

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

Minutes of the Ordinary Monthly Meeting of the above Parish Council held on Monday 9th January 2022 at 7pm at St Margaret's Hall.

**Present :** Cllrs Rebecca Simcox (in the chair), A Fielding, P Blake, J Harris, G Simcox, Cllr C Taylor, together with Clerk. Apologies received from Cllr A Newton (illness) and T Gilham (away). KCC Cllr Steve Manion in attendance together with District Cllrs Martin Bates and Ollie Richardson.

**Public Participation:-**

Mr Peter Wells expressed his gratitude for the recent fencing work undertaken in the South Foreland Valley. He advised that he had spent a long time and effort in trying to get something done re the reed sewage bed at the Pines Gardens without success. He advised that the public footpath along Beach Road was currently very poor and Clerk will report to PROW.

1. The minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 12th December 2022, having been circulated to all Councillors, were confirmed as a correct record of the meeting - this followed a slight amendment on page 4 to - £240 per hour maximum 3 hours, re advice from Hannah Brown Solicitor.	
2. No declarations of interest on agenda items.	
3. <b><u>County and District Councillor Report</u></b>  - Report received from District Cllr Martin Bates (attached to minutes).  - Cllr Bates will follow up on email to DDC Officer re aiding with housing needs survey for St Margaret's. Cllr R Simcox raised the question of the planning application for Glebe Field and he will check re any information in this respect.  - Cllr Manion advised that he had emailed two Cabinet Members at KCC (Child and Social Care and Education) to set up possible meeting re current situation with St Margaret's Nursery. He advised that Stagecoach Operations Manager Louise Sills had been helpful to Eastry PC with bus service changes and encouraged St Margaret's to meet with her. Clerk to be provided with her email address.  - KCC's main priorities are (1) Finances to be in order; (2) working with partners, ie NHS re social care; being fit for purpose as an organisation.	Clerk to make contact and arrange meeting
4. <b><u>Bowls Club</u></b>  ● Mr Mike Fielding attended on behalf of the Club, having stood down as Chair at the end of last year.  ● He advised that the Club had recovered well after Covid, and have seen new members coming forward.  ● He had prepared accounts to November 2022 for the limited company indicating a loss of £2k over the next 12 months, mostly due to the increases in energy costs.	

- In future Club will pay £500 each year to a professional accountant to prepare the figures.
- Previously exterior painting has been done by Club members but given average age this will now have to be done by a contractor - likely to be £4,000.
- There is a brick missing under the fascia boards which are in need of replacement - cost to be sought and to be discussed. Also roof leaks during heavy rain.
- Snooker room floor is uneven and may need replacing - Fred Clayson (builder) will investigate to determine what works are required.
- Club members have a meeting with KCC rep on Wednesday at 1pm (Cllr Blake will also attend).
- Club has £25k in bank but need to spend approx £10k on new grass spiker. It was agreed that plan of works needs to be looked at jointly and Cllr Blake and Gilham to be contacts at PC.

Cllrs Blake and Gilham to deal

5. **Maria Fitzgerald**

- Maria confirmed she had been in correspondence with local MP together with KCC and Stagecoach reps.
- As regards the idea of running a local bus, this would mean a grant could be provided in the first year with nothing further after that which is not sustainable. She had received limited response from local people being involved.
- She mentioned that a recent trip to hospital for herself had entailed taxi costs of £40 as no bus was available.
- The idea of a “dog leg” where bus comes in via Station Road and Dover Road (adding approx 2km) to that bus journey was mooted.
- It was agreed that a meeting be set up with Louise Sills at Stagecoach to discuss.

6. **Clerk Report**

- No reply received from Natalie Elphicke re bus service changes.
- Has anyone had chance to check ER41 to check re alleged blocking by fence? Agreed that Clerk write to Braeside Stables re fencing blocking footpath.
- Keith Harrison no longer Chief Executive of Action with Communities in Rural Kent following closure (still Trustee of Bay Trust).
- Licence signed on behalf of PC with Shepherd Neame re defibrillator sited at Coastguard pub.
- National Trust application re car parking approved.

Clerk to deal

- White Cliffs Hotel applications x 2 approved.
- Will be looking at community grants at February meeting (forms to be returned by 6th Feb).
- Noticeboard keys playing up (x 2). Clerk will try to remedy it before approaching maintenance contractor.
- Advised DDC of Clive Taylor's co-option.
- Work to be undertaken by Rhino Plant in the Valley will be undertaken when current wet conditions end.
- No new grasscutting quote received (via Cllr Fielding). Cllr Fielding will re-approach contractor,
- Defibrillators are covered by public liability insurance, provided regular checks are carried out.

Clerk to deal

Cllr Fielding to deal

**7. Planning**

- (a) No planning applications received for consideration prior to meeting.
- (b) Glebe Field planning application - still in abeyance at DDC with District Councillors checking on timescales.
- (c) Cllr Bates will email his relevant officer at DDC re housing needs survey for village.
- (d) Cllr R Simcox reported that recent Planning Committee had approved two extant applications in respect of White Cliffs Hotel.

Cllr Harris raised question re Sunnymeade - given number of objections this will be heard before Planning Committee but no details if timing of this yet.

**8. Finance**

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

Castle Water	£49.36
Credit card - DDC licence + stationery	£42.93
JJM Electrical re Christmas lights	£50.00
Dover Security Services re SF Valley	£324.00
Aber Services Ltd - cattle grid clearance	£780.00
Castle Water	£27.56
Dover District Council - public toilets	£2,018.49
R Purchase - December invoice	£1,463.75
Jane Cook - December salary	£1,373.73
Jane Cook	£20.00
HM Revenue & Customs	£298.72
E J Clough - Christmas trees	£648.00

Receipts:-	£7,096.54
Credit interest	£17.39
C Schofield re defibrillators	£124.00
Village Hall re Christmas tree	£270.00

<p>(b) IT WAS RESOLVED to make no increase in the Precept request for 2023-2024, maintaining this at £94,000 (budgeted increases on 5% to be absorbed into reserves). Clerk and Chair signed the request and Clerk to return this to DDC.</p> <p>(c) No quotation received re grasscutting; to remain on next agenda.</p> <p>(d) IT WAS RESOLVED that the Parish Council would continue to meet 100% of the costs for maintaining the Reach Road public toilets, this year at £8,061.73. Clerk to sign Service Level Agreement and return to DDC.</p>		<p>Clerk to deal</p> <p>Clerk to deal</p> <p>Clerk to deal</p>
<p>9. <b><u>Correspondence</u></b></p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● NALC - legal advice re May (annual) meeting viz Charles' Coronation.</li> <li>● Zurich Insurance re public liability cover re defibs.</li> <li>● Mr B Coles re Bowls Club.</li> <li>● Shane Kempster DDC re Precept demands (by 27 Jan).</li> <li>● Cllr Bates re bus fare cap grant.</li> <li>● DDC - Planning appeal re Strathmore.</li> <li>● Kent Highways re closure of Bay Hill on 6 Feb.</li> <li>● DDC re Parish/Town Council event 16 Feb.</li> <li>● 2 x emails from Ms H Watson.</li> <li>● KALC re Elections Bulletin.</li> <li>● Thank-you letter from Dementia Cafe re previous grant assistance.</li> </ul>		
<p>10. <b><u>Reports from Councillors</u></b></p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Cllr Newton unable to attend meeting but had confirmed that the clearance of the cattle grids had taken place (invoice paid) and the fencing previously agreed has been erected (invoice awaited).</li> <li>● Cllr R Simcox updated Council re two new defibrillators - one sited at the Coastguard (yet to be installed) and the other outside the Smugglers at Post Office Corner. These had been possible following fund-raising by local resident with Parish Council to maintain these from now on. Shepherd Neame contract signed re Coastguard installation. Question raised as to whether defib in the Bay should appear on Bay Hill signs to show its location.</li> <li>● Cllr G Simcox reported re Christmas lights - in their second year - it was a lot easier to switch these on given works undertaken last year. One light had gone down (the bells) and some adjustment in this respect may be needed in 2023. Some issues had been seen re the timer.</li> <li>● Cllr R Simcox raised the question of using the yew tree at Post Office Corner for 2023 rather than ordering a Christmas tree given the cost - Councillors will give this consideration. The yew tree does need trimming and Clerk to check with DDC Conservation Department. Clerk also to write to Mr Killin at The Smugglers expressing PC thanks for use of the electricity and installation of the defibrillator.</li> <li>● Cllr Gilham was unable to attend meeting but had provided Chair with response from Kent Highways re proposal to locate a war memorial - it was agreed that Cllr Gilham should continue to liaise in this respect.</li> <li>● Cllrs R Simcox and Fielding have meeting arranged with Kent Highways re yellow line proposals etc. It was agreed that Cllr C Taylor also attend.</li> </ul>		<p>Clerk to deal</p> <p>Clerk to deal</p> <p>Cllr Gilham to deal</p> <p>Cllrs R Simcox, Fielding and Taylor to attend</p>

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

(a) Playing field inspection undertaken by Cllr Blake (attached to minutes). Cllr Blake to ask Mr Purchase to remove fallen tree from footpath off The Avenue behind Alexander Field.

Cllr Blake to deal

(b) Re Charles III Coronation - brief discussion re any arrangements for 6 May. Idea of a village picnic / street party mentioned. Clerk to check with Cricket Club re any matches on that day; also check with Village Hall re any bookings made for May. Coronation to be on next agenda.

Clerk to deal

(c) April meeting of the PC meeting to be moved to 17th April due to clash with Easter Monday; Clerk to check with Hall Admin re possible moving of May meeting owing to bank holiday for Coronation.

Clerk to deal

Cllr Harris advised of amended date for Dover Area KALC meeting on 1st March. Cllr Taylor may be able to attend.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.48 pm.

Confirmed:

Chair

9th January 2023

## **MEETING REPORT FOR ST MARGARET'S AT CLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL ON MONDAY 09.01.23**

Firstly, we both hope that you all enjoyed a well-earned rest during the Christmas break and would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year.

The council was closed from 23<sup>rd</sup> December until 3<sup>rd</sup> January so there is very little to report other than the following:

### **HOUSING SURVEY**

Dover District Council is launching a district-wide housing needs survey and is asking all residents to take part.

This is the first time the council has directly consulted with residents in this way. This survey will ask residents, and members of their households, about their current and future housing requirements.

The results will help the council shape its 2023-2028 Affordable Housing Strategy, which is designed to ensure the affordable homes which are required for local people are delivered, either by DDC or by other registered providers, such as housing associations.

The survey will be open for public response from Tuesday, January 10, to Tuesday, March 7.

More information can be found on the DDC website [www.dover.gov.uk/housing-needs-survey](http://www.dover.gov.uk/housing-needs-survey)

### **FUTURE EVENTS**

DDC and the Cabinet are currently working on the budget for the forthcoming year which will go for Council approval at their meeting on 1st March. This will also be the final meeting ahead of the Local Elections which are scheduled for Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May. During the campaign season all councillors and officers within DDC will be in "purdah". In other words, we will not be able to comment on any actions being undertaken within the council which may impact on the result of the election. Following the election there will be an induction session for newly elected members on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May and the first full council meeting will follow on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May

### **LOCAL ISSUES**

#### **1. The Bay Car Park**

The meeting with Mark Sawyer has yet to take place to discuss the PSPO enforcement issues in the Bay. At his request it has been deferred to 23<sup>rd</sup> January. With respect to the request for the installation of larger signage I have been advised by Community Services that larger A2 signs have been ordered and are still awaited. They are also considering whether to place additional reflective signs in the car park and have also ordered more A3 signs which they intend to place on the arterial roads leading down to the Bay.

#### **2. Conservation Appraisal for St Margaret's Bay**

Alison Cummings attended a meeting of the SMBCA meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> December where she answered several questions from the floor. The Consultation period ended on 4<sup>th</sup> January and the comments received are now being assessed by the Heritage Team.

#### **3. Request for a replacement notice pole for the entrance to the Reach Rd Car Park**

I placed a request to Keith Watson on 15<sup>th</sup> November and he has ordered a replacement. Has this been installed yet? If not, then I will chase him about it?

#### **4. Bus services.**

Following the last PC meeting I wrote to Stagecoach and provided the operations manager, Louise Sills, with your email address so that she could discuss an attendance at one of your meetings to listen to your concerns.

**5. Memorial to those who died in the fire at The Crypt in 1970.**

I have written to the Director of Tourism and Development with your request and have also discussed it with him. There is apparently a memorial plaque on the wall of the underpass to the seafront commemorating the event.