

THE PARISH COUNCIL OF ST MARGARETS-AT-CLIFFE

Minutes of the Ordinary Monthly Meeting of the above Parish Council held on Monday 9th March 2020 in St Margarets Hall, Reach Road at 7.00 p.m.

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

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

Following issues raised during Public Question Time:-

Peter Wells – reported hedge encroaching into village car park near exit – believed to come from flats next door. Clerk to investigate. Also cited noise/disturbance to birds from low flying aircraft. Clerk to investigate.

Ms Liggins – raised question re missing streetlight in village car park – this had been removed without notice by DDC and is due to be replaced by next week. Also raised question of validity of tenants at Ash Grove and criteria adopted in process. Cllr Harris will continue to try and make contact with ERHA.

Penny Bailey – noted two speed measuring devices in Station Road at Nelson Park – neither PC or Kent Highways aware of this and Highways will pursue.

Mrs Verren – noted that lights from car park at the Swingate are distracting when travelling out of the village at night. Clerk to make contact to see if this can be resolved.

David Hall – noted that roadworks at the end of Reach Road had caused chaos in last week – no traffic management or street lights and difficult for pedestrians to navigate. Raised question re Klingsdown Road (far end) which in recent days had been tarmac'd – has this been done by Highways? He registered his opposition to the gating of the track joining ER28 and ER276 where he had walked and ridden his bicycle as a child. Also wished to make the point that ER28 is not a bridleway and questioned how horses (if placed in the adjacent field) could be moved from the site.

1. <u>Confirmation of Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held 10th February 2020</u> The minutes, having been circulated to all members, were duly confirmed as a correct record.	
2. <u>Declarations of Interest</u> – none declared on agenda items.	
3. <u>County / District Councillors</u> – - County Cllr Steve Manion – reported that with recent very wet weather, flooding of roads continues to be an issue for Highways Dept. Confirmed that KCC has a key role to play in resilience planning, important at the present time with flooding and Coronavirus issues. Confirmed that additional funding of £4m for drainage repairs and £10m for potholes had been identified. Replacement of streetlights with more energy efficient LEDs continues. - District Cllr Oliver Richardson – confirmed he will chase Martin Leggatt at DDC re meeting to discuss public toilets. New Council Tax information out today – will give a 3.9% increase – approx £189 per month on a Band D property. Confirmed that Bus Rapid Transport System is to be funded; Maison Dieu to be funded as new community/cultural centre. Re-development of “Tides” to go ahead, with	

public consultation to take place in this regard; Dover Market Square and Sandwich Guildhall in line for improvements; East Kent Housing has been taken back in hand by DDC.

- Stephen Nodding – Community Warden – he continues with village patrols; has been involved with the new Dementia Café; advised there are currently a lot of scams occurring with the fake “Postcode Lottery” being a main one. He had been provided with photographs of the damage done in the South Foreland Valley following recent rave (Police had been contacted by Cllr Newton).

4. **Clerk Report**

- Further quote received from roofing contractor at £950. Decision already taken.
- Broken bin at KGV Field – cost will now be £365 as concrete base required.
- Footpath walk to take place on 17th May. Hall in use by DAPA but only main hall. Cllr Newton will provide refreshments.
- Fallen trees in Foreland Road – - now removed.
- Meeting after several emails now on 2nd April at 2pm re proposal for car parking charges in rural areas.
- Re SFV – flailing required to bring growth down – likely to be £370 – confirmed that this can be taken forward.
- Reported loss of “slowdown” sign on Bay Hill to Highways – “under investigation”.
- Re reported encroachment by vegetation to Highways – “under investigation”.
- Sea Street hedges – “under investigation”.
- Lock now working on gents toilet door in car park block.
- Awaiting contact from Vurleys re quote for church fencing.
- Hole filled in at Alexander Field gate (invoice under Finance).
- Playforce re accompanied visit for ROSPA report in June cost to be £110 – agreed that Clerk can take this forward.
- Re Coastguard defibrillator – questions raised by owner re costs / ongoing costs. It was agreed that PC’s contribution would be £500 sourced through Cllr Steve Manion’s Members Grant.
- VAT return completed - £4,046.51 awaited.

Clerk and Cllrs to attend

Clerk to advise

Clerk to monitor progress re Highways

Clerk to deal

Clerk to deal

Clerk to advise and complete grant form

5. **Planning**

The following planning applications, deferred to Clerk at previous meeting, were duly ratified:-

DOV/20/00106 Erection of war memorial –
Land at Upper Road

No objections

DOV/20/00111 Change of use to holiday let with manager's accommodation above – Blue Birds Tea Rooms *Object – property is not suitable for residential use; No Design and Access Statement giving explanation*

The following comments were made on the applications considered:-

DOV/20/00120 Erection of single storey side extension, entrance canopy, dormer windows, excavation works to extend the basement to create an integral garage, replacement and alteration to rear parking area, landscaping works including new external steps and external alterations including replacement of and additional windows and doors, replacement roof and tile hanging (existing conservatory extensions to be demolished). –
Ivy Bank 33 Granville Road *Support – helped by strong Design and Access Statement*

DOV/20/00086 Erection of a detached dwelling, double garage and creation of parking –
Land North East Of The Close Nursery, Station Road
Object – outside village confines; within AONB; does not address Planning Inspector's objections in para 7 of previous dismissal

DOV/20/00192 Erection of two storey extension –
Pine Edge Bay Hill *No objections*

6. Maintenance Contract

Confirmed that 5 interested parties had returned paperwork and provided quotes in respect of new maintenance contract. It was agreed that Cllrs Blake and Fielding would undertake interviewing process, with recommendations then to come to next PC meeting. Clerk to place on agenda.

Clerk to deal

7. Complaint received

A letter of complaint had been received dated 1st February 2020 concerning actions taken by the Parish Council regarding footpath ER28. This complaint was considered in accordance with complaints procedure, and a reply was sent dated 13 February 2020. As the complainant had copied in Sue Carr at Dover District Council, a copy of Parish Council response was provided to her. An extract of her response to complainant has also been received. No blame is considered to attach to Parish Council's actions here. Clerk confirmed that no further contact had been made by complainant.

8. Re: Track joining Footpath ER28 and ER276

The Parish Council has received an email from Andrew Hutchinson at Kent Public Rights of Way Office, asking that the Council makes representation in writing if it considers the route to be a highway which has unlawfully been obstructed and that it is prejudicial to the general public use of the route. This is to satisfy a requirement within Section 130 of the Highways Act 1980. It was agreed that the Parish Council would make such representation following the many witness statements provided by local residents affirming this.

Clerk to deal

9. Finance

The following payments made since February meeting were approved:

St Margarets History Society – S137 grant	£500.00
St Margarets Dementia Café – S137 grant	£500.00
St Margarets & District Gardeners Association – S137 grant	£150.00
The Charity of Amy Temple – S137 grant	£1,000.00
St Margarets Nursery and After School Club – S137 grant	£300.00
St Margarets PCC – S137 grant (Churchyard volunteers)	£100.00
Mr A Fielding – repayment re laptop	£459.60
Affinity for Business – water rates	£119.00
Bio-Cleanse – re Alexander Pavilion	£350.00
UK Groundworks re South Foreland Valley	£5,500.00
UK Groundworks re South Foreland Valley	£6,099.52
NEST – Pension	£172.89
Crushintons Ltd – hardcore re hole-filling at Alexander Field	£322.80
St Margarets Village Hall – re Footpath Walk	£38.25
JJM Electrical – Bowls Club work	£491.00
Mr I Miller – February invoice	£939.00
Mrs R Simcox – expenses	£20.80
Jane Cook – February salary	£1185.73
Jane Cook – office expenses	£24.93
H M Revenue and Customs	£231.51
Dover District Council – new litter bin	£365.00
Mrs R Simcox – expenses	£79.98
	£18,950.01
Credit interest - £3.65	

IT WAS RESOLVED to provide a donation of £100 to Dover and District Citizens Advice Bureau. A request for funding from Kent Air Ambulance Trust refused.

Clerk to prepare cheque

IT WAS RESOLVED to accept the quotation for £1,865.00 from DA Tree Surgeons for the initial tree work in the South Foreland Valley, dealing initially with those trees considered in a dangerous/precarious position.

Clerk to confirm

IT WAS RESOLVED to accept the quotation from Idverde Ltd for light-rolling of the football pitch at the Alexander Field at £120.

Clerk to confirm

An invoice for electrical work in work undertaken for High Street Christmas lights had been received at £900. This had been unexpectedly high and on contact, the local contractor had agreed to halve the bill as a gesture of goodwill. Cllr Simcox asserted that this must not happen again and that no single Councillor can agree a cost for services without the agreement of all other Councillors and budgets must be set at outset.

Cllr Harris had given consideration to the current charging rates for the Cemetery – IT WAS RESOLVED unanimously that these be left at the present rates, with further consideration to be given to adjustment in the next financial year.

The payment of £322.80 to Crushintons Ltd re the hole-filling at the Alexander Field was duly ratified.

10. **Cricket Club** – following last month’s meeting, confusion had arisen re the make-up of the grant application from the Club. IT WAS RESOLVED that Clerk prepare a cheque for £900 to the Club in respect of the S137 grant – this relating to the maintenance and repair of the mowing machine owned by the Club (not £1,500 as previously minuted).

Clerk to prepare

The Club has received grant funding towards a defibrillator to be placed at the King George V Pavilion, to be sited on the outside of the building. IT WAS RESOLVED that the Parish Council would purchase the external cabinet at a cost of £453 + VAT.

Clerk to make arrangements

11. **Correspondence**

- KALC re forthcoming Planning events.
- Lord Lieutenant of Kent Civic Service 17th March – no attendees.
- Resident email re Meadhurst, 7 Sea View Road.
- Sue Carr, DDC re response to formal complaint from resident.
- DDC re Town and Parish Local Plan Meeting 12th March. Cllrs Simcox, Newton and Clerk to attend.
- DDC response re possible change of use of land.
- Resident objection re planning application 20/00086 – also sent to DDC Planners.
- Keith Bannerman re Dover (St Margarets) Airfield memorial.
- DDDC re Rural Car Parking meeting – arranged for 2nd April.
- Keith Bannerman – further email re memorial.
- DDC re Dover District Town and Parish Council event – 25 March – no attendees
- Email received from resident decrying the erection of an electric fence alongside field adjacent to ER28.
- Letter of objection re planning application 19/01112 (amended) – White Cliffs Hotel.
- Email providing further information re defibrillator at King George V Pavilion.
- Letter regarding alleged damage to the South Foreland Valley – Clerk to respond citing involvement of all parties including Natural England in current works.
- DDC – invitation to meeting re Local Thames Crossing.
- “Thank you” card from PCC re grant.

Cllrs and Clerk to attend

Cllrs to attend

Clerk to deal

12. **Reports from Councillors**

Cllr Newton re South Foreland Valley – following agreement of quotation from UK Groundworks, trenching has been completed, posts put in near “informal” car park at end of Seaview Road – access points provided for Rangers and volunteers by way of 4 collapsible posts.

In consultation with Natural England (full prior permission obtained), trenching had been completed following site visit by Natural England rep – they had discussed this with contractors on site – 3 trenches completed on The Front.

On Friday 6th March, work started on bricking up gun emplacement on Sea View Road. Following this work, a rave had taken place on Saturday 7th March. Security firm DSS visited but event had already taken place – there were still people on site appearing to suffer from drug/drink use. Vehicle registration numbers were taken. Part of the wall was broken to make an entrance, also smashed 2 of the collapsible posts. Today, 9th March, remainder of wall has been broken down.

Cllr Newton subsequently met with contractor, wall was re-started, with metal posts to be put in this time. Security firm DSS can provide a “static guard” in situ for two nights to protect building of the wall at £18 per hour. This was agreed. Also mooted that DSS undertake patrols on a Saturday as this is when the raves tend to happen. Cost likely to be in the order of £3,000.

Cllr Newton advised that footpath ER40 is still obstructed and Clerk asked to contact PROW.

Clerk to deal

Cllr Harris reported that Burial Law Workshop had proved very useful for herself and Cllr Blake – confirmed that St Margarets is undertaking all statutory obligations satisfactorily.

VE Day arrangements – Hannah at Sandra’s Café had made contact with the PC – two meetings now held with Councillors. Suggestion is of a village picnic on the Madge Field. Suggested that PC provide security fencing and portaloos. Idea of using a shuttlebus from the village considered. Any profits to go to Veterans Breakfast Club charity. IT WAS RESOLVED that Parish Council provide a grant of maximum of £500, with £300 grant to come from KCC Members Grant. Clerk asked to book Hall for 9th May 1-4pm in case of bad weather. Clerk to advise PC insurers of event

Clerk to check re Hall + insurers

Cllr Simcox raised the issue of the Bay Trust and continued sale of property assets. Cllr Fielding will make contact with the Trust to arrange a meeting to discuss.

Cllr Fielding to deal

Cllrs Simcox and Fielding had met with reps from Kent Highways re various sites suggested for double yellow lines. Highways will draw up plans and provide prices, when the subject will need to go out to public consultation. Cost likely to be around £4,500.

Clerk to place on agenda

Cllr Fielding brought up question of TV monitor/screen at the Village Hall – suggested that PC purchase this with Hall to provide half of cost. Likely to be £900 (inc VAT). Up to £400 from PC.

Cllr Fielding to investigate

13. Village Maintenance

Cllr Fielding had been approached re loss of sign on Bay Hill “dangerous bends” – this has been reported to Highways before who are unwilling to replace. Clerk to check if PC can replace sign and check on land ownership. Clerk to investigate idea of debit card.

Clerk to deal

Clerk had received a quotation from the Cricket Club re damage to garage at King George V Field – this at £505.35 in total. It was agreed that this be placed on next month’s agenda.

Clerk to deal

Cllr Simcox raised the question of running a raffle alongside VE Day arrangements – PC would need a licence if running the event.

White lining in Sea Street near School needs re-lining.

Clerk to report

Cllr Blake had undertaken Playing Field inspection – Clerk to note issues.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.