

A virtual meeting of the Seal Parish Council was held on THURSDAY 8th April 2021 at 7.30pm

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

Also present: The Clerk

1 Apologises: Mr Brown

2 The minutes of the of the last meeting were agreed and signed.

3 Declaration of Interest - None

4 KCC Matters – Councillor Gough matters

5 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.

A site visit to Mill Lane was completed and a job has been raised for railings near the drop which should be completed by end of June.

5.1 New and priority highway matters for discussion

Speed Limit A25

The Chairman welcomed the progress on both the A25 and Childsbridge Lane from Whitney Gwillim. Both come with costs, Councillor Gough or the next County Councillor could put something in through the members allowance with the help and support of SPC. The Parish Council would like to see proposals to include for beyond Seal Hollow Road to the east of Seal on the A25 towards Borough Green. Both items include sharing information and possibly costs with STC and Kemsing. Mr Michaelides, Mr Haslam and Mr Tavare volunteered to join a working group to progress discussions with them and funding.

The SID works well, we can see the effect that the SID has and the idea of having a permanent device. 30% or 40% of people will completely ignore the device. The problem being is that there is no enforcement being carried out. Mr Bourne said that a shared enforcement van with other Parishes would help to stop speeding.

5.2 Seal Primary School

The Chairman reported we are still awaiting KCC Solicitor to get back to us on the walking bus licence, Councillor Gough has liaised with Ben Watts, Head of Law and Governance to follow up with Invicta and a response should be heard soon.

ACTION: JS and Councillor Gough

5.3 Copse Bank/Ashplatt Footpath (SR165)

The Parish Council to ask KCC if Ash Platt footpath could be considered for yearly maintenance.

ACTION: Councillor Gough

5.4 Grove Lane

Flooding by the pond area at the junction Grove Lane and Park Lane. There is still amount of water by the roadside and the drainage isn't working.

Mr Bourne spoke to Lewis Sutton regarding the drain from the house opposite, the leak has stopped but the drain will require some attention. Huge amount of water north side of the road is accumulating. KCC are to contact the landowner.

ACTION: Councillor Gough

6 Other Matters Requiring Discussion and Action

6.1 School Lane, Seal

The parish council to discuss a quote for benches to be placed on the green to give residents a place to enjoy the outside space. A quote had been received for a 3 or 4 seater costing £897 (5ft) or 4 or 5 seater £978 (6ft 6), with ground fixings costing £45 and delivery costs of £95. Mr Tavare mentioned whether 2 single seat benches would be more beneficial. Small working party set up to consider the options.

ACTION: CT and AB

6.2 Zambra Way

Edward Tyrell visited the site and noted that 5 new posts were required with 4 adjusting and putting back in the ground. There were some posts that were rotten on top but they are well in the ground and do not require replacing and no posts are required by the parking bay. Quote received was £230 which was proposed by Mr Bulleid and seconded by Mr Bourne and agreed unanimously.

6.3 Highway Improvement Plan

The Chairman thanked everyone who had contributed to the HIP, particularly Mr Tavare who had done the final draft incorporating Whitney Gwillim's update. Mr Haslam had some points to make, he would send them to the Chairman and the final draft can be agreed and go to Whitney Gwillim. Proposed by Mr Haslam and seconded by Mr Bourne and agreed unanimously.

ACTION: CH/FW

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

Mrs Weston reported that following a further meeting on St Julians Road there are proposals for modest double yellow lines to go in at Riverhill end, opposite the entrance to St Julians and around the Fawke Common entrance to Knole. It was felt there was no alternative, the outcome would be monitored. Knole Estate will still look into Redlands for parking this is anticipated to be a long timescale as the entrance footpath they do not own but a potential solution. They would honour disabled badges and wheelchair access around the main gates. There is another meeting planned in May to discuss further, to look at options and where we are within the pandemic or when normality returns. The problem is that the Park is now identified on South East London websites as a good place to visit.

6.5 Seal Recreation Ground

There is litter accumulating in the bushes of the Recreation Ground. KYN did a litter pick a couple of weeks ago and did an amazing job with all the litter but some is not possible to reach. The bins are being filled up, often with household rubbish. Although SDC could be asked to empty them more often this is a problem across the district and an option could be signage to take litter home if bins are full. Mr Tavare suggested speaking to R Abel about the bushes and whether they could be cut back.

6.6 Website Accessibility and Upgrade

Points had been raised about the Cookies policy which needs to be consistent with the Social Media and Electronic Communication Policy. Mr Bourne will look into this with the web developer. He said that the clerk is being led by the web developer and her training and responsibilities have been pointed out to her so policies need to be consistent and clear to support her.

The speed watch page has been sent through today which the Council agreed to publicise. The procedure that needs to be followed requires new pages to be approved by Council before publication. Mr Tavare proposed and Mr Penn seconded and this was agreed unanimously.

6.7 Seal Parish Plan

Seal Parish Plan has been updated to tie in with the HIP. Mr Michaelides proposed and Mr Martin seconded and agreed unanimously.

Mrs Weston referred to the addition of reference to the Sevenoaks Neighbourhood Plan and its emerging policies for the Tarmac site. Mr Martin explained that the Town Council response to their consultation on their draft Plan did not accept the Parish Council's view that powered boats should not be allowed to use the lake, and in his view the draft Plan does not clearly retain the undeveloped part of the site to the west of Seal as Green Belt, contrary to the draft Local Plan. The Town Council is understood to be consulting KCC because they were omitted from the statutory consultees, and the programme for the Neighbourhood Plan will need to be corrected. It is also unclear what policy provision the Neighbourhood Plan could make in advance of the Local Plan, especially for a site partially outside its area. Nevertheless, Seal Parish Council would wish to monitor the position and ultimately might wish to support an objection on these planning matters with professional advice.

6.8 Bitchet Green

Mr Bourne has arranged at meeting to discuss further.

6.9 Climate Change

To discuss and consider climate change and the effects in our parish.
Mr Penn will update at the next meeting.

6.10 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 will update at the next meeting.

6.11 Rearranged Wildflower Talk

Having been cancelled last year due to COVID restrictions this will now take place on 28 April at 7.30pm via Zoom. This will be by invitation only so if any residents would like to attend please email the Parish Clerk to request an invitation. More information available on the launch of the new Parish Website and in the March edition of the Advertiser.

6.12 Parish Council and Village Hall Surveys

Mr Tavare will speak to the clerk about setting up news items now that our website is up and running.

ACTION: CT

6.13 Publicise what the Parish Council does in the Advertiser

The Advertiser would be pleased to include articles on what our role is and what we achieve. Propose that each member of the council write a short piece on one of their areas of responsibility, with rota to be agreed. Mrs Weston would start with the Chairman's Annual Report for the May edition, Mr Bourne and Mr Brown offered to write pieces.

6.14 Underriver Village Association

To consider as appropriate a dog bin outside the village hall. All litter bins can be used for dog bags and therefore the parish council felt that it wasn't required.

6.15 Bus Shelter – Stone Street

A resident has asked whether the parish council could consider repainting the bus shelter as it is looking considerably tired. Mr Bourne will visit the Bus Shelter to look at the deterioration of the bus shelter to see if work is required.

6.16 HMS Seal Memorial Garden

There is a filmmaker from the Isle of Wight who is planning to produce a documentary of the story of HMS Seal. The film is planned to be an over long and the filmmaker and his crew are due to visit Seal in April or May to take some film of the village (including the village sign with its image of HMS Seal. The memorial garden in the Recreation Ground is in need of renovation and the land belongs to the Parish Council. This would be an opportunity to look at other options for a Memorial Garden and plans can be implemented during the year, subject to agreement from the Parish Council. A group of Seal Parishioners will look at the site.

LEAD: CT

6.17 Zion Street

A resident has written to the parish council about the bad condition of small roads in our village. In particular, Church Road and Zion Street, several residents from Johnsons Court need to use rollators or wheelchairs to get to the village shops. The potholes make it quite dangerous. Councillor Gough noted the potholes in Zion Street.

7 Items for Information only

7.1 Councillor Vacancy

At present we have 2 vacancies in Seal and there will be an Election in May for a new Chairman to stand for the Parish Council, if you would like to become a parish councillor please contact the clerk.

7.2 Annual Assembly

Our Annual Assembly will take place on 5th May 2021 remotely this year, if you require an invitation to join the meeting please do not hesitate to contact the Clerk.

7.3 Community Asset

SDC have received the Bucks Head Application to be considered as an Community Asset. SDC will make a decision on our nomination no later than 10 May 2021.

SDC have reached its decision on the nomination by the Parish Council for the White Rock Inn to be considered as a community asset and the nomination has been successful.

8 Accounts and Cheques

006076	Gel Creative	£755.00	Website
006077	Richard Abel Landscapes	£423.30	Mowing
006078	Information Commissioner	£40.00	Data Protection Fee Renewal
006079	Clerk Expenses	£65.39	Zoom subscription, Broadband and domain transfer
006080	Clerk		Salary
006081	Caretaker		Salary
006082	Inland Revenue		Deduction
006083	Kent County Council		Pension Fund
006084	KC Davies Limited	£45.00	Window Cleaning
006085	Sevenoaks Volunteer Transport Group	£100.00	Donation
006086	Kent, Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance Trust	£250.00	Donation
006087	Kent Wildfire Trust	£50.00	Membership
006088	Sevenoaks District Council	£443.90	Refuse and dog Bins
006089	KALC	£1,166.21	Subscription

9 Planning

The Council agreed the minutes of the planning committee meeting on 11th and 22 March 2021. Mrs Weston proposed and Mr Michaelides seconded and this was agreed unanimously. The Council ratified the responses to planning application consultations submitted after this meeting. Mrs Weston 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.

A consultation letter has been received for Sevenoaks Grammar Annexe/Trinity School site for new external sport facilities.

10 Clerk report

As a matter of urgency, the clerk informed the Parish Council that our insurance renewal is due and we should consider a valuer on our building assets. A quote has been received from Sheffords of £900 plus VAT. Mr Michaelides proposed and Mr Martin seconded and this was agreed unanimously.

Matters for Information Only

The parish council will be closed between 12-16 April 2021, please contact the Chairman if urgent.

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 9.30pm

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.

A25 SID column needs to be reinstated; traffic counts are required.

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 – KCC are chasing for a delivery date.

Black metal bollard outside Seal Kebab Shop requires reinstating – this is now completed
Zambra Way – broken posts left on verge.

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.

KCCs survey of two bridges on Mill Lane by Tumbling Bay, requires replacement of small slab extension on both sides of Tumbling Bay West and on north side of Tumbling Bay East.

Looking into double yellow lines on the corner of Zion Street and Church Road.

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.

Copse Bank footpath – Completed to a good standard, Parish Council asked whether this could be considered annually for general maintenance.