

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

Minutes of the Ordinary Monthly Meeting of the above Parish Council held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February 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.

Issues raised by public:-

- Mrs Liggins offered a “thank you” to those responsible for clearing/gritting the church steps – undertaken by maintenance team.
- Mrs Verren raised issue of motorbikes being heard in the South Foreland Valley – Community Warden confirmed this was linked to a series of bikes riding locally, both off and on road. Residents asked to report to Police if any similar problems via telephone number 101.

<p>1. <b><u>Confirmation of Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021</u></b> The minutes, having been circulated to all members, were duly confirmed as a correct record.</p>	
<p>2. <b><u>Declarations of Interest</u></b> – Cllr Fielding declared an interest in planning applications for both Chatel and the White Cliffs Hotel (family connection); Cllr Smith declared an interest in planning application for 20 Kingsdown Road (near neighbour); Cllr Rebecca 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).</p>	
<p>3. <b><u>Reports from County / District Councillors / Community Warden</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• District Cllr Oliver Richardson –<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Updates re Covid vaccinations etc continue to be received. New centre at Sandwich vaccinated 900 last Wednesday.</li><li>○ Encouraged everyone to go and get tested, Sandwich Guildhall and Dover Discovery Centre amongst testing centres available.</li><li>○ Draft Local Plan consultation in place from 20 January for eight weeks.</li><li>○ Plan shows proposed sites for development together with attached policies – question and answer meetings being arranged for Parish and Town Councils (Cllrs Smith and Fielding had attended recent meetings).</li><li>○ Re White Cliffs Inland Border Control Point – engagement timeframe ends on Wednesday. An Extraordinary Meeting at DDC to be held tomorrow when full response will be decided on – this will look at making every effort to mitigate residents issues (this includes moving boundaries / planting of trees etc). Traffic management will be a key and major issue to be discussed, particularly as regards the surrounding roundabouts to the site.</li><li>○ 36 – 38 The Droveaway – no current news but still ongoing.</li><li>○ Despite advice by DDC Officer, the vegetation in the village car park has yet to be cut back – he will chase.</li></ul></li></ul>	

- Cllr Rebecca Simcox raised question of CGI images provided with recent planning application for Sunnymeade which were possibly misleading. Cllr Richardson advised that PC should approach Planning Officer in this respect.
- On questioning re the exclusion of Glebe Field from a list of open spaces in the Draft Local Plan, Cllr Richardson advised that he will chase Ashley at DDC.
- Cllr Rebecca Simcox asked if PC could pursue the question of increased broadband cabinets in the village – dependent on where a resident lives in the village dictates the speed / quality of internet. Cllr Richardson will return to PC in a week to advise on a way forward.
- Cllr Richardson will follow up on the request by Clerk for increased litter bins in The Bay.
- Community Warden Stephen Noddings:-
  - Off road motorbikes currently a problem – also advised that 3 stolen bikes were recovered from The Drove way and that enquiries in this respect remain ongoing.
  - Confirmed that a new PCSO is now in place – he has yet to meet him.
  - A house burglary had been seen recently in Royston Gardens.

**4. Clerk Report**

- Litter / bins in The Bay - request sent to DDC but no response. (reference 572201).
- Phone box – telephone equipment at Reach Road yet to be removed by BT. Clerk advised she has been in correspondence with Emma Rosen who is to apply for a grant via Heritage Lottery Fund. Final PC ownership has yet to be confirmed, but she has been provided her with requested information.
- Ian Miller has advised that he will not charge for Christmas tree work at PO corner (Clerk will relay PC thanks). Final invoice for this year to come next month. He advised that placing shredding material on footpath behind The Avenue was more difficult since movement of the footpath.
- No reply from email sent to Mr Bicker or from Trustees' letter sent to David Hannent for Bay Trust.
- Clerk and Chair completed Precept request form showing decrease of 0.03% (unable to leave as previously as this would have given a small increase in council tax given tax base).
- Clerk had ordered and paid for 5 further Chromebooks (Cllr Rebecca Simcox x 1) together with mice, bags, tags – repayment under Finance. It must be borne in mind that all equipment in this respect is owned by PC and must be returned when/if Councillors leave the PC.
- PSPO requests placed to DDC – telephone call received from AJ at DDC – unlikely to include Alexander Field in PSPO but the Cemetery should be included. Official public consultation yet to take place.

Clerk to deal

- No reply from Football clubs re PC agreement to fund hand driers etc. Cllr Fielding to liaise.
- No response received re Glebe Close letters.
- Response provided re proposed Inland Border Facility (courtesy of Cllr Gilham).
- Subjects for March agenda will include – Ross Purchase / Ian Miller – Cemetery fees.
- Payment of £5,000 made to WCCP for current financial year.

Cllr Fielding to liaise

Clerk to place on agenda

5. **Planning**

The following comments were made on the applications considered:-

- DOV/21/00034      Erection of rear dormer roof extension –  
**20 Kingsdown Road**      *No objections, but neighbour concerns re overlooking to be addressed (Cllr Smith abstained)*
- DOV/20/01567      Alterations to facilitate conversion to 3 residential units. Internal demolition on all floors of partitions, with the erection of new including party walls to form subdivision. Ground floor: insert 2no staircases, first floor: remove 1no staircase and form 1st floor extension to plot3. Second floor: insert 1no staircase. SW elevation remove 1no window, insert 2no doors and 1no window. Remove single storey side addition roof to form 1st floor extension. NE elevation replace 1no window with door. SE elevation remove 3no first floor windows & alter 2no second floor windows. Remove central chimney stack, remove and insert new drainage pipes and remove 2no rear rooflights –  
**The White Cliffs Hotel, High Street**      *Strongly object (with detail to be prepared in next few days – to be ratified). (Cllr Fielding abstained)*
- DOV/20/01566      Change of use to and conversion into 3no. dwelling houses with associated parking, first floor extension to one side with double hipped roof and associated external/internal alterations –  
**The White Cliffs Hotel, High Street**      *Strongly object (with detail to be prepared in next few days – to be ratified). (Cllr Fielding abstained)*
- Cllr Richardson left meeting at 19.28)
- DOV/21/00101      Erection of a two storey side extension with 4no. rooflights (existing single storey side extension to be demolished) –  
**Pauldene, Station Road**      *No objections*

DOV/20/00682

Erection of an outbuilding (retrospective) –

**Chatel, Reach Road**

*No objections*

Re planning application for Sunnymeade (20/01536) considered at previous meeting – Council had proposed “no objections” (Cllr Smith voted against). It has since been brought to PC attention re poor quality/misleading CGI photos of proposed building. Clerk asked to contact Planning Officer advising that better pictures are required.

Clerk to deal

**6. Draft Local Plan**

- Councillors Smith and Fielding had both attended remote meetings arranged by Dover District Council. Proposed sites displayed on screen included:-
  - STM003 – Reach Road
  - STM006 – New Townsend Road.
  - STM007 – Townsend Farm Road, land adjacent.
  - STM008 – Townsend Farm Road, land adjacent.
- The 4 sites would give an overall housing number of 86 properties. Cllr Fielding commented that this is a large number of additional properties for the village and would severely impact roll numbers on the school which is presently full.
- The sites would also see approx 120 additional private vehicles on already busy roads.
- Cllr Fielding commented that it would be preferable for any affordable housing allocation to be through the rural exceptions route, rather than through general local authority policy.
- Cllr Fielding will prepare some commentary ahead of the next PC meeting for circulation, and Clerk to place on March agenda.

Clerk to deal

**7. Finance**

The following payments were approved:-

Castle Water – water rates	£119.00
Trevor May Contractors Ltd – works at tennis courts	£1,962.00
Lister Wilder Ltd – Valley tractor service	£541.26
D A Tree Surgeons – Valley tree work	£1,865.00
Dover Security Services Ltd re S/Foreland Valley	£561.60
Jane Cook – repayment re Chromebooks x 5 + equipment	£1,349.93
Mrs R Simcox – repayment re Chromebook x 1	£225.00
White Cliffs Countryside Project re S/Foreland Valley	£5,000.00
Wight Computers Ltd – migration of emails	£475.20
R Purchase – January invoice	£1,000.00
Jane Cook – January salary	£1,218.99
Jane Cook – office expenses	£35.40
NEST – Clerk/Council pension	£180.83
HM Revenue & Customs	£239.39
	£14,773.60

Receipts:-

Credit interest	£0.80
Tennis Club re works to courts	£150.00

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IT WAS RESOLVED to accept the quotation from Vurley Fencing for a new hardware gate at the Civic Cemetery at a cost of £615.</li> <li>• IT WAS RESOLVED to approve the quotation from Veridian Energy Solutions for wall insulation at the King George V Pavilion.</li> <li>• IT WAS RESOLVED to accept the quotation from Idverde Ltd for grasscutting services for the year 2021-22 at a cost of : Madge Field £155.46 pa, Alexandra Field £637.22 pa, (£45.90 per month re pitch marking), Cemetery £828.93 pa, Westcliffe path £306 per annum.</li> </ul>		<p>Clerk to take forward</p> <p>Clerk to take forward</p> <p>Clerk to take forward</p>
<p><b>8. <u>Grant applications</u></b></p> <p>IT WAS RESOLVED to meet the following Section 137 LGA 1972 grants:-</p> <p>St Margarets Nursery and After School Club          Spirit of St Margarets          Pegasus Playscheme</p> <p>The PC had also received a grant application from Jackie Claringbould Inspiring People Through Horses – more information to be sought by Cllr George Simcox.</p>	<p>£2,000          £500          £500</p>	<p>Cllr George Simcox to deal</p>
<p><b>9. <u>New Code of Conduct</u></b></p> <p>Clerk will monitor the introduction of the new Code, with information to come from KALC.</p>		<p>Clerk to note</p>
<p><b>10. <u>Covid19 vaccinations</u></b></p> <p>Cllr Smith raised question on feedback from residents on level of vaccinations undertaken in older age groups. Community Warden advised that all had either had this administered, or had appointments booked. He was not sure about arrangements in place for housebound residents.</p>		
<p><b>11. <u>Correspondence</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kent Highways re speed limit to be imposed on A256/Whitfield bypass.</li> <li>• DDC Planning re Parish/Town meetings on Draft Local Plan.</li> <li>• DDC re Targeted Call for Sites exercise (Local Plan).</li> <li>• Mr M Thompson re land to rear of Millfield. Clerk to advise Mr Thompson that no further correspondence will be entered into in this respect.</li> <li>• Christine Waterman – re telephone kiosk at Dover Transport Museum. Clerk will make contact.</li> <li>• Mr M Thompson re land adjacent to Mermaids Cottage. Chair will respond for Council</li> <li>• Mrs T Evans re Adverse Possession of Land.</li> <li>• Henk Van Hoorn re proposed model Channel crossing 2022 – Clerk to speak to Mr David Hart in this respect. £50 allowed re expenses.</li> <li>• Sandra Upton re status of Vincent Road (Clerk had responded).</li> </ul>		<p>Clerk to deal</p> <p>Clerk to deal</p> <p>Cllr R Simcox to deal</p> <p>Clerk to deal</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• KALC re “Vision Zero – road safety strategy for Kent 2020-26”.</li> <li>• DDC Invitation to further Local Plan meeting.</li> <li>• Thea Anderson re grant from Previous year.</li> <li>• KALC re an introduction to chairmanship seminar (fully booked).</li> <li>• Mr R Waters – copy of objections to planning application re Sunnymead.</li> <li>• Mr O Ashton – request re bench. Suggested sites – King George V Field or Alexander Field; cost of ongoing maintenance to be broached.</li> </ul>	<p>Clerk to make contact</p>
<p><b>12. <u>Reports from Councillors</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Blake – no further information on sinkhole or King George V Field wall.</li> <li>• Cllr Gilham – need to await better weather before moving forward with Reach Road pond.</li> <li>• Cllr George Simcox – all Chromebooks now deployed, emails migrated and two training sessions undertaken. He mooted the idea of software for digital editing – he will pursue this idea – initial costs suggest £80 a year for 5 users.</li> <li>• Cllr Rebecca Simcox – the Council gave approval for her to open dialogue with BT Openreach to improve internet speed etc in the village but installation of further cabinets (Policy in Local Plan).</li> <li>• Cllr Newton re South Foreland Valley – had forwarded report from Melanie Wrigley at WCCP. Had met with Cllr R Simcox, Cllr G Simcox and Jon Barker re emergency services and path ER40. NT had cleared left-hand side, with WCCP clearing right-hand side. This had led to vehicles now attempting to drive the path. Recent emergency incident had led to Police vehicle getting stuck on this route. IT WAS RESOLVED that a collapsible bollard be purchased at a cost of around £700 (this to appear on next agenda) NT are liaising re emergency plan for emergency services. Replacement tree trunk barrier to be investigated for off-roaders.</li> <li>• Cllr Blake re proposal to install walking route at King George V Field – he will continue to investigate idea/cost.</li> </ul>	<p>Cllr George Simcox will investigate further</p> <p>Cllr R Simcox will take forward</p> <p>Cllr Newton to deal</p> <p>Clerk to place on agenda</p> <p>Cllr Blake to deal</p>
<p><b>13. <u>Village Maintenance</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Play inspection undertaken by Cllr Blake. Continues to work through ROSPA issues identified. A party had been held in the Play Area with rubbish left and mud thrown on to the courts. Cllr George Simcox will create some notices for gate asking that litter be taken away.</li> <li>• IT WAS RESOLVED that further hand sanitiser be purchased at approx cost of £88.</li> <li>• Footpaths – Cllr Creed had met with Chair and walked some of the footpaths in the village. Had noted missing or damaged signs – he will liaise with Steve Manion re PROW issues. He is to look at well-used routes which are not on the definitive map.</li> <li>• Bay Hill – Cllr Blake had reported to DDC over the weekend re removal of trees – they will investigate and be in touch. This may be an issue for DDC Planning enforcement as the site appears to be in the Conservation Area.</li> </ul>	<p>Cllr George Simcox to deal</p> <p>Cllr Simcox to deal</p> <p>Cllr Creed to deal</p> <p>Cllr Blake to liaise</p>

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.22 p.m.