

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

Minutes of the Ordinary Monthly Meeting of the above Parish Council held on Monday 8th November 2021 at 7pm, at St Margaret's Village Hall.

**Present :** Cllrs Rebecca Simcox (in the chair), G Simcox, A Fielding, J Harris, T Gilham, together with Clerk. Apologies received from Cllr S Creed, P Blake and A Newton. Cllr Smith absent due to illness. County Cllr Steve Manion, District Cllr Martin Bates and District Cllr Oliver Richardson in attendance.

Public in attendance: Peter Wells, Sandy Liggins and one person via video. Richard Haynes in attendance from 8pm for South Foreland Valley discussion.

Public participation:-

Peter Wells reported that street furniture left by Kent Highways still in place on Bay Hill - Clerk had previously reported.

1. The minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 11th October 2021, having been circulated to all Councillors, were confirmed as a correct record of the meeting.	
2. <b><u>Declarations of interest</u></b>  None declared on agenda items.	
3. <b><u>Reports from County/District Councillors</u></b>  KCC Councillor Steve Manion - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advised that during half term holiday, those children who would normally receive free school meals had been provided with £15 vouchers.</li> <li>Kent Test results are now out - parents encouraged to look at all 4 options on forms re secondary education.</li> <li>Advised on KARA service - he service provides vulnerable people with virtual care and support via video carephones. Those with little or no technical ability, are able to connect with loved ones and caregivers.</li> <li>Heritage public consultation is currently in place.</li> <li>Cllr Gilham asked re the traffic lights on A256 which are permanently on green - questioned whether these could be switched off as not being used.</li> </ul> (Cllr Manion left meeting at 7.10pm).  District Councillors Martin Bates and Oliver Richardson:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Report from Martin Bates received (attached).</li> </ul>	
4. Martin Hunt - Tree /Warden - not available.	
5. <b><u>Planning</u></b>  The following comments were made on the applications considered:-  21/01167 Construction of car park for 5-6 vehicles for 1 The Droveaway (retrospective) - Land adjoining 3 The Droveaway <i>Positively support</i>	

21/01170 Variation of Condition 1 (compliance) and 2 (approved plans) to incorporate design changes of planning permission DOV/17/01137, to include changes to the front and rear apex windows (application under Section 73) -  
Site at 36 and 38 The Droveway

*Object - should be in line with original application; vexatious amendments should be brought to a halt*

21/01658 Erection of a detached outbuilding for ancillary use (retrospective)  
Jandi, 58 The Droveway

Re Glebe Field - Solicitor's report now received - has proved useful. IT WAS RESOLVED that Leonie Cowen Solicitor be asked to prepare a letter on behalf of the Parish Council to the Charity Commissioners re the Bay Trust - she has quoted for 2-3 hours (maximum) at £220 per hour. The extra sum will be covered through existing crowdfunding.

Coastguard Cottages - two current applications 21/00317 and 21/00318 will appear before the Planning Committee on Thursday 11th November. District Councillor Oliver Richardson will speak in opposition before the Committee; Cllr Fielding had prepared separate documents for each application. Mr Richard Hall will also speak in opposition.

HELAA sites in DDC Draft Local Plan - this to appear on future agenda

Clerk to deal

## 6. Clerk Report

- Further contact (via Facebook) from lady re local bus service / traffic. She was provided with response sent previously from Stagecoach.
- Blocked drains in Sea Street reported (ref. 605401). Previously 59934.
- Cost of legal work to be considered re Thorne Estate under separate heading.
- Christmas tree(s) ordered and to arrive on morning of Monday 22nd November.
- Damaged kerb on Swingate / A258 reported (ref. 601985).
- £3,000 paid to St Margarets Bay Conservation Association.
- Follow up letter sent to Keith Harrison at ACRK - originally sent to head office, now to local office.
- £100 paid to RBL Poppy Appeal re wreath + PC donation.
- PIN now arrived for use with PC credit card.
- £705 reimbursed to NT re Valley.
- Application completed to DDC re tree works at Chapel Lane Pond - they give a 6-8 week timescale for consideration. D A Tree Surgeons advised re PC agreement for work here and Kingsdown Road to be undertaken.
- No further response from David Hannent re use of Glebe Field for Queens Jubilee.
- Bin requested at Alexander Field - response awaited.
- Re invoice for lights at KGV - Cricket Club have paid £250 to PC re invoice for lighting as they had instructed for extra lights (PC paid for defib lights).
- Following Viv Verren's meeting with Darran Solley at DDC - advised that funding will not allow repair to the wall adjoining the car park. Darran will look at making up the path at the kissing gate. He will also look at the idea of providing grip strips on the Church steps. He will also arrange for vegetation on each side of the steps to be cut back to allow for better sightlines when exiting into the High Street.

- Clerk had been contacted by a resident who was very unhappy at the withdrawal by DDC of the ability to pay for garden waste etc over the telephone - she does not have access to the internet. District Councillors are against this decision and will report further.
- Clerk had arranged with Lloyds so that credit card debit should now go to Current Account.
- Clerk given permission to order new mouse - current one not now working.
- Clerk had been contacted by Brian Cole re a fallen tree at Green Lane in Nelson Park - Cllr Gilham will attempt to cut this away.

Cllr Gilham to deal

(Cllrs Bates and Richardson left at 7.25pm).

## 7. South Foreland Valley

- (a) Cllr R Simcox had made contact with a solicitor of her acquaintance but had still to hear back re the land transfer from the J Thorne Estate. She asked to be allowed a further week to seek a quotation in this respect.
- (b) Re Environmental Stewardship Scheme - the current Environmental Stewardship agreement for SFV is due to expire next year. In the absence of a new post-Brexit agri-environment scheme, Natural England is offering two schemes for end of life schemes:-
1. To extend the current scheme by a year (annual extensions likely to be offered until a new scheme is launched, which is likely to be 2024). Or
  2. Make a new application to Countryside Stewardship for either a 5 or 10 year period.

Natural England adviser recommends extension of the current agreement on the same terms as the best course for SFV, indeed WCCP has already extended a number of its agreements on other sites. Councillors agreed this was the best way forward and advised Richard accordingly.

- (c) Report received from WCCP (attached to minutes).

## 8. Finance

- (a) The following payments were approved:-

CCT Ltd - Christmas lights	
D R Adams Electrical Services (Hall)	£1,856.94
R Purchase - September invoice	£506.40
Greenlands Insurance Services - tractor	£1,484.80
Direct Global Trading Ltd - Christmas lights	£206.96
St Margarets Bay Conservation Association	£2,067.90
Castle Water - water rates	£3,000.00
Glasdon UK Ltd - 3 benches	£164.62
Trevor May Contractors Ltd - tennis post replacement	£1,896.19
Mr G Simcox - badges	£282.00
Idverde Ltd - grasscutting	£92.92
Mrs J Parnell - cleaning	£192.74
RBL Poppy Appeal	£261.00
	£100.00

<p style="text-align: center;">- 4 -</p> <p>Jane Cook - salary Jane Cook - office expenses HMRC R Purchase - October invoice Dover District Council (WCCP) NEST - Clerk + Council</p> <p><u>Receipts:</u> Donations re Glebe Field                      £100 + £292.22 Cricket Club re extra lights                      £250 Tennis Club (50% of post repair)                      £118</p> <p>(b) Clerk had provided brief summary figures which need to be considered before Precept request to go forward in February. Cllr G Simcox asked to be provided with copy of invoice re IOW Computer Geek invoice for earlier in year. Budget to be on next agenda.</p> <p>(c) IT WAS RESOLVED that Parish Council pay for raffle tickets at £69 re Christmas light event raffle (being run for Smart Art, Dover Food Bank and an Indian charity).</p> <p>(d) IT WAS RESOLVED that Parish Council would meet cost of £6,055.47 re Reach Road toilets for 2022-23; Clerk confirmed that £2,802.10 remained outstanding for current year (this had taken into account reduction re NNDR removal).</p>	<p>£1,253.97 £44.46 £265.72 £1,000.00 £5,000.00 £200.85</p> <hr/> <p>£19,878.47</p>	Clerk to deal
<p><b>9 Correspondence</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• KALC re KCC Community Warden Service review.</li><li>• Acknowledgement from D Hannent re request for for use of Glebe Field for Jubilee.</li><li>• Response from Stagecoach re attendance at PC meeting.</li><li>• Kent Highways re costs involved for request for road closure(s).</li><li>• Mr M Hunt re provision / siting of trees.</li><li>• KALC re agenda for Dover Area Committee meeting 27 Oct.</li><li>• S McCormick re sign erected on Sea Street field.</li><li>• C Whitehead re planning application for Michaelmas.</li><li>• KALC re AGM 13 November.</li><li>• Yvette Hayles DDC re NNDR refund.</li><li>• Richard Haynes re South Foreland Valley - Environmental Stewardship.</li><li>• KALC re Queen's Jubilee Beacons.</li><li>• Minutes of KALC Dover Area Committee Meeting 27 Oct.</li><li>• River Jarvis re Tea and Talk initiative.</li><li>• KALC re South Kent Coast Reference Group meeting.</li><li>• Harvey Rudd DDC re publication of Councillor home addresses on website.</li></ul>		
<p><b>10. Reports from Councillors</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cllr George Simcox advised that all Christmas lights have arrived and tested - just awaiting clips. Will be erected on 20 November. Decision taken not to place large reindeer light on board due to risk of board becoming dislodged. Switch-on of lights scheduled for 26 November with raffle tickets to be sold before this.</li></ul>		

<p>Hoping to attract 400-500 people. Question raised of acquiring a PA system but felt it may be more economical to hire one. Cost to be determined by Cllr G Simcox. Clerk to contact Mr Ian Miller re tree "holder".</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Cllr George Simcox made brief report on Queen's Jubilee arrangements. Meeting had taken place with "Taskforce" and reps from National Trust. National Trust will deal with lighting of the lighthouse beacon and contact various legislative bodies. Further meeting of the Taskforce to be on 25th January.</li><li>● IT WAS RESOLVED that two footpaths leading across field from The Droveway to Sea Street be placed on the PC website to ask interested parties to confirm whether or not they had historically used these footpaths.</li><li>● Clerk advised that Cllr Newton had been approached by residents in the local shop regarding the poor state of Well Lane. This road is a private road, not maintainable at public expense. Clerk had contacted KCC re any remediation works but any funding not to be forthcoming.</li></ul>	<p>Cllr G simcox to deal</p> <p>Clerk to contact</p> <p>Cllr R Simcox to place on website</p>
<p>11. <b><u>Village Maintenance / Matters affecting the Parish</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) Playing field inspection undertaken by Cllr Blake - issues noted.</li><li>b) Question of defibrillator registration to remain on future agenda.</li><li>c) Bowls Club Secretary had spoken to Chair re current position with the Bowls Club - they formed a limited company several years ago but currently no-one is prepared to put themselves forward as Directors on this private limited company. This could have an impact on the present lease with the PC if the company has to be dissolved.</li><li>d) IT WAS RESOLVED that a sum of £250 be added in relation to maintenance costs re the bench to be provided in the Valley in memory of Mr Simpson.</li></ul>	<p>Clerk to deal</p>

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.40 p.m.

Confirmed:

Chair

8th November 2021

## MEETING REPORT FOR ST MARGARET'S AT CLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL ON 8TH NOVEMBER 2021 FROM COUNCILLOR MARTIN BATES

### BINS

The position has now stabilised to the point where the daily reports show that 100% of household, recyclable and garden waste collections are now taking place on the dates scheduled. There are occasional glitches, but these are being picked up the following day. Garden waste collections were also recommenced in October and are operating in accordance with scheduled collection times. The occasions when we are receiving complaints from residents have all but disappeared.

***(Cllr Richardson advised that although things are getting better, Veolia need to improve their service. At the end of the month they will be starting their East Kent Pilot Improvement Plan - this will look at the roughly 7% of the District's population with little roads which use smaller vans. They will be writing to around 3,000 residents in this respect and will go live on 29th November.)***

### COMMUNITY GRANT

100 organisations benefited from the Winter Round of Community with a total amount £119,527.49 being awarded.

### CHRISTMAS PARKING

To provide support to local businesses, I have just signed off on free parking in DDC car parks for Small Business Saturday on 4 December 2021. Furthermore, parking charges in Council-run car parks will not be enforced from 23 December 2021 to 28 December 2021 and 1 January 2022 to 3 January 2022.

### WISE

The new enforcement agency commenced operations in the district on 18 th October. In the first two weeks of its operation 169 (since gone up to 231) Fixed Penalty Notices have been served on people dropping litter and the enforcement officers have been making their presence known in areas where dog fouling has been taking place.

### LOCAL ISSUES

1). Coastal erosion to the promenade at St Margaret's Bay plus a request to fix a large pothole in the car park. DDC confirmed last month that they have a list of outstanding car parking maintenance with their contractor and St Margaret's Bay has been included for the undertaking of short-term repairs.

2). Church Wall.

Last month I wrote to DDC Parking Services requesting that they take another look at the wall. They did and said that they could find nothing wrong on site. They suggested that maybe they could meet with someone who could show them the problem. I mentioned this this at last month's meeting and we believe that they were examining the wrong church wall. I was advised by one of the attendees that she was meeting with DDC that week and would show them the issue. Are the PC able to provide any update on what occurred at that meeting.

3). Groynes.

Maintenance Services received Cabinet approval last week to draw down the funds and will commence work on the groyne repairs in the Spring.

5). Glebe Close and White Cliffs Hotel Planning Applications

Both these applications are in the pipeline and likely to come before the Planning Committee although no dates have been set as yet. Ollie has stated that he will be prepared to represent your interests when/if these applications appear for consideration.

6). Coastguard Cottages

This will be considered at the Planning Committee this week.

#### 7). Rural Car Parking

A question was raised in Council last month concerning whether this subject would be considered in the review of parking charges for this year. It will, as are all other parking charges, and it is on the agenda for Scrutiny tonight. I will keep you posted as the process continues.

**Volunteer task:**

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October** – For our volunteer task this month we headed back to the lower central compartment to finish off cutting the areas of grassland. We had seven volunteers helping the ranger to manage this large area, by mowing, brush cutting and raking the grass off. Raking off the cuttings helps to lower the nutrient levels in the soil and improve wildflower richness.



**Volunteer Phil using the flail mower.**

Phil was able to drive the mower with excellent precision, avoiding the many anthills we have at South Foreland which are the home of the yellow meadow ants. They are associated closely with the chalkhill blue butterfly, protecting their larvae from parasitic insects, in exchange for a sugary substance that they secrete.





**Volunteer Chris Little and Matt Hayes raking and collecting the grass from the meadow.**





**Volunteers Dave Hart, Rob Freeland and Alan King cutting back the scrub.**



**Everyone hard at work in the valley, opening pathways, the chalk grassland corridor/ride and expanses of chalk grassland.**

Interesting wildlife sightings this month included the arrival of some migrant birds that breed in Scandinavia and Siberia including small flocks of Brambling and tree sparrow, large numbers of redwing, Ring ouzel and a yellow-browed warbler was seen.





**Left: Tree sparrows in flight. Photo and sighting by Jamie Partridge.**

**Right: Yellow-browed warbler. Photo by Brenden Ryan.**

A big thank you to all our volunteers for your help over these last few months and to our group of lookers for helping with checking our 12 Dexter cattle. We are always looking for more Volunteers who would be able to help out with our practical habitat management tasks, please get in touch if you would like to get involved in the restoration of this beautiful landscape. For more information please Contact: [Jason.moule@dover.gov.uk](mailto:Jason.moule@dover.gov.uk) or [chris.little48@btinternet.com](mailto:chris.little48@btinternet.com)