

A meeting of the Seal Parish Council was held on THURSDAY 8th July 2021 in Underriver Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present:

Mr Bourne
Mr Bulleid
Mr Haslam
Mr Martin – acting as Clerk
Mr Michaelides
Mr Penn
Mr Spencer
Mrs Weston – Chair

Parishioner's Question Time

A parishioner attended on behalf of Sevenoaks Riding Club, owned by Knole Estates. The club is concerned that a new car park for Knole Park visitors would attract traffic, create unsafe vehicle and pedestrian movements, and cause loss of woodland and habitat.

Planning Committee to consider the comments and establish the extent of Ancient Woodland if it is consulted on a Planning Application.

1 Apologies accepted by the Council:

Mr Brown, Mr Tavare, Clerk, Councillor Thornton, Miles Hayward and Robert Talbot for the UVA.

2 The minutes of the last meeting were agreed, subject to an amendment to include cheque number 006102.

3 Declarations of Interest - none

4 Election of Seal Ward Councillor – co-option

Mrs Weston welcomed Oliver Boorman who was elected as a Councillor for Seal Ward and will be given time to sign the declaration of acceptance of office.

5 Clerk's report

PC e-mail domain: The Clerk requested that all Councillors should set up a new e-mail account. Those who chose IMAP should limit their mailbox to 1Gb. Download and delete messages as required to keep on top of storage.

Purchase of Projector: The Clerk to place an item on the Agenda for the next meeting of Council seeking authority to purchase a data projector and screen. Mr Bourne and Mr Penn to submit a report with costed options for circulation with the Agenda.

Ongoing highway matters:

Items are listed in the Appendix and a verbal update was given. A resident had raised an issue about damage to a wall in Park Lane. Councillors requested that more information was needed in order to respond to this and similar requests that come before the Council. In many instances they should be resolved outside of the Council meeting. Mr Haslam offered to provide support to the Clerk in resolving these outside a meeting whenever possible. New works are pursued through the annual HIP.

ACTION: Clerk

- 6 KCC Matters – Councillor Gough matters**
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.

New and priority highway matters for discussion

Councillor Gough reported that yellow lines on Zion Street will be included in the January 2021 consultation.

6.1 Seal Primary School

Councillor Gough to follow up KCC’s signed copy of the Walking Bus agreement, and the Clerk’s request for the car park construction costs for insurance purposes.

ACTION: Councillor Gough

7 Other Matters Requiring Discussion and Action

7.1 Shared Enforcement Van

Proposal to investigate an enforcement van after the County District Elections.

Mr Bourne proposed that a police speed-enforcement van for rural use be funded by a call on Parishes, with KCC support in principle. It could be self-funding with any profit retained by the police.

Mr Bourne to prepare a summary of how this would operate and a proposal for next steps to the next Council meeting.

ACTION: RB

7.2 Highway Improvement Plan

To discuss the response from KCC involving the HIP and other highway issues and to await a meeting with Kemsing on matters of joint interest.

Councillor Gough proposed a meeting of KCC, Kemsing PC and Seal PC to discuss changes to speed limits on Childsbridge Lane and other areas of joint interest. The agenda could include control of HGVs through Kemsing. Childsbridge Lane is an independent project for which KCC would charge. It was agreed that reducing the speed limit as proposed to 40mph should be accepted. Also, that a pragmatic approach to signage and the installation of Glasdon gates in order to help to keep speed to a minimum would be welcomed. Mr Haslam, with support if requested, could prepare a drawing and photos to show the signs and road markings either side of Childsbridge Lane rail-bridge, and to make suggestions for change so that a costed plan can be agreed with KCC and Kemsing. Councillor Gough will consult within KCC about a joint meeting, and the Clerk will inform him of her arrangements, yet to be finalised, for a meeting of Seal and Kemsing Parishes.

In response to being asked for a decision on options for the A25, Mrs Weston urged KCC to fund a reduced speed limit on A25 and ensure good cycle and walking routes are provided as so many young people need to access the expanded schools, playing fields and significant new sports facilities at the Wilderness site. This should be implemented as an inherent part of the new development and not at the expense of the Parish.

The Clerk to chase Network Rail for a reply about a pedestrian/cycle bridge over the railway.

ACTIONS: CH, RG, Clerk

7.3 Sevenoaks Quarry Site

The parish council to discuss plans following a meeting in June.

The PowerPoint shown by Tarmac’s planning consultant by Zoom on 15th June and a note of the discussion had been circulated, plus a note of the main issues for the Parish Council. Tarmac now propose up to 950 dwellings and to submit a planning application in November. They had invited the Council to a presentation of their plans as part of pre-

application consultation, and this may now take the form of a meeting with Seal and other Parishes.

Mrs Weston proposed that the meeting address the two main issues that arise; vehicle access and the location of dwellings. The meeting concluded that a road across the site from Childsbridge Lane to Bat and Ball might divert peak Kemsing traffic from Seal, but at the risk of traffic leaving A25 to access the development and the commercial uses at Otford Road throughout the day. Housing development within the Seal Parish boundary would generate CIL income, but would erode the Green Belt on the west side of Seal which should be preserved.

The Clerk to accept the invitation from Tarmac to give a presentation to Council and to ask that their consultants be present for questions.

Mr Martin to amend the discussion note, identify questions for Tarmac and their consultants, and circulate for comments.

ACTION: Clerk, TM

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

Mrs Weston to confirm a substitute for her attendance at the next meeting on 26th July at 15:30.

ACTION: FW

7.5 Climate Change

Mr Penn tabled a document about KCC's 'Local Electric Vehicle Charge-Point Scheme'. The scheme installs off-road public charging points, preferably with match funding of say £2,000 to offset the total cost for 2 points of about £6,000 – £7,000. The new parking bays at Seal Recreation Ground are probably a suitable location, and there are properties in Seal that are unsuitable for a private charge point. The parking spaces must be reserved for charging, but electricity is bought at a premium, giving a potential revenue. Council agreed to investigate installation of 2 charge-points at the Rec car park, and if found practical to provide £2,000 match funding.

Mr Penn to investigate, and prepare a costed proposal for the next Council meeting. Also to discuss with Mr Bourne a new page on the PC web-site about actions to 'Go Greener'.

ACTION: MP

7.6 Seal Benches*

Council had agreed a budget of up to £10,000 for these items along with the HMS Seal Memorial Garden, which were taken together. The Clerk had stated that Knole own land under consideration as a site at School Lane, and she waits to hear about their drafting a licence. Mr Bullied spoke to the document prepared by Mr Tavare and himself, and circulated on 6th July.

Mrs Weston praised the careful and well-presented work and it was agreed that the proposal was almost complete. The meeting asked if the option of picnic benches at the south side of the woodland could be looked at rather than 4 benches, and preferred the 'Premier Oak' display board. As the costings were set out clearly in Mr Tavare's paper, under the agreed budget and with the ability to reclaim VAT, it was agreed that, subject to identification of a suitable installer and final approval of the details by Mr Michaelides, work could start and details of the final breakdown given to Council in due course. Proposed by Mr Bulleid and seconded by Mr Penn and agreed unanimously.

ACTION: CT, Clerk

7.7 HMS Seal Memorial Garden*

The quotations for sorting out the garden and mending the fence were not directly comparable but it was agreed that Mr Tavare would be able to finalise which was the better

option with the Clerk so final costings can be approved by Mr Michaelides and work could commence before the next meeting and the expenditure itemised at the next Council meeting in September.

ACTION: CT, Clerk

7.8 Seal Recreation Ground*

To discuss data on Survey and summary received, details circulated.
To consider purchasing equipment for litter picking.

In the light of the survey response, Mr Tavare to form a working party with Mr Penn and Mr Spencer to take forward Mr Tavare's recommended next steps, to canvass users and Parish Councils about the use and cost of similar facilities nearby, and to consider all options. The proposals should be submitted to a future Council meeting. Proposed by Mr Bourne and seconded by Mr Bulleid and agreed unanimously.

ACTION: CT, MP, JS

7.9 Wildflower Project*

Mr Tavare had requested expenditure of up to £1,000 for the Wildflower Project. This was agreed, and he would be asked to prepare an itemised list of costs for Mr Michaelides to authorise expenditure within the budget. The list and any proposals for further spending within the budget should be submitted to the next Council meeting. It was noted that 'litter pickers' are provided by the District Council without charge.

ACTION: CT

7.10 Speedwatch organiser for Seal

Mr Boorman agreed to take over as organiser for Seal from Mr Tavare and will liaise with Mr Bourne on what is involved.

7.11 Seal Village

To propose a location for a tree planter. The village fund wants to fund in recognition of difficult year for community in light of COVID epidemic.

Mr Tavare and Mr Bullied to propose a location to the next meeting. This could be considered in the context of finalising their proposals for Items 7.6 and 7.7.

ACTION: CT, TB

7.12 KALC News

Boundary Commission review of Parliamentary Constituencies Consultation. New proposals for new parliamentary constituencies.

The Council felt the proposals do not affect the Parish and did not wish to respond.

7.13 PROW

The parish council to consider an application as appropriate on SU17 footpath which is east of Parkfield.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would support an application but needed someone to lead on this and it was proposed that the resident, who raised the issue, would be asked to lead on this. Mr Michaelides would assist and be able to provide a personal statement. It was proposed that Mr Michaelides would look at whether a separate application for a new footpath along Woodland Rise should be submitted, and whether the Trusts for the Wilderness roads should be notified as landowners if an application were successful.

ACTION: Clerk, AM

7.14 Open Spaces Society Grant A Green Appeal

Open Spaces Society are asking for a grant to help support local open spaces, to discuss at the next meeting.

7.15 Citizens Advice in Sevenoaks and Swanley (part of Citizens Advice in North and West Kent)

The parish council to consider as appropriate a donation to support residents in Seal, to discuss at the next meeting.

7.16 West Kent Neighbourhood Watch Association

The parish council to consider contributing towards funds required to keep the association running, to discuss at the next meeting.

The Clerk was asked to provide information on whether the Parish Council had already provided support to these organisations for a decision at the next meeting on all items.

ACTION: Clerk

8 Accounts and Cheques

Cheques signed June 2021

006103	Richard Abel Landscaping	£3,349.57	April and May Mowing
006104	Clerk Expenses	£53.39	Broadband and zoom
006105	Kent County Council		Pension
006106	Caretaker		Salary
006107	Clerk		Salary
006108	Inland Revenue		Deductions
006109	Spy Alarms Limited	£946.80	Annual Maintenance
006110	Streetlights	£681.42	Maintenance
006111	Sheffords (Kent) Limited	£1,080.00	Reinstatement Costs Assessment
006112	Gel Creative	£50.00	Website
006113	Edward Tyrell (Fencing) Limited	£276.00	Fencing
006114	Martins Painting and Decorating and General Repairs	£170.80	Bus Shelter repairs
006115	Cancelled cheque	0.00	Cancelled cheque
006116	Sevenoaks District Council	£328.80	Refuse and Sacks

Cheques signed July 2021

006117	A McFadyen	£287.00	Heating
006118	Martins Painting and Decorating and General Repairs	£1,086.00	Noticeboards and play equipment
006119	Arthur J Gallagher	£3,504.15	Council insurance
006120	Clerk Expenses	£144.82	Zoom, Broadband and light fittings
006121	Kent County Council		Pension Fund
006122	Caretaker		Salary
006123	Inland Revenue		Deductions
006124	Clerk		Salary
006125	Kent County Council	£132.48	Stationery and cleaning materials
006126	Sevenoaks District Council	£563.10	Refuse and Dog Bins collection
006127	Richard Abel Landscapes	£1,274.88	Mowing
006128	Gel Creative	£50.00	Website
006129	Streetlights	£210.00	Street lighting

006130	T D Geer Limited	£108.00	Maintenance
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*It should be noted that due to Government regulations over meetings for Parish Councils preventing them from being held on Zoom, and that Mr Tavare is unable to attend face to face meetings, final decisions on details within the agreed expenditure levels are being delegated to Mr Tavare and the clerk and with approval from Mr Michaelides.

9 Items for Information only

9.1 Councillor Vacancy

One vacancy remains at present. The Parish Council is actively pursuing highway improvements, control of speeding, environment and carbon reduction schemes, and community projects. It wishes to recruit new Councillors and to work with those interested in these topics. If you would like to become a Parish Councillor or are interested in our work, please contact the Clerk on 01732 833360 or sealparishc@outlook.com

9.2 Community Assets

SDC have confirmed that our application for the Bucks Head has been successful and will be listed as a community asset.

9.3 Sevenoaks Volunteer Transport Group

We have received a letter of thanks for the kind donation received in helping residents who need transport in our parish.

9.4 Air Ambulance Kent Surrey Sussex

Air Ambulance would like to thank our parish council for the kind donation received.

9.5 Family Fun Days

Sevenoaks District Council have funded this event which is run by Play Place with the help of Town and Parish Councils, the first event will be held at Seal Recreation Ground, 10-2pm on 26 July 2021, this is a free event for families to attend.

10 Planning

The Council agreed the minutes of the planning committee meeting on 5th and 24th May, 10th and 28th June, and ratified the responses to planning application consultations submitted after these meetings. Proposed by Mr Bourne and seconded by Mr Bulled and agreed unanimously.

Given the discussion of Sevenoaks Quarry at Item 7.3 above there was no need for the Committee to meet after Council.

Matters for Information Only

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 9.55pm

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.

Seal

A25: The SID column needs to be replaced. Traffic counts are required but have been on hold due to COVID. No road sign heading towards Sevenoaks.

A resident has written to the Parish Council about the bad condition of small roads in Seal, in particular Church Road and Zion Street. Several residents from Johnsons Court use rollators or wheelchairs to get to the village shops, and potholes make it dangerous.

Yellow lines on the corner of Zion Street and Church Road: Councillor Gough reported that yellow lines on Zion Street will be included in the January 2021 consultation

A resident has reported a Park Lane wall has been damaged on over 10 occasions. Large vehicles are unable to get by where the lane narrows because cars are parked all day in the free bays. Councillors to decide whether we this should be raised as a priority or included in the HIP.

Flooding at Grove Lane and Park Lane from the pond. Emily Kinsella KCC Drainage works organised a CCTV survey on 4th January. The highway drains into the pond which drains to west but overflows with high levels of silt. 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.

Rural

Fawke Wood Road, third sign missing for Underriver. The regulations have changed and KCC are chasing new signs. Two verge markers near One Tree Hill have been completed.

Junction of Bank Lane and Mill Lane needs complete resurfacing and to be kept clear of mud and debris which make it slippery on the slope to the junction. For the drains need to be cleared and repairs made around them to catch running water, including replacement of the kerb stone placed by the road after a collision. In April areas for resurfacing were marked out and Bank Lane will be closed for road works from 12th July.

Bank Lane is made narrower on the bend at Riverdale Farm by deep accumulated debris at the side the road and by potholes, creating a hazard.

KCC's 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. Reflective warning posts were placed along the unprotected bank above the stream in June.

Update at 8th July 2021