

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

Minutes of the Ordinary Monthly Meeting of the above Parish Council held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 7pm.

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

Present on Meet: Cllrs Rebecca Simcox (in the chair), A Newton, A Fielding, P Blake, J Harris, C Smith, George Simcox, S Creed, T Gilham together with Clerk. District Cllr Oliver Richardson also in attendance. Apologies from District Cllr Martin Bates and County Cllr Steve Manion. Community Warden Stephen Nodding also in attendance. Mr E Uden in attendance re planning application for Little Banks.

Public Questions:-

- Resident had raised a question re light(s) at property on corner of Reach Road/Sea Street, advising that these are dazzling when travelling from Bay Hill end of village. Community Warden will speak to residents to see if these can be angled down.
- Resident had provided pictures via Facebook of a vehicle parked on new “no parking” lines in Upper Road.
- Mr Edward Uden provided brief details of the background to his planning application for Little Banks.

1. <b><u>Confirmation of Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held 14<sup>th</sup> December 2021</u></b> The minutes, having been circulated to all members, were duly confirmed as a correct record.	
2. <b><u>Declarations of Interest</u></b> – None declared on agenda items.	
3. <b><u>Reports from County / District Councillors / Community Warden</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• District Cllr Oliver Richardson –<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Cllr Richardson advised that full lockdown had commenced from 5<sup>th</sup> January – this is likely to extend beyond February.</li><li>○ Advised that immediately after Christmas, all Kent hospitals were full to capacity.</li><li>○ Confirmed that regular Covid19 updates are sent to Parishes.</li><li>○ Roll-out of 13 vaccination centres in District – appointments for vaccinations to be arranged by GP in advance, by priority group determined by Government.</li><li>○ Advised that the testing centre is open at Dover Discovery Centre.</li><li>○ Local Plan consultation – to commence on 20<sup>th</sup> January for 8 weeks.</li><li>○ Re “Border control park” in Guston – this proposal has yet to be signed off and is due to go to public consultation on around d 10<sup>th</sup> January for 14 days. Residents will be able to submit comments via a link – this to come to Clerks. Cllr Richardson advised respondents to be as full as possible in their comments.</li><li>○ Following EU exit on 31 December, no problems with freight traffic at present, although this is expected to pick up from tomorrow.</li></ul></li></ul>	

- Re proposed Border Control point planned at Whitfield – Cllr Bates is liaising with Department of Transport, Kent County Council and Central Government in this regard.
- Re planning application for 36-38 The Drove way – any new application likely to be decided by Planning Committee.
- Re overhanging branch in car park – Darren Solly at DDC advised this had been dealt with.
- Re coastal erosion issues – Keith Watson at DDC aware and will be checking the situation in the near future.
- Re flooding in Reach Road – will contact County Councillor.
- On questioning, confirmed that from 1 January an extra 140 Police will be in situ to manage traffic flow with HGV's and the Port.

Community Warden –

- Followed up on phone calls from residents in Station Road re lorries parked in layby – this appears to have been whilst they were waiting for Manston Covid testing. He will check if it becomes a regular problem.
- He went for his first Covid test today and received result in 30 minutes.
- Confirmed that new powers now exist for dealing with lorries parked illegally (KCC) – Council has a contact at DDC (David Parratt).
- Cllr Newton advised that an HGV had appeared in Foreland Road and was unable to find his way out. Local residents had helped with food and drink/toilet facilities and he had been helped to move the following day.

Short written report received from County Councillor Manion.

4. **Clerk Report**

- Resident had raised question re litter and bins in The Bay – Cllr Blake will contact resident re litter pickers and Clerk to contact DDC re possibility of new bin(s) in the area.
- Phone box – telephony to be removed, then final confirmation of ownership transfer from BT.
- Ian Miller has confirmed he is happy to give up the Christmas tree erection/dismantling next year, although happy to give advice in advance.
- Ian Miller's invoice this month covers labour for August to December; end of financial year account to come at end of March. He has not yet charged for Christmas tree work – this will come for February meeting.
- Confirmed that Council will consider community grants for 2021-21 with Clerk to place notices and add something to website.
- Previous problems with lights on overnight at car park toilet appear to have been solved.
- Invoice again from Idverde for grasscutting during December (rejected). Clerk confirmed that 2 credit notes covering November and December now received.
- Confirmation of receipt of letter to Bay Trust agent David Hannent received – he will refer to Trustees.

Clerk to investigate

Clerk to deal

- Spreadsheet received re Precept – Clerk and Chair to complete as agreed at 0% increase for 2021-22.
- Clerk ordered and paid for 3 Chromebooks for Councillors (under payments at £687 – reclaimed by Clerk from credit card).
- Insurance re phone box – this to be put in place when transfer of ownership confirmed.
- PSPO requests placed to DDC – response in Correspondence.
- No reply from Football clubs re PC agreement to fund hand driers etc.
- Separate letters sent to Glebe Close residents – no responses.

Clerk and Chair to liaise

Clerk to deal

### 5. Planning

The following responses were made on the applications considered:-

DOV/20/01509      Erection of a rear conservatory extension –  
Kasama, Hardy Road      *No objections*

DOV/20/01531      Variation of Condition 2 (approved drawings) of planning  
permission DOV/19/00533 to allow changes to basement,  
ground, first floor, roof plans and external elevations  
(application under Section 73) –  
Thalassa, Foreland Road      *No objections*

DOV/20/01516      Erection of a stable block to include 6no. stables, hay store,  
tack-room, rug room, feed room and detached games  
room/home office with 5no. rooflights (outbuilding  
and stables 1 & 2 to be demolished) –  
Little Banks, Kingsdown Road      *No objections*

The following applications, received since publication of the agenda, were delegated to Clerk:-

DOV/20/01534      Variation of Condition 2 (approved drawings) of planning  
permission DOV/15/00639 to allow changes to the curved  
wall, alterations to doors and windows and revised internal  
layout (application under Section 73) –  
Curfew House, 14 Kingsdown Road      *No objections*

DOV/20/01563      Erection of two storey side extension, single storey rear  
extension, porch canopy, first floor extension with 2no.  
dormer windows and 5no. rooflights, flue to side extension,  
balconies with glass balustrades to front and side elevations,  
alterations to doors/windows, external cladding, erection of  
rear retaining wall and extension to side path (existing porch,  
side façade, rear retaining wall and shed to be demolished) –  
Sunnymeade, Nelson Park Road      *No objections*  
*(8 Councillors for; Cllr Smith against)*

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|--------------|--|---|
| DOV/20/01560 | Erection of detached sunken garage and boundary wall to front –<br>Meadhurst, 7 Sea View Road  | <i>No objections</i>                    |
| DOV/20/01524 | Erection of single storey rear bay window extension (existing decking to be removed) –<br>Monks Dane, 91 The Droveaway   | <i>No objections but plans are poor</i> |
| DOV/20/01472 | Erection of a two storey side extension, replacement aluminium roof with 1no. rooflight, part roof extension, vent pipe and flue, alterations to windows and doors, replacement garage door, timber screens, balconies with glass balustrades, decking, pergola, landscaping to include changes in ground levels, paving, steps, gates and replacement summerhouse –<br>Southgate, 17 Granville Road | <i>No objections</i>                    |

Councillors discussed the decision on planning application DOV/20/01076 (land north east of The Close, Station Road) – granted by a split vote by Planning Committee. Whilst the PC is very disappointed at the decision which went against the Planning Officer’s report/advice, it will not take further action in this regard.

**6. Proposed Inland Border Facility**

- Cllr Smith made several points on the proposal as follows:-
  - Access to the proposed site is not good with narrow roundabout exit.
  - This would create local traffic flow issues/queuing.
  - Creation of noise – the site would be open 24/7.
  - Light pollution caused by site being lit 24/7.
  - May create local jobs but is not a good site for a lorry park.
- Cllr Blake – A2 is not suitable for number of lorries -= single carriageway in part.
- Cllr R Simcox – as this proposal comes under a Special Development Order, she believes it is likely the proposal will go ahead as planned.
- The site is proposed for 5 years initially.
- Cllr Smith stated that he believed the PC should support Guston in their opposition to the proposal.
- Cllr Gilham stated that there is sufficient land north of Aycliffe for such a facility.
- Cllr Blake – with freight travelling from Manston site, questioned whether more suitable land could be identified along the A256 – brownfield rather than greenfield site.
- Cllr Gilham will put together a suggested response, identifying areas which could be alternative sites.

Clerk to deal

**7. Finance**

(a) The following payments were approved:-

Castle Water – water rates	£145.86
D A Hart – fuel/expenses re South Foreland Valley	£34.39
Mrs R Simcox – re Christmas lights	£44.97
NEST - pension	£180.83

<p>Jane Cook – refund re Chromebooks x 3          Ian Miller – per contract          R Purchase – December invoice + Xmas tree work          Jane Cook – December salary          Admin expenses          H M Revenue and Customs          Christ Little – South Foreland Valley expenses</p> <p><u>Receipts:-</u>          Cemetery fee       £145.00          Credit interest       £0.82</p>	<p>£687.00          £1087.00          £1228.91          £1219.19          £38.67          £239.19          £16.87</p> <hr/> <p>£4,922.88</p>	
<p>(b) IT WAS RESOLVED to increase Clerk salary by 1% with effect from 1/4/21, also to include a 4% non-consolidated payment. IT WAS RESOLVED to increase the payment rate for Lynne Hopwood re toilet cleaning to £15 per session. Cllr Blake will liaise with contractors Ross Purchase and Ian Miller re coming year.</p> <p>(c) IT WAS RESOLVED that Parish Council would pay contribution of £5,000 to White Cliffs Countryside Project for the South Foreland Valley for the financial year 2020-21.</p>		<p>Cllr Blake to deal</p> <p>Clerk to deal</p>
<p><b>8. <u>South Foreland Valley</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Newton advised that Dover Security Services had attended re off-riders in the Valley – Police has also attended. Fixed penalty were handed to miscreants. They then moved to NT land. If same riders are found again, their machines will be crushed.</li> <li>• Too many people are still being seen in groups in the Valley. The Valley is currently being used by lots of walkers.</li> <li>• Clearance using new machine has proved excellent – commented that machine will soon pay for itself.</li> <li>• The Valley continues to be a huge asset for so many people, despite the continued issue of littering.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>9. <u>Cllr G Simcox re Chromebooks</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First 3 Chromebooks received and initial deployment has begun. IT WAS RESOLVED to go ahead with purchase of further 6 Chromebooks as agreed.</li> <li>• Idea mooted that hosting be moved from IONOS to Google – this would mean that all admin/password management etc could be undertaken “in house” rather than by web provider as at present.</li> <li>• Google – current email addresses could be moved – 7 emails in total – costed at £49.50 per email address.</li> <li>• IT WAS RESOLVED to allow up to £500 for this migration.</li> </ul> <p><u>Re proposal for Drone</u> – Cllr G Simcox had undertaken investigation re use of a drone in the Valley. However, between 30% and 50% of the Valley is covered by a “no fly zone” operated around the Port of Dover. Cllr G Simcox will investigate further and contact the Port to see if this can be mitigated.</p>		

Clerk to deal

Cllr G Simcox will take forward

10. **Correspondence**

- Cllr Richardson re planning issues with Larkspur, The Droveaway.
- Glynis Farthing, Clerk to Guston PC, re proposed inland border facility – White Cliffs Business Park.
- Mr M Thompson re The Green, St Margarets Bay.
- Paul Neagle re Public Space Protection Orders.
- Sue Young, DDC, re parking arrangements within St Margaret's.
- David Hannent – confirmation of receipt of letter re Glebe Field.
- Christine Waterman re Glebe Field.
- DDC re Local Plan – meeting 21<sup>st</sup> January.
- Mr M Cooper re planning application re The Close, off Station Road. Clerk to respond that Council will not take any action in respect of this grant of application by DDC.
- David Parrett DDC re Community Impact Report (daily).
- Kent Police Rural Task Force report.
- Martin Hunt – request re wooden bollards. It was decided that this could not be taken forward – the land in question belongs to Kent Highways and may set a precedent for other areas of the village.

Clerk to deal

Clerk to respond

***+ regular updates from Steve Manion, KALC, Kent Highways, DDC re Covid19 and Brexit issues.***

11. **Reports from Councillors**

- Cllr Blake had nothing further to report re the KGV boundary wall – visit awaited. He continues to keep a watching brief on the sinkhole in Droveaway Gardens.
- Cllr Gilham advised that current Covid19 restrictions together with very wet weather have stalled any work on Reach Road pond. Clearance of vegetation will be put in hand when possible.
- Cllr Fielding advised that training necessary from CCTV company but will have to wait until Covid19 restrictions are lifted.

12. **Village Maintenance / Matters affecting the Parish**

- Playing field inspection undertaken by Cllr Blake. Provided ahead of meeting. Cllr Blake advised that cleaning of tennis courts completed, but further work by Trevor May still to be taken forward. He is in contact with them. He advised of a problem with mud particularly in Play Area and idea mooted re complete surfacing with rubber compound may be needed in longer term.
- Cllr Blake again mooted the idea of a path around the King George field and Clerk asked to add this to next agenda.
- Councillor responsibilities – a working document – Cllr Blake asked if another Councillor would be prepared to take over liaison with Football Club as he has too many other things he is dealing with.

Clerk to deal

- Cllr Harris had today visited the Cemetery. She reported that the noticeboard inside the Cemetery is looking rather worn and glass/perspex needs replacing. Gate also needs attention / replacing Cllr Blake agreed to speak to Mr Miller in this regard.
- Cllr R Simcox passed a vote of thanks for the use of the South Foreland Valley tractor for use with the Santa Sleigh.
- Cllr Fielding reported that the hub continues to be very quiet with only one request so far this year.
- Re problems with dog poo on playing fields – Dog Warden from DDC has visited and will continue to monitor with visits.
- Cllr Gilham raised question of speeding traffic in Reach Road. Gridlock have raised speeding in their proposal to Highways. Stephen Noddings suggested that PC join with other Councils to share a speed camera – details and registration numbers could be taken and reported to Police. However, it was acknowledged this could not take place during current Covid restrictions as the speed device cannot be used by one individual acting alone.
- Cllr Smith pointed out the need for commercial justification for renewing contract(s) / use of tendering process.

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

Confirmed:

Chairman

11<sup>th</sup> January 2021