

THE PARISH COUNCIL OF ST MARGARETS-AT-CLIFFE

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the above Parish Council held on Monday 21st June 2021 at 7pm, at St Margaret's Village Hall.

Present : Cllrs Rebecca Simcox (in the chair), George Simcox, A Newton, A Fielding, P Blake, J Harris, C Smith, S Creed, T Gilham together with Clerk. District Cllr Martin Bates in attendance at Hall, together with Cllr Oliver Richardson via video screen. Apologies for absence received from County Cllr Steve Manion and Community Warden Stephen Noddings.

Also present (via video screen) members of public, including Talina Wells, Lesley White, David Knight. Mr Richard Hall present at the Hall.

Public participation:-

Mr David Hall - had strong complaint re recent changes in waste/recycling collections. His daughter lives at Wanstone Farm and has been without a recycling collection since the new system began. The telephone system used by Dover District Council he described as ineffective. Cllr Bates explained background to issues and asked that Mr Hall contact him with full details. Mr Hall feels that those without internet access are penalised.

Mr Hall asked if current "booking" system for the tip at Whitfield is likely to revert to pre-Covid rule - he was advised that KCC have decided, at least for the time being, to continue with the pre-booked system.

Mr Hall raised the issue of flooding in Reach Road - Clerk advised of most recent response from Kent Highways.

1. The minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 4th May 20021, having been circulated to all Councillors, were confirmed as a correct record of the meeting. (Cllr George Simcox abstained given his absence from that meeting).	
2. There were no declarations of interest on items on the agenda.	
<p>3. <u>Reports from Councillors</u></p> <p>District Cllr Martin Bates provided following report:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Anti Social Behaviour Map. ○ Proposed Airfield in Little Mongeham. ○ KCC election results - Steve Manion re-elected and Oliver Richardson now KCC Member for Dover Town. ○ Cllr Bates has called in planning application "non material" amendments re 36 and 38 The Droveway. Expected to go before Planning Committee around 24 June. ○ Non Material Amendment application for 36 and 38 The Droveway. ○ Coastal erosion / pothole in car park; Bay bins; parking in Bay car park. 	

- Church wall - ongoing
- Developments in Bay Hill.
- Traffic congestion on Upper Road.
- Trees on TPO land in Bay Hill.

(A copy of Cllr Bates' report attached to minutes).

KCC Cllr Steve Manion - short report received, setting out KCC issues with child migrants.

Community Warden:-

Written report received from Stephen Noddings, highlighting following:-

- Following up on complaints re parking around The Drove way / Sea Street / Bay Hill. Has asked for Planning Enforcement from DDC re problems of vehicles parking on double yellow lines. (Nick Kenton at DDC).
- Ongoing problems with volume of traffic in Sea Street at school times.
- Damage to toilets in the Bay - reported by Clerk to DDC.
- Stephen has attended the Pop Up Cafe which has now re-started.
- He will be stopping delivery of prescriptions around the village which he has been doing from Tara Surgery on daily basis through Covid restrictions.

Following issues raised with District Councillors:-

- Can PC be provided with Planning Committee agendas.
- Clerk - further resident report received re dangerous groynes in the Bay; promenade needs more frequent sweeping; dog sign in the Bay is worn and difficult to read; dogs reported on beach out of season.
- Grasscutting - Highways hope to catch up with cutting soon - issues have developed through low staffing and inability to recruit.

4. Clerk Report

- Re dogs in Cemetery raised by Ian Miller - although PC has no power to prohibit dogs, agreed that signs re dogs on leads be put in place.
- Overgrown hedge reported by Mr Fagg at Seymour Road - Clerk had reported to Kent Highways.
- KALC website - Clerk advised Councillors of their right to access of the website but individual password would be required.
- Request from resident re yellow lines near Doctor Surgery in The Drove way.
- Photograph sent to EKRHA re leaning fence from Ash Grove - now repaired.
- Clerk had written to property landlords re boundary wall into the King George V Field - no response. Cllr Blake will seek quote re repair in first instance.

Cllr Blake to deal

- Clerk confirmed receipt of Council credit card.
- Request for use of King George V Pavilion re christening - referred to Club.
- South Foreland Valley - cattle grids cleared and invoice received.
- Phone kiosk in Reach Road now passed to PC - electrician to be employed re lighting check.
- New defibrillator received - cabinet still in abeyance with Clerk asked to chase.
- Royston Gardens - blocked drain reported.
- Report of rats in roof space of Reach Road toilets - Monitor have made 3 visits but have been unable to trace an issue.
- Litter collection following WI litter pick - despite being advised DDC, took several days for litter to be collected.
- Missing litter bin in car park reported.
- No contact yet ROSPA inspection from Playforce.
- "Call for evidence" through KALC re Parish Council use of remote meetings - outcome awaited.
- Further memorial bench request received - Clerk to ask correspondence re Alexander Field as a location.
- Request from Phoenix Football Club re use of Alexander Field on 11 July for friendly match. Councillors have no objections but Club to be asked to facilitate.
- Seymour Road - closed from 5 to 9 July for electricity installation.
- Salt delivered - Ross Purchase will distribute to bins.
- Clerk asked to contact contractors re cutting in Alexander Field as grass seems particularly long.
- Clerk asked to contact PROW re reinstatement / repair of footpath signs around the village.

Clerk to deal

Clerk to deal

Clerk to chase

Clerk to deal

Clerk to deal

Clerk to deal

5. Planning

The following applications, delegated to Clerk since previous meeting, were duly noted:-

21/00618	Erection of a single storey rear extension (existing conservatory to be demolished) - Merry Lea, St Vincent Road	<i>No objections</i>
21/00650	Erection of a single storey infill side/rear extension with 1no. roof lantern, insertion of window to front elevation, and garage conversion - Serendipity, Collingwood Road	<i>No objections</i>
21/00669	Variation of Condition 3 (opening times) to allow changes to times of planning permission DOV/18/01078 (application under Section 73) - 1 The Droveway	<i>No objections</i>
21/00694	Erection of single storey rear and side extensions with 4no. rooflights, front porch, replacement roof tiles, insertion of 3no. rooflights, and rear inset balcony with glass balustrade to existing roof, loft conversion, solar panels, raised rear patio with glassed roofed pergola and steps (existing garage and front porch to be demolished) - The Sheiling, Collingwood Road	<i>No objections</i>

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| 21/00688 | Enlargement of 2no. rooflights to front roof slope -
Chart House, 5A St Margarets Road | <i>No objections</i> |
| 21/00646 | Change of use to a single dwellinghouse (Class C3), garage conversion,
rendering to exterior wall with alterations to windows and doors -
The Convent House, 31 The Droveway | <i>No objections</i> |
| 21/00669 | Variation of Condition 3 to allow changes to opening times and Condition 7
to allow outdoor seating of planning permission DOV/18/01078 (application
under Section 73) -
1 The Droveway | <i>No objections</i> |

The following comments were provided on new applications considered:-

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| 21/00807 | - Erection of a second storey extension with 5no. dormer windows,
alterations to existing doors/windows, formation of a vehicular access
and driveway for associated parking -
Windy Ridge, 77 The Droveway | <i>No objections</i> |
| 21/00578 | - Change of use of land to residential garden land -
Westcliffe Farm, Dover Road | <i>No objections</i> |
| 21/00806 | - Erection of a first floor extension with Juliette balcony and glass
balustrade -
Robin Hill, 37 Salisbury Road | <i>No objections</i> |
| 21/00837 | - Erection of a single storey front extension with 1no. rooflight, integral
garage, creation of front porch, dwarf wall and driveway (part front
extension and existing dwarf wall to be demolished) -
9 The Avenue | <i>No objections</i> |
| 21/00877 | - Erection of detached outbuilding with raised platform and boundary
treatment (existing outbuilding to be demolished) -
Pine Edge, Bay Hill | <i>Object - this is an obtrusive
over-development in the Conservation Area, with proposal for
a dangerous access</i> |

Clerk delegated to deal with two applications, received since publication of the agenda:-

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| 21/00968 | - Erection of a front dormer window to facilitate a loft conversion -
Kestrels, Nelson Park Road | <i>No objections</i> |
| 21/00985 | - Erection of a two storey rear extension, extended rear balcony with
glass balustrade and stairs, increase height and replace side doors
(existing rear steps to be demolished) -
The Anchorage, Collingwood Road | <i>No objections</i> |

Re: 36 and 38 The Droveaway - ref applications 21/00284 and 21/00567 - IT WAS
RESOLVED that statement prepared by Cllr Fielding be approved to be provided by Cllr
Martin Bates at upcoming Planning Committee meeting.

Re White Cliffs Hotel - Cllr Smith reported that there is a notice currently on the rear car
park stating that the car park is not be used following a change of ownership, suggesting
the property has possibly been sold.

6. Finance

(a) Nothing received re Play Area surfacing - this to remain in
abeyance.

(b) The following payments were approved:-

Google Ireland - monthly subscription (May)	£41.40
Imperative Training Ltd - new defibrillator	£1,713.60
Mrs J Parnell - cleaning (May)	£119.00
Harmer & Sons Ground Maintenance Ltd - steel wall at SFV	£4,951.20
4D Security - CCTV repair	£80.00
Castle Water - water rates	£12.93
NEST - Clerk / Council pension payment	£200.85
Richer Sounds Ltd - new screen for Hall	£818.95
Google Ireland - monthly subscription (June)	£41.40
Idverde Ltd - grasscutting April	£304.44
Idverde Ltd - grasscutting May	£304.44
Idverde Ltd - line marking for Alexander Field	£55.08
4D Security - new CCTV camera	£215.50
Mr C Little - costs re South Foreland Valley	£24.95
Dover Security Services Ltd re SF Valley	£864.00
R Purchase - invoice for May	£1,206.40
Jane Cook - May salary	£1,253.97
Jane Cook - phone/internet etc	£61.43
Mrs J Parnell - cleaning (June)	£116.00
HMRC - Tax/INIC	£265.72
Mr I Miller - Registrar fees	£275.00
Vurley Fencing - new gate at Cemetery	£738.00
Mr P Blake - expenses	£58.43
Mrs R Simcox - webcam/cables etc for new screen	£202.04
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	£13,924.73

Receipts:-

Credit interest £1.15 + 86p
Donation re d defibrillator £1,428
Burial fee £990

(c) Discussion re purchase of benches for Alexander Field - IT WAS RESOLVED to purchase 3 benches for the field at a price of £483.37 (ex VAT and fixings). Cllrs Blake and Harris agreed to inspect suitable locations before order completed by Clerk. Clerk was asked to contact recent email correspondent re possible memorial bench as one of the three. Cllr R Simcox displayed simple style of bench suitable for South Forelane Valley.

Cllrs Blake and Harris to deal

Clerk to order in due course and contact correspondent

7. Glebe Field

Responses received from M D Hannent on behalf of the Bay Trust, intimating the Trust intend to apply for planning permission before he is able to determine the market value of the field and begin discussions with Parish Council. Cllr Smith stated the Village Hall would suffer if this were granted with effect on parking for users. It was agreed that meeting be organised with Save the Glebe Field and Parish Councillors in the short term.

8. Correspondence

- Mrs E Neighbour re footpath ER9.
- PCSO River Jarvis - April report.
- Mrs A Martin re verge in Reach Road.
- St Margarets Nursery - thank-you letter re grant.
- Sandra Killick DDC re BBC "on the map".
- Emma Peters KCC re emergency closure of footpath ER42.
- Mr Lamb re Chapel Lane Pond railings.
- Ms L Lawrence request for dog bin near Doctor surgery.
- L Graham re alleged noise problems from Portal House School.
- Mr D Hannent re Glebe Field - response to email.
- Jenny Whittaker - copy of letter to Lois Jarrett at DDC re Bay traffic/development.
- Mr R Stone re school travellers to the Bay.
- Mrs T Evans re parking on Upper Road.
- Mrs M Philpott re footpath between Collingwood/St Vincent Road.
- River Jarvis PCSO - May update.
- Mr M Sawyer - copy of letter sent to Roger Walton DDC re Bay car park (to be copied in to District Councillors).
- Mr D Hannent - further email re Glebe Field.
- Emma Peters re emergency closure of footpath ER37.
- Mr I Loftus re Reach Road Pond.
- KALC Understanding Plastics Project.

Clerk to deal

9. Councillor Reports

- (a) Cllr Fielding advised of difficulties in searching footage on camera for village hall - may be due to internet speed. He will visit the Alexander Pavilion with Cllr George Simcox to review possibility of having CCTV in place here.

Cllrs G Simcox and Fielding to deal

Cllr Fielding raised the question of PC contributing to any enhanced internet provision at the hall. Cllrs felt that provision of screen and paying half the telephone bill for the office was sufficient.

Clerk to deal with phone bill

- (b) Cllr Newton re South Foreland Valley - thanked Mr Gilham for clearing grids and digging out trench (invoice received). Graffiti on steel wall has been removed by Ross Purchase. With locks on steel wall, only volunteers ONLY to take people into gun magazine. Phil Holyer has other emplacement keys. The fortress deep shelter near the Lighthouse has been severely vandalised with locks broken - Cllr Newton will arrange for Vic Harmer to inspect as necessary. Vandalism has recently seen a big increase. Re ER40 bollard and gate - NT have placed an order for this. Vic Harmer made a visit to the Front re suggested gates at either end - IT WAS RESOLVED to purchase one gate at £807.70 for installation at the house end, with "no through road" sign to be placed at other end.

Report received from WCCP - chalk grassland corridor 2 in Lighthouse Road - bank continues to be tidied up. Pines (seaside) field - cotoneaster continued to be mowed around juniper plants. WCCP have worked with volunteers on 6th May and 3rd June - tree trunk positioned at bank on edge of Beach Road to prevent 4x4s travelling off the track. 7 Dexter cattle were put to graze in central field, another 5 cattle added giving current total of 12 in central field. Poisonous Hemlock - staff have been injecting herbicide and cutting plants to reduce seeds. Pyramidal orchids now coming into flower.

- (c) Cllr Newton re Dementia Cafe - management group has been meeting and met with new vicar. Volunteer get-together in village hall to then visit King George V Pavilion. Am/PM drop-ins to be arranged, with Cafe to be launched on 17th September.

- (d) Cllr George Simcox advised technology improvements now nearly complete, with screen equipment ready for use at the Hall. Re "branding" - PC has no official logo and Cllr G Simcox would like to investigate and bring to next meeting - badges, letterhead, etc. Clerk will see if digital image of village sign is on file.

Cllr G Simcox to deal

Clerk to deal

- (e) Cllrs Newton and Harris had attended recent KALC Dover Area Committee meeting -

Keith Gowland had made representation to DDC regarding Planning Project Advisory and Focus groups but no reply. As no current PC reps, he is anxious this is not overlooked. New "Demand Response Transport@" experiment due to start in Aylesham soon - a 4 year experiment. Training, particularly for new Councillors, encouraged. Litter petition - circulated via Swale Borough Council - concerns re accumulation of fast food waste. DDC has funding for 49 electric charging points through the District.

- (f) Cllr Rebecca Simcox advised that given relatively low response re faster Broadband speed, she will not be taking this forward.

- (g) Cllr Rebecca Simcox raised the question of the path running from The Drove way to Sea Street - does the PC want to begin to establish this as a right of way. It was resolved not to take this forward at present.

10. Re: Parking issues on Upper Road

This continues to be an ongoing issue, and residents are encouraged to keep logging problems via Police number 101.

11. Village Maintenance / Matters affecting the Parish

- a) Playing field inspection - undertaken and presented by Cllr Blake. Cllr Creed advised that on speaking to Cricket Club, they would say "no" to any path around the exterior of the King George V Field - Cllr Blake will continue to pursue.

- b) Traffic issues on Sea Street - enforcement of yellow lines needed. Suggestion of speed sign repeated. Cllr Fielding advised that Gridlock Group is going to make one further attempt to get the Head of Highways down from KCC. Cllr Newton agreed she will liaise with the School Head in September re any solutions.

Cllr Newton to deal

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| <p>c) Portal House School - idea previously put forward by KCC re sharing sports facilities with village - Cllr Creed will take forward.</p> <p>d) Cllr Gilham re Reach Road Pond - pond liner finally received after some delay - managed to get reduced price of just below £1,000. Good weather now needed to lay the liner. A trench needs to be dug around the pond first, with landscaping then to be taken forward. Hopefully works can be completed in next month.</p> <p>Re question previously raised re pond in Station Road - if resident(s) wish to take this forward, a community effort would be needed.</p> <p>Graffiti in bus shelter - Ross Purchase to be asked to remove this.</p> <p>Cllrs Rebecca Simcox and Newton had attended event at the Lighthouse for anniversary of death of Dame Vera Lynn, where lamp had been turned on in memory of her and road name in her memory displayed.</p> | Cllr Creed to deal |
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There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.08 p.m.

Confirmed:

Chair

4th May 2021

1. Covid - The vaccine is currently being given to people who:

- Are aged 25 or over
- Will turn 25 before 1 July 2021

2. ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR MAP

I recently attended a briefing on an Anti-Social Behaviour Map designed by the Community Support Unit record incidents of anti-social behaviour within specific wards and which can be used to identify hotspots within a particular area. To comply with data protection regulations this has been restricted to details of the incident and the locality. At present the system only records complaints received by the DDC CSU but it is intended eventually to receive data from other agencies. Access to the system is presently restricted to officers within the DDC and Council members although it may be extended to parish councillors eventually. We are however permitted to provide details of the offences to you. I am still trying to familiarise myself with it but can say that within this locality DDC have received two complaints so far this year. One for loud banging and the other for ongoing and abusive behaviour. Both occurred in the area around Reach Close.

3. PROPOSED AIRFIELD IN LITTLE MONGEHAM

Since our last meeting the application has been formally submitted, received validation by the Planning Department on 8 th May and is now under consideration A recent reference to the planning portal indicated that there have been over 1450 comments received to date. The ratio of those in support and against was roughly 50/50

On 28 th April we received a complaint from a resident that construction had already commenced which I referred to the Head of Planning. She has replied to confirm that an investigation in relation to this has already been initiated.

Consideration of this proposal is therefore ongoing and, given the extent of public involvement on both sides of the argument, it will inevitably come to the Planning Committee. Many organisations and public authorities are against the proposals. We attended the parish meeting at Great Mongeham on 7 th June, and they voted to submit an objection to the proposal.. I also attended the meeting at Ripple on Thursday 10 th June when they similarly voted to send in a letter of objection. Ringwould and Kingsdown have followed after their meeting last Monday. As both Ollie and I are on that committee we are constrained from making any comments with respect to the pros and cons of the application as we must not be seen to pre-empt the decision. What we can advise anyone to do who wishes to make their feelings known is to submit their concerns in writing to the Planning Department either online or by post.

4. KCC ELECTION RESULTS

Top news is that Steve Manion was re-elected to represent your division and Ollie is now KCC member for Dover Town.

LOCAL ISSUES

1). Non Material amendment applications for 36 and 38 The Droveway.

The application has now been listed for consideration by the Planning Committee on 24th June. Ollie will be able to participate in the proceedings but, given my involvement in the call in, I will have to recuse myself. Discussion tonight to confirm whether you me to speak at the meeting on your behalf.

2). Coastal erosion to the promenade at St Margaret's Bay plus a request to fix a large pothole in the car park.

At the last meeting you raised questions about repairs to the groynes and were told that repairs will be carried out by Keith Watson once he has been down to see them and agreed what action is needed. I sent a chaser to Keith on 17/06 and am currently awaiting a response. I am not sure whether the pothole has been repaired. I received a response from Keith on the groynes the same day and it read as follows:

I need to catch up with EKEP on this, but the general consensus is to commit the funding to solely repairing the groynes and not a beach recycling program. I say this, because we've done no

recycling/replenishment in this area since the 90s I'm guessing and the beach tends to naturally look after itself. The beach monitoring team have about 15 years of beach survey data and are going to run a report on the coastal processes to hopefully back up this theory. I can then use this in support to my cabinet report and recommendations for updating the timber groynes later this summer.

I have a call scheduled tomorrow with EKEP to run through the finer detail to the above along with times lines and delivery. I know I mentioned doing the repairs this summer, but unfortunately other projects like the street lighting have taken priority. Nonetheless and with the help of EKEP I'm still confident we get this delivered this year. If anything comes out of tomorrow's meeting prior to your meeting on Monday with the PC I will certainly keep you informed.

3). Bay Bins

We are still awaiting a response from DDC and I reminded Roger Wragg of your request at a portfolio meeting last month. I have still received no response and sent a chaser on 17/06.

4). Parking in the Bay Carpark.

Last month you said that there was no information in the car park for the locals and you cannot pay online because of difficulties in receiving a UK signal in the car park. Ollie then referred it back to DDC for them to consider. They have come back and insist that all statutory notifications were given and posted.

5). Church Wall.

Ollie has approached Darran Solley. He is looking into it and will get back to him. He has seen the problem and is evaluating the best way to deal with it.

6). Developments in Bay Hill

Natalie Elphicke asked Ollie to look into developments taking place in Bay Hill and he has queried the position with Lois Jarrett. She has asked Dan Broadfield to comment on the tree issues and Peter Wallace to look at the broader planning issues.

On 23 rd April we received further concerns from a resident of Coastguard Cottages. A planning application has been submitted for renovation by the builders and she is now fearful of eviction. Natalie Elphicke is also interested and has raised concerns about this. Our understanding is that a number of objections have already been raised and that it is likely to come before the Planning Committee.

On 30 th April another resident wrote to Lois Jarrett concerning abuses of planning permission by a development at Pine Edge. Lois replied that the applicant has been given six weeks from 6 th April to submit another planning application and has copied me into her response. This application appeared on the planning list on 11 th June under DOV/21/00877 and seeks to vary the conditions to cover the areas currently under investigation by enforcement. I visited the site on 16/06 with Talina Wells to understand the issues for myself. As a member of the Planning Committee, I can make no further comment.

7). Traffic Congestion on the Upper Rd

I wrote to Paul Valek of the Highways Department of KCC underlying our case for extending the parking restrictions to Sherley's Farm and requesting a meeting with all parties. On 10 th May I received a response from KCC which stated there are no plans to prioritise this area as there is no evidence to confirm that it is dangerous to traffic.

At the last meeting you asked whether any enforcement action was taking place. On 6 th May I wrote to DDC to find out the position. The Enforcement Team replied that responsibility for enforcement had been passed to Kent Police as the road was too dangerous for DDC teams to enforce. I contacted Kent police and was told that they will only enforce parking on double yellow lines if the vehicles are parked dangerously. No enforcement notices have been issued on that stretch to date.

8). Destruction of trees on TPO land in Bay Hill

We have received response from Dan Broadfield but we are concerned about the manner in which some TPO applications are listed and are not placed on the DDC website. We also have concerns around the evidence required by the tree officers in order to grant the removal or cropping of trees. An email was forwarded to Dan Broadfield by me asking for clarification of the process for granting permission on 3rd June. I am still awaiting a reply. I later received a message from Ollie saying that Darran Solley would be contacting me to discuss the issue. Despite two chasers I have yet to receive a response from him. Following my last chaser Darran contacted me. Our discussion went as follows:

> When a person wishes to undertake any treatment of trees that have no TPO and are within the conservation area they must complete a "conservation notice" which is submitted to DDC who have six weeks in which they can consider the application and make a decision. There is no consultation process. Should the tree officers have concerns then they will discuss them with the applicant and make recommendations to them. If the applicant refuses to comply and the situation warrants it then DDC can impose a TPO preventing any further action being taken.

All the conservation orders are stored on a database which is not currently available to the public. However, details of the notices are forwarded to the parish council so you should be able to obtain them from them. Darran is looking to reforming the system to make it more transparent to the public and will be undertaking a review of their current procedures later in the year.