

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

Minutes of the Ordinary Monthly Meeting of the above Parish Council held on Monday 11th July 2022 at 7pm at St Margaret's Hall.

**Present:** Cllrs Rebecca Simcox (in the chair), A Newton, A Fielding, P Blake, J Harris, T Gilham, together with Clerk. Cllr G Simcox present via video link. District Cllr Martin Bates also in attendance. County Cllr Steve Manion provided apologies for being unable to attend,

**Public Participation:-**

Penny Bailey questioned why the white lining undertaken in Sea Street appeared only half finished - near the bend there is a gap and no central lines have been re-applied. Clerk will raise with Highways. Cllr Blake advised that on meeting Highway Engineer from KCC, they were not prepared to undertake any work to the reported kerb near the school entrance, but will look at raising the gully.

Penny also reported 2 adult cyclists on Droveaway Gardens footpath recently; sign at Chapel Lane is bent backwards. Clerk will report.

David Hall - stated to Cllr Martin Bates that hedges at far point of Upper Road need cutting back.

David Hall - given the recent and planned roadworks in the village, he asked why traffic lights could not be used during works, rather than sending people on a six-mile round trip to avoid the roadworks.

1. The minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 13th June 2022, having been circulated to all Councillors, were confirmed as a correct record of the meeting.	
2. Cllrs Fielding and Blake both declared a personal interest in the agenda item for the White Cliffs Hotel.	
3. <b><u>District Councillor Report /PCSO Report</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Report from Cllr Bates attached to minutes.</li><li>● PCSO report - attached to minutes.</li><li>● Cllr Bates advised there may be some small budget allowance re further repair works to the Bay car park and asked Councillors to consider anything required.</li><li>● Cllr Simcox asked if PC should be worried ahead of forthcoming meeting with Parking Services Dept - Cllr Bates advised it would be wise to make all valid points at that meeting. On question re enforcement of vehicles parked on double yellow lines, Cllr Bates advised there is currently a staffing issue with enforcement officers.</li></ul>	
4. <b><u>Clerk Report</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Thorne Estate re 2 parcels of land in South Foreland Valley - registration completed and now in PC ownership.</li><li>● £280 grant received re DDC Members Grant for Jubilee.</li></ul>	

- Further response sent to HM Land Registry re adverse possession request for piece of land off The Avenue - their reply awaited.
- New CCTV signs ordered and received (on credit card at £98.28). Cllr Blake asked if a further 2 metal signs could be ordered. Clerk to deal
- Re Amy Temple Cottages - on investigation it is confirmed that the strip of land outside the properties in Chapel Lane does belong to the charity.
- Stephanie Wadhams at Kent Highways is looking at the question of Alexandra Road and whether anything can be done re clearance.
- Re Reach Road lake - response from KCC via Steve Manion - soakaway at end of its useful life but no budget for 3 years for repair. Clerk to advise this was first raised in autumn 2019. Clerk to deal
- Ian Miller (Cemetery Registrar) requests that something re extraneous items on graves be put in parish magazine. Clerk to deal
- £35 re power costs made to Cricket Club (Jubilee event).
- Age restriction signs ordered and received (on credit card at £39).
- Response from PROW re overgrown hedge at entrance to Church - not a PROW issue but Church has now put this matter in hand.
- Advised Portal House re volunteer tasks but no response.
- Jutting out kerb on Sea Street reported (ref. 643842).
- Invoice received from DSS re Jubilee security - paid.
- Complaint received from gentleman in Well Lane re light on top of Church.
- Problem of footpath from St Vincent Road reported re damaged gate / soil levels.
- National report about number of defibrillators not registered - all 3 owned by Parish Council are registered on The Circuit (British Heart Foundation). Cllr Fielding will speak to Club reps re moving of defibrillator to outside the pavilion. Cllr Fielding to deal

5. **Planning**

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

- |          |   |   |
|----------|---|---|
| 22/00662 | Erection of a two-storey pool house with accommodation above - West View, Station Road                                  | <i>No objections but feel the installation of solar panels should be considered</i> |
| 22/00725 | Erection of single storey side and front porch extensions (existing porch to be demolished) - Green Meadows, Hardy Road | <i>No objections</i>  |

- 22/00220     Erection of a single storey rear extension with rear terrace (re-advertised, amended drawings) -  
Queen Anne's Thimble, Sea Street     *No objections*
- 22/00762     Erection of a first floor rear extension -  
2 Curling Cottages, The Avenue     *No objections*
- 22/00678     Prune back lateral branches to boundary of one Holm Oak the subject of Tree Preservation Order No 1 of 1996 -  
**Court Cottage, 27 Lighthouse Road**     *Defer to Tree Officer*
- 22/00831     Erection of single storey rear extension with first floor balcony and privacy screens -  
Badger Walk, 21 St Margarets Road     *No objections*
- 22/00858     Erection of a two storey rear extension with Juliette balcony, side and rear dormers with Juliette balconies (existing rear extension demolished) -  
Bay Hill House, 8 The Droveaway     *No objections*

(b) White Cliffs Hotel

Cllr R Simcox confirmed that the Parish Council had put in a planning application requesting the removal of Condition 15 which effectively puts the pub/restaurant beyond local people, only to be used for hotel guests. Cllr R Simcox asked Cllr Bates if a different Planning Officer could be appointed given history. Cllr Bates stated that Cllr Richardson may be able to write to Head of Planning given the background to the case.

**6. Finance and Accounts**

(a) The following payments made since June meeting were approved:-

NEST Pension (May)	£232.94
Castle Water	£40.76
Bradleys re Thorne Estate land	£698.28
Dover Security Services - Jubilee	£232.00
Playforce Ltd - inspection report	£360.00
Idverde Ltd - grasscutting	£192.74
St Margarets Cosmopolitan Cricket Club	£35.00
Castle Water	£64.99
Credit card - planning app fee/ink/signage	£263.97
Castle Water	£11.31
Google Cloud	£46.00
NEST Pension (June)	£232.94
Jane Cook - June salary	£1336.22
Office expenses	£28.75
HM Revenue and Customs	<u>£347.56</u>
	£4,123.46

Receipts:-

DDC Members Grant re Jubilee £280  
Burial fee £465

(b) IT WAS RESOLVED to accept the quotation of £2,875 re fencing at the perimeter of South Foreland Valley provided by R Purchase, dependent on approval of Natural England.

(c) Re quotation for clearance of Alexandra Road at £3,680 - this was felt too high and it may be that a more limited clearance could be undertaken. Cllr Blake will speak to R Purchase in this regard and Clerk to await response from Highways.

(d) IT WAS RESOLVED to accept the quotation from Vurley Fencing at £460 for new five bar gate at the Civic Cemetery.

Clerk and Cllr Blake to deal

Clerk to advise

**7. Litter Bins**

After discussion, IT WAS RESOLVED that the Parish Council would pay for two extra litter bins at £270 each, together with installation costs of £50 per bin and ongoing emptying costs of £41.51 per annum. One bin to be installed at Alexander Field near pedestrian gate; the other at King George V Field. Cllr Blake will confirm positioning of bins.

Clerk to deal

**8. Highways / Improvement Plan**

Cllr Fielding advised he is still awaiting a response from Kent Highways, with nothing further to report at this stage.

**9. Play Area Inspection Report**

Cllr Blake advised he has been in liaison with maintenance contractor Mr Purchase following receipt of the report; there is nothing too major and it will mean a continued programme of small repairs/adjustments.

Cllr Blake will seek a quotation re matting in the Play Area; one for covering around various pieces of equipment and a further quote for covering the whole area.

He confirmed that the wrong swing pole had been installed by Playforce rather than the rotten post requested - he will speak to company in this respect.

Cllr Blake advised that damaged water pipes need repair at King George V Pavilion - Mr Purchase will deal.

Cllr Blake asked that new signs re "no ball games against the netting" be acquired.

One of the benches at Alexander Field needs repair, with 5 new slats needed - Mr Purchase will deal.

Clerk to order

**10. Kent Mental Health and Wellbeing Awards**

Notification received from County Cllr Steve Manion - Councillors will consider any candidates and let Clerk know.

11. **Correspondence**

- Copies of presentations re Town and Parish Councils meeting 7 June.
- Mr M Cooper re footpath from St Vincent Road.
- Kent Highways - Temporary Road Closure - High Street, 18th July 2022 for 5 Days.
- KALC re workshops planned ahead of 2023 elections.
- Heather Waller Kent PROW re Church path.
- Kent Highways re Scheme, Planning & Delivery Team restructure update.
- Rodney Stone re Jubilee awards.
- Steve Manion re Kent Mental Health and Wellbeing Awards.
- Tessa O'Sullivan re Rural Housing Week.
- Malcolm Gibbons re Dover Patrol Memorial Service 24th July.
- KALC re first results from 2021 Census.
- Cricket Club / Nursery re funds raised from Queen's Platinum Jubilee event.
- River Jarvis PCSO - monthly update.
- Copy of letter from Mr M Sawyer re issue of overnight parking at Bay car park.
- Thank you letters from Nursery and Celia Cotton re funds / awards.

12. **Reports from Councillors**

- Cllr Blake raised the issue of tarmac of Granville - the question of levelling the manholes/drains has not been addressed. Clerk asked to write to Steve Manion.
- Cllr Blake raised an issue pointed out by contractor Mr Miller. On strimming the outside of the Chapel Lane Pond, a stone broke the window of the house opposite (apparently this had happened before without Mr Miller's knowledge). Cllr Blake will make arrangements to speak to the residents in this respect. It was confirmed that any similar incidents would need to be covered through Mr Miller's own public liability insurance.
- Cllr Fielding asked if a "deep clean" could be undertaken for the Alexander Pavilion - Clerk will investigate previous cleaning company.
- Cllr Gilham provided digital plans of two proposals - one for the widening of the end of Reach Road junction in order to stop problems with large vehicles turning; a further proposal re parking bay provision near the village shop. Cllr Fielding stated that the first proposal could perhaps be added to the Highway Proposal Plan; however the parking bays may be a DDC issue.
- Re proposal to add footpath to definitive PROW map - Cllr Simcox is liaising re marking this on the map.

Clerk to deal

Cllr Blake to deal

Clerk to deal

13. **Village Maintenance**

- Re Dover Patrol Memorial Service 24th July - wreath ordered and provided but no Councillors available on the day. Clerk to check for alternatives to act on PC behalf.
- New Community Warden appointed - Kerry Skirrow.
- Footpath walk - Clerk to check with Hall to see if 2nd or 16th October available.
- Cllr R Simcox noted the "Welcome Ukraine" event at the hall on Saturday 16th July - all welcome

Clerk to deal

Clerk to deal

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.50 p.m.

Confirmed:

Chair

11th July 2022

St. Margarets, Kingsdown and Guston June 2022

Information provided by: PCSO 61625 River Jarvis, DOVER CSU.

#### Crimes of note

01/06/22 – Theft – St Margarets - Male's wallet was stolen by a male and female

07/06/22 – Criminal Damage – St Margarets – Male returned home to find a fence panel had been removed

10/06/22 – Attempt Theft – Kingsdown – Manhole covers lifted in attempt to steal cable wiring

10/06/22 – Theft – Guston – Large amount of copper stolen

15/06/22 – Theft – Dover A2 – Fuel stolen from vehicle overnight

15/06/22 – Theft – Guston – Large amount of cable wiring stolen

23/06/22 – Arson - Kingsdown – Fence and shed were damaged due to fire being started by neighbour too close to property

23/06/22 – Arson – Ringwould – Fence damaged due to unknown persons starting a fire in park adjacent to property

26/06/22 – Vehicle theft – St Margarets – Male caught attempting to steal a vehicle

#### Anti-social behaviour

12/06/22 – Nuisance vehicles – Kingsdown – 3 off-road bikes being ridden in local area off road

16/06/22 – Nuisance vehicles – St Margarets – Off-road bike being ridden in dog walking area

### **PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER**

DDC's Cabinet has agreed to renew and amend two previous Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) into one updated PSPO. This follows consultation earlier this year, and around 1,000 comments being taken fully into consideration. The new PSPO is set to be introduced from 26 July 2022 and will run for a 3-year period.

PSPOs specify an area where activities are taking place that are or may likely be detrimental to the local community's quality of life. PSPOs impose conditions or restrictions on people using that area. This includes rules on dog control.

Following feedback and consultation with residents and partner agencies, the previous nuisance street drinking element is now being consolidated and extended to cover the whole of the district. Plus, following various complaints, a new ban on unauthorised camping in public areas is being introduced to combat the anti-social behaviour and environmental impact associated with such acts that can affect local communities

DDC's Cabinet has also agreed to the recruitment of three additional officers in the Environmental Crime team for littering and dog fouling enforcement. This follows the ending of the most recent contract with an external contractor.

### **DEAL LEISURE CENTRE**

Plans for a new leisure centre in Deal are back on the agenda. Dover District Council (DDC) originally announced plans to replace Tides Leisure Centre in February 2020.

DDC's Cabinet met on Monday, 4 July to discuss a proposal to take the project to a key design stage (RIBA Stage 2). Cabinet was also asked to approve the appointment of BAM Construction Ltd to work alongside the project team on the detailed design work. The current proposal is to build a new sports centre on the site, with a mix of modern dry and wet facilities with a project budget of £24.88m, including estimated build costs. The building would feature environmentally responsible design and construction, contributing towards the Council's climate change targets for 2030. The proposal includes the following new-build facilities:

- Four-lane 25m swimming pool with pool side seating for 50 people
- 12m x 8m learner pool with moveable floor
- 400m<sup>2</sup> leisure water area (aqua play, splash pool, two flumes)
- Health and fitness suite with 110 stations
- Toning studio with 12 toning tables
- Two multi-activity studios (30-person capacity)
- Spin studio (25-person capacity)
- Café with seating for up to 150 people
- Parking for up to 200 vehicles

These facilities would complement the existing four-court sports hall on the site, and the adjacent Deal Indoor Tennis Centre which would both be retained. The mix of facilities at the new leisure centre will be refined further as part of the RIBA Stage 2 process, and residents and users of Tides will be able to have their say on the proposals with a public consultation later this summer.

### **INTERNAL BORDER FACILITIES**

The IBF Project at Whitfield has been cancelled by the government. Minutes from the final meeting with HMRC state:

We are no longer proceeding with the site and this has been based on the numbers. We were

originally going with two permanent sites, but government trade stats show numbers are greatly reduced and that means Sevington can cope. That site is only at 40% capacity now. The Dover site will cost around £120m so government has made the decision that the site was not cost effective. It is still owned by DfT so they will remain as landlords and are looking at various options.

## **LOCAL ISSUES**

1). Repairs to St Margaret's Bay car park.

The car park still needs some work, and they are currently examining the budget to see whether they have the funds this year to undertake additional work. I have requested an update from Asset Management.

2). Glebe Fields Planning Application

A decision is still awaited.

3). 36 and 38 The Droveaway

Variation of Conditions Application NO DOV/21/01170 was approved by the Planning Committee on 25 th June.

4). Character Appraisal

SBMCA have requested some assistance from DDC with funding. We have discussed with Planning who are retendering the contract at £11,500. This remains ongoing.