

THE PARISH COUNCIL OF ST MARGARETS-AT-CLIFFE

Minutes of the Ordinary Monthly Meeting of the above Parish Council held on Monday 12th July 2021 at 7pm, at St Margaret's Village Hall.

Present : Cllrs Rebecca Simcox (in the chair), A Newton, A Fielding, P Blake, J Harris, S Creed, T Gilham together with Clerk. (Cllr G Simcox in attendance from 7.45pm). Cllr Smith absent due to illness. District Cllr Martin Bates in attendance at Hall, together with Cllr Oliver Richardson. Cllr Steve Manion also in attendance. Community Warden in attendance via video screen.

Public in attendance: Penny Bailey, David Hart, Peter Wells together with via video screen Sandy Liggins, Viv Verren, Richard Hall, Talina Wells.

Public participation:-

Peter Wells advised that electric "mountain bikes" have been witnessed speeding around the Valley.

Sandy Liggins - reported severe flooding in Reach Road car park, to rear of estate agents (Clerk to check and report); problem generally of overgrown hedges in the village, especially at the Sea Street end of The Droveaway. Clerk to check and write. Salt bins - bin in Ash Grove needs to be filled. Cllr Blake will speak to Mr Purchase.

1. The minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 21st May 2021, having been circulated to all Councillors, were confirmed as a correct record of the meeting.	
2. There were no declarations of interest on items on the agenda.	
3. <u>Darran Solley, Parks and Open Spaces Manager at Dover District Council</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Cllr R Simcox advised that the Parish Council had been alerted to several cases of tree works being carried out in the Conservation Area, without first being made aware.● Darran advised that trees in a Conservation Area are not afforded the same protection as those carrying Tree Protection Orders (TPO's). Any application made for tree works does not entail a consultation process and objections are not accepted.● DDC assess each application on its merits, and this can be done as a desk-top exercise.● Generally, applicants complete Notification of Works form (211), but for smaller works, this can be something like a simple letter of request.● Dealing with tree applications was moved from Planning auspices to Property Services; they do keep a record but at present this is not publicly viewable - due to redaction of information / Data Protection issues. Any old applications would need to be requested and viewed in person. They are hoping to make the system "live" again so that applications can be viewed on-line.●	

- It is not possible for Property Services to police all tree works, although in cases of being alerted to possible illegal works, they are able to issue a “stop notice”.
- Tree Officer role is currently vacant and being advertised.
- Mrs T Wells (public) stated that the damage has often already been done by the time DDC are contacted, stating that if planned tree works were known, at least local residents would be aware of the situation. Darran advised that DDC could react if notified of suspect works.
- If trees have TPO status, then consultation / objection process has to be followed. Darran stated that if and when new system goes live, applications should be flagged up on-line.

3. Reports from Councillors

District Cllr Martin Bates provided following report:-

- Cllr Oliver Richardson now Deputy Leader of DDC.
- Waste - numerous complaints from residents - all dealt with individually - most, if not all, resolved eventually.
- 36 and 38 The Drove way, of two applications, 21/00284 was granted permission and 21/00576 was refused at Planning Committee.
- Coastal erosion to promenade and request to fix pothole in Bay Car Park - Keith Watson, DDC Engineer, hopes to complete works this year; a condition survey will be undertaken to determine required works, with the hope to target Cabinet in September/October and works carried out soon thereafter. However, the current delays in supply of materials may create a problem.
- Cllr Bates advised that the provision of a recycling bin in the Bay would cost around £1,390. The cost of emptying would depend on where they are and how many but around £20 per site (Cllr Bates will check on timing/frequency of these payments).
- Parking Bay car park - DDC proposing to reinstate old large boards following local complaints.
- Church wall - still in discussion with resident.
- Parking enforcement - data received re number of enforcement visits requested since 1st June - number of penalty notices issued - Clerk to be provided with number and to be included in Parish magazine.
- Cllr Blake asked if a further bin could be placed at Alexander Field - Clerk to email request. Cllr Blake advised that bins at King George V Field are often overflowing and questioned whether larger bins required, or whether waste visits could be increased.

Clerk to deal

Brief report provided by County Cllr Manion:-

- The unaccompanied asylum seeking Children (UASC) issue is still very much to the fore. We need a sustainable solution for the Kent taxpayer as well as children native to Kent. We continue to lobby government for a resolution to this issue and our facilities remain closed to the UASCs until this is resolved.
- Environmental crime is an issue which KCC is investigating and I am chairing a member group on this. Fly tipping and unauthorised waste disposal are the main areas and I will keep the council updated on this.

Cllr Gilham urged for a response to the continued flooding on Reach Road, now outstanding since 2019.

Brief report received and acknowledged from PCSO.

Report from Community Warden (emailed during meeting due to technical issues), providing updates on following issues:-

- Sea Street traffic / liaison with school.
- Property in High Street re vehicle damage.
- Security light at property on Reach Road.
- Prescription delivery - now passed to new employee following Stephen's help over Covid19 year."

5. Clerk Report

- Reports of non-collection of waste/recycling continue to be received - referred to District Councillors.
- Defibrillator at First Light Cafe - electricity supply installed, with invoice to come. Also invoice to be received re check on telephone kiosk.
- NALC continue to press Government re holding of remote meetings by Parish Councils in case of need.
- Lady who had expressed an interest in providing a memorial bench for her grandfather had been contacted but no reply received.
- Re use by outside clubs of Alexander Playing Field - Clerk advised this had not gone well with numerous emails and telephone calls from 3 separate non-St Margaret's Clubs.
- ROSPA inspection had been undertaken on 24 June, report yet to be received.
- Clerk had raised issue of Hall telephone subscription with David Hart - reply to be received.
- Re email received from Mayfield Cottage resident - idea mooted of more robust bollard but this may not solve the problem of damage higher up the property. Idea suggested of change to junction, with Clerk to approach Highways.
- Cemetery Registrar had spoken to Clerk re gate between Westcliffe Church and the PC Cemetery. IT WAS RESOLVED that a quotation be sought for replacement as this is now looking dilapidated.

Clerk to deal with invoice

Clerk to monitor

Clerk to follow up

Clerk to deal

Clerk to deal

- Clerk to check when next delivery of salt/grit is due from Kent Highways.
- Public Rights of Way had advised that cutting of footpaths likely to take place in next two weeks, after which checks can be made on any outstanding.
- Planning Committee agendas - appear on DDC website on Wednesday weekly - Clerk to check for upcoming St Margaret's applications.
- Continuing to chase Highways re hedge on Seymour Road.

Clerk to deal

Clerk to deal

6. **Planning**

The following comments on applications, delegated to Clerk from last meeting, were noted:-

21/00968 - Erection of a front dormer window to facilitate a loft conversion -
Kestrels, Nelson Park Road *No objections*

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 *No objections*

The following observations were made on the applications considered:-

21/01036 Erection of a detached dwelling, car port with solar panel on roof,
formation of new vehicular access, driveway, parking and landscaping -
Walletts Court, Dover Road *This is an inappropriate design in the
AONB and outside the Village Confines.
Application form refers to 3 rather than 1 dwelling
(4 in favour, 3 against)*

21/01012 Erection of two storey, single storey and first and second floor
extensions, roof extension to include 3no. dormer windows, 4no.
rooflights, replacement rain water goods, extension to existing first floor
south east balconies, insertion of steps and door to north east elevation,
alterations to windows and doors (existing side/rear extensions, steps
to south east elevation and summer house to be demolished) -
Lenox House, 27 Granville Road *No objections*

21/01020 Erection of a first floor extension, two storey front extension
incorporating balcony with balustrade. Alterations to front terrace and
steps, raise roof and re-cladding of existing garage and detached shed -
Waihora, 33 Salisbury Road *No objections*

Applications received post agenda, to be delegated to Clerk:-

21/01070 Erection of extension and re-cladding of Greenkeepers facility
Walmer And Kingsdown Golf Club The Leas Kingsdown *No objections*

21/01081 Erection of a detached dwelling, outbuilding, boundary wall to kitchen garden, garden terrace and steps, installation of pond, formation of new vehicular access, driveway, parking, electric car charging port, installation of a ground source heat pump and landscaping
West Meadow, Walleys Court Dover Road *Raise objections as in AONB*

21/00936 Erection of a three storey building comprising 7no. self-contained flats, 4no. detached dwellings and 3no. terrace dwellings, new vehicle access, turning head, parking and landscaping
Land To The South East Of 1-9 St Georges Place, Reach Road

- Given the importance of this application (Glebe Field), Clerk to request a deferral for Parish Council consultation.
- Meeting to be set up with District Cllr Oliver Richardson to discuss way forward.
- Christine Waterman gave brief overview of previous application (much the same as the one now before the PC), and background to formation of the Save the Glebe Field Group, set up 4 or 5 years ago. Previous application attracted massive objections last time (150), after which the application was subsequently withdrawn. Stated that a professional approach is needed, together with funding.
- Cllr R Simcox proposed and it was unanimously RESOLVED that a “fighting fund” of £10,000 be ringfenced for use in payment for planning consultant / professional fees.
- Member of public raised question of the management of the Bay Trust’s finance, as it continues to sell off assets, making a loss each year. Suggested approaching each of the Trustees individually (this had been tried previously without success).
- Cllr G Simcox raised the question of using Google Meets for any on-line contact and Councillors gave approval.

Clerk to deal

7. Finance

The following payments were approved:-

Castle Water - water rates	£57.18
Castle Water - water rates	£43.21
Agrovista Ltd - tree stump treatment	£81.48
NEST Pension - Clerk and Council	£200.85
Mr D A Hart - expenses re SF Valley	£11.00
Aber Services Ltd - cattle gride clearance + trench	£564.00
R Purchase - June invoice	£1,290.00
Google Ireland - monthly subscription	£41.40
Idverde Ltd - grasscutting	£192.74
Idverde Ltd - line marking	£100.36
Jane Cook - June salary	£1,253.77
Jane Cook - office	£36.35
HMRC	£265.92
Mrs J Parnell - cleaning	<u>£116.00</u>
	<u>£4,254.26</u>

Receipts:-

Cemetery fees £450.00
Wayleave payment £6.90

- (a) Clerk advised of contact from PKF Littlejohn re insurance payment of £4,583 included as income in AGAR for 2020-21 - balancing amendment made and returned to auditors.
- (b) Quotations re King George V wall and play area still in abeyance.
- (c) Reach Road Pond - costs approved as follows: liner and protection Geotextiles £829 (less than originally quoted at £1721.03); silt trap and associated pipework etc £742.68 giving a total of £1572.07. In addition there will be a cost for sand softening layer under liner at approx £300. No cost for labour or plant as Mr Gilham is carrying out this voluntarily. Water standpipe licence should arrive shortly.
- (d) IT WAS RESOLVED to allow up to £250 for LED PIR lights at King George V Pavilion for defibrillator.

8. **Glebe Field** - as under Planning.

9. **ROSPA Report** - yet to be received. To be on September agenda.

Clerk to deal

10. **Correspondence**

- Jane Driver re management of field - Councillors agreed proposal.
- Sue Andrews re trees at Chapel Lane Pond. Cllr Blake is to meet with tree surgeon and take advice / seek any likely cost.
- Emma Peters PROW re closure of ER37.
- Mr M Sawyer - copy of letter sent to Roger Walton DDC re Bay car park.
- Vanessa Dore re far end of Freedown Road. Question of 60mph speed limit to be included in any HIP proposals by Gridlock Group.
- KALC re meeting with and Crime Commissioner - Clerk had responded.
- Steve Manion re library re-opening dates.
- Peter Wallace DDC reply re Glebe Field "consultation".
- Martin Hunt - re various issues on trees.
- KALC re Queens Platinum Jubilee beacons (Cllr G Simcox will investigate).
- Jamie Feldham re Lower St Margarets Road - Clerk had responded.
- Cllr Bates - copy of email to Jennie Whittaker re Pine Edge.
- P Thompson re damage to Mayfield Cottage.
- D Simcox re various issues from Cricket Club - agreed that Clerk could source further signs for netting. (Question of path proposal to be re-visited).
- KCC re various road closures etc during Golf Open.
- KALC re Area Committee meeting 21 Jul.

Clerk to advise
Cllr Blake to deal

Cllr G Simcox to deal

Clerk to deal

11. **Councillor Reports**

- (a) Cllrs G Simcox and Fielding will visit Alexander Pavilion to determine any likely sighting for CCTV equipment.
- (b) Cllr Newton re South Foreland Valley - Security Services had moved on campers from SFV. Vic Harmer has ordered gate re The Front and now awaited. Gate for ER40 awaiting resources. One cattle grid needs repairing. Re proposed benche(s) - cost for bench kit £250 but to include installation would cost total £800. Agreed that maintenance contractor Mr Purchase could be approached in this respect. Items from Mel Wrigley's report included: variety of birds spotted in location; hemlock cutting and clearing; clearing of scrub; volunteer tasks and hours spent. Mel thanked volunteers for all their hard work.

Cllrs G Simcox and Fielding to deal

(c) Cllr G Simcox had circulated various proofs for proposed new logo / branding for Parish Council. Councillors had a few minor suggestions and these are to be firmed up. IT WAS RESOLVED that software for new logo at £100 for one year be approved. Also cost of 11 new name badges at £77 to be approved.

Cllr G Simcox to take forward

(d) Cllr Blake reported several "tracks" are overgrown - PC not able to undertake this. It was agreed that footpath walk should be held, perhaps later in the year.

Cllr Creed to take forward

Re bus shelter near old Chapel - Cllr Blake will investigate cost of likely new wooden shelter (may be that KCC can part fund).

Cllr Blake to take forward

Re suggestion of new recycling bin at KGV Field - cost would be as stated above.

12. **Village Maintenance**

(a) Playing field inspection under by Cllr Blake. Likely that swing seats/cradles need replacing - price to be supplied.

Cllr Blake to take forward

(b) Cllr Creed had approached Portal House School Head re use of sporting facilities at School - previously part of planning approval. However, planning changes mean that facilities are within structure of school and therefore unavailable for community use. Cllr Creed will approach again re use during school holidays. (Suggestion of playground use made by Head).

Cllr Creed to deal

(c) Reach Road Pond (as under Finance).

(d) Queens Platinum Jubilee - Cllr G Simcox will follow up on proposals.

Clerk to deal

(e) Martin Hunt re tree issues - Clerk will respond.

(f) Defibrillators - Cllr Creed volunteered to make regular checks on the 3 defibrillators and liaise with Cllr G Simcox re providing a map of locations.

Cllr Creed to deal

(g) It was agree to leave the PC hub open until after 16th August.

(h) Cllr Gilham reported that path at end of St Vincent Road is completely blocked and overgrown, along with Alexandra Road.

Clerk will follow up on this

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.32 p.m.

Confirmed:

Chair

12th July 2021

