

The Parish Council of St Margaret's At Cliffe

Minutes of the Ordinary Monthly Meeting of the above Parish Council held on Monday 14th October at 7pm at St Margaret's Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Rebecca Simcox (in the chair), Nikki Fulford (V Chair), Peter Blake, Tony Fielding, Terry Gilham, Mick Luckhurst, Brian Pearce, Lisa Smith, Anne Wheeler

Also Present: District Cllr Oliver Richardson, County Cllr Steve Manion

Apologies: District Cllr Martin Bates

Clerk: Jane Cook, Orla Checksfield (Trainee Clerk)

Public Participation:

- Light outside the church at the bottom of the steps is on continually on still
- Bay Hill vegetation still overgrown and still work pending – Cllr Wheeler mentioned she believes it is one residence. Peter Wells was encouraged to report to Kent Highways.
- Enquiry if St Margaret's Bay Car Park is being changed to a Full Year Parking Permit from Penny Bailey – Cllr Richardson responded to say he hadn't heard anything more regarding the parking review and Cllr Bates was making further enquiries at the Overview & Scrutiny Committee this very evening.
- Also the Bay Car Park is heavily flooded in the spaces nearer the Coastguard pub.
- In Reach Road Car Park, Ian Loftus advised line markings have vanished. He also enquired again if mirrors could be placed opposite the entrance to the car park on Reach Road. Cllr Manion said he will raise with KCC directly

Actions:

1. Cllr Richardson to liaise with Parking Services re Bay Car Park Flooding and Disabled Bays, and Reach Road Car Park lines
 2. Cllr Manion will raise the matter of mirrors on the exit of Reach Road Car Park with KCC
-
1. The minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting, having been circulated to all Councillors, were confirmed as an accurate record of the meeting.
 2. No declarations of interest were made on the agenda items

Report from the County Councillor covered the following topics:

1. **A258 Action Group update** – He has spoken to Thomas Williams to engage with the local PCs as they did previously with the A257 Action Group
2. **Highways Interaction** – The Council again raised the issue of lack of responses and collaboration from Highways with the Parish Council.
3. **Vaccinations** – KCC are again encouraging high risk groups to have their vaccinations for Covid and Flu

The Parish Council of St Margaret's At Cliffe

4. **Trees** – KCC has Miyawaki method, as it is known, has been used on a site in Park Wood, Maidstone, to see if it can speed up tree growth in urban areas.
5. **European Entry System:** The introduction of the new passport system at Dover Port has been delayed, with a new date to be announced
6. **Surface Water Gulleys** – Cllr Gilham asked for these to be escalated Dover Road / Station Road Junction & Sea Street need to be cleared
7. **Pothole on Reach Road beyond the Holiday Park** – Cllr Gilham asked for this to be escalated as well.

Report from the District Councillors covered the following topics:

Local Highlights

1. **Bay Car Park:** Ongoing discussions about railings and disabled bays.
2. **70 Granville Road:** Site meeting scheduled on 15 October to address the dispute between 70 and 68 Granville Rd.
3. **Bollards in Station Rd:** The quote for softwood bollards has been received but should be in hardwood and needs to be requested.
4. **Access Road to War Memorial:** Repairs estimated at £6,527. District Cllr Richardson will contribute £2,000 from his KCC member's grant. The new owner of The Bluebird will also put in £2,000. £2,527 still needed. The Council acknowledged the update but reminded all public funds cannot be used to repair unadopted roads.
5. **Pothole in Reach Rd Car Park:** Reported and added to Property Services' work schedule.
6. **White Cliffs Hotel:** Cllr Fielding raised concerns re neglect of listed building; follow-up planned after 20th October.
7. **30mph speed limit on Jubilee Way** – being left in place for a year to act as a deterrent following the fatality.

District Highlights:

1. **Roman Painted House:** Reopened on 14th September as part of Heritage Open Days. It will be free to the public every Saturday until the end of November 2024, with reopening in February 2025. Group tours available for a small fee. Cllr Blake mentioned there was no accessible parking and no lift within the building. They are working through bringing the building up to code.
2. **Deal Leisure Centre Drop-in Events:** DDC is hosting engagement events for the new Deal Leisure Centre from 23rd September to 20th October 2024. Information is also available online.
3. **Local Plan:** The Inspectors' Final Report has been received, confirming the Local Plan as legally compliant and sound. Full report available on the DDC website.
4. **Southern Water Community Centre Grant:** Community centres can apply for £1,000 grants to cover energy and running costs. Applications close on 31st October 2024.
5. **Defibrillator Fund:** London Hearts is offering funding for community defibrillators with match funding required. Early applications encouraged.

The Parish Council of St Margaret's At Cliffe

6. **Dover Fastrack:** The bus service will commence on 17th November 2024. Footways to open for pedestrians and cyclists, with road closures until service is operational.
7. **Safe Spaces:** DDC is rolling out a Safe Spaces initiative for vulnerable individuals. Several local businesses and organizations are already participating.
8. **European Entry System:** The introduction of the new passport system at Dover Port has been delayed, with a new date to be announced.

Kent Police Newsletter, for Guston, Kingsdown and St Margaret's from PC Sophie Bramble had been received during the month and Community Drop-In events publicised.

Actions:

1. Cllr Manion has agreed to speak with Cllr Roger Gough in an effort to get proactive and collaborative engagement from Highways
2. Cllr Manion will escalate the clearance of surface water gulleys at Dover Road / Station Road Junction, Sea Street and the entrance to the Bay Car Park. and the recurring pothole in the middle of Reach Road near the entrance to the Holiday Park (Dover side)
3. Cllr Richardson to request hardwood quote for bollards at Post Office corner
4. Cllr Richardson said he would follow up to know when/if the car park at the Roman Painted House will be opened.
5. Cllr Blake to apply for external box for Defib at Bowls Club through the Defibrillator Fund
6. The Clerk asked Cllr Richardson to follow up with Cllr Bates re the streetlight outside the church

Clerk's Report

4.
 - **KGV Pavilion:** PC supports a plaque, but the building name will remain unchanged.
 - **Wreath for Service:** Wreath received for the 10th November service at St Margaret's Church. Cllr Fulford will attend on behalf of the PC
 - **Bank Account:** New Clerk added as Delegate; process to be tested before the next meeting.
 - **Parish Councillor:** Lisa Smith added to DDC website as Parish Councillor with DPI recorded.
 - **Reach Road Pond:** Query raised about the "alleyway" found during clearance works.
 - **Clerk's Address:** Clerk's address to be updated to Village Hall; bank statements to be moved to online.
 - **Cemetery Registrar & Resilience Plan:** Both topics to be discussed at the November meeting.
 - **Pothole:** DDC confirmed pothole at Reach Road car park exit is on their work schedule.

The Parish Council of St Margaret's At Cliffe

- **Bay Hill Vegetation:** Work ongoing, more required (ref. 831009).
- **NPPF Response:** PC submitted response to changes.
- **DDC Meeting:** Cllr Fulford and New Clerk Checksfield to attend DDC Annual Town & Parish Councils meeting on November 28th.
- **Data Audit:** Meeting set for 23rd October with Clerk Cook, New Clerk Checksfield, and Cllr Fulford.
- **Villages by the Sea:** Filming permission granted; form completed.
- **Granville Road Streetlight:** Reported as not working for some time but is working now.
- **Defibrillator & Bowls Club:** Decisions pending on defib box and roof boarding.
- **Damaged Dog Bin:** Decision needed on replacing the damaged bin at Nelson Park.

Actions:

1. Trainee Clerk to test login and payment process online at Lloyds Bank
2. Cllr Blake to speak to the owners of the house adjacent to the alleyway by the pond
3. Clerk will move bank statements online
4. Cllr Blake will follow up with DDC Planning regarding roof boarding at Bowls Club
5. Clerk will follow up regarding replacement Bin in Nelson Park

Planning:

a. New Applications

24/00976 Erection of side entrance porch and insertion of 2 rooflights to rear roofslope (existing entrance porch to be demolished) -

[3 Droveaway Gardens](#)

No Objections

24/01013 Erection of rear dormer extension and insertion of 2 velux windows -

5. [Travada, 14 St Margaret's Road](#)

No Objections

b. Glebe Field –

As we can clearly see the field is deteriorating and we have made 3 approaches to the Bay Trust to discuss caretaking, buying, partnership etc, all of which remain unanswered, we have decided to bring together the Glebe Field Group tomorrow the 15th October to discuss a way forward.

c. Local Plan

The Parish Council of St Margaret's At Cliffe

Nothing further to add to the comments on District Councillors Report. The Parish Council should now engage with DDC planning to input into the Design Guides for the housing in St Margaret's.

Actions:

1. Clerk to deal with responses to new planning applications
2. Clerk to request a meeting with the Head of Planning to discuss Design Guides for the plans approved in the Local Plan.

Finance & Accounts:

6. The council reviewed and approved all payments since the prior meeting. All receipts were noted.

Christmas

Christmas Lights On Festival to be held at the Village Hall on 30th November 2024. As in prior years the Village Hall Committee has graciously donated the exclusive use of the Village Hall for this community event.

Viral Joshi, from the Village Store has again agreed to commit his time to assist with the main arrangements including the hot food and raffle prizes.

The Parish Council Christmas Working Group will meet next week to commence the detail work of promoting the event, ticket sales, securing sound, lighting, marshals, entertainment and of course following up with Father Christmas to ensure the date remains in his diary.

7. The parish council approved the purchase of the following items:
 - 5,000 Raffle Tickets @ c£82
 - 400 logo Cups @ c£329
 - Contribute £250 towards lights for the Village Hall Christmas Tree

Actions:

1. Cllr Simcox to order the Raffle Tickets
2. Cllr Simcox to order the Christmas Cups
3. Cllr Smith to speak to St Margaret's Players re sound outside
4. Cllr Gilham to source lighting for the car park
5. Trainee Clerk to create a poster to include in November Village Magazine
6. PC committed to contribute £250 towards the Village Hall Christmas tree lights. Clerk to advise

Correspondence

8.
 - Kent Film Office - request to film in village.
 - Resident - copy of letter sent re blocking of St Margarets Road (sent to road association).

The Parish Council of St Margaret's At Cliffe

- Response from Terri Browning to ours on Ash Grove allocation process.
- Email from Bowls Club re defibrillator and replacing fascia boards.
- Email re Deal Leisure Centre project - drop in event.
- DDC re confirmed date of Annual Town and Parish Council meeting.
- DDC re Local Plan - completion of Examiner's report.
- Sophie Bramble - St Margaret's Newsletter September 2024.
- Further email re work to be completed at Reach Road Pond.
- KCC - Road Safety and Active Travel Group - Quarter 2 Newsletter.
- Email copied from Guston Chair of PC re local bus service for school children.
- Email from Geoff Purchase re alleyway at back of Reach Road Pond.
- Resident re damage to KGV wall and Club sign,
- Email re Southern Water Community Grants 2024.
- Email from resident re cars damaged in village car park in August.
- Re Kent Community Police Engaging Community event 22nd October.
- Email from Community Warden re CAB Kiosks

Action:

1. Cllr Fielding to put forward Citizens Advice Bureau advice kiosks email to the Village Hall Committee to see if they wish to pursue

Highway Improvement Plan (HIP)

A refresh of the Highways Improvement Plan (HIP) is underway, with several recurring issues being reviewed. Parking concerns on Reach Road and Kingsdown Road remain, but double yellow lines were not included in previous plans due to objections from residents with limited parking options. Traffic speed through the village is still a key issue, though the new 20mph speed limit is expected to provide some relief.

9. Additional concerns include the deteriorating road surface, particularly near the school gates, and the presence of redundant road signs. While it would be ideal to remove these signs during the 20mph implementation, this is unlikely due to the way work orders are processed, meaning they will need to be addressed separately in the updated HIP.

A Nelson Park resident has also requested a 20mph limit in their area, but the Council has decided to monitor the village's 20mph implementation before considering including an expansion. The Council also agreed to include Chapel Lane as a potential one-way street in the HIP review and added concerns about the transition from a 60mph to 20mph zone.

Action:

1. Cllr Simcox to contact Lezanne Cesar to progress the update discussions

The Madge Field

10. Cllr Fulford raised concerns re the status of The Madge Memorial Field to protect it for the future by exploring redesignation to Village Green status

Action:

1. Cllr Fulford to take forward the proposed redesignation of the Madge Memorial Field to Village Green status

Reports from Councillors

- Cllr Fulford re proposal for new Pétanque court in The Bay. Has had approval from DDC Parks & Services to create a pétanque piste in the Bay Car Park and seeks support from the council to move forward
 - Cllr Blake re bus shelter, Sea Street (outside the Old Baptist Chapel). Chris Clayson, owner of the home behind the bus stop, spoke at this section of the meeting as he needs to move the bus shelter in order to complete building works on his house. Concerns discussed included the existing structure collapsing and leaving the community with no bus shelter, however, the council understands the resident need to dig out the foundation for their house and accepted the offer to move the Bus Stop as sympathetically as possible and reinstating it along the same street line.
 - Cllr Fielding re CCTV Policy has been updated to include new elements of the system. The current application to view the footage is only available on android phones and tablets. The council agreed to explore the use of an android tablet with the view to purchase same for exclusive use of the council CCTV monitoring.
11. • Cllr Fulford - update on bus questionnaire / liaison with KCC and Stagecoach. A 3rd school bus has been added to the rota for St Margaret's to ensure children are not left behind. There is a meeting next week to run through the survey responses in detail with Maria Fitzgerald. There are c160 responses. There are two additional buses being added to the afternoon services from the 17th November 2024 as well and hopefully this will improve the situation for the community further. Special thanks were highlighted for Danny Mills, Stagecoach Operations Manager.

Actions:

1. Cllr Fulford to take Pétanque proposal forward
2. Cllr Blake to work with Chris Clayson to manage the move and reinstatement of the Hope Inn Bus Stop
3. Trainee Clerk to publish updated CCTV policy on the website
4. Cllr Simcox to check CCTV application on Android Tablet with a view to purchase dedicated tablets for the Parish Council

Village Maintenance and Matters affecting the Parish

- Playing Field Inspection – The guttering downpipes at the pavilion have been repaired, and the equipment at both fields is in good condition. Some ties on the sign at the play area have been replaced. Both fields are generally free of dog fouling and rubbish, with the exception of the Alexander Field, where litter (McDonald's packaging) was found in the middle of the football pitch. The civil cemetery was checked and found to be neat and tidy. There has been some damage to the edges of the King George V Field due to bikes being cycled around. The hedging on Alexander Field was scheduled to be cut today but has been postponed. Ledger Farm has machinery that could be used to cut the hedges around the cemetery.
 - Church Christmas Tree festival – Themed on the South Foreland Valley
 - Any follow up from Footpath Walk – reports are still being worked through as there were many.
12. Additionally, a meeting took place on the 29th September with Michael Tonkin, PROW Officer, which included interviews for some of those who had completed evidence statements as part of the efforts to claim the 2 footpaths between Sea Street and ER276. This is a step forward towards a decision on this matter but at this stage we cannot know what that outcome will be.
- Footpath ER41 only requires one replacement kissing gate according to PROW as there was no gate previously located halfway down the Old Bottom Freedown at ER41.

Actions:

1. Cllrs Smith & Fulford to undertake Church Christmas Tree Festival
2. Clerk to follow up with PROW to order one Kissing Gate for ER41 (purchase previously approved for two) and arrange for installation

Information received since last meeting. Anything raised to be added to the next meeting agenda.

13. **Update on Ash Grove Affordable Housing Allocations**
Confirmation has been shown to the PC that the process set out in the original agreement when Ash Grove was set up is being clearly followed.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.30pm

Confirmed by the Chair:

Date: