

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

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the above Parish Council held on Monday 13th May 2024 at 7pm at St Margaret's Hall.

Present: Cllrs R Simcox (in the chair); O Checksfield, N Fulford, B Pearce; P Blake; A Fielding; A Wheeler; M Luckhurst; T Gilham.

Also present : District Cllrs M Bates and O Richardson. Apologies received from County Cllr S Manion.

**Public Participation:-**

Peter Wells - reported "speed sign" taken down in early hours of the morning over weekend - this was believed to be a camera erected for the weekend Pilgrims Hospice cycle ride. Also reported that local diversion signs are poorly placed / inadequate.

David Hall - reported continuing problems with delivery vehicles (lorries/vans) getting stuck when using Norway Drove which is unsuitable for this type of vehicle. Clerk will ask Kent Highways if a "no access" sign can be erected.

Re A256 - pieces of plastic on the verge following litter clearance and grasscutting. Clerk will report.

1. <u>IT WAS RESOLVED</u> that Cllr Rebecca Simcox be elected as Chair of the Parish Council for the year 2024-2025.	
2. <u>IT WAS RESOLVED</u> that Cllr Nikki Fulford be elected as Vice Chair for the year 2024-2025.	
3. IT WAS RESOLVED that Cllrs Blake, Checksfield and Pearce be elected as representatives to serve on the Dover Area Committee of the Kent Association of Local Councils for the year 2024-2025.	
4. IT WAS RESOLVED that Cllrs Fielding and Checksfield serve as representatives on the Village Hall Management Committee for the year 2024-2025, with the understanding that only one vote for the PC is allowed on decisions.	
5. IT WAS RESOLVED to appoint Jane Cook (Clerk) as the Responsible Financial Officer for 2024-2025.	
6. IT WAS RESOLVED that the following subscriptions be agreed for the year 2024-2025:-  - Kent Association of Local Councils - £1,052.42 - Kent County Playing Fields Association - £20 - Campaign for Protection of Rural England - £36 - Kent Wildlife Trust - £36	
7. The minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 8th April 2024, having been circulated to all Councillors, were confirmed as a correct record of the meeting.	
8. Declarations of interest - Cllr Checksfield advised she could not comment on the insurance renewal (item 12b) and the Clerk role (item 13).	

## 9. Reports from District Councillors

- District Cllr Martin Bates provided written report ahead of meeting (attached to minutes).
- Cllr Bates/Richardson were thanked by Mr D Hart on behalf of the Village Hall Management Committee for their efforts in getting the recent business rates invoice for the Hall quashed.
- Cllr Bates advised that he had only today been provided with one cost re the proposal for High Street layby bollards at £15,436.29 (the Gridlock Group proposal) - two further quotes to be received and this to appear on June agenda.
- Cllr Gilham asked if, with road closures for filming in Upper Road, could any funding received be directed towards the PC. This has been brought up before with a negative response.
- When asked about the planning application for 15 new houses at New Townsend Farm, Cllr Bates advised the PC must stress the 10 dwelling allocation in the Local Plan. Clerk agreed to speak at the Planning Committee meeting on Thursday. Cllr Fielding will prepare a report for this.
- The CSU report has been placed on PC website, although nothing specific to St Margaret's.
- County Cllr Manion unable to attend meeting but he had advised the following:-

Vaccination Clinics - there has been an upsurge in childhood diseases recently. KCC is working with the NHS to provide childhood vaccinations. The clinics run by [Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust's \(KCHFT\) School-aged Immunisation Service](#) are part of continuing efforts by local health leaders to drive up vaccine rates, particularly for MMR because of [the national rise in measles](#).

With [cases confirmed in every region of England, including the South East](#), concerns remain the highly infectious disease will keep on spreading unless more people are protected.

To arrange an appointment at any of the KCHFT community clinics, Kent and Medway parents and carers should contact the School-aged Immunisation Service by:

- phone: [0300 123 5205](tel:03001235205)
- email: [kchft.cyp-immunisationteam@nhs.net](mailto:kchft.cyp-immunisationteam@nhs.net)
- book using the service's webchat.

28th May. Deal community clinic

8th June St Mary's Church Hall Dover

UASC - KCC recently met with Michael Tomlinson, the Minister for Countering Illegal Migration, at a visit to the Kent Intake Unit in Dover. Concerns were raised in relation to the challenges that Kent faced with large numbers of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) arriving on Kent's shores and the measures in place, including the opening of new Reception Centres, to ensure that Kent continued to meet its statutory obligations.

Clerk to place on June agenda

Cllr Fielding and Clerk to deal

Cllr Checksfield to place dates on PC website

Potholes

Neil Baker, the cabinet member for roads on Kent County Council, was speaking after new Council figures showed 18,853 potholes were reported between January and April, compared with 21,593 for the same period in 2023.

KCC said it is spending £50m on tackling potholes.

10. **Clerk Report**

- Further letter sent to Bay Trust - signed for on delivery - no reply as yet.
- Reported per resident re potholes on Collingwood Road / resurfacing.
- Also reported nuisance motorbikes to CSU following resident report.
- Cllr Luckhurst on DDC website now.
- Met with Ian Miller - accompanying report / notes.
- Clerk role on KALC website / in Parish magazine / noticeboards / local Facebook group.
- Copy of Section 106 agreement re Ash Grove available - to be discussed later.
- Responded re Swingate “extra” strip of land - confirmation from Highways team.
- AJ at DDC was to investigate re spare litter pickers - email received re litter “hubs” - per email.
- Re budget sheet for website - now in place.
- KCC not prepared to meet any of the “clear up” costs after storm met by PC.
- Numbers forwarded re historic bus use - what is next step by PC? Clerk had written to County Cllr Manion for another approach to Matthew Arnold.
- Should the Council have a DP Councillor? Cllr Fulford agreed to take on this role.
- Clerk approached by resident re nettles on Sea Street pavement. Cllr Blake to ask maintenance contractor to deal.
- Clerk approached re crop-spraying on path near Alexander field - forwarded to PC Sophie Bramble. Correspondent to be advised to check PC website re legal PROW routes.

Clerk to monitor response

Cllr Fulford to deal

Cllr Blake to deal

Clerk to deal

- Clerk had met with Cemetery Registrar re ongoing fees etc for the Civic Cemetery. Some discussion re the proposed £250 “option” fee and the length as to when and if this should lapse. Agreed that further consideration is required and Clerk to place this on June agenda. Idea mooted re placing a notice re the banning of plastic or non biodegradable items on grave spaces.
- Also, succession planning re Registrar role to be considered.

Cllrs Blake and Pearce will take forward

## 11. Planning

(a) The following comments were made on the applications considered:-

24/00340      Erection of a single storey rear extension, garage conversion to habitable room with bay window to front elevation -  
**Pinha, Collingwood Road**      *No objections*

24/00392      Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) of planning permission 23/01338 “Erection of single storey rear extension and part conversion of garage, to increase overall footprint -  
**Victory Cottage, Hardy Road**      *No objections*

24/00345      Installation of new boiler flue -  
**Curfew Cottage, Sea Street**      *No objections*

24/00378      Erection of first floor extension with dormer window over existing garage to form an annexe for ancillary use with steps, balcony and glass b  
balustrade -  
**The White House, 3 St Margaret’s Road**      *No objections  
for ancillary use*

24/00416      End weight reduction and crown thin by approximately 15% of one limb of an Austrian Pine the subject of Tree Preservation Order No 2 of 2009 -  
**Ledgeland, 17 St Margaret’s Road**      *Delegated to Clerk - Defer  
to Trees Officer*

24/00453      Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) and 03 (materials) of planning permission 23/00364 or “Change of use from office to residential with external alterations” for alterations to window, lintels and brickwork (retrospective) -  
**3A High Street**      *Strongly object; out of keeping with the  
Conservation Area; Conservation Officer Alison  
Cummings should view replacement windows*

24/00462      Erection of two storey rear extension. Erection of replacement porch. Replace external render -  
**Leathercote, 57 The Droveaway**      *No objections*



<p>(b) IT WAS RESOLVED to accept the quotation from Zurich Municipal at £2,871.03.</p> <p>(c) Only one verbal quote received re bollards in High Street layby; therefore to re-appear on June agenda.</p> <p>(d) IT WAS RESOLVED to pay the annual amount of £5,000 to the White Cliffs Countryside Project for the South Foreland Valley for 2024-2025. Clerk to seek risk assessment details from WCCP re volunteer days in the Valley.</p> <p>(Agreed that newer Councillors be shown around the land by David Hart).</p>		<p>Clerk to deal</p> <p>Clerk to deal</p> <p>Clerk to deal</p>
<p>13. <b><u>Replacement of Clerk</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Currently 2 applicants - Cllrs Simcox, Luckhurst and Fulford to undertake interviews with Clerk to approach applicants re interview dates.</li></ul>		<p>Clerk to deal</p>
<p>14. <b><u>20mph speed limit</u></b></p> <p>IT WAS RESOLVED to accept the increased price of £5,859 from Kent Highways for the installation of the 20mph limit as previously proposed.</p>		<p>Clerk / Chair to contact Highways</p>
<p>15. <b><u>Correspondence</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Steve Manion - from Matthew Arnold re bus use in St Margaret's.</li><li>• Local Plan Main Modifications Consultation - online.</li><li>• AJ at DDC re Litter initiative.</li><li>• KCC - re temporary road closure A258 Deal Road 6th June.</li><li>• Email from resident re creating mural in the Bay. Clerk to contact correspondence re ideas (not PC land).</li><li>• Email re KALC Area Committee meeting / AGM 24 April.</li><li>• Cllr Friend re Neighbourhood Watch meetings.</li><li>• KALC News April 2024.</li><li>• Highways - temporary road closure A258 Dover Road, Walmer - 1st July</li><li>• Minutes from KALC meetings.</li><li>• Cllr Bates re The Ledge - Highways report.</li><li>• G Martin re planning application for 3A High Street.</li><li>• Resident re crop spraying near public footpath. Clerk had sent details to PC Sophie Bramble. To respond re defined Public Rights of Way.</li><li>• Glynis Farthing re Parish Charter. Clerk to respond to Glynis confirming PC approval.</li><li>• Lucy Giles - response re Clerk email to Tom Williams at Kent Highways re planned road closure.</li><li>• Consultation re cycling / walking routes (forwarded via Cllr Fulford) - Councillors to deal with themselves.</li></ul>		<p>Clerk to deal</p> <p>Clerk to deal</p>

16. **Report from Councillors**

- Cllr Blake will investigate the concept of installing floodlighting at the tennis courts - anticipated the lighting would be on a “pay as you go” system.
- Cllr Fulford provided final brief update re D-Day commemorative events.
  - (Thursday 6th June) Is attempting to arrange final minibus to the Bay for 10.30 rather than 9.30
  - Re beacon to be lit in the Bay - fire extinguishers and cordon to be put in place.
  - Fete will close at 8pm with people to hopefully migrate to the Bay after this.
  - “Soldiers” will be placed along the Bay railings; John Toomey will be providing hourly change of flags from his property.
  - Marshals to be in place - Clerk to provide contact details for Dover Security Services.
  - (Friday 7th June) tickets on sale this week. Players will be providing a “singalong”.
  - Bunting will be put in place at the Hall and through the village.
  - Saturday/Sunday - history tours - parties to be at NT car park 9.30 for 10am start.
- Cllr Fielding re Section 106 Agreement for Ash Grove. Having been provided with this, it shows on pages 5 to 6 order of priority to be given to applicants. He has been liaising with Tessa O’Sullivan - she had contacted the Housing Association on behalf of PC. They claimed only 2 changes in the last 5 year but PC believes there have been 4. He will continue to liaise with Tessa.
- Station Road junction - following creation of local petition by an anonymous source, response to correspondent had been provided via PC from Highways as follows:-

*Following assessments of the A258/Station Road – road in its entirety and the junction, the warning sign (including for this junction) are being upgraded to include yellow backs and passively safe posts. We hope to have this completed by June. The crashes occurring at the junction itself did not present a pattern in order for us to remedy and so we are continuing to monitor this location and I would expect it to be revisited for assessment. Traffic lights have been discussed and it is thought that these could actually cause more crashes and so not deemed feasible at this time. I will keep you up to date with any further progress here*

- Cllr Fielding advised that results of Housing Survey are due to be received next week. Cllr Checksfield will provide PC logo for this. To appear on June agenda.
- Cllrs Checksfield and Blake had attended recent KALC meetings and provided written report.

Clerk to provide

Clerk and Cllr Checksfield to deal

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

- Playing field inspection undertaken by Cllr Pearce - all in generally good condition.
- Clerk to email Cricket Club Secretary re start of season for toilet cleaning.
- Cllr Fielding advised that Alexander Field will now be out of use until August for pitch improvements around goalmouths, to be undertaken by maintenance contractor.
- IT WAS RESOLVED that Cricket Club could install a section of concrete along the edge of the Alexander Pavilion, from the car park to the first door on the right (to be undertaken by maintenance contractor - likely to be approx £100).
- IT WAS RESOLVED that the recently damaged wall on the entrance to the King George V Field be replaced with railings, to match other side of the entrance - this will increase access by approx one foot and allow greater visibility.

Clerk to deal

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

Confirmed:

Chair

13th May 2024



## **ROMAN PAINTED HOUSE**

Dover District Council, working with the Roman Painted House Trust, is looking forward to opening the historic Roman Painted House to the public this summer and seeing the attraction play a key role in the regeneration of Dover for the future. At a recent meeting, DDC's Cabinet supported proposals to carry out immediate remedial works necessary to re-open the monument and to develop plans to transform the Roman Bath House and Roman Lawn giving the go ahead to progress applications for grant funding for this key site. The intention is for the Roman Painted House to be open to the public by the end of July. Once open, it is planned to see the attraction open for free on Saturdays and Sundays until the end of October, with bookable group access at other times.

## **DOVER BEACON PROJECT**

Archaeologists have started work on the site of the Dover Beacon project ahead of construction starting later in the year. The works started this week at the Bench Street site, which will eventually be home to The Bench building – a new further education digital/creative campus, business centre and creative centre. Excavations are expected to be completed by the end of May, but this is subject to change depending on what may be found. The first two weeks will involve a drilling rig taking core samples to help understand the history and archaeology of the project area. Following this, work will start on the excavation of archaeological trenches and trial pits.

## **REGENERATION OF DOVER WESTERN HEIGHTS**

Dover District Council is welcoming news that a new grant from Historic England is set to provide a key boost to help conserve and regenerate Dover's nationally significant Western Heights. One of the most important and impressive fortifications in Britain, the Western Heights are a series of forts linked by miles of ditches on the western hilltop above Dover. Historic England has awarded a grant to DDC for a three-year project to support conservation and regeneration work at Dover's Western Heights and improve how this asset connects with the town and waterfront. The capacity building grant will fund a project officer who will deliver a range of work including coordinating and increasing volunteering opportunities, building visitor numbers through promotion and events, and the creation of a 'vision' document for the Western Heights. They will work closely with the Western Heights Preservation Society to continue the positive progress made to date. DDC's Cabinet agreed this week to accept the grant funding. The grant is for £149,000 and will be match-funded by DDC over the three-year period.

## **POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER**

Matthew Scott was re-elected as the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner following the recent local elections.

## **NATALIE ELPHICKE**

Both Ollie and I were very shocked and disappointed when the news broke that Ms Elphicke had decided to move parties. There was no notice given by her and many of us have been quite hurt by the way in which she has treated her now former loyal colleagues. However, both Ollie and I, remain as committed to serving you as always. We are therefore determined to move on and do the job that you have elected us to do.

## **LOCAL ISSUES**

#### 1). UNAUTHORISED DEVELOPMENT AT SEA ST

Following on from our report last month we did chase the enforcement and asked whether he intended to require the owner to return the land to its original condition and appearance. He responded by saying that he had no powers to force the applicant to do that. We then wrote and asked him whether he had reported the possible loss of badger setts and bat roosts to Natural England and Kent Police. His reply indicated that he had not done so and he provided us with a link to Kent Crime Stoppers. I have actually completed this and also forwarded an email to DDC Community Support Unit to see whether they could communicate this to Kent Police through their own channels.

#### 2). BOLLARDS IN STATION RD

Following on from the site meeting of last month we have been advised that the three options have now been forwarded to Property Services to evaluate and they will advise us once the costings have been returned to them.

#### 3). MANHOLE COVER IN ROMAN WAY

On 16 th April we received a reply from Thomas Williams of KCC Highways to say that he had have passed

this over to his Highway steward to raise a work request if the cover was identified as a KCC responsibility or, if not, to pass a request to the relevant utility company. We have heard nothing since and am now chasing them for a response.

#### 4). 106 AGREEMENT FOR ASH GROVE

Following a request from Jane we wrote to the Planning Department to ascertain what conditions were attached to the 106 agreement concerning the role of the Parish Council in determining which individuals are selected to occupy these properties. Planning replied directly to Jane to say that the agreement contained nothing which required the involvement of the Parish Council in the allocation decisions.