

THE PARISH COUNCIL OF ST MARGARETS-AT-CLIFFE

Minutes of the Ordinary Monthly Meeting of the above Parish Council held on Monday 12th February 2024 at 7pm at St Margaret’s Hall.

Present: Cllrs R Simcox (in the chair), P Blake, A Fielding, O Checksfield, B Pearce, T Gilham, A Wheeler, B Pearce, together with Clerk. Apologies for absence received from N Fulford (holiday). County Councillor Steve Manion, District Cllrs Richardson and Bates also in attendance.

Public participation:-

Penny Bailey - stated that railings in the Bay, having recently been painted, are already starting to rust. She also stated that the current state of the A2 from Jubilee Way to Whitfield is covered with litter/waste on the verges. Cllr Bates explained that DDC only undertakes clearance twice a year.

Cllr Simcox asked County Cllr Manion to take up with Kent Highways the finishing off of the double yellow lines which PC has paid for. Contractors arrived at 9am on 6th January and could not complete due to parked school traffic. Cllr Manion will take this back.

Sandy Liggins questioned the allocation of affordable housing units in Ash Grove; is the local connection of applicants given enough consideration.

Peter Wells - reported a large hole near The Front - he believes that vehicles travelling at speed around the Valley have caused this - he was encouraged to contact the Police on occasions when this happened, or contact Dover Security Services. He was also advised to make Community Safety Unit at DDC aware at the time of the alleged offence. He raised the question of the sewer reed beds at The Pines again being used - he will take this up as before.

1. The minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 8th January 2024, having been circulated to all Councillors, were confirmed as a correct record of the meeting.	
2. No declarations of interest were made on agenda items.	
3. <u>Reports from County and District Councillors</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Cllr Manion advised of a difficult time with KCC and raising of Council Tax - a lot of “painful” decisions have had to be made in order to avoid effective bankruptcy for the Council. As regards illegal waste dumping, KCC are liaising with the Environment Agency and HMRC, together with Planning Enforcement - this has led to some success with a recent jail sentence for one offender.● Cllr Simcox raised the issue of local buses and the lack of response from Stagecoach to any of PC’s approaches for data on previous usage, Cllr Manion will use his contacts to further this request.● Cllr Bates provided a report (copy attached to minutes).● Cllr Simcox raised the possibility of the PC taking on the Reach Road car park - no precedent has been set in this respect but Cllr Richardson offered to be involved in an approach/discussions as necessary.● Re D-Day request for car park closure - this application is currently before DDC; there may be cost implications from DDC for closing the space.	

4. **Clerk Report**

- Terry Gilham now on DDC website.
- Finally received paper copies of play safety report - provided to Cllr Blake.
- Have chased Richard Haynes re any progress with grant application through DEFRA - he will chase up re paperwork.
- WCCP - removal of white poplars in the Valley (per Leaf Tree Services quote) is to be undertaken last week in February. Wooden bollards will need to be removed temporarily to allow access.
- Drain works (cutting of tree works) finally undertaken in village car park.
- Up-to-date electoral details provided to RACE for Housing Needs Survey.
- STMBCA reply received re local issues - provided to Councillors.
- New cattle grid (galvanised) installed and invoice paid (per list).
- Letter sent to Bay Trust seeking constructive dialogue - reply awaited.
- Precept request form completed and now with DDC.
- Confirmed to Claringboulds re repairs at Bowls Club quote - Cllr Blake stated that the work should have been started during last weekend but Clerk to await invoice.
- Two complaints received re re-routing of footpath ER275 - residents asked to contact KCC Public Rights of Way directly.
- Spring Clean Up Day set for Sunday 24th March (10-12) - to start from KGV Field. DDC Environmental rep in attendance together with dog warden.
- Re water meter Lighthouse Road - Cllr Pearce had provided reading - Clerk had spoken to Castle Water and advised that no problems with access exist (as stated by them).
- Two requests sent re grit top-up supply - reply still awaited.
- £100 deposit paid re singer/group for D-Day event.
- Cour Jardin application approved (outline).
- Cllr Fulford provided with copy of public liability certificate for DDC D-Day application for use of beach.
- Re Dover Security work in SFV - *“Kids on motor bikes have been removed from site twice in one day, up by the Lighthouse Road side, also we have removed a tent that was left unattended from site due to a sleeper that left it behind after he was removed from site, the tent was disposed of up the council tip along with its contents off, two jumpers, one bag of soiled clothing, and a sharps box of needles, also some cutlery and some food waste, some bottled water and plenty of empty beer cans.”*

Clerk to monitor

Event to be publicised

- Re Ash Grove - Clerk provided details re allocation of affordable housing properties. Cllr Fielding will liaise with Tessa O'Sullivan at RACE to check the details of the local need requirement.
- Clerk advised re banking - approached local Parish Councils and used DDC data to check on other Councils use of banks. Also approached KALC Financial Consultant for recommendation. As a result of this Unity Trust Bank had been identified as well used; however some Councillors expressed disquiet re using this organisation, Clerk will ensure this is a major heading on the agenda for next PC meeting. Will also check with Lloyds re possible updated authentication procedures for PC's.

Cllr Fielding to deal

Clerk to deal

5. Planning

The following observations were made on the applications considered:-

- 24/00006 Outline planning application for up to 15 residential dwellings with all matters reserved except for access -
Land at New Townsend *Object - per comments attached to minutes*
- 24/00050 Variation of condition 3 (approved plans) of planning permission 17/00727
"Erection of a rear conservatory extension single storey side extension, detached garage/home office, creation of rear terrace with glass handrail and a vehicular access with associated driveway" to alter orangery roof Lantern and external garage finish to render -
Pyets Patch, 53 The Droveaway *No objections*
- 24/00117 Erection of detached dwelling with integral garage (existing dwelling, shed and outbuilding to be demolished) -
Malbec, 60 Granville Road *No objections*

Councillors advised that planning application re Sherleys Farm for use as a traveller site had been approved by the Planning Inspectorate on appeal.

6. Glebe Field / Bay Trust

- IT WAS RESOLVED that a letter be sent to local MP Natalie Elphicke concerning the lack of response from the Charity Commissioners to Council's letter.
- It is likely that PC will need to write again to the Charity Commissioners in due course.
- Clerk asked to place any update/information on the agenda monthly.

Cllr Simcox to deal

Clerk to deal

7. Civic Cemetery

- Cllrs Pearce and Blake had met with Cemetery Registrar Mr Miller concerning charges etc for the Cemetery.
- They had looked at comparison sites re charges but this has proved difficult to compare like to like.
- Idea was mooted to introduce a “reserve” fee for a grave space / cremation plot at, say, £250 with full payment then to be made when plot is required.
- It was agreed that further investigation is necessary and Clerk was asked to place item on the agenda for next month.

Cllrs Blake and Pearce to deal

Clerk to deal

8. Finance

IT WAS RESOLVED to pay £100 deposit to Function Central re singer for D-Day event.

IT WAS RESOLVED that £50 could be paid as a deposit in respect of hire of minibus for D-Day event.

(a) The following payments were approved:-

Castle Water	£5.00
NEST - Clerk and Council pension (Jan)	£256.32
Google Cloud (Jan)	£43.03
Harmer & S0ns Ground Maintenance Ltd	£4,467.00
Castle Water	£15.21
Mrs R Simcox - expenses	£41.73
Castle Water	£8.85
Credit card (ink)	£8.49
Function Central - deposit	£100.00
Castle Water	£5.00
Google Cloud (Feb)	£46.00
NEST (Feb)	£256.32
St Margaret's Players (card reader)	£760.39
Dover Security Ltd	£486.00
R Purchase - Jan invoice	£1,210.00
Jane Cook - salary	£1,493.40
Jane Cook	£20.00
H M R C	£357.33

Receipts:-

£9,580.07

Credit interest	£61.61
Cemetery fee	£120.00
St Margarets Players	£760.39

(b) IT WAS RESOLVED to increase payment rate for Lynne Hopwood to £38 per week (paid during cricket season)

Clerk to deal

Clerk to deal

9. **Grasscutting**

- Quotation received from New Build Landscapes which gives overall figure of £3,350 for year commencing 1/4/24.
- Clerk had yet to receive quotation figures from current providers Idverde and any decision will need to be delayed until next month - Clerk to place on agenda.
- Cllr Blake will speak to Mike Parnell at the Cricket Club to see what can be done with their equipment.

Clerk to deal

10. **Community Grants**

IT WAS RESOLVED to make the following grants available:-

Spirit of St Margaret's	£300
The Memory Cafe	£1,000
St Margaret's Parent and Toddler Group	£510
St Margaret's Players	£750
St Margaret's Nursery	£500
Bee Group	£100
St Margaret's History Society	£250
Inspiring People	£500
Pegasus Playscheme	£500
Parochial Church Council	£300

Clerk to contact applicants and make payments accordingly

(£500 already allowed to Bowls Club re refurbishment of snooker table)

Applicants to be advised that PC will want to include them in some social media coverage)

Parish Council is to introduce new policy on grant provision - Cllr Checksfield provided update on this and revised policy to be agenda topic for March meeting.

Cllr Checksfield to deal, Clerk to place on agenda

11. **Draft Parish Charter**

The Councillors, having read the details of the draft Parish Charter, confirmed that they are happy to confirm this with Clerk to contact KALC Dover Area Committee accordingly.

Clerk to deal

12. **Correspondence**

- Email from Martin Bates - PROW re footpath alongside South Sands House.
- STMBCA re raising local issues.
- KALC Dover Area Committee agenda for 24th Jan.
- Liz Macnaughton - "thank you" for PC work.
- Pre-Submission Draft of the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024-2039 - Regulation 19 Public Consultation January 2024.
- UK Power Networks re closure of Bay Hill 11 March-20 Mar.
- Vanessa Dore - re fallen tree near end of Foreland Road.
- "The Donnellys" re proposed 20mph limit.
- DDC re problems with Planning site.
- Cllr Bates - copy of email re Sea Street site.

- Mr McKechnie - copy of email sent to DDC re Townsend Farm proposal.
- Draft Parish Charter (re-sent).
- Details of St Margarets Players upcoming events.
- Marion Chapman re Cour Jardin planning approval.
- Guston PC Chair re issues with no 93 bus.
- Mr Westhead re Cricket Club nets.

13. **Parish Councillor Reports**

- Written report received from Cllr Fulford re D-Day event arrangements. Application is in with DDC to close the parking bays past the snack bar and toilets in the Bay car park for the event for one day. Payments of £100 deposit for singer and £50 deposit for minibus approved.
- Cllrs Wheeler and Blake had attended recent KALC Dover Area Committee meeting (written report received). The question of defibrillator training had come up at the meeting and this is something that PC may need to re-visit, although two previous training sessions have been held.
- Cllr Fielding re Housing Needs Survey - RACE have sent out postcards inviting comments today, with the website now live. Cllr Checksfield will provide a further post on Facebook tomorrow. Cllr Fielding confirmed he is happy to field any telephone messages which come to the PC in this regard. (He advised that in previous survey in 2011, 396 replies had been received.)
- Cllrs Gilham and Wheeler had attended the Speedwatch meeting held at Kingsdown. Both felt this had been a disappointing meeting, with little offered by the Police in terms of controlling or managing speed. Advised that, on using a Speed Indicator Advice, a driver would need to be "caught" speeding 4 times before Police will do anything. On 1st occasion - nothing happens; 2nd time a letter is sent; 3rd time no action; 4th time the culprit will get a knock on their door from a Policeman (possibly); 5th time - it is passed to the local constabulary. They believe most accidents are not due to speed but to driver carelessness.
- Recent attempt by DDC to impose parking charges at village car park had been pushed back following wealth of objections (200+) received from local residents. This does not mean that the proposal has gone away, but is merely a watching brief.
- Cllr Simcox advised she had once again contacted Lezanne Cesar at Kent Highways concerning the yellow lines being finished off, and the 20mph proposal. Something had been promised for today but no further information at present. Cllrs Simcox and Fielding agreed to look again at the Highway Improvement Plan as St Margaret's is due for a new update.

Cllr Fielding to deal

Cllrs Simcox and Fielding to deal

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

- Following email sent to Neil Baker at KCC re local buses, it was agreed that further contact be made as no valuable response forthcoming.
- Cllr Pearce had undertaken playing field inspection (copy provided). He confirmed he had removed children on electric scooters and also playing football from the tennis courts. Cllr Gilham noted that youths / children in Reach Close are using scooters and electric bikes to ride around and a recent accident had occurred. Community Warden is aware.

Cllrs Checksfield and Simcox to deal

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Cllr Simcox will consider setting up a meeting re follow-up from Christmas event. | Cllr Simcox to deal |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Litter pick as part of Spring Clean campaign set for Sunday 24th March, 10 am to 12 Noon. Cllr Blake confirmed he will make scones for the event. | Cllr Blake to deal |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Cllr Blake passed suggested wording for sign on tennis court nets - Cllr Simcox will give consideration to this. | Cllr Simcox to deal |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Cllr Gilham asked if steel bollards nearest the shop could be removed to allow for better parking of vehicles in the layby - currently larger vehicles obstruct part of the road. | Clerk to investigate |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Further meeting of working party re replacement Clerk to be undertaken, with this to appear on next month's agenda. | Clerk to arrange |

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.45 pm.

Confirmed:

Chair

12th February 2024

Application 24/00006 Response

This application poses some difficulties for the Parish Council. It is submitted as consistent with Dover Local Plan Policy SAP 40 (STM006) but the outcome of the Inspectorate Examination in December is yet to be published so the Local Plan is not officially confirmed. At the Examination the Parish Council raised an objection to the designation of St Margaret's Parish as a Local Centre. If that objection is upheld it could affect the allocation of sites in this village.

St Margaret's Parish Council has commissioned a Housing Needs Survey to commence in mid February 2024 and run till mid March with results being published in April. We think any substantial housing development proposals should wait until this information is available. It would then comply with Local Plan Policy H1, Type and Mix of Housing. The NPPF paragraph 129 states that "Design guides and codes can be prepared at an area-wide, neighbourhood or site specific scale, and to carry weight in decision-making should be produced either as part of a plan or as supplementary planning documents." The importance of design guides is also affirmed in Local Plan Policy PM1:

"To support the delivery of high quality buildings and places the Council will produce a District wide Design Code and locally specific Design Codes for areas in the District where significant development is proposed."

St Margaret's is faced with four Local Plan housing development sites, two quite large but all in the South Foreland AONB, and therefore particularly sensitive to design issues. It is important that design guides are agreed for these sites before any applications are approved.

Therefore it would be premature for the LPA to determine this application, or any applications for the designated sites in this village, until the Local Plan is confirmed, until design guides are in place and until the outcomes of the housing survey are known. The Parish Council is unsure whether to treat this application as Local Plan proposal or as a standalone application to be considered just on its merits. If the latter the PC would oppose the application as it is outside the confines, within the AONB and therefore non compliant with NPPF paragraphs 174 to 178.

If the former, then In response to this specific outline planning application the Parish Council identifies these serious issues.

1. The site is at the base of a relatively steep sided valley and this has several consequences. One is that most views of the site will be from above which makes layout a prominent concern. The proposed development will turn a farm track into a street. The Kent Downs AONB Design Handbook specifically opposes such linear development in the AONB. Among its design principles it states:

"Avoid straight lines or regimented buildings on the settlement edge for new development."(P.7)

This application proposes exactly that.

2. Although the site map supplied in the application (Design and Access Statement-1 P.15) indicates some small variation within the line of 15 houses, the picture on page 16 of the D&A clearly shows how the "street" will appear as a long row of very closely spaced buildings, much more typical of an urban scene than a rural location. The only reason for such a layout would seem to be the developer's intention to cram as many houses as possible on this limited size plot that the Local Plan suggests is suitable for 10 dwellings.

3. The orientation of the development is at a right angle to Station Road housing and cuts into the open dry valley between St Margaret's at Cliffe and Nelson Park settlements. This makes it visually prominent from nearly all viewpoints and affects the separation of the settlements.

This would be against Local Plan Policy SP4 - Residential Windfall Development which requires:

"It is compatible with the layout, density, fabric and appearance of the existing settlement and individually or cumulatively, would not result in the coalescence or merging of two (or more) separate settlements, or the significant erosion of a gap between settlements, so as to result in the loss of individual settlement identity or character; "

It would also contravene Policy PM1 section 2:

Built Form

d Make a positive contribution to the visual character of the area, with the aim of creating a sense of harmony and visual continuity between the existing area and proposed development.

4. A further issue with the design, visible from above, is the layout of the rear gardens. These appear as a sequence of long, narrow rectangles which impose an artificial pattern on the natural landscape of the AONB. Although the application indicates the gardens would be separated by hedging (which would be welcome) there can be no guarantee that future householders would not remove the hedges and replace with close boarded fences to achieve privacy. This issue would be less detrimental to the rural scene if the linear layout of the scheme was replaced by a Close or Courtyard design that spread the dwellings in a less regimented fashion around the site, with more space between them. In addition to this all the car parking spaces are at the front of the line of dwellings and the array of cars would impact on views from Nelson Park and public rights of way on that side. The Kent Downs AONB Design Guide states:

"Ensure outdoor storage and parking areas are not prominent".

As it is, the design layout appears non compliant with Local Policy NE2 Landscape Character and the Kent Downs AONB sections h,i,j,k by having an adverse impact on the AONB and its setting. The proposed buffers will have little mitigating effect on views from above.

5. The Parish Council is not against any housing development on this site but believes a more sensitive design approach could achieve a better outcome. There are examples within the village of relatively modern developments which fit in well in the rural scene. These can be found in Glebe Close, Langdon Close, Meadow View and Ash Grove. The example of Langdon Close offers a much better instance of place making with its well spaced buildings, curved road, greenery and internal space. In application 24/00006 there is little evidence that the concept of place making has even been considered. A solitary long line of houses will not promote social interaction. In this respect it goes against many paragraphs of Policy PM 1 Achieving High Quality Design, Place Making and the provision of Design Codes.

6. The layout in the application has all houses facing the eastern and western slopes of the valley. This will affect the light each dwelling receives as direct sunlight will not appear until later than received on the higher ground of the village settlements and will be lost earlier in the evening. This would make the dwellings unsuitable for solar electric panels which would otherwise work well with air source heat pumps. The proposal to plant trees all along the Western aspect of "street" in front of the housing might help mitigate visual impacts on the AONB but would further reduce light to the windows of the dwellings. This affects well-being of householders and is a design issue.

7. Access to the site is by the existing track to New Townsend Farm. This forms a junction with Station Road at the lowest part of the valley. The Proposed Access document in the

application indicates that most vehicles travelling down Station Road, on either side, reach speeds of 56/57mph at this junction, some higher. Any collision that occurred here with vehicles exiting the junction would likely be serious. The proposed development of 15 dwellings could add 25 cars to the site. (Public transport in St Margaret's is now minimal so even if the one bedroom flat has a couple who work in different places they will need two cars). At a minimum this could result in 50 extra vehicle movements a day at this junction, which equates to 350 per week, 1400 per month and 16 800 per year. These estimates do not include farm traffic, visitors or deliveries so are conservative. Even a probability of driver error as low as 1 in 15000 would imply at least one traffic incident per year. The worst scenario would be a vehicle exiting the junction and stalling in Station Road or a driver simply misjudging the speed of oncoming vehicles. Given car speeds at the junction at close to the national maximum, any accident could well result in a fatality. Station Road already has an accident black spot at the junction with the A258. Another one must not be created. The application does not demonstrate "that traffic generated from the development can be safely accommodated on the local road network;" (Policy H2 section h).

The response from Kent Highways does not address road safety issues.

This is an outline planning application so the Parish Council will not comment further on details in what appears to be a full application.

Policy SP2 - Planning for Healthy and Inclusive Communities

section 5 requires evidence of "Promoting social interaction and inclusion in new developments through the provision of high quality people focussed spaces that are convenient and welcoming....".

Application 24/00006 does nothing to meet that requirement.

The site is in the AONB and classed as medium to high sensitivity. This application appears more suited to an urban location, tries to fit in more dwellings than the site can easily accommodate, would form a prominent intrusion into the dry valley separating two settlements, would impose artificial patterns on the natural landscape, has no sense of place making, does not promote well-being of occupants and might create potentially serious road safety issues.

For all these reasons The Parish Council objects to this particular housing design on this site.

MEETING REPORT FOR ST MARGARET'S AT CLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL ON THURSDAY 12.02.24

HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY

Results from Dover District Council's Housing Needs Survey have been published.

DDC carried out the survey at the beginning of 2023 to improve the council's understanding of housing need in the district. It was the first time the council had conducted a district-wide survey of this type.

All residents were invited to answer a series of questions relating to their current housing situation, including whether they intended to move, and if so, what type, size, tenure and location of the home they would need.

The survey also asked respondents for their views and perceptions on affordable housing development.

Since the survey closed, DDC has been analysing the results and is now able to release the data.

The findings will be used to help inform what type of properties are needed in local communities and assist in developing housing strategies and policies to help deliver affordable housing.

For the full results and information on how the data will be used,

see www.dover.gov.uk/Housing/Housing-Development/District-Housing-Needs-Survey-2023.aspx

DDC BUDGET FOR 2024/25

The council budget for next year came before Cabinet on 5 th February. Highlights are as follows:

Proposed DDC Council Tax increase of £6.21 (2.98%) per annum (12p per week) for a Band D property, maintaining the lowest Council Tax in East Kent.

There are no major reductions in services proposed within the budget.

Housing rents will increase by 7.7%. The typical weekly rent on a 3-bedroom house will be £113.86 and is much lower than the private sector equivalent.

The budget will now be examined by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 19 th February before going to Full Council for approval on 6 th March.

DDC PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

The Council's budget shows a £2.8m deficit, but this is due to late withdrawal by DEFRA of funding for essential port health checks on illicit meat, possibly contaminated by African Swine Flu, being brought into the country. The long-term proposal by DEFRA is not to undertake most checks at, or close to the port of entry, but at their facility at Sevington, 22 miles away.

These checks which are undertaken by Port Health at the Port of Dover protect the UK food chain and its pork industry. To maintain the service, DDC will need to use 1/3 of Council Tax income paid by people in

Dover District to maintain the checks in 2024/25, for the benefit of the UK, while it continues to raise concerns with DEFRA and Central Government.

Meanwhile we, as a group, are urging them to take specific actions regarding port health services and funding. Here are the key points:

1. Reserve Funds: We want the Council to abandon plans to utilise £2.8 million from reserves to support port health activities.
2. Legal Action: They call for an end to the antagonistic legal action the Council is pursuing against the government. (They are proposing to launch a judicial review whilst refusing to negotiate).
3. Negotiations with Defra: The Council should resume negotiations in good faith with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) to determine the best model for ensuring food security in the 'short straits'.

Port health authorities play a crucial role in maintaining biosecurity at borders and safeguarding the nation's food and farming industries. The port health team in Dover has demonstrated the importance of robust checks to regulate goods entering the UK. However, despite being informed last August about the upcoming 'Border Target Operating Model' (BTOM), which will transfer some port health functions to Sevington, the Council has not adequately prepared for this transition.

During a Cabinet meeting on February 5th, the Council's finance chief warned that continuing to fund Port health from reserves is unsustainable and could lead to the Council's financial instability. We are

emphasising the need for prudent financial management and effective negotiations to ensure the smooth operation of port health services in Dover.

LOCAL ISSUES:

1). VILLAGE CAR PARK FLOODING

The final gully was cleared on 26 th January.

2). UNAUTHORISED DEVELOPMENT AT SEA ST

The enforcement officer is still in the process of tracing the landowner to resolve the breach of planning control as without prejudice to a formal determination, the unauthorised development is unacceptable in that it is contrary to material planning considerations. Two residents are assisting him in locating the actual owner and he intends to contact him today. Probability is that he will be given 14 days to remove the container and return the land to its original condition.

3). DEVELOPMENT AT 1 VICARAGE LANE

Complaints were passed to us on 19 th December concerning the noise and disturbance caused by the ongoing construction work on this site. The complaint was passed to Planning Enforcement who have logged it as ENF/23/00453 and are investigating. ECU did come back and their response was reported. I am still waiting to hear from Planning Enforcement and am chasing them for a response.

4). RECLAIMING COSTS FOR TREE CLEARANCE ON THE HIGHWAY

Ollie is still awaiting a response from DDC.

SMBCA INITIATED

5). REPAIR TO STEPS LEADING TO PILL BOX PAST SOUNDS HOUSE

KCC have agreed to undertake the repair of the steps but need to clear the cliff face to assess the chalk soil to plan for the installation of the new steps. The assumption was that this would be undertaken this year, but a sign has gone up stating that the footpath will be closed until December 2025 and KCC have now confirmed that this is the case.

6). ACCESS TO ST MARGARET'S BAY CAR PARK

There have been complaints from residents about the number of vehicles that park on the verge next to the entrance to the car park in the summer to avoid paying. One option was to absorb it within the car park as part of DDC land. Following, research by the legal department it has been discounted. Currently the land is unregistered. To secure it DDC would have to fence it off, deny access to anyone and maintain the land for a minimum of 12 years without any challenge or complaint. They could then apply to Land Registry for it to be handed over to them and they could refuse.