

A virtual meeting of the Seal Parish Council was held on THURSDAY 11th February 2021 at 7.30pm

Present: Mr Spencer, Mrs Weston, Mr Bourne, Mr Michaelides, Mr Tavare, Mr Bulleid, Mr Haslam, Mr Martin, Mr Penn and Councillor Thornton

Also present: The Clerk

Parishioners Question Time – No residents present

- 1 Apologises: Councillor Gough**
- 2 The minutes of the last meeting were agreed and signed. Proposed by Mr Penn and seconded by Mr Martin and agreed unanimously.**
- 3 Declaration of Interest - None**
- 4 Clerks report**

At the last meeting, it was agreed for KCC to look into double yellow lines corner of Zion Street. The clerk had heard back from Roger Gough PA this has now been passed onto the Schemes Project Manager who has added it to their list of waiting restrictions for review. The next review is due to start around mid-February and once an initial assessment has been carried out the officer will report to Councillor Gough.

The pathway at Seal Recreation Ground has been tarmac and reseeded under the Chestnut Tree and has been completed to a good standard. The Parish Council were concerned whether the reseeding would take as it has been completed in winter months.

The clerk informed the council that due to the pandemic and tier 4 restrictions, the sport clubs haven't had as much play than expected and this will affect the income in this financial year and next. The Pavilion is open to preschool adhering to government guidelines and there has been no hall bookings ie for Children parties since the first lockdown of last year.

Due to the pandemic, our Annual Assembly was cancelled last year under The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020. Our Annual Assembly will take place this year on 5th May 2021 and it will be held remotely under the current regulations. This will replace the original date which was advertised on our website being 19th May, to be sure our Annual Assembly takes place in a safe secure way. If you would like to attend, please contact the clerk who is able to send you an invitation to join the meeting.

- 5 KCC Matters – Councillor Gough did not attend this meeting although Parish Councillors discussed matters.**
 - a) Ongoing highway matters to be progressed outside the meeting. Items are listed in the Appendix and verbal updates given in the Clerk's report if there are any.**

Flooding Grove Lane

Mr Tavare reported that the water at the pond on Grove Road towards Stone Street is caused by water not getting into the pond. He has noticed that all the water on the left-hand side originates from the base of the wall of Woodside. There are three pipes coming out at the base of the wall dispensing a considerable amount of water. It also seeps through at the base of the wall along its length. So, although it might not have rained for a couple of days there is still a lot of surface water near the pond on that side of the road. Following the recent snow, the road was flooded again today. KCC need to be updated about this. **ACTION: Clerk**

Copse Bank/Ashplatt Footpath

The Parish Council agreed that the work was completed to a good standard and asked whether this could be maintained annually, as the footpath is used by school parents and general maintenance is necessary.

b) New and priority highway matters for discussion

Speed Limit A25

There was no specific update from Whitney Gwillim on her work on a route study to access the speed situation on the A25 but KCC appreciate this is a safety issue and are supportive.

c) Highway Improvement Plan

Mr Haslam updated the meeting following the meeting with Whitney Gwillim on 5 February.

The Parish Councillors and KCC had a good productive discussion at the meeting and have a good understanding around the HIP and working with KCC. Up to 2 items will be funded each year. The HIP needs updating with the new items arising since the last draft for circulation to all members before the next meeting. This includes identifying where Glasdon Gates might go and Seal Parish Councillors should identify places for these signs and moving the village sign on Childsbridge Lane. KCC were happy to include speed issues and Mr Haslam will update and circulate to Councillors for resubmission.

ACTION: CH and MB

d) Speed Data – Childsbridge Lane

Traffic counts have been completed on Childsbridge Lane Railway Bridge

Mr Bourne discussed Whitney Gwillim's report and their data from them, which shows that cars are slowing south of the railway bridge, but they are not continuing to slow down, so that at The Sheilings, they are still going too fast. Unfortunately, unless someone is killed we won't get a speed camera in. We need to get speed watch going again and we have the SID. A percentage will slow down and people will ignore it and this is the percentage of people going 40mph or more. Mr Haslam and Mr Bourne will need to have a conversation around these speed issues.

ACTION: RB

e) Trinity/Weald Playing Fields

Partly within our Parish, Wilderness Residents Association are concerned about covenants on the land being proposed for new playing fields by KCC. The Parish Council regretted that have not been consulted to date by KCC Education and will do so when a planning application is made.

ACTION: TM

f) Seal Primary School

The walking bus licence still due to be finalised. Can Councillor Gough help to progress?

ACTION: Councillor Gough

6 Other Matters Requiring Discussion and Action

a) Network Rail

The Parish Council to propose and agree a letter to Network Rail regarding the footbridge in Childsbridge Lane or for widening the existing bridge, narrowing to one lane. Mr Haslam is to draft a letter with Mrs Weston.

ACTION: CH

b) Traffic around the Fawke Common entrance to Knole Park/Carters Hill

Mrs Weston gave an update following a meeting organised by Councillor Gough including SDC, Knole and others. There is agreement that something needs to be done but there are no immediate solutions. The knock-on effects from preventing parking in one area is to move it to another including on the Rise and other roads into Sevenoaks. All agreed that it would help to make Sevenoaks Town Car Park free at weekends and bring business into the town centre on Sundays and Bank holidays when it is otherwise quiet. There is going to be ongoing pressure and a need to find new ideas. It was suggested that clear signage about parking in the town centre would help in the short term. There may be options for car parking at Redlands but these will not be known about until later in the year.

- c) Seal Pavilion**
The Pavilion requires decorating and the clerk has received a quote from Martins Painting and Decorating and General Repairs quoting £3,785. **ACTION:** The Clerk to organise a second quote.
- d) Seal Recreation Ground/Bitchet Green**
Bitchet Green playground is in need some maintenance work especially around the swings. Martins also quoted £150 plus paint. **ACTION:** The Clerk will organise a second quote.

Seal Recreation Ground the shelter requires repainting and the roundabout by the play area.
- e) Noticeboards**
Noticeboards require some maintenance too to keep them weatherproof. A quote from Martins received at £350.00. **ACTION:** The Clerk will organise a second quote.
- f) Website Accessibility and Upgrade**
Mr Bourne has circulated the link to all Councillors to respond on ideas for improvement.

It was suggested brighter colours, to include work that Mr Tavare has worked on for the Wildflower project and a few points that both the clerk and Mr Bourne had raised. A further meeting with the web developer planned next week to discuss further.
ACTION: RB
- g) KALC Community Award Scheme**
The Parish Council to decide on nominations for 2021 Community Award. Nominations due by 12 February 2021. The Parish Councillors to update the Council at the next Parish Council meeting of who they would like to nominate.

ACTION: The Clerk to submit nomination to KALC.
- h) Bitchet Green**
Residents have placed branches towards the edge of the triangle to try and stop visitors from parking on the area. There is local support for wooden bollards - Mr Bourne to discuss with SDC.
ACTION: RB
- i) Community Asset**
SDC have received an application for the White Rock Inn as a Community Asset. Update on progress regarding The Bucks Head.

We would like to thank Mr and Mrs Talbot in preparing the application for the White Rock Inn. Mr Bourne will prepare the Bucks Head application.
ACTION: RB
- j) Climate Change**
To discuss and consider climate change and the effects in our parish.
Mr Penn will lead on Climate Change and ask for ideas from Parish Councillors.
ACTION: MP
- k) Sevenoaks Volunteer Transport Group**
To consider a grant towards costs of annual appeal.

Mr Michaelides proposed that we agreed a grant of £250 and this was seconded by Mr Spencer and agreed unanimously subject to checking if we had agreed this amount in the past.
- l) Park Lane/High Street**

The Parish Council to consider bollards to prevent dangerous parking on the corner of Park Lane and the High Street and to protect pedestrians.

The property in concern had no parking available and therefore vehicles should not be entering in the space provided. There are white bollards on the corner of Park Lane and High Street and it was whether bollards should be provided alongside for pedestrian pathway to stop people parking. Seal Parish Councillors will monitor it further.

7 Items for information only

a) Park Lane

Park Lane, Column 30, road closure 18-19 February for groundworks to be completed.

b) Seal Recreation Ground

Police continue to patrol the area for ASB. Please report any evidence to the Community Safety Unit.

c) Councillor Vacancy – Seal Ward

At present we have an opportunity to become a Parish Councillor and have two vacancies available. If you are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor, please contact the Clerk.

Mrs Weston will be stepping down in May and we will require a new representative in Underriver. All Councillors should consider asking around if anyone would be interested in becoming a Councillor.

d) Affordable Housing

Rural Housing Protocol, event held 19th February, Mrs Weston to attend.

e) Road Safety Strategy for Kent 2020-2026

A 5-year road strategy for Kent circulated to Councillors, provide free workshops for Vision Zero Strategy. Mr Penn to attend.

8 Finance

A discussion on the financial reserves held for 2021/22 was held. It was encouraging that there are reserves available should the Parish Council decide to fund projects of benefit to the Parish. Grants are also available as is CIL money for infrastructure bids. The Parish Council is in a good position to take on supporting project ideas as they arise.

9 Planning

The Council agreed the Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings on 4th, 14th and 25th January 2021. Mr Tavare proposed and Mr Michaelides seconded and this was agreed unanimously. The Council ratified the responses to planning application consultations submitted after these meetings. Mr Tavare proposed and Mr Michaelides seconded and this was agreed unanimously. There will be a short meeting of the Planning Committee after the Council Meeting for which an agenda will be circulated.

10 Accounts and cheques

006056	Kent County Council		Pension Fund
006057	Clerks Salary		Salary
006058	Caretakers Salary		Salary
006059	Inland Revenue		Deductions
006060	CodingTank Limited	£42.00	Old PC Erased
006061	Clerk Expenses	£179.37	Zoom, Broadband, Office 365 and Moonfruit website
006062	SLCC Enterprises Limited	£36.00	Training Course

006063	Sevenoaks District Council	£1,828.40	Sevenoaks Greensand Common Project, Sacks, Refuse collection and Basketball Collection
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Matters for Information Only

Due to an upgrade on our current website if you require copies of our Parish Council meetings or Planning meetings please do not hesitate to contact the clerk. Our noticeboards are kept up to date with information. If you would like to attend a Parish Council meeting or Planning meeting please email the clerk who is able to send you an invitation.

Please see website for further information on health advice, financial advice for residents and waste and recycling services and residents who are vulnerable <https://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/info/20069142/>

KMCCG COVID-19 Vaccination

<https://www.kentandmedwayccg.nhs.uk/your-health/coronavirus/covid19vaccine>

KCC advice on Coronavirus updates

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/health/coronavirus>

Main source of advice for Coronavirus

www.gov.uk/coronavirus

A reminder to report all Highway issues direct to KCC 03000 41 81 81

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem> –

A reminder to report problems on PROW to 03000 41 7171 8am-8pm Mon-Friday.

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/waste-planning-and-land/public-rights-of-way/report-a-problem-on-a-right-of>

Please report street light outages in Seal (other than on the A25) to the Parish Council.

Meeting closed 8.30pm

Appendix to Agenda – ongoing road items that need to be completed. The Clerk will keep an eye on progress directly with Kent County Council and this list updated for each meeting.

1. A25 SID column needs to be reinstated; traffic counts are required.
2. Gulleys in Underriver House Road – one drain blocked; KCC are organising for CCTV where the drain is closer to the stream and there will be another road closure.
3. No road sign heading towards Sevenoaks, Fawke Wood Road, third sign missing for Underriver and a couple of verge markers require reinstating near One Tree Hill.
4. Black metal bollard outside Seal Kebab Shop requires reinstating.
5. At the junction of Childsbridge lane the drains are blocked opposite Meadow Lane side.
6. There is a gully in Zambra Way and the road has dipped and needs resurfacing. The general drainage is better but at the corner of Zambra Way, there is nowhere for the water to go. Gulleys have been cleansed there.
7. Further works to the main line to Childsbridge Lane was organised for 6th January. Although this didn't happen. KCC to organise a further date.
8. Zambra Way – broken posts left on verge.
9. Junction of Bank Lane and Mill Lane – it could do with resurfacing but more important is the need to keep it clear of mud and debris, making it slippery down to the junction. Potholes, running water and drainage covered by mud outside Riverdale Farm is also a problem.
10. Update on KCCs survey of two bridges on Mill Lane by Tumbling Bay. Note the narrowness of one acts as an effective speed reducing measure.
11. Looking into double yellow lines on the corner of Zion Street and Church Road.
12. Flooding at Grove Lane and Park Lane from the pond. Emily Kinsella KCC Drainage works organised a CCTV survey on 4th January. The highway drainage into the pond, the water drains to west and the pond overflows with high levels of silt and therefore the drainage isn't working properly. KCC will contact the landowner. Mr Tavare mentioned that there is a lot of surface water near the pond on the left-hand side of the road and following the recent snow the road was flooded again. The problem therefore is not the pond itself but getting the water into the pond.
13. Copse Bank footpath – Completed to a good standard, Parish Council asked whether this could be considered annually for general maintenance.