

THE PARISH COUNCIL OF ST MARGARETS-AT-CLIFFE

Minutes of the Ordinary Monthly Meeting of the above Parish Council held on Monday 17th April 2023 at 7pm at St Margaret's Hall.

Present: Cllrs Rebecca Simcox (in the chair), P Blake, C Taylor, A Newton, G Simcox, A Fielding, T Gilham, J Harris, O Checksfield, together with Clerk. District Councillors Martin Bates and Oliver Richardson also in attendance.

Public participation:-

David Hall thanked the Council for their work during the past 4 years; asked whether it was the intention to reinstate an Annual Parish Meeting. He also asked Cllr Bates to pass on his thanks re the recent drainage work undertaken in Reach Road.

Emily Neighbour - raised question of overgrown vegetation (Alexander plant) in land adjacent to South Foreland Valley (owned by NT);

1. The minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 13th March 2023, having been circulated to all Councillors, were confirmed as a correct record of the meeting.	
2. Cllrs George and Rebecca Simcox declared an interest in the item re the Cricket Club given a family connection. Cllr Checksfield declared an interest in the item re the proposal to add the path at the end of the Reach Road car park to the definitive Public Rights of Way Map, due to a personal connection to adjacent householder.	
3. <u>County and District Councillor Report</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Written report received from Cllr Bates:-● The Dover District Local Plan 2040 has been submitted for examination. All comments that were received in response to the Regulation 19 consultation that took place last year have been submitted alongside the Plan and supporting documents. The responses received to the consultation have also been published online. An independent examination will now be held, and we are awaiting the appointment of the Inspector.● LOCAL ISSUES<ol style="list-style-type: none">1). THE BAY CAR PARK<ul style="list-style-type: none">● We had a meeting with DDC Property Services on 22 nd March. They have agreed to paint the railings, place drain holes in the sea wall to deter flooding from surface water and repair the disabled bays before the onset of the summer season. Community Services have also confirmed that they have now placed additional No Camping signage in the Bay and on the approach road. The email confirming this was forwarded to you recently.2). GLEBE FIELD<ul style="list-style-type: none">● No change still awaiting a date for it to come before Planning Committee. <p>Cllr Bates provided printed leaflets re reporting items to Anti Social Behaviour Unit.</p> <p>Cllr R Simcox provided a summary of the achievements and challenges of the Parish Council over the past four years (attached to minutes).</p>	

6. Clerk Report

- Uncontested election means only 4 Councillors with effect from May.

Provided Cemetery Registrar with advice letter re non-biodegradable plastics.

- New pads provided for defibrillator at First Light Cafe - agreed that Clerk should now order new pads.
- Re yew tree at Post Office Corner - confirmation originally received from DDC but now require further information - DA Tree Surgeons approached in this respect and further information provided to Trees Officer - their response now awaited.
- Have reported to Highways - broken bollards outside Smugglers; broken bollards opposite library.
- Have reported to UK Power Networks the loose inspection cover in Well Lane.
- Resident emailed Clerk re problem motorbikes on footpath - Community Warden aware.
- Playforce contacted re play inspection - Cllr Blake now liaising.
- Community Warden advised re problems with professional dog walkers.
- Approaches re Madge Field and tree in Knotts Lane separately on agenda.
- Agreed repair to CCTV per Cllr Fielding.
- Agreed repair to tension wire at tennis courts - per Cllr Blake.
- Cemetery Registrar reported that old donkey springer play item had been removed from the Civic Cemetery by persons unknown.
- Complaints received from residents re removal of bus stop outside Hope Court - Clerk had contacted Stagecoach who advised this was a KCC decision - PC not advised. Clerk will contact KCC Member in this respect.

Clerk to deal

Clerk to monitor

Cllr Blake to liaise

Clerk to deal

5. Planning

The following comments were made on the applications considered:-

23/00364 Change of use from office to residential with external alterations
3 High Street *No objections*

23/00220 Change of use of land and erection of building for recreational use
Land South East Of Collingwood House, Boyne Road -
*No objections but public right of way to remain undamaged
and protection given to hedgerows for wildlife*

23/00376	Replacement roof including raised ridge height ,dormer windows and roof lights 26 Royston Gardens	<i>No objections</i>
23/00408	Erection of external chimney stack and rooflight to rear (existing chimney demolished) 20 Kingsdown Road	<i>No objections</i>
23/00374	Replacement windows and doors, boundary wall with railings and gates, rooflights and sun pipe Street Farm House, High Street	<i>No objections</i>
3/00434	Variation of Conditions 2 and 4 (approved plans and first floor openings) to allow amendments (alterations to living accommodation and parking arrangements) to application DOV/21/01755 (S73) for extensions and alterations to dwelling Cherryside, 47 The Droveaway	<i>No objections</i>
22/01720	Erection of a dwelling with parking and stores (existing building demolished) The Ledge, Bay Hill	<i>Current objections stand</i>
23/00459	Replacement of front elevation window frames with upvc 5 Hope Court , High Street	<i>No objections</i>

No further information available in relation to extant planning application for Glebe Field.

6. Cllr R Simcox re Highways Issues

- Cllr R Simcox had provided Highways with responses received in respect of initial leaflet drop in Bay Hill / The Droveaway area.
- Leaflet drop in Reach Road had elicited a number of objections from residents of the road re proposal to increase double yellow lines - this cannot therefore be taken forward.
- Discussion re proposal to extend double yellow lines in The Droveaway outside "First Light" - IT WAS AGREED that this be proposed to be extended by 5 metres.
- Clerk confirmed no response received following email to Highways confirming PC's agreement to meeting the design fee for the 20mph limit.

Cllr R Simcox and A Fielding will take forward
Clerk to follow up

7. Finance

- (a) The Parish Council received and acknowledged the Internal Audit Report dated 11 April 2023.

<p>(b) The Annual Governance Statement for 2022-2023 was approved by the Council and signed by Chair and Clerk.</p> <p>(c) The Accounting Statements for 2022-2023 were approved and signed by Chair and Clerk.</p>		
<p>(d) The following payments made since previous meeting were duly approved:-</p> <p>Mrs R Simcox - defib signs £11.37 (228) Dover Security Services - SF Valley £777.60 (229) R C Claringbould & Sons Ltd - Bowls Club pavilion roof £432.00 (230) Castle Water £49.36 (231) Credit card - ink £5.49 (232) Castle Water £11.21 (1) NEST - Clerk/Council pension £232.94 (2) KALC - training £60.00 (3) Wight Computers Ltd - domain name/hosting £171.59 (4) Trevor May Contractors Ltd - tennis courts £1,860.00 (5) 4D Security - CCTV £72.00 (6) KALC - annual subscription £1,228.20 (7) R Purchase - March invoice £1,780.00 (8) Mr I Miller - labour/Registrar fees £2,286.00 (9) Google Cloud - monthly fee £46.00 (10) Jane Cook - March salary £1,373.53 (11) Jane Cook - phone/internet £20.00 (12) HM Revenue & Customs £298.92 (13)</p> <hr/> <p>£10,716.21</p> <p><u>Receipts</u></p> <p>Precept £94,000.00 Credit Interest £34.94 Cemetery fee £715.00 Tennis Club £245.00</p>		
<p>(e) It was agreed to adjourn any decision regarding Cemetery fees until later in the year.</p> <p>(f) Cllr Newton had asked Harmers to check all the cattle grids in the Valley - 3 need consideration:-</p> <p>Top of Seaview Road/beginning of The Front; top of Beach Road + anor. One of these requires definite replacement, one is in probable need of replacement, one needs to be kept an eye on. Cost provided of £2,890 per grid - Cllr Newton had since learned that a grant may be possible through DEFRA of £2,800 for each grid, PC would have to clean out holes. Cllr Gilham stated that any new grids should be galvanised. Cllr Newton will follow up.</p> <p>(g) IT WAS RESOLVED to agree quotation from Idverde re grasscutting for 2023-2024 at £1,764.70 (lining costs at £59.95 per month by Club). No price provided for Dover Road path and Clerk to follow this up.</p> <p>(h) IT WAS RESOLVED to accept quote of £285.00 for repair of tin roof at Bowls Club pavilion at £285.</p>		<p>Clerk to deal</p> <p>Clerk to deal</p>

8. **Correspondence**

- DDC Planning Committee advice re 1 and 2 St Margaret's Road.
- Mr and Mrs P Cartlidge re yew tree at Post Office Corner.
- David Hart re benches in South Foreland Valley.
- Notice of Election (Parish and District) 4 May 2023.
- Emma Bladon re proposal for yellow lines in Reach Road.
- Chris Price re proposals for yellow lines in Reach Road.
- John Platts re highways proposals.
- Emma Bladon (second email re proposals).
- Jo Robertson re request re fencing in Roman Way.
- Kent Highways re A258 road closure 11 April.
- Dianne Marsden re highway proposals.
- Copy correspondence between National Trust and resident re NT Parking.
- Vanessa Dore re highway proposals.
- David Ide re yellow line proposals.
- Liz Marshall re highways proposals.
- Roger Crisp re highways proposals.
- Mr T Lamb re tree on Chapel Lane / Knotts Lane.
- Vivien Pay re Madge Field.
- Statement of Persons Nominated for Parish Council.
- David Simcox Club Secretary re Cricket Club requests for funding / extra parking.
- KALC re subscription / membership.
- Vivienne Verren re highways proposals.
- Resident re fallen tree in Valley woods.

9. **Cricket Club request**

IT WAS RESOLVED that the sum of £800 as applied for be allowed to the Cricket Club in respect of cutting and maintaining the grass at the King George V Playing Field.

As regards the provision of extra parking, this is something that needs further thought; the idea of a "no overnight parking" sign could be investigated.

Clerk to advise and arrange payment

10. **Request re mowing regime at Madge Field**

Request received to allow the Madge Field to re-wild with cessation of the mowing regime. As a compromise, the Parish Council will ask PC maintenance contractor Mr Purchase to cease mowing at the margins of the field, although Idverde to still cut the main part of the field.

Clerk to advise

11. **Request re Tree on Knotts Lane / Chapel Lane junction**

- Request received from Mr Lamb re the above tree - his request that the PC undertake and pay for an independent report from an arboriculturalist on the tree was turned aside - this is not on PC land. Clerk to advise Kent Highways that tree may be dangerous.

Clerk to deal

12. **Reports**

- Cllr Newton re cattle grids - dealt with above. She advised that the gate at the end of the Beach Road is broken with Clerk to report.

Clerk to deal

<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Cllr Newton and Cllr Blake had met with reps from WCCP, Valley volunteers and Phil Williams from Natural England regarding benches positioned in the Valley. One of the benches had been moved approx 5m as it was too close to a patch of early Spider Orchids. Phil Williams happy with the current 3 benches and further 3 approved from original agreement to install 6 benches. From now on, when and if a request is received, contact will be made with Natural England / WCCP before any benches are installed (of the remaining 3 approved).● Cllr Blake advised he is currently waiting for a meeting with the Heritage Officer from DDC regarding the building and will report further at next meeting.● Cllr Blake had been in liaison with Trevor May Contractors Ltd re the tennis courts. (initial cleaning of both Courts and also the screening netting undertaken). Sum received of £245 from the Tennis Club. Quote received re various works to the courts. IT WAS RESOLVED to accept colour spray and colour bind works to surface on no. 2 court at £2,725. Resurfacing and works to no. 1 court to be held in abeyance for the time being (price given £14,000).● Cllr Checksfield reported a good time was had by all at the litter pick on 21st May. Unfortunately, due to very short timescale given by DDC, turnout had been relatively low but those attending had picked up some bags of litter. Cllr Checksfield asked if tops could be put on top of litter bins for cigarette ends.● Cllr Fielding advised that following recent visit by 4D Security the CCTV at the car park is fully functioning. He reported a problem with cameras at the King George V Pavilion where they do not seem to be working at night. Cllr Blake will liaise with contractor / installer.	<p>Clerk to place on next agenda</p> <p>Clerk / Cllr Blake to deal</p> <p>Clerk to investigate</p> <p>Cllr Blake to deal</p>
<p>13. <u>Village Maintenance</u></p> <p>(a) Playing Field inspection - undertaken by Cllr Blake.</p> <p>(b) Re path at rear of Reach Road car park - details including map had been placed on PC website asking residents to provide witness statements.</p> <p>(c) Cllrs R Simcox and O Checksfield will arrange meeting with Braeside before next meeting.</p> <p>(d) Cllr R Simcox reported a problem with the alarm on the defib at the Coastguard - she will monitor.</p> <p>(e) Cllr Blake reported that the Tom Cooper memorial bench at the KGV Field was beyond repair. He will speak to Mike Parnell at the Cricket Club re any members of Mr Cooper in the village.</p>	<p>Clerk to place on agenda</p> <p>Cllr Blake to deal</p>

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.10 pm

Confirmed:

Chair

17th April 2023

