

THE PARISH COUNCIL OF ST MARGARETS-AT-CLIFFE

Minutes of the Ordinary Monthly Meeting of the above Parish Council held on Monday 11th March 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, together with Clerk. Mr M Luckhurt also present after co-option to the Council. Apologies for absence received from N Fulford (holiday).

County Councillor Steve Manion, District Cllrs Richardson and Bates also in attendance.

Public participation:-

No issues raised.

1. The minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 12th 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. Co-option - Mr Mick Luckhurst was duly co-opted to the Council and signed a declaration of acceptance of office. He was provided with a blank Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests form to be returned to DDC. He is to undertake the Dynamic Councillor course (on line).	Clerk to undertake booking
4. <u>Reports from County and District Councillors</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● County Cllr Steve Manion - advised that he has still been unable to liaise with Mathew Arnold at Stagecoach (out of office response) but will continue in an attempt to gain information on local bus (numbers and “dog leg” idea proposed by PC). He confirmed that KCC continue to deal with filling potholes; asked that the public continue to use on-line reporting tool and to report again if a job has been sub-standard. A “more effective” way of filling potholes is to be trialled (he will email link to Clerk). KCC continue to promote “Plan Bee” for preservation and conservation of bees/pollinators.● District Cllr Martin Bates per written report attached to minutes. Cllr Bates advised that the all-electric bus hub, originally planned to be opened early in 2024, has now been moved back to later in the year. Questioned on Community Warden availability (KCC issue) - consultation has taken place and teams of Wardens should now be assigned over Dover/Thanet/Shepway. Cllr Simcox provided District Cllrs with PC objection to planning application 23/0113 - she is to speak at the DDC Planning meeting on Thursday this week. Report to be finished off with planning policies.	Cllr Simcox to deal
5. <u>Clerk Report</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Still nothing heard from WCCP re DEFRA grant.	

- Re tree work agreed for Leaf Services - weather has proved difficult and now unlikely this can be done before bird nesting season. Therefore it may have to be moved back to October this year (budgeted in 2023-2024)
- Nothing heard in response from Bay Trust to our letter sent 16 January.
- Any news on roof repairs at Kingsdown Road pavilion? Nigel Claringbould instructed and will undertake as soon as practicable.
- Posters provided by AJ at DDC for Clean Up Day 24th March.
- £50 deposit paid (on credit card) for hire of minibus re D-Day event.
- Idverde quote received - on agenda.
- All S.137 grant monies paid to successful applicants. Cllr Checksfield has contacted applicants to arrange social media follow up.
- DDC responded re bollards in layby - Parking Services Manager had advised they were not prepared to move the bollards but Cllr Bates will follow up. Cllr Gilham asked to be involved in any site visit.
- A couple of residents have contacted me to express displeasure with the replacement of garden bags with bins.
- Hearing loop for Channel Room - Cllr Checksfield has asked Village Hall management team if she can put them in touch with Acoustics company who assisted the PCC if they do more than installations of hearing loops.
- One resident had raised a complaint re Sherleys Farm planning approval and DDC dealing with advice re appeal. Also complaint raised by neighbour with Ombudsman re 70 Granville Road approval by DDC.
- Hall booked for 29th April for D-Day organisers (Channel Room).
- SFV mower needed a small repair - undertaken by local man - invoice received at £120 which Clerk will deal with.

5. **Planning**

The following observations were made on the applications considered:-

24/00152 Proposal: T1 Beech- crown lift over the road to 5.1 metres and reduce two lateral limbs growing over the garage towards the house by 2 metres; T2 Beech and T12 Yew - crown lift over the road to 5.1metres; T10 Sycamore- fell to ground level, all the subject of Tree Preservation Order No 7 of 2006.

Bay Trees, 6 The Droveaway *Delegated to Clerk - leave with Trees Officer*

- 24/00168 Erection of a side extension (existing garage demolished) -
Reach Cottage, Reach Road *No objections*
- 24/00158 Erection of front and rear boxed dormers and front porch -
10 Roman Way *No objections*
- 24/00187 Erection of a detached annexe with solar panels -
Keevelia, Collingwood *Object - proposed building is not
specified as being for ancillary use*
- 24/00191 Erection of a single storey side extension to garage and conversion to
home office and infill below terrace to extend kitchen -
Treworgie, 28 St Margarets Road *No objections*
- 24/00093 Erection of garden room -
Plot 1, Land Rear Of, The White Cliffs Hotel *No objections*
- 24/00115 Erection of a first floor rear extension -
65 Granville Road *No objections*

Councillors advised that plot SAP40 (The Drove/Salisbury Road) identified in DDC Local Plan had been excluded in Examining Inspectors' Report.

Question raised as to whether Parish Council could be involved with design guides in future development sites identified in Local Plan. Clerk will seek advice from DDC Planning.

Clerk to deal

7. Glebe Field / The Bay Trust

- Cllr Simcox confirmed that article had included this item in the village magazine. MP Natalie Elphicke had responded re lack of information from Charity Commission and she will chase this up.
- In email exchange, Ms Elphicke had suggested an idea of her having a village surgery - PC happy to support this in principle.

8. Civic Cemetery / Dare Garden of Remembrance

- Cllrs Pearce, Fulford and Blake involved in liaison with Registrar to discuss ongoing fees.
- IT WAS RESOLVED that Cemetery fees together with Registrar fees be increased by 5% with effect from 1 April 2024. This to be reviewed again in 2026. Clerk to liaise with Registrar re new fee sheets for Cemetery.
- Mr Miller had ordered new supply of soil for infilling following recent heavy rain - to be invoiced to PC.

Clerk to deal

9. Finance

(a) The following payments were approved:-

Castle Water (Alexander Pavilion)	£15.21
St Margaret's History Society - grant	£250.00
Jackie Claringbould Inspiring People through Horses - grant	£500.00
Pegasus Playscheme - grant	£500.00
St Margaret's Players - grant	£750.00
St Margaret's Parent and Toddler Group - grant	£510.00
Spirit of St Margaret's - grant	£300.00
St Margaret's Nursery - grant	£500.00
Dover and District Beekeepers - grant	£100.00
St Margaret's PCC (heater) - grant	£300.00
St Margaret's PCC - Memory Cafe - grant	£1,000.00
Mr I Miller - Registrar fees	£120.00
St Margaret's Village Hall (Glebe Field meeting)	£29.70
Castle Water	£8.85
Credit Card - ink	£20.49
Castle Water - Trough, The Front	£5.00
Mr C Little - SF Valley expenses	£12.87
R Purchase - Feb 2024 invoice	£1,252.50
NEST Pension - Clerk+PC	£256.32
Google Cloud	£46.00
Jane Cook - Feb salary	£1,493.60
Jane Cook	£20.00
H M R C	£357.13
<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/>	
Receipt - £56.67 credit interest	£8,347.67

(b) Clerk advised that Lloyds could provide dual authentication procedure. Agreed that Cllrs Simcox, Checksfield, Wheeler and Pearce be added re this. Clerk and Chair to meet and organise set up.

Clerk and Chair to deal

10. Replacement of Clerk

- It was agreed that the role would be advertised during April, with the new jobholder to be in situ by September. (Clerk's last meeting to be November, paid up until the end of that month)
- Job description accepted (ability to drive removed although given rural nature of area with limited public transport job description to state ability to attend meetings)
- 80% of job to be undertaken from home
- To be advertised via KALC, LinkedIn, village magazine, Facebook - applicants to provide written application with CV - 30 days from advert to be allowed to receive applications.
- Role to be advertised at 20 hours per week, to be reviewed. Trial period of six months to be in place for new jobholder. SCP 13-20 felt appropriate.
- Clerk to check with KALC re implementation of credit checks for applicants.

Clerk, Cllrs Checksfield and Simcox to liaise

Clerk to deal

- Going forward, regular meetings (on-line or in person) to be undertaken with new jobholder and Chair/Councillors.

11. **Grasscutting contract / R Purchase contract**

- IT WAS RESOLVED to accept quotation from Idverde in the total sum of £1,888.23 for 2024-2025.
- Clerk to ask contractor to undertake a cut on the Alexander Field as soon as practicable, given wet weather.
- IT WAS RESOLVED that the maintenance contract be continued for 3 years with effect from 1 April 2024 with Mr R Purchase at a cost of £17,160 for original maintenance together with £1,800 for the general maintenance element to be taken over from Mr I Miller and £2,400 for the upkeep/maintenance of the Civic Cemetery.

Clerk to liaise with contractor

12. **Correspondence**

- Reminder re St Margarets Players AGM.
- Advice re closure of Bay Hill 17th April 8pm to 8am.
- Response from MP N Elphicke re Charity Commissioners.
- Advice re closures in two phases of Honeywood Parkway, Whitfield 15th to 25th April.
- D Gilchrist re zigzag steps.
- KCC re TRO for waiting restrictions.
- KCC re Costs for Storm Ciaran clean up
- Email forwarded from G Irvine re Inspectors findings on proposal for land Plot STM010.
- M Burney Cumming re A258.
- Mr C Sumner re green waste bins cost.
- Mr B Coles re Kingsdown Road pavilion - replacement door. Club prepared to meet cost of new door with details to be provided to Clerk.

Clerk to monitor

No response from KCC Member Neil Baker re local bus service.

13. **Parish Councillor Reports**

- Cllr Simcox advised that information/TRO from Kent Highways has been placed on PC website and Facebook page for feedback.
- D-Day commemoration event - report provided by Cllr Checksfield on behalf of Cllr Fulford (attached to minutes).
- RACE Housing Needs Survey - limited number of replies received so far. Agreed that time limit for responses could be extended to allow for more people to come forward, with three year cited period for housing need to be eliminated.
- Section 137 LGA 1972 grant policy - IT WAS RESOLVED following minor amendment that this policy be adopted, with this to be uploaded to PC website.

Cllr Checksfield to deal

- Re village car park - Cllr Simcox mooted the idea of the PC approaching DDC to open a dialogue to perhaps take on the management of the car park. Cllrs Bates/Richardson had agreed to provide a contact at DDC to open such a discussion.

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

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Cllr Simcox provided proposed signage for tennis courts - 2 signs will be required at approx £70. IT WAS RESOLVED that this purchase be put in place. | Cllr Simcox to deal |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Tennis courts - IT WAS RESOLVED to accept quote received for £15,500 for resurfacing of Court, together with £275 for new posts from Trevor May Contractors Ltd. This has been discussed previously and budgeted for, but Clerk to place on April agenda to ratify decision. | Clerk to deal |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Playing field inspection - the floor of the “gazebo” in the Play Area has been found to be rotten. This item of equipment has now been barriered off from use and contractor Mr Purchase will investigate cost of materials to replace floor. | Clerk to await price |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Also gazebo posts are starting to rot below ground - new concrete posts to be placed over these. | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">● IT WAS RESOLVED that Clerk could investigate the purchase of the “Local Council Administration” book for local Councils and determine price and publication date. | Clerk to deal |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Spring Clean up event - posters provide and DDC will advertise. Refreshments to be organised at King George V Pavilion - 24th March 10-12 Noon. | |

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.20 pm.

Confirmed:

Chair

11th March 2024

MEETING REPORT FOR ST MARGARET'S AT CLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL ON MONDAY 11.03.24

DDC BUDGET FOR 2024/25

Dover District Council agreed its budget for 2024/25 at its meeting on 6 th March.

DDC agreed the district council part of the Council Tax bill for a Band D property will increase by £6.21 or 2.98% from £208.17 to £214.38. There are no major reductions in services proposed within the budget.

DDC is maintaining schemes to support households on low incomes and people in receipt of certain benefits, who will be able to access discounts to help with payments.

REACH AWARDS (Recognising Environmental And Community Heroes)

The REACH Awards (Recognising Environmental And Community Heroes) recognise 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. Split into five different categories, the scheme acknowledges those individuals and groups who work tirelessly to make a difference, as well as local businesses who are putting the environment at the top of their agenda.

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

- Litter picker of the year (over 18)
- Junior litter picker of the year (under 18)
- Green Business Award
- Community Impact Award
- Green School Award

The winners of each category will receive a certificate, an award trophy and official recognition at an awards ceremony to be held locally in June 2024. The awards scheme will support this year's Great British Spring Clean campaign, which takes place from 15 to 31 March.

To nominate yourself or others, please visit www.dover.gov.uk/GBSC for further information. The closing date for entries is Monday 6 May 2024.

VOLUNTEERS FOR THE GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN

Dover District Council (DDC) is looking for volunteers to sign up for this year's Great British Spring Clean campaign (GBSC) which officially starts mid-March. The annual spring litter picking event, organised by Keep Britain Tidy (KBT) calls on everyone to come together and help to make Britain cleaner and greener.

KBT have put together a beginners' guide to litter picking, which covers everything a 'litter hero' would need to get started. This includes choosing the right spot, keeping safe, knowing how to access bags and the necessary equipment and tips on how to organise their own litter picking event. The council will arrange to pick up any rubbish that is collected.

More information on the GBSC campaign can be found at www.dover.gov.uk/GBSC and on the KBT website www.keepbritaintidy.org

DOVER DISTRICT SPORTS SPECTACULAR

Sports clubs across the area are being invited to get involved in the very first Dover District Sports Spectacular – which is all set to get up and running at the Duke of York's Royal Military School on Thursday 11 April, from 10am-6pm.

Local sports clubs are being invited to get involved in this ultimate sports day, and to play an active part in events throughout the day. The day aims to provide a whole range of practical help and information to help clubs succeed and give them an opportunity to showcase their sport and bring in new members for the future.

A range of workshops for sports clubs is set to include topics covering volunteer experience, future planning, promoting your offer using social media, and raising money and accessing grant funding.

For more information, or if your club wants to get involved, please contact the communities team at community@dover.gov.uk or see the DDC website at www.dover.gov.uk/sports-spectacular

DOVER DROP IN EVENT

This will be a free drop-in event trail encouraging visitors young and old to explore historic and creative

spaces in Dover town centre on Friday 22 March from 5pm to 9pm. There's a programme of art and craft activities, storytelling, conservation-in-action, digital projections, music, dance and drama. From Dover Museum and historic St Mary's Church to the Riverside Centre, Future Foundry's creative space and Dover SmART Project's distinctive pink van, this illuminated night promises to be a lot of fun. Entrances to venues will be lit up in celebration, while inspiring Dover values artwork created by more than 1,000 local schoolchildren from the Samphire Academy Trust, will be projected onto the inside and outside of buildings.

Highlights include an opportunity to meet the historic Maison Dieu's stained-glass conservators from Easthope Stained Glass as well as the wall paintings specialists from Arte Conservation, who will be talking about their painstaking work to reinstate the impressive decorative scheme of Neo-gothic architect and designer William Burges in the building's Connaught Hall and Mayor's Parlour. This family-friendly event includes a wealth of creative activities for children - from dragon storytelling and shadow puppet making, to glow-in-the-dark graffiti, candle carving and spooky torchlit tours of Dover Museum.

LOCAL ISSUES

1). UNAUTHORISED DEVELOPMENT AT SEA ST

12/02: The purported owner provided evidence that the land was not his. The enforcement officer emailed me, stating he would contact the new owner on that day. A resident shared the new owner's telephone number with me, which I passed on to the enforcement officer. He has since spoken to GH, and they have 14 days to comply.

26/02: The 14-day period expired and I sought an update from enforcement. The officer responded, explaining that he was ill and hadn't forwarded the letter. He promises to do so that day which therefore extended the timeline by another 14 days. I then escalated this to a senior enforcement officer who responded citing major staffing issues. The officer later phoned and assured me that he would send the letter today. The 14 days expired on 9 th March and I am now

chasing to find out what action the enforcement officer intends to take.

2). 70 GRANVILLE RD

The resident is still pursuing his case concerning the application that was granted. He has now taken it to the Ombudsman who has instituted an investigation.

3). BOLLARDS IN STATION RD

This was initiated last week by Jane who asked me to look into the possibility of having them moved as some vehicles are parking in the road and creating a hazard. I eventually found that the bollards were placed there some time ago and they are refusing to move them stating that this would create a hazard. I have made additional representations, but they are refusing to budge and refused the invitation of a site visit. It might be more appropriate for you to pursue this through your next HIP but happy to escalate if you wish.

4). TOILETS IN THE BAY CAR PARK

Request from Jane to keep the toilets open during the road closure as the construction manager has agreed to try and keep the access open when they can. I have passed the request to property services and they are looking into it.

Update to the Parish Council – 80th D Day Celebrations

6th June 2024

1. Application to Dover District Council (DDC) has been approved subject to further safety guidance from the Events Safety Advisory Board. Fire Brigade have already responded advising low risk event. Further engagement closer to the time will be required to finalise the plan and ensure refuse bins are available etc.
2. We are proposing a small fete on the green by the beach, so far the Royal British Legion, RNLI, Craft Group and WI confirmed. Further organisations to be engaged over the next month or so.
3. The Village Players are fully engaged and will be performing throughout. The Choir will be performing twice in the Bay including the lead-up to the Lighting of the Beacon.
4. As noted last month, the Coastguard Pub have confirmed their engagement and will be providing takeaway fish and chips for sale, (and also the only place we will have alcohol for sale), the Ice Cream kiosk will be open through the evening and we will have the live music in their garden. They have kindly offered this for use of electricity and entertainment licence.
5. As noted last month, the Snack Bar is also confirmed and will be open through the evening.
6. The HQ and Health & Safety will be on the far green, with other entertainment and the fete (full programme of timings to be drafted).
7. The Beacon will be situated in a safe area close to the beach and will be cordoned off.
8. Now we have the go ahead from DDC, local entertainment is being sourced.
9. A flyer for the Programme of Events is being drafted and we will share once drafted.
10. We have made contact with our local PC (hoping she will be able to attend), Community Warden, the Police Cadets (unfortunately they cannot support as it is a school night)

7th June 2024

1940s dance in the Village Hall (no further update and last month's update below for info)

1. 1940s singer booked – Lissie Lark
2. The Village Players will be leading a singalong at the beginning, intervals and end.
3. American Supper
4. Event will be ticketed and proceeds going to RBL

8th/9th June 2024

Wanstone Gun tours at 10am each day. As mentioned previously Jon Barker has kindly offered to open up the guns and provide free tours on both days.

Self-guided walks around the village and cliffs. Suggested walks to be available in all our retail and hospitality venues (engagement still to be made with each of them). Christine Waterman has kindly offered to help with the self-guided walks – I will be discussing with her in a month or so.

Other exciting news.....

As noted last month, the local craft group has been very proactive and already making bunting, post box knitted tops and a collage to hang in the Village Hall which each member of the group is contributing to it. We will be asking the Village Hall Committee for permission to hang the collage.

At some point we will also be organising a history talk on how St Margaret's was impacted – much more than you may think! In addition, Christine Waterman has also secured Len Howell, an expert on Operation Fortitude, for the April History Society Talk (16th April).

We are proposing a meeting of all those groups/individuals involved for the 29th April. Invites to be issued over the next week or so. The Channel Room has been booked.

The Working Group is extremely proactive and engaged!

Councillor Nikki Fulford