

THE PARISH COUNCIL OF ST MARGARETS-AT-CLIFFE

Minutes of the Ordinary Monthly Meeting of the above Parish Council held on Monday 13th July 2020 at 7pm.

Given the current lockdown situation with Covid19 virus, this meeting was undertaken by Councillors and Clerk via Skype.

Present on Skype: Cllrs R Simcox (in the chair), A Newton, A Fielding, J Harris, P Blake, C Smith together with Clerk. District Cllr Martin Bates also in attendance together with County Councillor Steve Manion. (Mrs Verren as member of public).

Mrs Verren asked if current Parish Council leaflets could be continued, perhaps quarterly, as they had proved an effective communication tool. Cllr Simcox replied that PC had agreed 6 deliveries with Royal Mail and this had now ceased.

Mrs Verren asked what the timescale is for provision of yellow lines as proposed in the village – there is no firm date as yet from Kent Highways with TRO (Traffic Regulation Order likely by end of July).

On questioning, Cllr Manion confirmed that drainage work in Reach Road is to be undertaken this week.

<p>1. <u>Confirmation of Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held 8th June 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> – none declared on agenda items.</p>	
<p>3. <u>County / District Councillors</u> –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Cllr Bates:-<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ All DDC committee meetings being held virtually – full Council Committee Meeting to be held on 22nd July.○ Business support hub set up 15 June – no funding but assists with business guidance. – helpline on website.○ Discretionary grant scheme (phase 2) released today, helping businesses during crisis – full details on DDC website. Closing date 28 July.○ Consultation process for rapid bus route in train – buses proposed to have priority via designated bus lane. This proposal has a lengthy lead-in timescale with first bus services not likely until 2023.○ Government had today confirmed purchase of land outside Ashford for up to 10,000 vehicles arriving from Calais in the event of lack of trade deal with EU. Details are presently scant – clearance work started today. Fears expressed re congestion on M20.○ Yellow lines in Upper Road (now installed) – note on Facebook page for responses – perhaps to enable further extension of restrictions.○ Re Sherleys Farm – DDC Enforcement have asked that earth bund and hardstanding be removed, or formal action will be taken.○ Streetlight in car park now replaced.○ Re red telephone kiosk in Reach Road – Cllr Bates will investigate through Planning re current removal date in order to delay/turn around.○ No report from Community Warden for meeting – however Cllr Simcox has been in weekly contact with him during lockdown where he has proved invaluable.	

- Cllr Manion – advised of possible Manston departure routes, following revised plans to open as a freight airport and short haul flights. The flight departure path could potentially come over St Margaret’s and other villages and it could be that older noisier aircraft could cause noise disruption. He raised the point as to whether the departure could be changed away from East Kent.
- Pandemic effect on County Council – budget consultation released today – only looking at this year at present but there will be a knock-on effect for savings in next year’s budget. Advised this is on KCC website (already on PC website). Finance issues will have significant effect on highway issues and funding.
- Re Reach Road – gullies and soakaways to be worked on in Reach Road.

4. **Clerk Report**

- Number of emails since June meeting – 470.
- Despite chasing twice, no further reply from EKRHA re Section 106 issue.
- £300 grant received from Steve Manion’s Members Grant re VE Day.
- Penny Bailey raised the question of the Station Road / A258 junction again – this was cut recently but have sent a request to Highways.
- Defibrillator reported as possibly not working but checked and OK.
- Litter pickers ordered and delivered – WI advised re social distancing measures during any litter pick.
- Have chased re an AONB sign for Nelson Park end of village.
- Lighthouse Road footpath reported (ref 200682279) – awaiting allocation to officer. Cllr Newton reported nothing had been done and still overgrown. Also signpost just on from ER40 is lying at an angle.
- Wrote to DDC re missing notice for boats/jet skis in Bay – no reply yet.
- Hedge at end of Royston Gardens – resident approached but is not inclined to cut back.
- Rat problem reported near car park flats – referred to Environmental Health.
- Previous reports of traffic problems provided to Cllr Bates re Upper Road.
- Councillors will have seen reply re suggested “repeater” 30mph signs from Kent Highways. Positioning of street lamps is key to speed limit and speed signs not permitted by Kent Highways. Clerk to provide copy of response to Cllr Manion.
- Link provided on PC Facebook page re “adopting a phone box”.
- Grant of £200 paid to Sandra’s food outlet.
- Copies of Burial Ground rules to be provided to Ian Miller.
- Clerk to request that wreaths during service at Dover Patrol are properly anchored as they are often blown off the memorial.

Clerk will chase again

Clerk to chase again

Clerk to report and chase

Clerk to chase

Clerk to deal

Clerk to make contact with organisers

5. **Planning**

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

- DOV/20/00552 Erection of a double garage, 1.9m high boundary wall, new door and construction of parking hardstanding (existing garage and fencing to be demolished) –
Pine Edge, Bay Hill *No objections*
- DOV/20/00527 Erection of a single storey front extension and detached garage with terrace above –
The Look Out, 70 Granville Road *No objections*
- DOV/20/00543 Removal of Condition 4 of planning permission DOV/19/01332 (non-reflective glazing) –
The Dial House, 23 St Margarets Road *Positively support – works unnecessary*
- DOV/20/01282 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 façade (existing side extension to be demolished) –
The Wheel House, 42 Granville Road *No objections*

The following comments were made on the applications considered:-

- DOV/20/00615 Erection of a part first floor extension, replacement flat roof with 5no. rooflights, steps to bridge to first floor front entrance with glass balustrade, rear and side roof terraces with glass balustrade and screening, alterations to windows/doors, new render/cladding and steps to rear –
Lahouge, 30 Salisbury Road *No objections*
- DOV/20/00658 Erection of a front/side extension (existing garage to be demolished) –
Cour-Jardin, Glebe Close *No objections*
- DOV/20/00569 Change of use from builders store to residential dwelling with garage and amenity space -
Townsend Paddock, Station Road *No objections*
- DOV/20/00541 Erection of four detached dwellings, car ports, new vehicular access and associated parking –
Land On The West Side Of Station Road
Strongly object – per DDC assessment:-

Unsuitable site - unacceptable impact on the AONB - high landscape sensitivity - unacceptable heritage impact in relation to views of the Grade I listed church of St Margaret's of Antioch - constrained access.

The properties are of poor design, overbearing and incongruous in a rural setting. Kent Downs AONB comments are pertinent. Serious highway issues re access exist, site is outside village confines

Clerk was delegated to deal with the following applications – received since the publishing of the agenda:-

DOV/20/00706	Erection of a single storey rear extension and change garage door for patio doors to front elevation – Cherry Bank, Chapel Lane	<i>No objections</i>
DOV/20/00683	Erection of a detached dwelling, formation of a vehicular access and associated parking – Land adjacent to 16 Granville Road	<i>No objections</i>
DOV/20/00676	Felling and pollarding of various trees – Berkley, 9 Granville Road	<i>Defer to Trees Officer</i>
DOV/20/00715	Erection of detached dwelling with associated hardstanding and parking (existing dwelling to be demolished) Malbec, 60 Granville Road	<i>No objections</i>

6. Finance

The following payments made since last meeting were approved:-

Affinity Water Ltd – water rates	£119.00
Idverde Ltd – outstanding bill re line-marking	£52.80
Kent County Council – fee re yellow lines proposal	£400.00
Castle Water – water rates	£26.94
R Purchase – June invoice	£1,000.00
Jane Cook – June salary	£1219.01
Jane Cook – phone/internet	£31.03
H M Revenue and Customs	£239.17
KALC – 2020-21 subscription	£1178.09
P Blake – expenses re ink	£70.94
Mrs H Mann – grant	£200.00
Mrs R Simcox – leaflets	£179.87
Mrs R Simcox – sanitiser / dispensers	£90.47
Wight Computers Ltd – website updates	£59.40
NEST pension	£180.83
Mr I Miller – Registrar fees	£120.00
Simon Parnell – toilet cleaning	£140.00
Idverde – grasscutting	£255.89
Mrs R Simcox – safety tape etc for Play Area	£56.76

£5620.20

Receipts – Burial Fee £150

Cllr Simcox noted that the cost of the 6 x leaflets produced and delivered by Parish Council equated to approx £1.05 per household.

Re Braeside Stables = IT WAS RESOLVED that the grazing fee for 2020-21 be reduced by 50% to £550.

Clerk to advise

IT WAS RESOLVED to allow a grant of £500 to the St Margarets Nursery to defray some of their costs during Covid19 pandemic.

Clerk to deal

7. Proposal by Cricket Club re pavilion extension and works to wicket

- Briefing paper had been provided by Cricket Club and Richie Hulks attended on behalf of the Club to go through the proposal.
- Old extension very poor state and Club has a lack of storage for equipment.
- Proposal would be to replace existing extension with two larger storage rooms, one for bar stock and admin, the other to hold training equipment and chairs.
- Plans have been drawn up and displayed.
- Quote received from Cinque Ports Construction to complete works at £9751.77 + VAT.
- KCC provide grants of up to £10k and Club intends to apply for such a grant and Club is to provide some of its own funds – suggested split KCC 50%/Club 25%/Parish Council 25%. The Club would install the extension.
- Club members happy to do “legwork”.
- IT WAS RESOLVED that the Parish Council would grant a sum of £2,500 towards this extension.

Re: new electric oil-filled radiators:

Club had sourced quote from Electric Heating Expert for 3 radiators at a cost of £1,449.72 + VAT and request that Parish Council meet this cost.= this was RESOLVED - Club would fund installation Cllr Newton raised question of further insulation and Mr Hulks agreed to look at this.

Re: Relaying the Square:

Club had provided quote of £7872 + £600 for arisings removal and £414 for fertiliser. Club would meet entire cost and Parish Council confirmed this work could be put in hand – likely to be undertaken in September.

8. Co-option of new Councillors

- Cllr Newton had been in liaison with 6 prospective Councillors – 4 in attendance at meeting with 2 unable to attend.
- Paperwork surrounding requirements for co-option have been provided to all candidates.
- Cllr Newton has asked those still interested to submit an email by 28th August detailing their interest in the community and confirming the time commitment required.
- Cllrs Newton and Harris will study all submissions and forward recommendations to all Councillors Cllr Smith stressed the need for transparency in identification and selection process.

Cllrs Newton and Harris to deal

9. Cllr Smith re website

- Cllr Smith confirmed he had completed requested updates via the web designer – invoice paid.
- As regards “news” items, new categories in place. On postings a “sticky” can now be applied where the item will remain at the top of list. Also the list of news items has been extended.
- Cllr Simcox expressed concern that items relate too much to KCC/DDC rather than the Parish but Cllr Smith advised re PC acting as a “bridge” to information.
- Cllr Simcox advised the new “search” box is very useful.

10. **Cllr Blake re ROSPA report**

- Cllr Blake advised he had ordered various small parts required for the Play Area equipment – most of these he believes that Ross Purchase will be able to deal with
- Re proposal to purchase new HAGS swing - currently this would not meet the 2m distancing rule (as a double swing) – idea mooted of individual swings although likely to be more expensive. It may be that playground suppliers will be manufacturing equipment with the new rules in place – Cllr Blake will investigate for the future but the purchase not to be taken forward for the time being.
- Re netting around Play Area and Tennis Courts – this has deteriorated and part of the tubular make-up of the netting has been removed. It was agreed that Cllr Blake could contact Trevor May for the provision of a quotation for repair and / or replacement.

Cllr Blake to deal

11. **Cllr Simcox re Footpath ER28**

- Cllr Simcox advised that when this footpath was originally fenced in back in January, Public Rights of Way Officer Andrew Hutchinson visited the site and advised that evidence of narrowing of the original right of way would not be required. However, PROW Office has now stated that this must be taken forward as a separate case and statements have been invited by them for local users of the footpath. As a result, Parish Council now needs to submit a Section 7 application to Kent County Council Public Rights of Way Office – this was agreed by Councillors.

Cllr Simcox and Clerk to liaise

12. **Correspondence**

- Cllr Martin Bates re public toilets risk assessment.
- Louise Winch Kent Highways re request for 30mph signs.
- Cllr Steve Manion – update + further updates through the month.
- Matt Pavitt Coastguard Area Commander re proposed yellow lines in Upper Road.
- Email from resident re opening of trenches created in South Foreland Valley.
- Second email re above issue.
- Terry Martin KALC re Covid19 update.
- Sue Young DDC re Langdon Cliffs parking discussion.
- Tyler Harris – PCSO update.
- Andrew Hutchinson PROW re width of footpath ER28.
- Andrew Hutchinson re Alexandra Road and Norway Drove.
- Terry Martin KALC re proposed changes to Code of Conduct.
- Darren Weight DDC re planned demolition of 36-38 The Droveaway.
- Rebecca Walledge DDC – request for hug figures + further emails.
- Stephanie Wadhams re drainage works in Reach Road.
- D Simcox Cricket Club re emergency repairs to hot water cylinder.
- DDC Electoral Services re co-option.
- J Ropa – request re Vera Lynn light-up.
- Kent Highways – request for funds re yellow lines consultation - £400 paid.
- Sue Young DDC re Rural Car Parking Charges meeting.

- Mr M Thompson re ex Cllr Paul's apology in 2011.
- DDC Asset Management re childrens play areas.
- Zurich Insurance re opening of play areas.
- C Oakley re campers in the Bay.
- NALC Executive briefing.
- M Gibbons re Dover Patrol wreath laying service.
- St Margarets Hall – re continued closure of hall.
- A Smith re opening of tunnels.
- DDC Asset Management re play areas.
- KALC report from Police Kent Rural Taskforce.
- KALC update together with API advice on play areas.
- D Simcox re Cricket Club proposals.
- (sent via Cllr Blake) – request for bench on tennis courts.
- Mr M Thompson re history of planning / enforcement action on land to rear of Millfield.
- PCSO – latest local report.
- Chris Little – paper provided re suggested alternative plans for management of the South Foreland Valley. It was felt this must remain to appear on the agenda for September PC meeting.
- Cllr Steve Manion re KCC budget consultation.,

Clerk to place on agenda for September

13. Reports from Councillors

- Reported that King George Play Area and swings at Alexander Field now both open, with some equipment taped off/removed for Covid19 safety precautions. Cllr Simcox advised that safety advice and explanation of rules will be printed in latest leaflet. Cllr Blake asked District Cllr Martin Bates whether DDC use disinfectant spray In order to cleanse play areas – he will investigate. Cllr Blake advised that if things continue as at present, it may be necessary to erect boards at each end of the tunnel.
- Cllr Simcox re leaflets – minimum of 7,704 leaflets delivered over 6 drops - £500 + VAT. There is a final leaflet due to be delivered shortly,.
- Cllr Simcox advised that on PC consultation on proposed yellow lines in the village, 42 responses had been received. Objections – 1.5, 1 surrounding lack of enforcement, most respondents wanting more traffic initiatives in the village. Timescale re the installation of these not currently known. Clerk asked to respond to each respondent individually. Re lines installed in Upper Rod near NT site – Jon Barker at NT had been generally pleased although some illegal parking persists.
- Cllr Fielding advised that as regards “the hub”, he had this week put in the usual report to DDC. Currently 92 volunteers on database. 33 calls in April / May but no calls so far in July. He will continue to monitor this and it will “tick over” until September.
- Cllrs Simcox and Fielding had attended an “informal” meeting with DDC re proposed car parking charges for the Reach Road car park – no agenda had been provided. Cllr Fielding felt DDC case seemed weak with little or no payback to the local authority. Advised that Dover area has 7 free car parks and 5 in Deal area – 120 spaces at Walmer Castle. He raised the question “why are rural car parks being targeted?”. Some of the car parks identified rurally are very small.

Clerk to deal

Cllr Fielding to deal

- Recently Albany car park in Dover has been made free to use.
- Costings of running of car park by DDC requested but not provided.
- Cllr Simcox advised that 209 objections raised locally had not been itemised or consolidated by DDC.
- DDC attendees were keen to see Gridlock “masterplan” ideas for traffic through the village. Cllr Simcox stated that there was not a business case for the introduction of these charges
- Idea mooted that PC remove payment for toilets if car parking charges initiated.
- Cllr Simcox thanked Cllrs Bates and Richardson for their help with this.

Cllr Newton re South Foreland Valley:-

- She, Cllr Simcox and Jon Barker had met on 25th June in Valley re gun emplacement. Suggestion had been put forward by Kent Underground Group and Kent Bat Group to install a reinforced concrete wall with access for bats. Would be inaccessible for raves although small aperture would remain. Sufficient people are willing to be involved – this would be 2-3 days work for 3-5 people. She is to meet on site on 21st July to discuss further – suggested that PC meet cost of materials, volunteers would provide labour. To appear on next agenda.
- Mr Little had provided email re future of South Foreland Valley and possible purchase of new brushcutter. Cllr Newton unable to attend on site tomorrow for demonstration but Cllr Simcox will attend.
- Rough sleepers have been seen in the Valley; smallest trench recently excavated has been filled in several times. Contractor contacted for re-filling but wrong trench had been completed. Contractor to re-visit site.
- Small fire outside Bunk House – dowsed by visitor.
- Cllr Hart had asked if crushed rubble can be put in at cattle grid in Lighthouse Road – agreed.
- Overnight campers moved on by security firm, lots of litter in evidence.
- Re request for opening up of all tunnels – Clerk asked to advise there are at least 7 tunnels which are available to inspect / visit in the area.

Cllr Newton will take forward

To appear on next agenda.

Clerk to respond

14. **Village Maintenance / Matters concerning the Parish**

- It was agreed that request for a new bench to be placed on tennis courts in memoriam to Andro Wellard be approved.
- Clerk advised of receipt of 470 emails since June PC meeting. Cllr Simcox asked that everyone make use of the closed Facebook group for discussions
- As Clerk will be away during August, Cllr Newton had volunteered to receive central phone calls – Clerk will place “out of office response on PC.
- Cllr Blake proposed a thank you to Cllr Simcox (and family) for all the hard work in preparing and sending leaflets.

Cllr Blake to liaise

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