

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

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the above Parish Council held on Monday 15th May 2023 at 7pm at St Margaret's Hall.

Present: Cllrs Rebecca Simcox (in the chair), A Fielding, P Blake, O Checksfield, together with Clerk. Apologies for absence received from County Councillor Steve Manion. District Cllrs Oliver Richardson and Martin Bates also in attendance.

**Public Participation:-**

Peter Wells - reported a large pothole in Beach Road at lower end - Clerk will report to PROW.

Emily Neighbour - had spoken to National Trust re issue with Alexander plant - NT do not cut this back as it quickly re-grows. Reported sighting of Japanese knotweed in the Valley - Clerk will provide her contact details to show to SFV volunteer group / Anna Newton.

David Hall - stated the poor state of the roads High Street / Sea Street - there remain many outstanding reports on Kent Highways reporting site at present. Reported a large pothole opposite Millfield junction which Clerk will report.

Reported that an area of flooding still appears in Reach Road, the village side of the Holiday Camp in the middle of the road - believes this is caused by underground leak. Clerk will report.

Penny Bailey - reported an incident of a lady with a dog off the lead in The Bay. Cllr Simcox displayed PC website which shows seasonal dog ban on most of the beach -1st May to 30th September between the hours of 9am and 6pm. (was 8pm – changed to 6pm on 26th July 22). The beach in front of the White House does NOT have a protection order on it and can be used at all times.

1. <u>IT WAS RESOLVED</u> that Cllr Rebecca Simcox be elected as Chair of the Parish Council for the year 2023-24.	
2. <u>IT WAS RESOLVED</u> that Cllr Tony Fielding be elected as Vice Chair for the year 2023-24.	
3. IT WAS RESOLVED that Cllrs Blake and Checksfield be elected as representatives to serve on the Dover Area Committee of the Kent Association of Local Councils for the year 2023-24.	
4. IT WAS RESOLVED that Cllr Fielding serve as a representative on the Village Hall Management Committee for the year 2023-24.	
5. IT WAS RESOLVED to appoint Jane Cook (Clerk) as the Responsible Financial Officer for 2023-24.	
6. IT WAS RESOLVED that the following subscriptions be agreed for the year 2023-24:-  - Kent Association of Local Councils - Kent County Playing Fields Association - Campaign for Protection of Rural England - Kent Wildlife Trust	

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Parish Council would continue with the payment of £5,000 for the year 2023-24 to the White Cliffs Countryside Project in respect of ongoing management of the South Foreland Valley.

7. The minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 17th April 2023, having been circulated to all Councillors, were confirmed as a correct record of the meeting.

8. Declarations of interest - Cllr Fielding stated an interest in the White Cliffs planning applications; Cllr Checksfield advised she could not comment on the insurance renewal.

9. **Reports from District Councillors**

- District Cllr Martin Bates provided written report ahead of meeting (attached to minutes).
- Stated that there may be funding available in the long term in respect of works at the Bay car park - a public consultation would likely precede this.

10. **Clerk Report**

- DDC now happy with further information from tree surgeon re yew tree at Post Office Corner - permission given and tree surgeon to fit into work schedule.
- New set of defibrillator pads x 1 ordered - to be passed to Simon Creed. Pads only have a useful life of 18 to 24 months.
- Reply now received from Steve Manion re removal of bus stop in High Street. Clerk will follow this up further.
- Design fee of £1,006 paid to KCC re proposal for 20mph limit and proposed yellow lines through part of village - they confirm a case is now open.
- AGAR now with auditors Mazars for approval.
- Have confirmed with Idverde re grasscutting (copied them in to email from Football Club). Quote re Westcliffe path still awaited.
- £800 paid to the Cricket Club as agreed.
- Email response from Kent Highways re tree in Knotts Lane - "It does not appear that KCC soft landscapes have any trees in this area and looks to be situated outside of the highway boundary (based on our mapping systems)."
- Broken gate at end of Beach Road reported.
- Anita Sedgwick, Place Projects and Development Officer to attend June meeting re cultural strategy for Dover.

Clerk to follow up

Clerk to deal

Clerk will monitor

Clerk to add to agenda

- Police / CSU meeting at DDC offices 23rd May - Clerk and Cllr Checksfield to attend.
- Final amount paid re phonebox from grant.
- Email received re parking on Upper Road last weekend - reported to Jon Barker - his response received.
- Suggestion in Parish magazine re PC asked for a litter bin at the Church - nothing received but Viv Verren confirmed this had been dealt with by the Church through DDC.
- Inspectors Matthew Birkinshaw BA(Hons) Msc MRTPI and Clive Coyne BA (Hons) DipTP MRTPI have been appointed by Secretary of State to carry out the independent examination of the Local Plan. They will determine whether it has been prepared in accordance with the relevant legal requirements and that it is 'sound' i.e. positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy.

### 11. Planning

The following comments were made on the applications considered:-

23/00220      Change of use of land and erection of building for recreational use (part retrospective)  
Land South East Of Collingwood House, Boyne Road  
*No further comment, previous response applies*

23/00527      Installation of solar panels to rear garden  
The Shrubbery, St Margarets Road      *No objections*

23/00538      Erection of first floor rear extension and increase in roof height  
Travada, 14 St Margarets Road      *No objections*

23/00555      Conversion of annexe buildings to 2 1bed cottages. Unit 5 existing side elevation door removed and infilled. Unit 6 internal alterations to remove partitions, infill and insert new openings to form ground and first floor accommodation -  
The White Cliffs Hotel, High Street      *To await confirmation from Planning Officer re nature of application*

23/00554      Minor external and internal alterations to conversion to 2x1 bed units -  
The White Cliffs Hotel, High Street      *As above*

Re Glebe Field - confirmation received today that application from Bay Trust for development of Glebe Field has been refused - Parish Council application for ACV and TPO's on trees had played a part.

Question raised as to whether PC should now seek a valuation of the land without planning permission - Cllr Fielding offered to investigate this.

PC had also been alerted to the fact that the Bay Trust had questioned the decision by DDC to register the land as an ACV - DDC had dismissed their enquiry and the land will remain on the register.

Cllr Bates advised that continuity of use may be an issue and residents need to approach Bay Trust to request use of the field during the extant period of the ACV.

**12. Finance and Accounts**

The following payments since April meeting were confirmed:-

Emma Rosen re phone box (14)	£189.60
Mr I Miller (Registrar fees) (15)	£60.00
Castle Water - water rates (16)	£54.23
St Margarets Cosmopolitan Cricket Club (17)	£800.00
4D Security - repair/new equipment (18)	£171.60
Castle Water - water rates (19)	£11.21
NEST Pension - Clerk+Council (20)	£256.32
Credit card - ink/stamps (21)	£12.09
Google Cloud - monthly fee (22)	£46.00
R Purchase - April invoice (23)	£1,451.31
Kent County Council - Highway design fee (24)	£1,006.00
Jane Cook - April salary (25)	£1,477.94
Jane Cook - internet/phone (26)	£22.20
HM Revenue and Customs (27)	£465.85
Mr I Miller - Registrar fee (28)	£195.00
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	£6,219.35

Receipts:-

Credit interest	£76.67
Cemetery fee	£60.00

IT WAS RESOLVED to pay the insurance quotation at £2,706.37 for the year commencing 1st June 2023 from Zurich Municipal.

Clerk to deal

**13. Highways Issues**

Cllrs Simcox and Fielding had been in liaison with Highways reps. Map displayed showing bus stop clearway at top of Bay Hill - confirmed this will be undertaken at no cost.

Confirmed that the idea of a gate into the village would not be taken forward given the cost.

Highways Officers meeting next week to discuss HIP proposals (with information to be taken directly from PC website).

Cllr Fielding had been speaking with Gridlock Group re possibility of a priority system for Sea Street - this would have to be discussed with Kent Highways. Displayed priority scheme in Ash village but this had followed from large housing development.

14. **Correspondence**

- Cricket Club Secretary - thank you re grant.
- Stuart Rosen re funds required for phone box.
- Kent Wildlife Trust re "Chough Chats". (Cllr Checksfield gave brief update).
- DDC Elections Department re co-option.
- Dover Police Community Safety Unit - Parish meeting 23rd May.
- Copy correspondence between Jon Barker NT and local resident re parking.
- Louise St John Howe re appointments on DDC Local Plan.
- Ms J Leeming re various local issues.
- Anita Sedgwick re Cultural Strategy for Dover.
- K Brinicombe re parking on Upper Road.
- Confirmation re proposed tree work at Post Office Corner.
- KALC re testing a new pothole reporting tool.
- Steve Manion re removal of High Street bus stop.

Clerk to follow up

15. **Reports from Councillors**

- Cllr Blake had been trying to arrange meeting with DDC Planning re the Bowls Club roof, to no avail. Initially told he should speak to Heritage Officer but pushed back to Planning. Clerk to investigate if a specific Officer can be identified.
- Cllrs Simcox and Checksfield to await information re type of gate that can be replaced at ER41, following removal. Clerk to follow up with PROW. This item to be placed on next agenda.

Clerk to deal

Clerk to deal

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

- Playing field inspection undertaken by Cllr Blake.
- Article placed on Facebook re Tom Cooper memorial bench in KGV Field but no response. It was agreed that the bench should be removed as it is dangerous. Engraved piece of wood to be kept.
- It was agreed that "Save Glebe Field" posters and banners should now be removed.
- Cllr Blake confirmed that new Management Committee at Tennis Club - plan to hold a quiz night to raise funds towards new surface of tennis court.

Cllr Blake to liaise with Mr Purchase

17. **Other Information received**

- Chair thanked Cllr Checksfield re social media posts in last month. Cllr Checksfield hopes to liaise with library in next month to post information in this respect. Cllr Checksfield will draft Parish magazine article.

Cllr Checksfield to deal

- Clerk asked to write to the Parness family re Jo Parness, following her recent stroke, expressing thanks of the PC for all her community work over the years.
- Following election date, only 4 candidates stood, resulting in no election taking place. New candidates need to be sought - any prospective people should be encouraged to attend 2-3 Parish Council meetings to see how things work. Clerk and Cllr Checksfield to liaise re “recruitment” poster.

Clerk to deal

Clerk and Cllr Checksfield to deal

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.

Confirmed:

Chair

15th May 2023

## MEETING REPORT FOR ST MARGARET'S AT CLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL ON MONDAY 15.05.23

### THE ELECTION

Firstly, both of us would like to congratulate you all on your return to your positions on the Parish Council and look forward to working with you on the issues which remain and those that will invariably appear over the next four years. We would also like to thank all those within the district who voted for us and returned us to the District Council. It is our pledge to continue to pursue your interests and we will not disappoint you.

For us the results of the DDC election were a disappointment. The result meant that Labour now has 17 seats, Conservatives 14 and there is one Independent who has apparently already declared that he will vote with the Labour Party. For the two of us it means we will no longer hold executive positions within the Cabinet although we may be asked to continue our roles as shadow members. However, that will not prevent us from continuing to work on your behalf as ward members and to ensure that the issues which matter to you are relayed back to the decision makers and that they respond appropriately.

The next steps will be the appointment of a new Leader, most likely to be Councillor Kevin Mills, and a new Cabinet. The composition of the core council committees such as Licensing, Planning and Overview and Scrutiny will also have to be decided and Councillors appointed to them. Decisions on these are being considered and they will be formalised at the first meeting of the Full Council on 17th May. The probability is that the new council will not mark an immediate change in direction as the budget for the forthcoming year has already been agreed and there was a considerable degree of consensus within the two parties on the capital projects which are ongoing or about to start. Any significant changes are therefore unlikely to appear until later in this year when they start to consider the budget for 2023/24. We suspect that they may try to impose charges on rural car parks, and they have a manifesto commitment to bring waste services in house.

### LOCAL ISSUES

#### 1). BAY CAR PARK

We will be meeting with the SMBCA and officers from DDC to view conditions at the car park and discuss options for improvement.

#### 2). REACH CLOSE

During the campaign we met a resident who was complaining about tourists using the area as a camping site in the summer. She was also concerned about the low level wooden barriers which are there to keep vehicles from parking on the grass. Apparently, they cannot be seen at night and people have injured themselves. She has suggested that some No Camping signs be put up and the wooden barriers be equipped with luminescent strips. I have reported this to Property and Community Services who are looking into it. Parking Services have said they could apply for a TRO to enforce any restriction because the actual parking spaces are not on Highway land. Will be discussing this further with them tomorrow.

#### 3). PINE EDGE

We have received complaints from the SMBCA that the "potting shed" is being converted into a second property on the land at Pine Edge. The "potting shed" has recently been listed as an annex on Zoopla. Further to this there have been a number of road closures recently to enable infrastructure to be upgraded by utility companies. We have referred this to Planning Enforcement who are investigating.

#### 4). WHITE CLIFFS HOTEL

Jane raised concerns that the builders were washing concrete waste into the drains and polluting the duck pond in Chapel Lane. I have reported your concerns to Planning

