a two hour time limit put in place. A proposal was made at the Cabinet Meeting, to defer the decision to allow detailed discussions with the Parish Councils.
- Given the number of objections, Cllr Richardson believes St Margaret's has put a good case against the proposal although more comments from residents would be fine. He will liaise with the Parish Council after DDC have logged all the complaints and compared the detail. Rebecca Simcox thanked Cllr Richardson for his input with this.
- Proposals for other Parishes had received few objections to DDC. Cllr Simcox had asked Cllr Collor whose portfolio includes car parks, that the objections made in 2018 also be taken into account. Cllr Simcox also questioned the financial logic behind this, as (in DDC's outlook) it would be 5 years before any money would be put back into DDC coffers, although this assumes a full car park.
- Cllr Smith stressed that previous proposal did not follow DDC's consultation guidelines and stated that these guidelines must be adhered to this time around.
- Cllr Simcox asserted that St Margaret's PC and the community must not lose sight of this and must continue to fight against any such future proposals.

#### 5. **Clerk's Report**

- Quotation received from Idverde re Westcliffe path – under Finance.
- DDC have agreed to cut back overhanging hedge in Reach Road Car Park.
- ERHA advised re broken fence at back of Ash Grove – now fixed.
- New information board up at Cemetery – cheque under Finance.
- More Christmas trees than usual left for shredding (larger size) – in hand to shred today – Ian Miller with tree surgeon Dave Austin.
- Clerk had contacted tree surgeon re trees in Valley – reply awaited.
- Several emails received re roads in the South Foreland Valley – under Correspondence.
- Long telephone conversation with Mr Bannerman re WW1 airfield memorial – under Correspondence.
- Clerk and Chair had met with new PCSO.
- Ian Miller would like to spend 3 days in Burial Ground undertaking tidying and cleaning work – approved.
- Ian Miller would like a meeting with PC reps re headstones – colour/type. Also, in future how will cost of "levelling" graves be met,
- Mermaid Cottage – re recently erected boundary wall – on contact from Clerk, DDC have advised owner to remove the wall or enforcement will ensue.
- Cheque for Bowls Club materials re new ceiling under Finance. Agreed that PC had no objections to Club using "saved" funds re economies on lighting.

6. **Planning**

The following application, delegated from the previous meeting, was duly ratified:-

DOV/19/01465      Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) of planning permission  
DOV/18/00121 to reduce height of extension to single storey  
(application under Section 73) –  
Foreland Cottage, 15 St Margarets Road                      *No objections*

The following comments were made on the applications considered:-

DOV/19/01489      Erection of 3 dwellings (existing dwellings to be demolished)  
1 And 2 St Margarets Road      *No objections - 5 in favour*  
*(Cllr Smith opposed the application)*

DOV/19/01471      Erection of a detached dwelling, formation of new vehicle  
access and parking (1no. garage to be demolished)  
Wind Torn, Hardy Road                      *No objections*

DOV/19/01249      Erection of a detached dwelling and garage (existing garage and  
sheds to be demolished) (revised plans)  
Land R/o 22 The Droveaway  
*As previously, object given access  
issues to proposed development*

DOV/19/01477      Stationing of caravan for ancillary use as annexe (existing  
outbuilding to be demolished)  
Walleys Cottage, Dover Road, Westcliffe  
*Object due to the position in the AONB*

Clerk was delegated to deal with the following applications, where notification was received after setting of agenda:-

DOV/20/00020      Erection of a two storey rear extension (existing side  
and rear extensions to be demolished) –  
Fairview, Sea Street                      *No objections*

DOV/19/01550      Infill of carport to side of dwelling to facilitate habitable  
accommodation –  
Plot 3, Land and Garages rear of 4 and 5 The Droveaway –  
*Object due to loss of parking provision –  
PC concerned re possible previous non  
compliance with building regulations*

DOV/19/01409      Erection of a single storey extension and installation  
of 2no. dormer windows –  
Collingwood Close, Collingwood Road                      *No objections*

7. **Tree Planting** –

- Suggested sites for planting – this to be deferred to February meeting, with Clerk to put back on agenda. Cllr Simcox brought up question of live planting of Christmas tree at PO Corner.

Clerk to deal

**8. New Maintenance Contract**

- It was agreed to defer this item until February. Cllr Blake, together with Cllr Fielding, will ensure they have something concrete to present before next PC meeting. It was agreed that an informal discussion in this regard take place on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February at 11 a.m.

Clerk to place on agenda and check re Channel Room use

**9. Finance**

- IT WAS RESOLVED to accept the quotation from Idverde in respect of regular cutting of the Westcliffe path, at £50 per cut or £300 annually.
- Precept – IT WAS RESOLVED to increase the Precept request by 3.12% for 2020-21 (no increase in previous year) – this would provide an extra £3,333 and would mean an extra £2 per year on a Band D property, or 20p per month.

Clerk to deal

Clerk to deal

The following payments, made since December meeting, were duly approved:-

E J Clough – Christmas tree	£276.00
Affinity for Business – water rates	£125.00
NEST Pension – Clerk and Council	£172.89
St Margarets Village Hall – Channel Room Hire 2020	£308.55
Tim Andrews Plumbing Service – Alexander Pav'n repairs	£462.00
Mr P Woodward – Cemetery information board	£900.00
Mr I Miller – December invoice	£1,120.00
Dover District Council – quarterly toilet invoice	£1,730.06
Petty Cash	£34.98
Jane Cook – December salary	£1,185.73
Office expenses – internet/phone	£26.34
H M Revenue and Customs	£231.51
Idverde Ltd – line marking	£105.60
Buildbase – re Bowls Club ceiling works	£874.08
	<b>£7,552.74</b>

Receipts:

Credit interest	£3.66
Cemetery fees	£145.00
Football Club re line marking	£52.80

**10. Correspondence**

- Greg Chant-Hall re planning application in St Margarets Road
- Barry Finch DDC re Reach Road public toilets.
- Cllr Oliver Richardson re Tea and Talk Tuesdays.
- Bob Russell re Freedown bank PC approved of Mr Russell's offer of vegetation clearance. Clerk to make enquiries via Land Registry re land ownership.
- Gareth Wiltshire, National Trust re incident in Valley.
- KALC re Dover Area Committee meeting 29<sup>th</sup> January.
- Ash PC re proposal to introduce rural car parking charges.

Cllr Blake will liaise

Clerk to deal

Cllrs Harris and Newton to attend

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr J Apps – opposing idea of introducing double yellow lines in the dip in Sea Street and proposed car parking charges.</li> <li>• Mr S Holland re criminal damage to rope around cricket square. Cllrs Simcox and Fielding will liaise re viewing CCTV of the area.</li> <li>• Mr M Fielding – email on behalf of Bowls Club opposing proposed car parking charges.</li> <li>• Christine Waterman re launch of new Village Archive website – Cllr Simcox is unable to attend so Cllr Smith will be PC representative.</li> <li>• KASLC re KCC Select Committee on Affordable Housing – agreed that Cllr Smith will respond on behalf of PC.</li> <li>• Steve Manion – email advising availability of grant of £300 for any VE Day commemorations.</li> <li>• Kenneth Bannerman re WW1 airfield memorials – it was agreed that PC had no objections to a memorial being placed at position in Upper Road of current memorials, with no cost to accrue to Council. Clerk will make contact.</li> <li>• Mr M Baldock – re roads and off-road driving in South Foreland Valley.</li> <li>• Anne Amos – re roads in South Foreland Valley.</li> </ul>	<p>Clerk to respond</p> <p>Cllrs Simcox and Fielding to deal</p> <p>Cllr Smith to attend</p> <p>Cllr Smith to deal</p> <p>Clerk to deal</p> <p>Clerk to respond</p> <p>Clerk to respond</p>
<p><b>11. <u>Reports from Councillors</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Newton had continued with liaison with security firm re proposals to secure areas of the South Foreland Valley. She had received 3 estimates from the firm, including building a ditch across the informal car park in Seaview Road at £8,418, £8,321 re blocking of gun magazine together with positioning of 100 wooden posts to prevent off-roading and £10,210 at most expensive. She will take forward “middle” quote. Bat society to be consulted before any blocking up of buildings. The “army barracks” building where the raves/parties take place is not on PC land but again bat society could be consulted re blocking this up. A rave did in fact take place here on New Year’s Eve.</li> <li>• Re Operation Freedown – signs would be put in place re seizing of any off-road vehicles – PC would need to sign contract and Cllr Newton will investigate further.</li> <li>• Re trees on Lighthouse Road (at far end) – tree surgeon has been contacted and contact awaited. Cllr Newton reported that following installation of new power cable, rubbish had been left on site but she had contacted UK Power Networks and succeeded in getting this removed.</li> <li>• She will liaise with road associations before any Operation Freedown signs are put in place / approved.</li> </ul>	<p>Cllr Newton will continue to deal</p>
<p><b>12. <u>Village Maintenance</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Playing field inspection undertaken by Cllr Blake – Clerk confirmed she had contacted DDC re new bin for Well Lane entrance.</li> <li>• Bench in dilapidated state and scaffold pole left at Alexander Field. Re-pointing required at Alexander Pavilion, together with replacement of ridge tiles.</li> <li>• Cllr Fielding stated that a professional clean was required for the Pavilion and Clerk to investigate contractors in this regard.</li> </ul>	<p>Clerk to monitor</p> <p>Clerk to contact roofing contractor</p> <p>Clerk to deal</p>

- Cllr Fielding will contact Tim Andrews Plumbing to obtain a quotation re renewal of shower pump which is beyond useful repair.
- Cllr Simcox noted meeting and report received from new PCSO. Advised of fine given to dog owner with dog off the lead in The Bay.

Cllr Fielding to deal

13. **Other business**

- It was agreed that as April meeting would coincide with Easter Monday Bank Holiday, this be moved to Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April.

Clerk to check with Hall re use

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

Confirmed:

Chairman

13<sup>th</sup> January 2020