

THE PARISH COUNCIL OF ST MARGARETS-AT-CLIFFE

Minutes of the Ordinary Monthly Meeting of the above Parish Council held on Monday 13th March 2023 at 7pm at St Margaret's Hall.

Present: Cllrs Rebecca Simcox (in the chair), P Blake, C Taylor, A Newton, together with Clerk. Apologies for absence received from Cllr G Simcox (work commitment) and Cllr A Fielding (family commitment). Cllrs Gilham and Harris absent with no reasons provided. Co-opted Councillor Orla Checksfield also in attendance.

KCC Cllr Steve Manion in attendance together with District Cllr Oliver Richardson.

Public participation:-

Penny Bailey - reported that several people trying to use the Ringo app in The Bay car park were unsuccessful due to lack of signal at that point (Cllr Richardson - DDC are looking at options here).

Penny - had seen metal detectorists in The Bay, together with people scraping and removing seaweed.

Peter Wells - he was aware of people removing stones from The Bay to use on household verges in surrounding roads.

Contractor Ross Purchase was in attendance - asked if maps of defibrillator locations could perhaps be placed in bus shelters so that people were more aware of their locations - a similar system applies in Folkestone area - he will photograph a copy of these for information.

Anne Wheeler - could a Coronation litter pick perhaps be arranged?

1. The minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 13th February 2023, having been circulated to all Councillors, were confirmed as a correct record of the meeting.	
2. None declared on agenda items.	
3. IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that Orla Checksfield be co-opted to the Council. A Declaration of Acceptance of Office was duly signed - Clerk to advise DDC and DPI form to be sent to Monitoring Officer.	Clerk to deal
4. <u>County and District Councillor Report</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- DDC report provided by District Cllr Martin Bates (attached to minutes) and given at meeting by Cllr Richardson. Oliver advised that remedial works in The Bay have been ongoing, although anything further may have to wait until the new financial year - it is hopefully planned to re-paint the railings during the Spring.- Cllr Blake asked him whether any electric vehicle charging points were planned for St Margaret's - Oliver advised DDC have placed 45 around the District. They have to be installed in car parks and he will investigate re anything that can be done for St Margaret's.- Cllr Blake asked whether the wooden bargeboards at the Bowls Club building could be replaced with plastic as he understood it was a "building of interest". The building is in the Conservation Area - Oliver advised that he talk to Sarah Platts at DDC.	Cllr Blake will liaise

- Steve Manion - stressed importance of KCC consultation re community services (St Margaret's Nursery could be a case in point of poor use of building).
- Clerk asked on behalf of Mr David Hall if Kent Highways could check manhole covers on A258 Deal bound as many of these seem to be sinking.
- On questioning re bus services, Cllr Manion advised that Stagecoach are currently looking at solutions to a number of issues.

6. **Clerk Report**

- Situation re building materials etc outside White Cliffs Cottage resolved.
- Met with Richard Haynes of WCCP - paperwork re ongoing Environmental Stewardship duly signed.
- Written to Tree Warden expressing regret re standing down from the role.
- Cemetery Registrar provided a letter for undertakers re proposal to gradually reduce the use of plastics on floral memorials at Cemetery.
- Re planning for Sunnymeade - permission for replacement dwelling approved.
- Old "docket" system used at waste recycling centre at Whitfield no longer in place.
- Letter of support sent on behalf of PC for Bowls Club in pursuit of grant funding by the Club.
- Re Stagecoach - reps had advised they would provide an article for the Parish magazine - nothing received but have chased.
- Response received from Jane Driver at Braeside re missing stile - wire fence. Clerk to contact PROW re stile; Cllrs R Simcox and O Checksfield to meet with Jane Driver.
- Email sent to Cllr David Brazier at KCC (Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport) - reply in Correspondence.
- Have confirmed to Kent Highways that PC would like to take forward the proposal re 20mph limit at initial design fee of £1,006.
- All defibrillators are now registered with "The Circuit" (BHF).
- DDC Housing Needs survey extended to 18 April.
- Agreed work in South Foreland Valley undertaken by Rhino Plant - invoice paid.

Clerk to deal and Cllrs to arrange meeting

- D A Tree Surgeons have provided quote re yew tree at Post Office Corner.
- Cllr Blake only one to reply re KCC road safety presentation for mature drivers but Clerk will make contact to see if this can be taken forward.
- NT will be undertaking alcohol licence application.
- Cllr Blake only respondent to email re litter pick (through DDC) - this to be arranged on Tuesday 21st March from 2-4 from King George V Car Park. Agreed that PC could meet cost of refreshments to £50.

Clerk to deal

Cllr Blake to deal with Cllr R Simcox to place on Facebook

6. Planning

The following comments were made on the applications considered:-

23/00153 Variation of Condition 2 (approved plans) to allow amendments of DOV/20/00527 (Erection of a single storey front extension and detached garage with terrace) -
The Look Out, 70 Granville Road *This is not a condition variation as application has changed; poor drawings; no Design and Access Statement*

1/00936 Erection of 8No. terraced dwellings, new vehicular access, parking and landscaping (amended scheme) -
Land To The South East Of 1-9 St Georges Place, Reach Road
Re-advertisement - comments as previous

23/00204 Erection of a dwelling, garage and vehicular access -
Lealands, 63 The Droveaway *No objections (4 in favour; Cllr Taylor against)*

7. Cllr R Simcox re Highways Issues

- Cllr Checksfield and Aiden Denton had done a leaflet drop (as required by Kent Highways) re proposals for Bay Hill proposals - 11 responses received. IT WAS RESOLVED that Cllr R Simcox advise Kent Highways that the proposal to paint a bus-box at the bus stop be taken forward - this to be at Highways' cost.
- Having been in contact with Kent Highways re the PC's Highway Improvement Plan, some of the detail had been added incorrectly by them - despite further contact nothing further has been heard.
- PC needs to repeat the leaflet drop for Reach Road and Sea Street areas - approx 100 copies required which she will prepare and print off in colour at home. Volunteers needed to deliver leaflets.
- Cllr R Simcox will liaise further with Cllr Fielding before re-approaching Highways.

Cllr R Simcox to deal

8. Finance

The following payments made since previous meeting were duly approved:-

C M Clayson re Bowls Club floor	£1,500.00
Pegasus Playscheme - grant	£1,000.00
Spirit of St Margaret's - grant	£350.00
St Margaret's Parent Baby and Toddler Group - grant	£550.00
St Margaret's Nursery - grant	£1,794.00
St Margarets PCC - Dementia Cafe - grant	£750.00
St Margarets PCC - Churchyard volunteers - grant	£100.00
Mrs R Simcox - re defib signs	£17.55
Mr I Miller - Registrar fees	£320.00
KBS Depot Ltd - 2 x benches	£1,148.00
Castle Water Ltd	£49.36
Credit card - ink	£9.49
Rhino Plant Hire - South Foreland Valley	£972.00
Mr I Miller - Registrar fees	£130.00
Castle Water	£16.21
Google Cloud - monthly fee	£46.00
NEST - Clerk+Council Pension	£232.94
R Purchase - February invoice	£1,100.00
Jane Cook - salary	£1,373.73
Phone/internet	£20.00
H M Revenue and Customs	£298.73

	£11,778.40

Receipts:-

Cemetery fees - £610 + £1,550 + £670

IT WAS RESOLVED to pay £1,500 re repairs to Bowls Club pavilion floor.

IT WAS RESOLVED to pay cleaning costs of £1,375 to Trevor May Contractors re cleaning of tennis courts.

IT WAS RESOLVED to confirm to Kent Highways that PC will meet design fee of £1,006 re proposal for 20mph limit through centre of village.

Re Cemetery / Registrar fees - this to be deferred to April meeting.

IT WAS RESOLVED to accept quote from DA Tree Surgeons for £345 re yew tree on Post Office Corner. Clerk to apply to DDC as tree is in Conservation Area.

Clerk to await invoice

Clerk to deal

Clerk to put back on agenda for April

Clerk to deal

9. Correspondence

- Steve Manion re KCC Household Support Fund.
- Mr Cox-Freeman re Valley cattle.
- Tom Williams KCC re A258 junction.
- Glynis Farthing re Dover Area KALC meeting 1st March.
- Jane Driver re broken / removed stile.
- Rebecca Brough DDC re Councillor election protocol.
- Free of charge Kent County Council Road Safety Presentation for Mature Drivers. Clerk asked to follow up re arrangements of any event.
- KALC - Kent and Medway Active - Everyday Active Small Grant.

Clerk to deal

- Response from Cllr David Brazier (KCC) re bus service.
- KALC minutes from Dover Area Committee 1st March.
- Tony Cook re Rotary Club Open Day 16th March.
- Community Warden re rogue traders in village.
- Gareth Wiltshire NT re application for alcohol licence.
- Amanda Baker DDC re Great British Spring Clean.
- Andrzej Kluczynski DDC re proposed village litter pick 21st March.
- Thank you letter from St Margaret's Nursery (+email from Pegasus Playscheme).

10. **Reports from Councillors**

- Cllr Newton reported on South Foreland Valley - Rhino Plant has done a fantastic job of clearance work - completed in two days which would have taken volunteers weeks. Reports from DSS included - nude campers; campers lighting bonfires and sightings of professional dog walkers with as many as 15 dogs at once, often off leads. This may be something that the Community Warden could look at.
- Re benches in the Valley - Cllr Newton had originally met with two gentlemen wanting memorial benches (six in total approved through Natural England with relevant paperwork with Clerk). On being questioned by a visitor to the first bench installed, Warden Jason had advised that "Natural England are unlikely to have approved this" despite permission given. Cllr Newton had spoken to Dave Hart and Chris Little to seek the best siting of the benches some time ago. She is to meet with Richard Haynes and Mel Wrigley on Wednesday re positioning of the current bench and further benches.
- Re SFV cattle grids - Vic Harmer has spoken to another company and quote for repair and/or renewal is awaited.
- Cllr Blake advised on further information received on Bowls Club work. First section of the floor has now been completed and roof repairs completed (both invoices met by PC). Panel had been removed to inspect wall timbers - these are basically sound. Painting now needs to be completed and remainder of floor needs repairing but Club does not want to do anything before October given current Bowls season. A quote for exterior maintenance has been sought from Jamie Cllaringbould..
- Cllr Blake will speak to DDC re replacement of bargeboards with UPVC rather than wood.
- Club needs to replace spiker urgently - PC had previously advised they were not prepared to provide a grant towards this but to look at essential repairs to building. Question was raised as to whether PC could make the purchase with Club to then repay this - Clerk advised this was not possible as the equipment is solely for the use of the Club.
- New floor likely to cost £6,500 (Clerk advised at least 3 quotes required). Before repair of floor, snooker table would need removing and then replacing - likely cost £1,600 and new cloth of £1,200 approx could be required. This to appear on next agenda. It was agreed that PC may be more prepared to meet painting costs with Club to be responsible for any movement of the snooker table.

Clerk to alert
Community
Warden

Cllr Newton to
take forward

- Cllr Blake advised on tennis courts - Trevor May are part way through the cleaning process and now awaiting jetwashing. Netting repair also undertaken by them at same time. Invoice now awaited. Following this cleaning, further review may be required. Also there is a snapped tension wire on the second court - quote has been sought for this.
- Cllrs Harris and Blake had attended recent KALC Dover Area Committee meeting - other Councils supportive of idea of roundabout at St Margaret's Station Road / A258 junction - Clerk asked that message be passed on that they should include this in their own HIP's. Asked if PC has a Climate Action Plan - not at present. He had raised the question of electric vehicle charging points with District Councillor. Housing Needs Survey needs to be completed / promoted. Training for Councillors should be set at £100 per member annually.

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

- Play inspection undertaken by Cllr Blake - attached to minutes.
- Clerk to book next ROSPA inspection (to be accompanied).
- Clerk advised she had booked Cllr Checksfield on Dynamic Councillor course - cost of £60 to be paid.
- Clerk had reported damaged road sign at junction of Beach Road to PROW and Kent Highways.

Clerk to deal

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9 pm

Confirmed:

Chair

13th March 2023

MEETING REPORT FOR ST MARGARET'S AT CLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL ON MONDAY 13.03.23

COUNCIL BUDGET

The budget was approved by Council on 1st March.

The district council part of the Council Tax bill for a Band D property in Dover District for 2023/24 is £208.17, an increase of £6.03, or 2.98%. The average total bill for a Band D property in Dover District for 2023/24 is £2,150.91, an increase of £101.10, or 4.93%.

The Council Tax charge for a Band D property in Dover District includes:

	2022/23	2023/24	Increase	2023/24 Proportion
	£	£	%	%
Dover District Council	202.14	208.17	2.98	9.68
Kent County Council	1,461.24	1,534.23	4.99	71.33
The Police & Crime Commissioner for Kent	228.15	243.15	6.57	11.30
Kent & Medway Fire & Rescue Authority	82.35	87.30	6.01	4.06
Sub-Total	1,973.88	2,072.85	5.01	96.37
Town & Parish Council (average)	75.93	78.06	2.81	3.63
Total Band D Council Tax	2,049.81	2,150.91	4.93	100.00

UPDATE ON HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY

The deadline for responses has now been extended from 7th March until to 18th April.

DEAL JOBS AND SKILLS FAIR, 14 MARCH (12-4pm), TIDES LEISURE CENTRE

Deal is the venue for the latest Big Jobs & Skills Fair organised by Dover District Council and the Department for Work and Pensions. Supported by Your Leisure, the Tides Leisure Centre in Park Avenue, Deal throws open its doors to job seekers on Tuesday, 14 March between midday and 4pm.

The event is free to attend, and Stagecoach are onboard too with a free shuttle bus operating to Tides Leisure Centre throughout the day. People will be able to hop on the free bus at stops in Mill Hill (St Richard's Church Centre), Golf Road Community Centre, Deal train station, and Deal bus station.

Street Parties for the Coronation of King Charles III

Residents are being encouraged to join in the celebrations for the King's Coronation by holding street parties in their neighbourhood. Further guidance on how to organise a street party can also be found on the [gov.uk website](https://www.gov.uk).

LOCAL HERO AWARDS

The REACH Awards (Recognising Environmental And Community Heroes) recognises our district's unsung heroes who work hard to improve the appearance of the Dover District, help to maintain our environment and unite the local community.

The awards are free to enter, and candidates can nominate themselves or others in the following five categories:

- Litter Picking Hero (under 18)
- Litter Picking Hero (Over 18)
- Green/ Eco Friendly Business
- Community Project
- Green/ Eco Friendly School

To nominate yourself or others, please visit www.dover.gov.uk/GBSC where you will find further details including judging criteria and terms and conditions for entry. The closing date for entries is Tuesday 9 May 2023.

GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN CAMPAIGN

The awards scheme will also support this year's Great British Spring Clean campaign, which takes place from 17 March until 2 April. The Campaign will be visiting St Margaret's at the King George V playing field from 2 to 4pm on Tuesday 21st and it would be great to see a good turn-out for that event.

LITTER LOTTO

Dover District Council (DDC) has partnered with litter pioneers, LitterLotto, to help reduce street litter.

This is a free mobile phone app which offers users the chance to win prizes for doing the right thing and putting litter in the bin. You simply take a photograph using the app as you place your litter in the bin. All litter counts, from a single cigarette stub to an abandoned bottle or takeaway box. Each time you bin a piece of litter, you get another entry into the LitterLotto national £1,000 weekly jackpot, instant spot prizes and their brand new "LitterLotto Coins", which may be redeemed for a variety of prizes and extra jackpot entries. You can submit as many entries as you like.

DDC is also offering a local jackpot of £100 each month for users of the app who bin litter in our district. Plus, in support of the upcoming Great British Spring Clean Campaign, DDC will be offering two additional weekly local jackpots of £100 with the first winner being drawn on 20 March. Anyone participating in the Great British Spring Clean can use the LitterLotto App.

LOCAL ISSUES

1. The Bay Car Park

As part of my portfolio duties I paid two visits to St Margaret's Bay last week. The first was with the Dog Warden where we inspected the warning signs which he had put up and checked for signs of dog poo. The car park was clean and we found none. However, there were two spoils around by the beach huts which the warden has reported.

On the second occasion I attended with new head of parking services who will take over in five day's time. We looked at the state of the signage, the pay and display machine, the car park surface and the toilets. Whilst the toilets were clean everything else remains wanting. The P and D machine chip and pin function was out of service because the G4 transmitter was apparently out of action so it was not receiving a signal, there were signs of rust developing on the collection plate, prominent flooding of the bays along the promenade still continued to be a problem, the disabled bays were still awaiting repairs and there were still only two signs warning people not to camp overnight. The new head has taken all this on board. There are already plans to make good the P&D machine and two large fluorescent PSPO signs have now been delivered for display. These will be put in place shortly and I have emailed Property Services again to ascertain when they will be undertaking the promised work to cure the perennial flooding and make good the parking bays. On the plus side the foliage under the cliffs had been cut back beyond the DDC signs and I found the cage behind the toilet to still be securely locked so that rubbish has not accumulated in that spot like it has in year's past.

2. GLEBE FIELD

Application is still under consideration and we are waiting for it to appear on the Planning Committee list.

