

THE PARISH COUNCIL OF ST MARGARETS-AT-CLIFFE

Minutes of the Ordinary Monthly Meeting of the above Parish Council held on Monday 10th February 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. Apologies for absence from J Harris (family commitment).

County Cllr Steve Manion and District Councillor Martin Bates also in attendance. Apologies for absence received from District Cllr Richardson (Scrutiny Committee meeting).

Following issues raised during Public Question Time:-

Peter Wells – Bay Hill – road becoming more narrow with encroachment from trees/vegetation from roadside properties – Clerk will report to Kent Highways.

Vivien Verren – on steps from St Margarets Road – footpath sign is missing – this has been reported to Bay Trust who are undertaking construction work nearby. Asked if Councillors would be prepared to have a stall at Scout fete so that residents could “meet the Parish Council”.

Sandy Liggins overhanging hedge from Churchyard to car park has been cut back. Raised question as to whether the Parish Council would be prepared to continue the previously erected fence along this border on a 50/50 basis with PCC – Clerk to place on agenda for next month.

Sandy Liggins – raised question of criteria adopted by English Rural Housing when allocating rented properties in Ash Grove. Clerk will check.

Aiden Denton – cited problem with overgrown hedge from property known as The Old Pottery on Sea Street opposite Portal House School. Clerk will approach Kent Highways to see if a letter can be sent to resident.

Bob Beasley – reported that the male toilet in Reach Road car park has no lock – Clerk to report.

<p>1. <u>Confirmation of Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held 13th January 2020</u> The minutes, having been circulated to all members, were duly confirmed as a Correct record.</p>	
<p>2. <u>Declarations of Interest</u> – following noted – - Cllr Fielding re planning application for White Cliffs Hotel (family connection); - Cllr Smith declared an interest in the grant application re the History Society application is made by his partner); - Cllr Simcox declared an interest in the grant application from the Nursery as this is located on the land at St Margaret’s Primary School and Portal House where she is a Trustee for the lease; - Cllr Simcox declared an interest in the grant application for the Cricket Club, due to a family connection. - Cllr Newton declared an interest in the grant application for the Dementia Café.</p>	
<p>3. <u>County / District Councillors</u> – - District Cllr Martin Bates reported as follows:- • First full Cabinet Meeting at DDC held 29th January. • Council agreed adoption of new streamlined system for Council Tax support.</p>	

- Tax base approved – 32,029 homes.
- Re proposals for car parking charges – 2 items were removed from Cabinet Meeting pending consultation. Also proposal re Beach Street Deal deferred. Rural car parking charges proposal deferred until further consultation undertaken with Parish Councils.
- Consultation re Lydden Racing Circuit – planning application approved which will see investment of around £5m over 3 years.
- Outreach programme granted Government funding.
- Cllr Smith raised question re East Kent Housing – no information at present.

County Councillor Steve Manion:-

- Advised that Kent Highways contact centre had dealt with 500 calls during Storm Ciara.
- He continues to chase re works to be put in place to mitigate flooding on Reach Road near holiday camp.
- Advised that Cabinet Member for Transport is to arrange to meet with Gridlock Group – no date as yet.

Community Warden – written report received and provided to Councillors.

4. **Clerk Report**

- Clerk to seek quotes for chippings to be placed in large hole which has opened up near gate entrance to Alexander Field.
- Clerk to place on March agenda – consideration of Cemetery fees.
- Government Pension Regulator – re-enrolment duties carried out – Cllr Simcox details as Chair provided together with Clerk as ongoing contact.
- Re area of land near footpath rails leading from Kingsdown Road – DDC contacted (not their issue), contacted BT Openreach (ref. ND9RTG94) – site visited on 27th January – cables checked and confirmed no safety issue or damage to cables. Clerk to try and speak to local land owner.
- Mr Bannerman of WW1 airfields charity contacted after last meeting – no return contact made although planning application before the Council.
- Precept demand now before DDC.
- Two roofing contractors contacted re Alexander Pavilion (under Finance) + one cleaning company (under Finance).
- Broken bin reported at KGV Field – replacement cost under Finance.
- Village Hall booked for re-arranged PC meeting for 6th April.
- Rubbish behind “store” at King George V Pavilion – old dishwasher and barbecue – Cllr Blake will talk to Cricket Club.
- CCTV at KGV Pavilion – old cameras taken off – can be discarded as too old to be of use.
- Can Cricket Club place advertising on wicket covers re local sponsorship – Council approval given.

Clerk to deal

Clerk to deal and
Cllr Harris to
consider

Clerk to deal

Clerk to speak to
Club

Clerk to advise
Club

Electric consumer unit for KGV Pavilion – quote under Finance but may go slightly beyond this figure depending on what electrician finds.

- Lighthouse Road Flytipping – reported by resident – dealt with.
- Councillors unable to determine information re criminal damage to ropes on cricket wicket as timeframe too large.
- Clerk had signed one month agreement with Dover Security Services - £18 per call out.

4. Planning

The following applications, delegated to Clerk from previous meeting, were duly ratified:-

- | | | |
|--------------|---|---|
| DOV/20/00020 | Erection of a two storey rear extension (existing side and rear extensions to be demolished) –
Fairview, Sea Street | <i>No objections</i> |
| 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 – | <i>Object due to loss of parking provision –
PC concerned re possible previous non
compliance with building regulations</i> |
| DOV/19/01409 | Erection of a single storey extension and installation of 2no. dormer windows –
Collingwood Close, Collingwood Road | <i>No objections</i> |

The following comments were made on the applications considered:-

- | | | |
|--------------|--|---|
| DOV/20/00034 | Erection of two storey front, rear and side extensions, attached garage/carport, raise roof to facilitate second floor, balcony with balustrades to first and second floor rear and first floor elevations (single storey rear extension, detached garage and attached side garage to be demolished) –
Meadhurst, 7 Sea View Road | <i>Object – cramped proposal giving
Overdevelopment of site; problem of overlooking given
height of proposed building</i> |
| DOV/20/00084 | Certificate of Lawful Development (existing) for the erection of a dwelling house
Sherleys Farm, Upper Road | <i>No objections</i> |
| DOV/19/01112 | Erection of 2no. dwellings with associated parking, change of use and conversion of 2no. annexe buildings to 2no. dwellings with replacement door to window on front elevation of unit 5 and creation of gated entrance (amended scheme reducing the number of new-build dwellings from 3 to 2)
The White Cliffs Hotel, High Street | <i>Previous objections apply viz
Over-development within the Conservation Area;
insufficient parking provision for both Hotel and proposed
new houses with knock-on effect to village</i> |

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

- | | | |
|--------------|--|---|
| DOV/20/00106 | Erection of a war memorial –
Land at Upper Road | <i>No objections</i> |
| DOV/20/00111 | Change of use to holiday let with manager’s accommodation above
Blue Bird Tea Rooms | <i>Object – property is not suitable for
residential use; no Design and Access Statement
provided providing explanation</i> |

6. Tree Planting

- Suggested sites provided by Martin Hunt, Tree Warden.
- Council is happy to approve planting of trees in the Alexander Field, although prior discussion to be undertaken with residents of The Freedown.
- Other suggested sites, including Kingsdown Road opposite library and near bus stop at Dover Road junction, outside Merzenich not considered suitable.
- Clerk to make contact with Martin Hunt.

Clerk to deal

7. Maintenance Contract

- Cllr Blake presented completed contract paperwork for PC to seek quotations for new maintenance contract.
- Invitation to quote letter agreed – this to be placed on website, in Parish magazine and on noticeboards.
- Clerk provided with hard copies of paperwork to be handed to interested parties on contact.

Clerk to deal

8. Cllr Fielding re Gridlock – Highway Improvement Plan

- Two recent meetings held, one with MP Natalie Elphicke. Will arrange for meeting with Cabinet Member Michael Payne.
- KCC HIP form completed in priority order – to be submitted via Clerk on behalf of PC.
- Re Gridlock proposals – this document to be deferred pending consultation with Michael Payne.

Clerk to deal

9. Finance

- IT WAS RESOLVED to accept the quotation from Idverde in respect of grasscutting contract for 2020-21 at £1589.82 + £300 re Westcliffe path. Clerk asked to chase Idverde to provide quotation for rolling football pitch.
- IT WAS RESOLVED to accept the quotation from Kentish Builder in the sum of £820 for repairs to Alexander Pavilion roof.
- IT WAS RESOLVED to accept the quotation from Bio-Cleanse for a deep clean of the Alexander Pavilion in the sum of £350.
- IT WAS RESOLVED that the PC purchase a new litter bin in the sum of £250 + £50 installation cost for Well Lane entrance to KGV Field.

Clerk to deal

Clerk to confirm

Clerk to confirm

Clerk to deal

- IT WAS RESOLVED to accept quotation from JLM re new consumer unit for KGV Pavilion at £550.
- IT WAS RESOLVED to increase salary for Clerk by 3% with effect from 1st April 2020. IT WAS RESOLVED to increase payment rate to Lynne Hopwood for cleaning by 3% with effect from 1st April 2020.

Clerk to confirm

The following payments made since January meeting were approved:-

Affinity for Business Ltd – water rates	£142.23
NEST Pension	£172.89
Mr I Miller – January invoice	£1,550.44
Petty Cash	£17.98
Jane Cook – January salary	£1185.73
Jane Cook – Phone/internet	£25.57
HMRC	£231.51
Mrs R Simcox – expenses	£67.80
Rhino Plant Hire	£510.00
	£3,904.15

Receipts:-

Credit interest	- £3.69
Cemetery fee	- £595.00

10. Grants to Local Organisations

IT WAS RESOLVED to make the following grants available:-

St Margarets History Society	£500
St Margarets Community Dementia Café	£500
St Margarets Cricket Club	£1,500
St Margarets and District Gardeners	£150
Charity of Amy Temple	£1,000
St Margarets Nursery and After School Club	£300
Churchyard Volunteers	£100

Clerk to prepare cheques

11. Correspondence

- KALC re private roads.
- Email re damage in South Foreland Valley.
- DDC re damaged bin at entrance to King George V Field.
- KALC re Dover Area Committee meeting
- Email from resident re fencing alongside Droveaway Gardens.
- Resident email re broken footpath sign.
- Resident re Ash Grove allocation of rented properties.
- Martin Leggatt at DDC re financial support from Parish/Town Councils for public toilets.
- Email providing additional information re Cricket Club grant application.
- Kent Highways – update re HGV signs / road markings.
- Letter of objection from resident re proposal to introduce car parking charges in Reach Road car park by DDC.
- Letter of formal complaint from resident – to be considered, reply prepared and report to be given next month.

12. **Reports from Councillors**

- Following previous emails from residents, Cllr Newton confirmed that on looking on KCC Gazetteer, all roads within the South Foreland Valley are considered and “not maintainable at public expense”. Previously, the PC had maintained Lighthouse Road (far end) to a reasonable standard but this should no longer be necessary as staff traffic to the Lighthouse uses alternative access road.
- Cllr Newton met with tree Surgeon Dave Austin re South Foreland Valley trees – they walked the perimeter and in woods. D A Tree Surgeons will provide two quotes – one for trees in dangerous positions alongside paths and roads; secondly for further tree work which may need to be considered.
- Cllr Newton met with Dover Security Services and UK Groundworks re suggested prohibitive signage. She had been in contact with SFV road association and their response is awaited. Having liaised with WCCP, shallow trenching would be fine for cattle, horses may need more care. As regards The Front, there is a historic trench which has already been started and it may be possible to continue this. Documentation had been prepared for Natural England permission and this is awaited.
- Clerk to prepare a notice which Security Services can hand to traffic / other users of the land in case of need re prohibited use.
- Cllr Simcox re ER28 and track – PC contacted by resident following erection of fence on recently acquired land adjacent to footpath ER28, narrowing historic path and making walking more difficult. Letter sent to land owner and situation reported to Kent County Council Public Rights of Way who are working direct with the land owner. Re track on opposite side of field, (joining ER28 to ER26), PC placed information on social media, asking for residents comments re public use for more than 20 years – witness statements have been sent to Public Rights of Way to take this forward. PC has to serve a Section 8 notice on land owner in this respect and Clerk to undertake this.
- Cllr Simcox advised that nothing further heard at present re proposal on car parking charges for rural car parks, including ST Margarets.
- Cllr Simcox and Cllr Fielding had met with Carrie Jackson from the Bay Trust – an interesting meeting but Ms Jackson had since left the Trust.
- Cllr Newton reported on recent KALC meeting which focussed on GDPR issues. Point made re importance of protection of data and privacy of information held and used by PC. Suggestions from KALC included: a communications policy; social media policy; separation of data. It was agreed that a pragmatic approach be taken in this respect.

Clerk to deal

Clerk to deal

13. **Village Maintenance**

- Playing Field inspection undertaken by Cllr Blake. No major issues to report. Clerk asked to contact play inspection company to arrange an accompanied site visit for June.

Clerk to deal

- It was agreed that Clerk make application to KCC re Members Grant application for defibrillator to be sited at the Coastguard pub in The Bay.
- Cllrs Blake and Smith both advised that they have to provide apologies for the March meeting due to holiday absence.

Clerk to deal

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

Confirmed:

Chairman

10th February 2020