

THE PARISH COUNCIL OF ST MARGARETS-AT-CLIFFE

Minutes of the Ordinary Monthly Meeting of the above Parish Council held on Monday 12th October 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 Rebecca Simcox (in the chair), A Newton, A Fielding, P Blake, J Harris, C Smith, George Simcox, S Creed, together with Clerk. District Cllr Oliver Richardson also in attendance together with County Councillor Steve Manion. Apologies for absence provided by District Cllr Martin Bates.

Also present – R Hayes and M Wrigley for White Cliffs Countryside Project; Simon Mangnall for Canoe Wild.

Public Questions:-

- Mrs Liggins raised the issue of overgrown shrub falling from Heath Court into Reach Road car park – this is covering part of pavement and reports of vermin given – Clerk will contact DDC.
- Penny Bailey noted that some vehicles are parking on new yellow lines.

<p>1. <u>Confirmation of Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held 14th September 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>Reports from County / District Councillors</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cllr Rebecca Simcox confirmed that she meets regularly with Community Warden who is proving a real asset to the village.• County Cllr Steve Manion –<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Advised of KCC financial pressure during current Covid crisis; to help alleviate this, Members Allowances and Members Grants are to be cut.○ Waste stations – have now moved to limit of weekly trips.○ Council still investigating new ways of working, including from home for some.○ Re planning proposals by Central Government in White Paper – proposals for Dover would see 100% increase in previous figures – KCC sending strong objection to Government.○ Councillor Rebecca Simcox asked how residents can use waste stations if they do not have internet – Cllr Manion will investigate.• District Cllr Oliver Richardson-<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Confirmed that currently Dover area is 9th lowest in UK for infection rates of Covid.○ On questioning, confirmed that he will check re enforcement of newly introduced double yellow lines.○ Cllr Richardson will provide written confirmation of Reach Road car park and proof that charges will not be implemented for next 5 years.	

- Question raised re Upper Road Four Castles run and closure of road – why was the PC not alerted to this.
- Cllr Smith – on questioning, Cllr Richardson advised that East Kent Housing Association now fully back in the hands of DDC – there is a great deal of paperwork to go through and this remains ongoing (Cabinet Member Derek Murphy is leading).

4. Clerk Report

- Clerk had been asked to note resident's displeasure re Upper Road closure during recent Four Castles run.
- Clerk booked into Finance Conference for 13th October.
- No takers for Dynamic Councillor course but further events on 5th November and 3 December.
- Several reports re problems with footpaths – PROW stock response is *PLEASE NOTE: As a result of the current Coronavirus pandemic our officers are only carrying out site inspections where there is an immediate safety risk to the public. A normal inspection regime will resume as soon as restrictions ease.*
- Re bonfires reported at Pines Gardens / Bay Trust land – with no commercial waste apparently being burned, this is not perceived as an environmental issue.
- 2 new Councillors to be added to bank mandate – Clerk to put things in motion. Clerk to deal
- Direct debit re ICO annual fee debited re CCTV.
- DPI forms for 2 new Councillors with District Council.
- Section 9 declaration form sent to KCC Public Rights of Way re footpath ER28.
- Payment made to Judges & Son re electric installation works for radiators at KGV Pavilion – at £515 more than £500 agreed.
- Contacted English Rural Housing Association re fence leaning from Ash Grove – no reply – to be chased. Clerk to deal
- Sanitiser obtained by Cllr Rebecca Simcox and expense refunded – Clerk to ensure full payment is made to her. Clerk to deal
- £500 grant paid as agreed to St Margaret's at Cliffe Football Club.
- New brush mower purchased at cost of £3394.72 + VAT (£4083.66). To be added to insurance policy. Clerk to deal
- Gentleman resident at rear of Reach Road Pond called to express some disquiet re rumour of making the pond a car park.
- Re Clerk Conference attended – notes as follows:-
 - Current CILCA modules for Clerks not available at present but should be on-line in January.

- Issue of Councillor training and relevant allocation of budget stressed.
- Importance of delegation of powers in place (re Planning for PC planning applications).
- Constantly changing environment – guidance notes / advice continue to Councils.
- Normal meeting rules apply during remote meetings.
- Does PC want to develop an emergency plan?
- Kevin Millard of Cane & Co – speaker re insurance risks. Re volunteers – do they work on behalf of the PC? Need a list of regular volunteers and risk assessments.
- Inflatables not covered by insurance / public liability.
- Third party attendees at any PC event must have own P/L insurance.
- Trees – regular checks to be made re insurance.
- Church steps – Mr Purchase to be asked to sweep/treat in order to help with slippery steps.
- Clerk to deal with insurance for Kubota tractor.

Clerk to deal

5. **Planning (a)**

The following applications, delegated to Clerk at September meeting, were dully ratified:-

DOV/20/00983 Erection of a single storey rear extension, raise roof height and insertion of front and rear dormer windows
Olive Ridge, Collingwood Road *No objections*

DOV/20/00965 Erection of single storey side and rear extensions and recladding elevations –
Swiss Cottage, High Street *No objections to works, but conditions need to be in place re access for construction vehicles*

The following comments were made on the applications considered:-

DOV/20/01020 Erection of single storey side and rear extension with raised decking area
(existing side extension to be demolished)
Little Orchard, St Vincent Road *No objections*

DOV/20/01081 Erection of a single storey rear extension with terrace, decking and glass balustrade (existing conservatory to be demolished)
Pine Edge, Bay Hill *No objections*

20/01100 | T2 Norway Maple - crown reduce by two metres, 6no. sycamores - fell
South Foreland House, Hotel Road *Defer to Trees Officer*

DOV/20/01076 Erection of a detached dwelling, double garage and associated parking

Land North East Of The Close, Station Road

*Raise objections – outside village confines, in AONB
(7 Councillors for; Cllr Rebecca Simcox against)*

Re: 36 and 38 The Droveaway – Parish Council had been made aware of a “Non Material Amendment” in relation to previous planning application – this involves the adding of an extra storey and PC does not consider this to be an NMA. District Cllr Martin Bates is in liaison with Head of Planning and PC to await his response in this regard before any further action.

6. Finance and Accounts

IT WAS RESOLVED to meet the following payments:-

Castle Water – water rates	£119.00
Idverde Ltd – grasscutting	£255.89
JJM Electrical – electric installation at King George V Pavilion	£515.00
Dover District Council = toilets Apr/May/Jun	£1874.73
NEST Pension (Clerk+PC)	£180.83
Jane Cook – September salary	£1218.99
Jane Cook – expenses	£27.81
Garden & Orchard Mowers – brushcutter	£4073.66
Mrs R Simcox – Covid19 expenses	£14.67
R Purchase – September invoice	£1071.86
HM Revenue & Customs	£239.89
St Margarets at Cliffe Football Club	£500.00
Mr I Miller – retention fee/expenses	£622.00
Simon Parnell – cleaning	£140.00
KALC – Clerks Conference	£60.00
ICO annual fee	£35.00
Dover Security Services – South Foreland Valley	£734.40
Wight Computers Ltd	£198.00
	£11,881.73

Re: Grant request from Pegasus Playscheme – IT WAS RESOLVED that any request be deferred until the end of the Financial year when Section 137 grants are considered.

Clerk to advise

IT WAS RESOLVED to accept the compromise figure from Dover District Council re Reach Road toilets in the sum of £5,118.10 for the financial year 2021-2020, to take account of the closed period in this financial year due to Covid19 restrictions.

Clerk to deal

7. Planning (b)

- Cllr Fielding had provided a briefing paper to Councillors re Government White Paper re changes to Planning Policy 2020
- Cllr Fielding noted disappointment at the proposal to increase the threshold for any affordable housing provision from 10 to 50 for any development.
- It is also proposed that only 14 days would be allowed for statutory consultees, although Parish Councils would remain as such.

- Cllr Smith noted that proposal would see 115% increase in houses for area; giving pressure on green space – would there be less room for challenge.
- Cllr Fielding felt that less impact would be seen on Parish Councils but rather more at District and Council level. He will liaise with District Councillors re any joint approach to proposals.

CANOE WILD (MOVED FROM ITEM 14 ON THE AGENDA)

- Andrew Mangnall attended meeting (of Canoe Wild organisation) to explain briefly proposal for The Bay at St Margarets.
- Proposal stemmed from conversation with Dover District Council re Tourism – met with Martin Leggatt at DDC. DDC keen to look at tourism in The Bay/along the coast.
- Plan provided to Councillors which include a raised decking area with small accommodation areas to be used all year round (like camping pods).
- Would be targeted at walkers / cyclists.
- Proposal would remove and utilise current scrub area.
- Looking at adjusting / updating toilet blocks, to also provide showers.
- Joint venture which would involve capex.
- Question – is this something the village wants? District Cllr advised the scheme is in a very embryonic stage.
- PC expressed broad support but advised that village / community support would need to be gauged.

8. **Standing Orders / Financial Regulations**

IT WAS RESOLVED to approve Standing Orders and Financial Regulations as at 12 October 2020. IT WAS RESOLVED that Clerk be delegated to deal with planning applications having regard to time constraints between Parish Council meetings.

Clerk to deal

9. **South Foreland Valley**

- Richard Haynes and Melanie Wrigley attended on behalf of White Cliffs Countryside Project.
- Cllr Newton raised the question of how the PC contribution of £5,000 would be used during this difficult year, as no volunteer days had been undertaken so far this year and areas of activity undertaken not known.
- Cllr Newton confirmed that 5 year Management Plan had been received showing quite a difficult picture – trees and scrub are taking over and this could prove expensive and beyond the means of the Parish Council.
- Cllr Newton asserted the Valley is a massive responsibility for the PC and that all monies spent need to be carefully accounted for.

- Richard Haynes confirmed that this had been an unusual year given the Covid19 restrictions, although none of the WCCP staff had been furloughed.
- Health and safety and livestock checks have continued, together with work on the Management Plan, despite no volunteer events – these will be starting again this week.
- Confirmed that Matt had been in the Valley for 87 hours since 1st April and Melanie had spent 96 hours on Management Plan.
- Advised that recent visit by Natural England adviser had gone well with adviser being impressed with the management of the land for such a small organisation.
- RH advised that WCCP also deal with complaints, grazing, etc.
- Cllr Newton asked why only £3k is received re Stewardship Scheme – RH advised that new funding streams may become available following withdrawal from EU.
- Cllr Newton asked “what exactly will be done over next six months”, i.e. to end of financial year. RH cited priorities as reducing scrub and cutting vegetation on roads.
- RH advised he is happy to provide regular reports of activity and over the next six months will be looking to “up their game”.
- RH would like clear idea of PC expectations. In this regard he will liaise with Cllr Newton.
- Contribution of £5k could be deferred until end of financial year, with breakdown of activities to be provided for next six months.

Update report from Cllr Newton:-

- Dover Security Services – couple of calls made to them, including recent incident of European naturists group at gun magazine.
- Dougie continues on light duties following his attack but his son continues with working in the Valley.
- Kent Underground Research Group – not able to undertake work as previously advised.
- Despite chasing, no quotes available re provision of new bollards / security walls. Dougie had advised he would be able to replace bollards but this may be unlikely due to his present mobility problems.
- New brushcutter will be a great asset to volunteers.
- Advised that Jon Barker had been paying for broken locks on behalf of the PC. Going forward different type of locks to be purchased at cost of around £175 for the year – this was agreed.
- Flytipping – large amount near cattle grid beyond The Pines Gardens. Tyre near litter bin still in situ.
- Asked if footpaths ER37 and ER40 could be cleared by maintenance contractor – this was agreed and she will make approach.
- The Front – filled in trench to be dealt with.

10. Play Area / Equipment

- Cllr Blake had undertaken Playing Field Inspection.
- Re boundary wall at King George V Playing Field – the wall is unstable in several parts, particularly behind the pavilion. Nigel Claringbould had provided quote of between £1,600 and £1,800 to deal with pier / pilaster. Clerk advised that the wall is in the ownership of adjoining properties and she is to make contact with them.

Clerk to deal

- Cllr Blake advised that cleaning of tennis courts and repairs to tennis court nets will be undertaken in November/December.
- Quotes are still being sought re play equipment.
- Clerk asked to thank Nigel Claringbould for clearing of thorn bush..
- Cllr Blake advised of problems at both the King George V Playing Field and also the Alexander Field with dog poo and dogs off leads. New and clearer signs to be investigated.
- Unkempt area of grass/weeds in front of Alexander Pavilion to be cleared by maintenance contractor.
- Cllr Blake advised that he and Cllr Fielding had met with both Football Clubs and they are now communicating. They had discussed a possible new pavilion to be considered through Long Term Community Lead Funding. However, Clubs asked to produce a Short Term Scheme for Essential Works needed to make the pavilion viable. He raised the question of line-marking for the Clubs and Tasha Terry to make contact with Clerk in this regard – both use Idverde but pay independently.
- Any proposal re new pavilion to be undertaken by community funding.
- Defibrillator – currently in the pavilion but arrangements to be made to fit this outside.
- FA rules do not allow for any play equipment to be behind the goal mouth.

Clerk to write

11. Reach Road Pond

- Resident Mr Gilham confirmed that soil samples have been taken and results are awaited. Following receipt of tests, will then look to remove vegetation.
- Confirmed that in due course new liner is likely to be needed – this could be looked at next spring.
- Would be looking to install silt traps from soakaway pipe to avoid future problems of lack of run-off water.

12. Correspondence

- Mr R Stone re new yellow lines – since partially moved.
- KALC – updated Covic19 information.
- Bill Currie – “thank you” re PC grant.
- Resident re bench / parked cars in Sea Street.
- Resident re perceived High Street problems. Gridlock details provided with Clerk to respond re hedge work.
- Langdon PC re traffic incident on A258.
- Sue Clark – request re any available grant funds. Clerk to advise that any grant application would be considered at end of financial year as hitherto.
- Steve Manion – re media release from KCC on Government housing targets.
- KALC re “KRF EU Transition Threat and Risk Assessment”.
- DDC re naming of Gurling Road – Clerk had responded.
- Steve Manion re Covid Community Champion Scheme.
- KALC re Local Electricity Bill Parliamentary Debate.

Clerk to deal

Clerk to advise

13. **Reports from Councillors**

- Cllr Fielding asked for topic of CCTV to be placed on agenda for November.
- Cllr Rebecca Simcox advised of recent issue at Play Area where birthday food/rubbish had been strewn around. Also incidents of bikes on the tennis courts reported.
- Cllr Rebecca Simcox advised that yellow line in Sea Street had been moved slightly from original installation and this had seen an improvement. Contractors had patched some rough areas.
- Cllr Simcox reported that bus sign on Granville Road had been moved to stop any risk of damage by vehicles.
- Cllr Simcox advised that footpath from the Drove way to Salisbury Road had been ploughed but farmer contacted and confirmed he would in future not plough the edge of the field.

Clerk to deal

14. **Matters affecting the Parish**

- All Councillors asked to make more use of Facebook and not to “cc” on all emails.
- Individual Councillor responsibilities to be on next agenda.
- Christmas – it was agreed that PC would provide a Christmas tree at Post Office corner but with no official ceremony this year.
- Christmas subject also to be on next agenda.
- Cllr Simcox had been approached by Dawn Maddison re Elf on the Shelf proposal – Village Hall involved and likely they will take this forward.
- Cllr Newton to make contact with Mr Gilham re possibility of joining PC as a Councillor.
- Cllr Newton advised that Bay Trust had removed a large pine tree from Glebe Field.
- Re Glebe Close – Cllr Simcox advised that Gridlock Group had taken on subject of give way lines. It was agreed that Cllr Blake speak to correspondent re use of verge.

Clerk to deal

Clerk to deal

Cllr Newton to deal

Cllr Blake to deal

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.11 p.m.

Confirmed:

Chairman

12th October 2020