

THE PARISH COUNCIL OF ST MARGARETS-AT-CLIFFE

Minutes of the Ordinary Monthly Meeting of the above Parish Council held on Monday 8th April 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, M Luckhurst, 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:-

David Hall - cited his annoyance re recent closure of Station Road and diversion signs in place, together with lack of work on potholes in stretch of the road. He had found contractors on site unhelpful and rude. Question was raised with Cllr Steve Manion as to why a “blitz” could not have been undertaken of potholes during closure.

Collingwood Road - although signs in place for remedial works, this does not extend to the farthest end of Collingwood Road to East Valley Farm - Clerk will contact Kent Highways.

Re church wall - yew tree has been cut back by DDC but only at lower levels - it extends into the High Street and high-sided vehicles are affected. Clerk will contact DDC.

Re motorbikes (without number plates) causing nuisance through the High Street and Reach Road area - 4 bikes recently doing “wheelies” during the evening in the High Street. To be reported to CSU at DDC. Public reminded that this needs to be reported at the time of the nuisance/offence.

1. The minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 11th March 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 Steve Manion - he is in the process of creating an “all party” group of Parish Councils with an interest in the A258, and enlisting the help of Lezanne Cesar at Kent Highways in this respect. Cllr Simcox cited that the Station Road junction has been noted as a “Crash Remedial Site” although no further details as to proposals to improve this have been received.● A recent spate of emails received by the Parish Council following the implementation of an e-petition by a resident. Residents to be encouraged to write to Member at KCC Neil Baker with their issues/complaints. General advice from County and District Councillors is that petition is generally a good idea.● PC also to write to local MP and prospective MP. Contact with local media also to be investigated. Cllr Simcox will set up a web page on PC website.● Cllr Manion advised that unaccompanied asylum seeking children before Easter were up to 400. The issue is not being dealt with to move these children to other authority areas in the UK but KCC continues to push for this.	Cllr Simcox to deal

- Written report received from DCC Councillors (attached to minutes).
- Re Rural Grants - Cllr Simcox raised the question of a water fountain in the Bay, as installed on Thanet beach recently. Cllr Blake raised the question of the proposed surfacing in the Play Area and he will investigate cost - details of Rural Grant system on DDC website. (Cllr Wheeler noted that Bay Trust had received a grant through that avenue last year for educational purposes.)

Cllr Blake will investigate

4. **Clerk's Report**

- Still nothing heard from WCCP re DEFRA grant.
- Nothing heard in response from Bay Trust to our letter sent 16 January.
- Any news on roof repairs at Kingsdown Road pavilion - due to accident of contractor, this is likely to be delayed a little further.
- Cllr Luckhurst yet to be on DDC register - he confirmed that he had returned his DPI forms and Clerk to chase.
- Cllr Luckhurst booked on Dynamic Councillor course on 11th April - £60 paid on credit card.
- After Planning Committee meeting, planning application for land at Westcliffe was refused.
- £120 paid re mower repair; £3,000 paid re deposit for tennis resurfacing; £1,680 paid for repair to gazebo in Play Area.
- Ian Miller wants to set up meeting with Clerk to "dot the i's" re the Cemetery fee structure / rule book etc.
- Mr Miller "balancing" invoice received at £3,206; also a "costs" invoice at £223 re soil/seed/weedkiller and assistance with tree felling.
- Due to illness, meeting with Chair re banking re-arrangements has not taken place. Meeting to be set up as soon as possible.
- Also, further meeting to take place re advertising role of new Clerk with Cllrs Simcox and Checksfield.
- Confirmed to Idverde acceptance of quote for 2024-2025.

Clerk to deal

Clerk to deal

Clerk to deal

Clerk and Chair to deal

Clerk and Cllrs Simcox/ Checksfield to deal

£33 paid to George Simcox re new signs for tennis courts.

- Local Council Administration book is for sale at £137.
- Contact from Sholden PC re lack of communication with Stagecoach.
- Clerk could find no details of Section 106 Agreement on Ash Grove as regards allocation of properties but will investigate further re decision making/involvement of PC is allocation to local residents.

Clerk to deal

5. **Planning**

The following comments were made on the applications considered:-

24/00290 Overall crown reduction of 18 Holm Oaks the subject of Tree Preservation Order No 1 of 1996 -

Court Cottage, 27 Lighthouse Road

*Defer to Trees Officer
(delegated to Clerk)*

24/00274 Reduction in height of seven metres of 27 Holm Oaks and two Sycamores and felling of one Beech, all the subject of Tree Preservation Order No 4 of 1986 -

Seaways, Bay Hill

*Defer to Trees Officer
(delegated to Clerk)*

24/00006 Outline planning application for up to 15 residential dwellings with all matters reserved except for access -

Land at New Townsend Farm

Previous comments apply

24/00052 Replacement windows and back door -

4 Hope Court, High Street

No objections

6. **Glebe Field / The Bay Trust**

- Clerk had advised that no response had been received from the Trust, sent in January.
- Cllr Fielding suggested that Council make one further attempt at contact, asking to set up a joint meeting with representatives of the Trust. Letter to be drafted and sent via registered post.

Clerk and Cllr Fielding to deal

7. **Finance**

(a) The internal audit report of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2023-2024 was received and duly noted by Council.

(b) The Annual Governance Statement for 2023-2024 AGAR was approved and duly signed by Chair and Clerk.

(c) The Accounting Statements for 2023-2024 AGAR were duly approved and signed by Chair and Clerk.

(d) The following payments were approved:-

Trevor May Contractors Ltd - deposit re tennis court	£3,000.00
Castle Water - Alexander Pavilion	£12.67
T R Commercials - SFV mower repair	£120.00
George Simcox - re tennis court signs	£33.33
Dover District Council re Reach Road car park toilets	£2,015.43
Castle Water - Trough, Lighthouse Road	£8.85
Castle Water - Cemetery	£34.23
Dover Security Ltd - SF Valley	£486.00
Credit card - deposit for minibus + stamps	£56.00
Wight Computers Ltd - website	£171.59
R Purchase - "gazebo" repair, Play Area	£1,680.00
St Margaret's Hall - D Day meeting 29 Apr	£27.70
Jane Cook - March salary	£1,493.40
Jane Cook	£20.00
HM Revenue and Customs	£357.33

Receipts:-	£9,516.53
Credit interest 11 Mar £47.76	
Cemetery fees £60.00 + £775.00	

(e) and (f) Payments of £3,000 to Trevor May Contractors re tennis court and £1,680 to R Purchase re Play Area repair were duly ratified.

8. Replacement of Clerk

- Job description to be updated with details of salary range; also description to include ability re use of technology. This then to be advertised via KALC website.

Clerk to amend

9. Correspondence

- Cricket Club re power outage at pavilion (since resolved).
- Bob Coles re front door replacement at Kingsdown Road pavilion.
- Steve Manion - forwarded from Matthew Arnold (Stagecoach) re historic bus passenger numbers.
- Email from resident re new green waste collections (not available for Well Lane).
- Cllr Martin re meeting with Shaun Taylor DDC re High Street bollards.
- Copy of Village Hall Management Committee meeting minutes 7 March.
- Natalie Elphicke's Re Stagecoach ■ NatilieStageCoach.pdf
- Kent Highways Definitions Team - Surplus Land Request for land at Deal Road, Swingate. Clerk to respond objecting to selling of the land - bus stops are in place and land could be used for any future road widening. Also concern re access.

Clerk to deal

- Invitation to Communities Prepared Building Resilient Communities training Workshop 21st May.
- Cllr Steve Manion re collective parish council group for A258 issues.
- Dougie at Dover Security re work in SF Valley.
- Neil Baker response ■ NeilBakerResponse.pdf
- Natalie Elphicke's update ■ NatalieUpdate.pdf
- Secretary of Cricket Club.

Also:-

Kathryn Carson re A258 junction - petition.

Colin Sumner re 20mph proposals.

Various emails from residents re A258 following petition proposal.

10. Re reporting of incidents to Police / CSU Unit at DDC. Cllr Pearce confirmed he continues to report these issues, most recently the graffiti on the planter at junction of Reach Close. Importance stressed of continuing to report such issues - lines of communication are available on PC website.

11. Reports from Councillors

- No further details available re 20mph limit village proposals.
- Written update received from Cllr Fulford re arrangements for D-Day commemoration event. Following discussion it is felt that temporary beacon is best route to pursue - this would be lit in The Bay. John Ford is to make wooden soldier statues - cost of up to £100 approved in this respect for sourcing of wood. Next group meeting set for 29th April. Confirmed that any funds raised from events will be going to Royal British Legion.
- Cllr Fielding re RACE Housing Survey - 48 replies received so far. Cllr Fielding will investigate putting back cut-off date to the end of April - Cllr Simcox had contacted the School but they are currently on Easter break.
- Rural parking - nothing to report at present.
- Cllr Blake reported that recent Spring Litter Pick had proved very successful. 2 officers attended from DDC including dog warden. Around 30 volunteers attended and 18 bags of litter were collected - cited as being the best performance of any village involved in the initiative. Cllr Blake is to follow up with the dog warden re provision of dog poo signs.
- Clerk asked to contact DDC to ask if they have any spare litter pickers, or to find out where they source those which they loan out to village groups.
- Cllr Fielding re High Street layby - following meeting with DDC rep Shaun Taylor, three different options are to be put forward by them with costings. PC to await further information by end of the month and to appear on future agenda.

Cllr Blake to deal

Clerk to deal

Clerk to place on agenda

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

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|---|-----------------|
| - Playing Field inspection undertaken by Cllr Pearce. | |
| - Re PC budget - Clerk to prepared one sheet to be added to website showing budgeted responsibilities for Council. | Clerk to deal |
| - Cllr Blake re benches - 2 new benches being taken forward; one on tennis courts for which the Tennis Club will meet the installation costs; bench for ex Councillor Chris Smith to be met by his partner. Cllr Blake confirmed that going forward voluntary contributions will be sought re ongoing maintenance of benches. | |
| - Cllr Simcox reported that lights were still on at midnight last night in village car park toilets. | Clerk to report |
| - Follow up contact to be made to Neil Baker re KCC meeting some/all of the storm clean-up costs borne by PC. | Clerk to deal |
| - Re grazing rights - this to remain at £1,100 as previous year. Clerk to contact Braeside Stables. | Clerk to deal |

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

Confirmed:

Chair

8th April 2024

MEETING REPORT FOR ST MARGARET'S AT CLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL ON MONDAY 08.04.24

KENT POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER ELECTION

The Kent Police and Crime Commissioner election takes place on Thursday 2 May. If you know that you won't be able to get to the polling station on polling day, you can vote by post. If you can't post your postal vote in time, you can take it your polling station or to your local council on polling day. From 2 May, you will be only able to hand in your own postal vote, and the postal votes of up to five other people, at a polling station. More on elections

DEMENTIA SAFEGUARDING TAGS

A new safeguarding tool is being trialled in the Dover district to help support people living with dementia. Bright yellow safeguarding tags bearing the Alzheimer Society forget-me-not symbol are being given to people living with dementia to carry with them when they are out on their own. Family members can input their details onto the tag's QR code so when scanned by a mobile phone, they can be contacted. This means if a person with dementia becomes confused or disorientated, the next of kin can be called immediately. Dover District Council is working with Dementia & Me, Age Concern Sandwich, Age UK South Kent Coast and the Riverside Centre Dover, with the support of Avon and Somerset Police, to roll out the scheme and raise awareness of the tags, which can be put on a lanyard, keys or walking aid. Shops, cafes and businesses in the district are supporting the initiative and members of the public are being encouraged to familiarise themselves with the yellow tags so if they see someone with a tag who is looking confused, they will know what to do. Five hundred are being given out to people living with dementia or their loved ones across the district through Age Concern, Age UK and the Riverside Centre. They are part of a pack which includes a simple step-by-step guide on how to input a next of kin's details. The pack also includes a 'Herbert Protocol' document which can be filled in with important personal details, including medication, a photo and details of the past, such as former home addresses. This can then be passed to police if a person goes missing and saves valuable time, allowing officers to get ahead in the search.

RURAL ENGLAND PROSPERITY FUND

The Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) grant scheme has now re-opened for applications for 2024/25. This follows news that we have been allocated REPF funding to support rural businesses and communities in the district, with £300,000 for 2024/25. The funding is being used for a grant scheme for the district for:

Rural businesses - grants to develop new products and facilities that will be of wider benefit to the local economy, this includes farm businesses looking to diversify income streams.

Rural community organisations and Parish Councils - grants to support new and improved community infrastructure, providing essential community services and assets for local people and businesses to benefit the local economy.

Small businesses and community organisations must have between 2 and 50 employees and a turnover under £10m to apply. Funding must be for 'capital' projects, for example a lasting asset such as a building or equipment, and must have a value of over £10,000. Applications will need to include a business plan and will need to demonstrate how projects will achieve results for the area, ranging from jobs created or safeguarded to increased users of facilities or increased numbers of volunteers. Projects must be deliverable within 6 months of the grant being awarded. The deadline for applications is 12 noon Tuesday 30 April 2024.

For more information, or to make an application, please see the REPF page on the DDC website.

LOCAL ISSUES

1). UNAUTHORISED DEVELOPMENT AT SEA ST

The container was removed on 4 th April. The enforcement wrote to me to say that he intended to check this out with a site visit and if that was correct he would close the case as he had no powers to make the owner replace the low lying wall. However, the officer had initially stated that he would be requesting the owner to return the site to its original condition and appearance. We have written to him reminding him of that fact and are awaiting a response.

2). BOLLARDS IN STATION RD

We attended a site visit with Tony, Dave, Aidan and Shaun Taylor who is Head of Parking Services. It was a good meeting and Shaun identified three possible options which he now intends to cost and then present his findings to us at the end of April.

3). MANHOLE COVER IN ROMAN WAY

Reported to us by Cllr Gilham at the PC meeting. I visited the site, took photos and reported it to DDC Property Services who said that the manhole was on KCC land. They have since referred it to KCC Highways and requested that they arrange its repair. We have had no response from them so far and we have despatched a chaser requesting an update.

4). TIDAL WARNINGS ON DISPLAY AT ST MARGARET'S BAY

Cllr Blake reported that these had slipped away from the pole and forwarded a photo. We reported it to Property Services who have passed it on to RNLI who are responsible for installing the notices.

St Margaret's at Cliffe Parish Council

8 th April March 2024

Update to the Parish Council – 80 th D Day Celebrations

6 th June 2024

1. Application to Dover District Council (DDC) has been fully approved. 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, and Craft Group. Further organisations to be engaged over the next month or so. For those selling local goods, there will be a charge of £10 towards the RBL charity.
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. In addition to the adult choir, the children will also be singing.
4. As noted the last couple of months, 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 license.
5. 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 structured for use on the beach and will be stored in the SFV tractor shed to be used for any occasions in the future where a beacon is required.
8. Two local entertainers are confirmed and one further is being approached. Three entertainers in total.
9. A flier for 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)
11. Other organisations are being approached for marshal support.

7 th 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

8 th /9 th 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 – still to be discussed with Christine.

Other exciting news.....as noted last month

As noted previously, 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.

This has now been discussed with the Village Hall Committee and the Craft Group will be submitting a proposal of where to hang the bunting/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 (16 th April).

We are proposing a meeting of all those groups/individuals involved for the 29 th April. The Channel Room has been booked.

The Working Group are extremely proactive and engaged!

Councillor Nikki Fulford