

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

Minutes of the Ordinary Monthly Meeting of the above Parish Council held on Monday 10th January 2022 at 7pm, at St Margaret's Village Hall.

**Present** : Cllrs Rebecca Simcox (in the chair), A Newton, G Simcox, T Gilham. Cllr P Blake joined meeting via video link. Apologies received from Cllrs A Fielding and J Harris. District Cllr Martin Bates (via video link) and District Cllr Oliver Richardson in attendance. Apologies received from County Cllr Steve Manion.

Community Warden Stephen Noddings also in attendance.

Public participation:-

Mr Peter Wells raised the issue of overgrown hedging/vegetation on Bay Hill, near bend at the bottom and near property South Sands House - this he says is narrowing that part of the Hill. Clerk will report to Kent Highways.

Mr Wells stated the noticeboard at the Village Hall was difficult to read through. Clerk had tried to clean the perspex but this now requires replacing. Cllr Blake will speak to maintenance man Ross Purchase to replace perspex.

1. The minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 13th December 2021, having been circulated to all Councillors, were confirmed as a correct record of the meeting.	
2. <b><u>Resignation of Cllr Creed</u></b>  - Chair officially noted and accepted resignation of Cllr Creed. Clerk had contacted DDC Elections in this regard and their confirmation re co-option of future Councillor is awaited. Clerk will also contact DDC Elections re Cllr Smith who has been absent since July 2021 following a stroke - casual vacancy will then be advertised.	Clerk to deal
3. <b><u>Declarations of interest / gifts</u></b> - Cllr G Simcox advised of receipt of sweets/chocolates following recent Christmas lights order - no more than £5 in value.	
4. <b><u>Reports from District Councillors</u></b>  - Cllr Richardson advised on the following issues:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Waste (the possibility that because of COVID the service MIGHT be disrupted - at the moment everything is normal but the next couple of weeks are tight),</li><li>- £170k grants provided by DDC to local communities including town food banks and Age Concern.</li><li>- My Community Voice - initiative through PCSO - to be on website.</li><li>- Community Warden advised that he had no concerns re the recently installed benches at the Alexander Field or any reported issues here.</li><li>- Cllr Newton advised that mini-mokes were seen in Valley this morning.</li><li>- Cllr R Simcox asked whether the issue of parking charges for Reach Road car park would be raised again this year - Cllr Bates advised that although the process started last year must be completed, it is unlikely that charges will be introduced here.</li></ul>	

Cllr Bates advised that DDC are almost at the point of Section 19 consultation on the Local Plan.

**5. Planning**

- (a) Cllr R Simcox advised she had today received a response from the Charity Commission acknowledging the submission re the Bay Trust.
- (b) No response from Keith Harrison re further letter sent - letter sent to Richard King at ACRK seen by Councillors. IT WAS RESOLVED that Parish Council would write to both Messrs Harrison and King advising that a conflict of interest seems evident in the Glebe Close situation.
- (c) The following comments were made on the applications considered:-

21/01896	Erection of a second storey extension with 6no. dormer windows, alterations to existing doors/windows, formation of a vehicular access and driveway for associated parking - Windy Ridge, 77 The Droveaway	<i>No objections</i>
21/01485	Change of use of land and erection of an aviary, 1,2m fence with single and double gates - Broadlees Farm, Deal Road, Guston	<i>No objections</i>

**6. Queen's Platinum Jubilee**

- Briefing paper provided by Cllr George Simcox.
- Quotation re stage for fete comes to £2,208.33 ex VAT. Delivery and installation is done before and it will be taken down the day after. The package includes the stage, cover, speakers, and lighting rig. There is also mounting placement for banners to be attached to the stage for branding purposes and to act as wings to hide backstage.
- After booking the stage and paying the deposit, this would allow the event to be fully organised, speaking to local businesses and getting groups/bands to be involved.
- So far positive feedback from members of the community has been received.
- IT WAS RESOLVED that 20% deposit of the cost of the stage be made - Cllr G Simcox will provide Clerk with details for payment.

Cllr G Simcox to liaise with Clerk

**7. Clerk Report**

- Lloyds continue to debit credit card to Cemetery A/c - transfer made from Current A/c.
- DDC replied re extra sign in Reach Close to Reach Meadow - Clerk will follow up with resident.
- Letter sent to Lois Jarrett Head of Planning - acknowledgement received, full reply awaited.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Salt bags have not yet been received at the farm and Clerk will chase.</li> <li>● Richard Haynes advised re Skipton Building Society - WCCP receive funds annually, should be received shortly re SFV.</li> <li>● Deadline for Precept request - 1st Feb.</li> <li>● Clerk had been chased re unpaid invoice for Wight Computers - now paid. Previous emails had been going to Cllr Smith. Now to come to Clerk.</li> <li>● Money from crowdfunding received (under receipts in Finance).</li> <li>● Email from David Fielding re senior St Margarets football club - could lead to folding of club given lack of teams in Sunday league.</li> <li>● Student interview request received re history of South Foreland Valley - Jon Barker was happy to help.</li> <li>● Clerk will meet with Richard Haynes re completion of Natural England paperwork for Stewardship claim.</li> <li>● C Hales email re gate on Front - Cllr Newton had responded.</li> <li>● Councillor to be nominated as liaison point with Tree Warden? It was agreed that Cllr Harris be asked to take on this role.</li> </ul>	<p>Clerk to deal</p> <p>Clerk to deal</p> <p>Cllr Harris to deal</p>																																
<p>8. <b><u>South Foreland Valley</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cllr Newton advised 3 lots of campers had been seen in Valley recently. Meeting with residents re gate on The Front together with Phil Williams to be arranged in due course.</li> </ul>																																	
<p>9. <b><u>Kent Community Award Scheme 2022</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- It was agreed that a separate meeting be held in this regard to discuss prospective nominees.</li> </ul>																																	
<p>10. <b><u>Finance</u></b></p> <p>(a) The following payments were approved:-</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr><td>Castle Water</td><td align="right">£33.79</td></tr> <tr><td>Harmer &amp; Sons Ground Maintenance Ltd - SFV</td><td align="right">£849.24</td></tr> <tr><td>Wight Computers Ltd</td><td align="right">£198.00</td></tr> <tr><td>Affinity for Business Ltd</td><td align="right">£69.62</td></tr> <tr><td>NEST - Pension (Clerk+Council)</td><td align="right">£200.85</td></tr> <tr><td>Credit Card (Bradleys deposit)</td><td align="right">£356.00</td></tr> <tr><td>Dover District Council re toilets</td><td align="right">£2,802.10</td></tr> <tr><td>Google Ireland</td><td align="right">£41.85</td></tr> <tr><td>R Purchase - December invoice</td><td align="right">£1,047.30</td></tr> <tr><td>G Simcox - extra cables etc for lights</td><td align="right">£59.98</td></tr> <tr><td>Jane Cook - December salary</td><td align="right">£1,253.97</td></tr> <tr><td>Jane Cook - office expenses</td><td align="right">£30.49</td></tr> <tr><td>HMRC</td><td align="right">£265.72</td></tr> <tr><td>Affinity for Business Ltd</td><td align="right">£6.31</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td align="right">-----</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td align="right">£7,215.22</td></tr> </table>	Castle Water	£33.79	Harmer & Sons Ground Maintenance Ltd - SFV	£849.24	Wight Computers Ltd	£198.00	Affinity for Business Ltd	£69.62	NEST - Pension (Clerk+Council)	£200.85	Credit Card (Bradleys deposit)	£356.00	Dover District Council re toilets	£2,802.10	Google Ireland	£41.85	R Purchase - December invoice	£1,047.30	G Simcox - extra cables etc for lights	£59.98	Jane Cook - December salary	£1,253.97	Jane Cook - office expenses	£30.49	HMRC	£265.72	Affinity for Business Ltd	£6.31		-----		£7,215.22	
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Receipts:-

Cemetery Fees                    £100.00  
Crowdfunding re Glebe Field   £2,519.00

(b) IT WAS RESOLVED to increase Precept request to raise further £4,000 over year - this would equate to 2.9% increase - around 20p per annum for a Band D property.

Clerk and Chair to liaise

11. **Village Traffic / problems in Sea Street**

- Agreed that a separate meeting be arranged to discuss this issue.

12. **Correspondence**

- KALC re Carbon Footprint Calculator.
- David Fielding re Dover Sunday football league.
- KALC re events being held through January.
- Martin Hunt (from Tim Whitaker) re removal of trees.
- Email reply from Freedown resident sent to Cllr Blake - Clerk to prepare response to correspondent in liaison with Cllr Blake.

Clerk / Cllr Blake to liaise

13. **Councillor Reports**

- Cllr G Simcox will prepare draft policy re use / retention of Chromebooks.

14. **Village Maintenance**

- Cllr Blake had prepared and presented playing field inspection - quote re KGV boundary wall still awaited; Ross Purchase continues with various play equipment repairs etc; contact from Playdale still awaited.
- Defibrillators - Clerk and Chair will liaise re registration requirements.
- Cllr G Simcox advised he will be looking at security issues and checking/monitoring.
- Cllr Gilham stated he would like to be involved in any groups/meetings re traffic issues.
- It was agreed that separate meetings were required in respect of: Community Award Scheme; HELAA sites in Local Plan; Platinum Jubilee.
- Trees behind Reach Road Pond to be looked at - tree surgeon to be contacted.

Clerk and Chair to liaise

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.05 p.m.

Confirmed:

Chair

10th January 2022