

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

Minutes of the Ordinary Monthly Meeting of the above Parish Council held on Monday 13th December 2021 at 7pm, at St Margaret's Village Hall.

Present : Cllrs Rebecca Simcox (in the chair), A Newton, G Simcox, A Fielding, T Gilham, P Blake together with Clerk. Cllr Smith absent due to illness. Cllrs Harris and Creed absent.

County Cllr Steve Manion, District Cllr Martin Bates and District Cllr Oliver Richardson in attendance.

Public participation:-

Martin Hunt raised the question of speed of traffic along Station Road - this is a subject the Council has tried to liaise with Kent Highways over many years but their response of "lack of fatalities" has proven difficult to overcome. Cllr Manion advised that the new Project Zero initiative is a long term KCC initiative. Other villages have had 20mph limits introduced, but Cllr Manion advised that these are not currently legally enforceable.

Peter Wells advised of lack of lighting at the junction of A258 and first St Margaret's junction - this to be reported to Kent Highways.

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| 1. The minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 8th November 2021, having been circulated to all Councillors, were confirmed as a correct record of the meeting.   |  |
| 2. <b><u>Declarations of interest</u></b><br><br>Cllr Rebecca Simcox advised she would not be voting on the decision re the benches at Alexander Field, given a personal connection with the complainant.  |  |
| 3. <b><u>Reports from County/District Councillors</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Cllr Steve Manion advised the Government introduction of trial programme re relocation of asylum-seeking children. Cllr R Simcox made the point of the stupidity of leaving traffic lights on green on A256 near Tilmanstone roundabout - this is "just in case" Operation Tap needs to be brought into place at very short notice.</li><li>● Cllr Martin Bates / Oliver Richardson - report received - attached to minutes.</li></ul> |  |
| 4. <b><u>Tree Warden - Martin Hunt</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Advised that since October, 84 trees have been planted (70 donated), many at Bere Farm on a plot unsuitable for cropping.</li><li>● He has applied for 105 trees from the Woodland Trust and advised that trees are often available from other similar organisations.</li><li>● He has been working closely with the local Scout Group and some trees have been planted in private gardens.</li></ul>   |  |

- Martin would like to undertake a further survey of the whole village to determine suitable sites for planting (including possibly the South Foreland Valley).
- He is due to meet later in the week with Darran Solly, Parks and Open Spaces Manager later this week.
- Map of local TPO's to be placed on PC website.
- He would like a contact/liaison point within the PC - to be decided.

Councillor to be appointed

5. **Planning**

(a) Confirmed that last week, PC complaint uploaded to Charity Commissioners re the Bay Trust - using legal advice obtained. Letter of complaint also sent to Bay Trust Trustees, with article placed in Parish magazine re PC stance.

(b) Response received from Keith Harrison at ACRK re Bay Trust activities and planning application. for Glebe Field; IT WAS RESOLVED to send further letter to him, asking for meeting with him re the planning application. Councillors advised that the Village Hall Management Committee had written to his superiors in this respect.

Clerk to deal

(c) Letter sent to Lois Jarrett Head of Planning highlighting complaints re planning decisions/information on applications for Coastguard Cottages and White Cliffs Hotel. Following receipt of further questions from her, IT WAS RESOLVED to submit further letter to her, copying in Cllrs Nick Kenton and Trevor Bartlett

Clerk to deal

(d) The following comments were made on the applications considered:-

21/01718 Crown lift to give 6 metres clearance above the parking area of one Horse Chestnut (T4) subject of tree Preservation order No 1990/5 -  
**The White Cliffs Hotel, High Street** *No objections confirmed*

21/01694 Extension of a single storey side extension, insertion of rooflight to front elevation, garage conversion to storage/workshop, door and window to replace garage door, raised decking, glass balustrade and steps (existing rear steps to be removed) -  
**Little Orchard, St Vincent Road** *No objections*

21/01684 Erection of a single storey rear extension, insertion of 2no. roof lights, double doors with balcony and glass balustrade to first floor, garage extension for use as gym, garden shed, bin store, repainting external walls, alteration to existing landscaping/steps and installation of electric gates (existing extension and outbuildings to be demolished) -  
**Berkley, 9 Granville Road** *No objections*

21/01755 Erection of a three-storey northwest extension, balcony with glass balustrade to second floor northwest and southwest elevations, a single storey southeast extension, insertion of 1 no. rooflight, alterations to doors and windows -  
**Cherryside, 47 The Droveaway** *No objections*

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|----------|--|----------------------|
| 21/01170 | Variation of Condition 2 of planning permission DOV/21/00284 to incorporate design change in the form of windows to second floor, enlarged rear dormer window at first floor level which was a variation of DOV/17/01137 and discharge conditions 2,4,7,10 and 14 of DOV/21/00284 -<br><b>Site At 36 And 38 The Drove</b> way <i>Object as previously, viz:-</i><br><i>Strongly object - original application should be adhered to. These vexatious continual amendments should be brought to a halt</i> |                      |
| 21/01449 | Outline application for the erection of a detached dwelling (with all matters reserved) -<br><b>Land Fronting Granville Road &amp; Rear Of Salterns, 14 Salisbury Road</b>   | <i>No objections</i> |
| 21/01448 | Outline application for the erection of a detached dwelling (with all matters reserved) -<br><b>Land To The West Of Salterns, 14 Salisbury Road</b>  | <i>No objections</i> |
| 21/01808 | Erection of a single storey rear/side extension, porch canopy and window infill to side elevation (existing garage to be demolished) -<br><b>11 Roman Way</b>  | <i>No objections</i> |
| 21/01626 | Replace existing window with French doors<br><b>3 The Parsonage, High Street</b>   | <i>No objections</i> |
| 21/01778 | Conversion of existing garage to habitable accommodation with insertion of rooflight, installation of external door and steps to basement (existing lightwell to be removed) -<br><b>Kilconnor, Chapel Lane</b>  | <i>No objections</i> |

6. **Clerk Report**

- Lloyds continue to debit credit card to Cemetery A/c - transfer made from Current A/c.
- DDC have given approval for tree works at Chapel Lane Pond - have advised D A Tree Surgeons who will provide date for start in New Year.
- Have been in liaison with Emma Rosen re phone box - have provided bank details etc - she is in the process of completing Lottery funding bid, which will come to Clerk before submission.
- You will have seen that KALC has been a victim of ransomware - their IT management company has been dealing with all damaged files quarantined. Appears to have come from an email. ICO have been informed.
- Further request received for an allotment (new house buyer).
- Liz Marshall (resident of Reach Close) has asked if signpost can be placed pointing to Reach Meadow, as some visitors find it difficult to find.

Clerk to deal in due course

Clerk to make request to DDC

- Martin Leggatt called re STMBCA - called (answerphone) and emailed but no follow up.
- Gentleman reported a problem with the website - no other problems reported and the site seems fine.
- Emailed Richard Haynes re Skipton advert 16 Nov - no reply as yet.
- Complaints received re positioning of benches in Alexander Field - to be discussed later in the meeting.
- Ian Miller and tree surgeon Dave Austin will be doing Christmas tree recycling again - placed in Parish magazine.
- Kent Community Award Scheme 2022 - this will be on the January agenda and Councillors to consider any nominees.
- Salt bags x 2 ordered from Kent Highways.
- HM Land Registry re adverse possession on April Cottage - all Councillors approved no objections to this and Clerk had completed necessary paperwork.

Councillors to consider

7. **South Foreland Valley**

- (a) Confirmation sent to Bradleys Solicitors to act in the transfer of land from the Thorne Estate, with Clerk paying a deposit of £350 to them via PC credit card.
- (b) Cllr Newton advised she had only received the WCCP report shortly before leaving home and will send to Councillors tomorrow.
- (c) Re gate installed at the top end of The Front - Cllr Newton explained the history of this, following continued destruction of land on either side of the track by vehicles going off the track. With permission from Natural England, trenches were dug (filled in several times by persons unknown) - 3 in all. It was then decided to install a gate on The Front, beyond the last house - permission gained from Natural England. Initially gates at both ends were proposed but one gate was installed initially. Shortly after installation, resident nearest to the gate complained, claiming rights of access on all roads in the vicinity. 2 further property owners raised concerns.
- Padlock was placed on the gate initially (lockbox unavailable); this was unlocked following complaints and the gate currently remains unlocked.
- Phil Williams from Natural England has agreed to meet with PC and residents to discuss, with this meeting to take place in the New Year.

Clerk to await further contact

8. **Finance**

The following payments were approved:-

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| George Simcox - expenses re Christmas lights | £101.96 |
| Mr D A Hart - SFV fuel for tractor/mower     | £77.12  |
| Castle Water - water rates                   | £69.62  |
| Credit card - repayment to NT                | £705.00 |
| Castle Water - water rates                   | £6.31   |

|                                      |      |            |
|--------------------------------------|------|------------|
| Idverde - October                    |      |            |
| Idverde - November                   |      | £559.94    |
| R Purchase - November invoice        |      | £162.14    |
| Dover Security Services Ltd          |      | £2,312.00  |
| Mrs R Simcox - raffle tickets        |      | £648.00    |
| JJM Electrical - lights timer switch |      | £60.00     |
| Jane Cook - November salary          |      | £85.00     |
| Jane Cook                            |      | £1,253.77  |
| HMRC                                 |      | £29.49     |
| Leonie Cowen & Associates            |      | £265.92    |
| NEST - Clerk+Council                 |      | £6,072.00  |
| Mr I Miller                          |      | £200.85    |
| Google Ireland                       |      | £870.00    |
|                                      |      | £41.40     |
| Receipts:-                           |      | -----      |
|                                      |      | £13,520.52 |
| Credit interest                      | 78p  |            |
| Village Hall re tree                 | £245 |            |

- 9 Correspondence**
- Paul Joliffe re public EV charging points.
  - Richard Hall re letter sent to Charity Commissioners on the Bay Trust.
  - Kent Police Rural Task Force Report / Summer Edition of Rural Matters.
  - Emails from M Love re gate erected on The Front.
  - DDC Licensing re Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy.
  - Andrew Thorne - offer of donation towards legal fees for SFV land transfer from his mother's estate.
  - Cllr Martin Bates re Queen's Green Canopy scheme / Jubilee.
  - Terry Martin KALC re 2022 KALC Community Awards Scheme.
  - Alice Fey DDC re appeal on refusal of planning application re Land on The West side of Station Road
  - Emma Peters KCC re notice of extension of an Order temporarily Closing public footpath ER37.
  - Corin Bengel DDC Regeneration re Parish facilities.
  - Kent Highways re salt bag deliveries.
  - Zurich Insurance re Jubilee events 2022.
  - Adverse possession notice re April Cottage.
  - Mr G West re benches erected at Alexander Field.
  - Alice Fey DDC re re-organisation of the DDC Development Management (DM) Team.
  - Jenny Whitaker copy email to DDC re Planning Application Ref 21/01402 - erection of detached dwelling (existing dwelling to be demolished) - The Edge.
  - David Simcox Cricket Club re defibrillators.
  - Keith Harrison ACRK re Glebe Field / Bay Trust.
  - Amanda Stewart re benches at Alexander Field (x 2)
  - J Flowerdew re request for speed limit through High Street.
  - Revd. Reeves re traffic outside School.

**10. Councillor Reports**

(a) Cllr G Simcox would like the PC to take up a programme to reduce risk of systems getting hacked. The programme he suggests is *National Cyber Security Centre Active Cyber Defence (NCSC ACD)* - this has been devised and is used by GCHQ. He would also like to have introduced a PC policy re acceptable use of Chromebooks/Councillors leaving etc. Clerk will make this a main heading for the next meeting.

Clerk to place on agenda

(b) Christmas tree lights up and looking good; small spares are available for use next year; as "hooks" now in place it may not be necessary to use cherry picker next year. Cllr G Simcox requested he be allowed to purchase some further "daisy chain" cables - 4 at around £15 each - APPROVED.

(c) Queen's Jubilee - the only grant so far available for events is for much larger projects. Cllr G Simcox would like to set up an early meeting to discuss way forward; assumption currently is to use the Alexander Field. This to appear on January agenda.

Clerk to place on agenda

**11. Village Maintenance and Matters affecting the Parish**

- Playing field inspection - undertaken by Cllr Blake - issues noted. He continues to chase for quote for KGV wall.
- Defibrillators - agreed that Cllr R Simcox (together with possibly G Simcox) will investigate registration of 3 defibrillators.
- Benches installed at Alexander Field - Cllr Blake had spoken to a number of residents re cutting back of hedge / installation of benches and no objections had been raised. Subsequently 2 residents had raised complaints. Both senior and junior football clubs contacted re allegations of bad language/noise. Regular users are childrens teams, with mens side no more than 12 games a year. Suggestion of bins either at far end or near the new benches suggested. Cllr Blake will speak to residents in this regard. Councillors voted to keep the benches in current position.

Cllr Blake to contact residents

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.25 p.m.

Confirmed:

Chair

13th December 2021

## MEETING REPORT FOR ST MARGARET'S PARISH COUNCIL ON 13<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2021 from District Councillors

### 1). LOCAL PLAN

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Dover District Council is working to finalise the final draft of the Local Plan, which sets out the vision and framework for development in the district to 2040.

It is intended that a consultation on this will commence in March in the new year. For the latest information, please see the [Local Plan](#) website.

### 2). Ground Breaking Investments for the New Year

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A range of key initiatives is coming together for the future of the district - including multi million pound projects to provide a major boost to Dover Town Centre for 2022.

A [£3.6m programme of improvements to Dover's Market Square](#) is now underway. Key partners gathered recently for a [ground-breaking ceremony](#) to mark the start of works.

DDC has also approved plans for up to [300 new homes](#) on the main site of the former Connaught Barracks in Dover. [Dover Fastrack](#), a new Homes England funded dedicated rapid transit bus route will also connect the development with Dover Town Centre and Dover Priory railway station. Construction on a section of the new road from the Whitfield Urban Development to Dover Rd will commence in Spring 2022.

### 3). Getting Ready for Christmas

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Christmas is coming to [White Cliffs Country](#) - and there's a range of information on seasonal [events](#) across the district which can be found on the DDC website.

There's [free parking](#) in DDC-owned off-street car parks from 23-28 December 2021 and 1-3 January 2022.

We're also piloting a new [free evening bus service](#) to help keep local women safe as they enjoy fun and festive evenings out in the run up to Christmas. Details can be found in the Press Release section of the DDC website.

We've confirmed our [seasonal waste collections](#), with no changes to normal household waste and recycling days. Please see the DDC [website](#) for latest news on council services over Christmas/New Year.

### 4). New HQ for Dover Port Health Authority

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The Dover Port Health Authority, part of Dover District Council, is to move into a [new state-of-the art inspection facility](#) from Spring 2022 ahead of the introduction of increased border checks from 1 July 22.

Bastion Point in Whitfield provides 75,751 sq. ft. of secure inspection facilities along with 8,625 sq. ft. of office space.

The Government is investing to remodel the former warehouse. Around 250 new staff will be employed by DDC and based at the facility which will operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

To find out more about job opportunities with the DPHA, and to apply online, please visit our [job vacancies](#) pages.

[Dover Port Health Authority](#)

## 5). Major Boost for Sea Defences

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Key works costing at least £125,000 to help boost sea defences and continue to protect the area for the future, have been [given the go ahead](#) for St Margaret's Bay.

DDC is to use funding from the Environment Agency on refurbishments to the sea defences at the popular local beauty spot in the district. The work will focus on repairing the 12 timber groynes at the location.

St Margaret's Bay consists of 550m of enclosed shingle beach at the foot of the chalk white cliffs. The area is part of the amazing Kent's Heritage Coast. Works are expected to start early in the new year.

[Major boost for sea defences](#)

## 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.

Ongoing. DDC has confirmed that St Margaret's Bay has been included for the undertaking of short-term repairs. The Leader of the Council, Trevor Bartlett, has also raised issues about this particularly in relation to the clearing of vegetation around the toilets, lack of line markings for parking spaces and need to repaint the railings. DDC has replied to say that there are plans to do some urgent work around the access road and the railings will be painted next year.

### 2). Groynes.

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

### 3). 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.

### 4). 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 was discussed at Scrutiny last month. Parking Services are currently a letter presenting their proposals which should be forwarded to all councils early in the New Year.

### 5). 36 and 38 The Droveaway

This is not going away, and the builders have submitted yet another request for variation of conditions. DOV/21/01170. A resident has written to DDC stating that he intends to request a JR review should this application be successful.