

A meeting of the Seal Parish Council was held on THURSDAY 14th October 2021 in Seal Pavilion on Seal Recreation Ground at 7.30pm

Present:

Mr Haslam

Mr Martin

Mrs Weston – Chair

Mr Boorman

Mr Michaelides

Mr Tavare

Also present the Clerk, Councillor Gough and Councillor Thornton

1 Apologies

Mr Bulleid, Mr Spencer, Mr Penn and Mr Bourne

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

3 Declarations of Interest - None

4 Election of Seal Ward Councillor – Co -Option

The Chairman welcomed Mrs Talbot who was elected as a Councillor for Seal Ward and the declaration of acceptance of office was signed.

5 Clerk's report

Following a visit from our tree surgeon 15 trees require removal and we are in the process of seeking SDC permission for these trees to be removed.

The clerk has been informed that our current internal auditor is retiring and therefore the clerk will organise for a replacement.

6 KCC Matters – Councillor Gough matters

- Cyclist are coming down Carters Hill at great speed which could cause problems with oncoming traffic. The parish council is concerned about the safety issue and would welcome KCC's response. Councillor Gough has spoken to Alan Gibbins on the matter and there are examples of signage which could be used from other areas such as Toys Hill, our Schemes Project Manager who will investigate further.

- A25 Speed limit to reduce the speed along the stretch of the road and around secondary schools and to ensure good cycling and walking routes. KCC has highlighted 3 options on our HIP which Whitney Gwillim was expecting a view from the Parish Council. The Parish Council discussed this at the meeting on 8th July 2021, the minute will be sent to her. Councillor Gough and STC support 30mph and the Parish Council also wants an effective cycling route.

- A25 – Seal Car Park signs awaiting feedback from KCC

- Awaiting information from KCC on Childsbridge Lane, glasdon gates and boundary signs. The Parish Council is still trying to arrange a meeting with Kemsing and KCC on Childsbridge Lane.

- Resurfacing due to the bad condition of small roads in Seal, in particular Church Road, Pudding Lane and Zion Street. Several residents from Johnsons Court use rollators or wheelchairs to get to the village shops, and potholes make it dangerous. Councillor Gough has reported this to Alan Gibbins whether this could be included in the pot whole blitz for localised resurfacing. The Parish Council said that the roads were in such a poor state that they require some resurfacing measures. KCC are putting together a budget which could include Church Road, Pudding Lane for full resurfacing of the road for the long-term benefit.

The Parish Council wrote on 4th August to ask for a joint response from Tarmac, SDC and KCC about the timing and funding of access to Sevenoaks Quarry, notably at Bat and Ball. KCC will not be preparing a joint response.

Councillor Gough was glad that Tarmac had actively engaged with the Parish Council.

He mentioned that they were in the third stage of bidding on active travel and have worked with SDC and their priorities in a strategic approach. They got £9million from last round which ties in with the ongoing work with Sevenoaks District Settlement Hierarchy to fund pedestrian and cycle connections and air quality.

They are working with Sevenoaks District Council in linking the priorities established under their Cycling Strategy with applications to the government's Active Travel Fund.

– Planning application (21/01551/FUL) for warehouse use ‘south of Stone Street’ was raised with Roger by Rick Bourne. Details were provided by Mr Martin on 13th September with a request that KCC Highways and PROW officers visit the site and review all the comments made. Councillor Gough will chase.

Thanks for the positive response by KCC to SPC’s comments on their planning application for new school sports fields at the Wilderness site.

Mr Haslam brought up that there was an accident on Childsbridge Lane, Railway Bridge a child was hit by a wind mirror. Mr Haslam will email Councillor Gough and the clerk on the matter. Mrs Talbot said there had been two previous incidents involving pedestrians being hit by wing mirrors.

Urgent Road Closure - Park Lane, Underriver - 25th October 2021 for upto 5 days.
The road will be closed at between junction Blackhall Lane and junction Fawke Common.

The alternative route is via Park Lane, Bridle Road, Grove Road, Hall Hill, Stone Street, Blakes Green Road, Bitchet Green Road.

This is to enable urgent works required to install kerb line and patching to reinstate road to be carried out by Kent County Council.

Urgent Road Closure - Childsbridge Lane, Seal - 25th October 2021 (Sevenoaks)
It will be necessary to close Childsbridge Lane, Seal from 25th October 2021 for up to 5 days.

The road will be closed at Castle Drive to south of railway bridge.

The alternative route is via Childsbridge Lane, Church Street, High Street, Seal Road, Otford Road, Station Road, Pilgrims Way East, Pilgrims Way, Childsbridge Lane.

This is to enable carriageway patching to be carried out by Kent County Council.

Councillor Gough said that the Bus Strategy, the first Bus Improvement plan, will be submitted by the end of the month. Government put in £3million nationally. Not clear yet on KCC share, there will be further public engagement and an enhanced Partnership Scheme which will start the beginning of the financial year. This will then be used to help create Enhanced Partnership Schemes with bus operators, which will set the standards for all bus services running in the county.

7 Other Matters Requiring Discussion and Action

7.1 Vacancies on Committees

Seal Recreation Ground Committee x 4	JS, CT (2 vacancies)
Seal Village Hall Management Committee	CT
Seal Transport Report and Highway Improvement Plan	CH, LT, OB
Planning	TM,AM, TB, RB, CH. CT, OB and 1 vacancy
Christmas lights	AM
Village Spring Cleans – Stone Street Seal	MP (1 Vacancy)

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7.2 Seal Primary School

The parish council to chase our solicitor for KCC signed copy of the walking bus licence agreement. The agreement has been signed off in July 2021.

7.3 Electric charging points and Climate change

Mr Penn had prepared a survey for the proposal to install Electric Vehicle Charge Points for Seal to go out to local shops in Seal and the Library. The Parish Council were happy with the survey and it was proposed by Mr Haslam and seconded by Mr Michaelides and agreed unanimously.

Mr Penn would also like to discuss the installation of solar panels in the Recreation Ground Pavilion building to be discussed at the next meeting.

ACTION: MP

7.4 Shared Enforcement Van

Proposal to investigate an enforcement van. – No update.

ACTION: RB

7.5 Household waste Consultation

KCC has launched a consultation regarding keeping the booking system to use the Household Waste Recycling Centre, which is available at <https://letstalk.kent.gov.uk/wasteconsultation>. This Consultation has now closed and therefore no response will be made.

7.6 Gatwick Airport

The parish council to consider submitting a response to the consultation to bring existing northern runway into routine use alongside their main runway, deadline 1 December. The Parish Council agreed that they will not be submitting a response on the matter.

7.7 Highway Improvement Plan

Mr Haslam updated the Council with a map to show the drawings for either side of Railway bridge and photos to show signs and road markings of Childsbridge Lane, and proposed new location of glasdon gates. He said that if we want to include the speed sign on the glasdon gates there would need to be a traffic consultation. We will await to hear from Kemsing their view and determine our plans. Councillors to be included in the meeting are Mr Haslam, Mrs Talbot, Mr Boorman and Mr Michaelides and KCC.

ACTION: CH

7.8 HMS Seal Memorial Garden

Work has started on the memorial garden and cutting back vegetation. A badger sett had been located which could be active. Following a visit from the West Kent Badger Group confirmation has been received that it is not active and work can continue. Mr Tavare will update the Council at the next meeting.

ACTION: CT

7.9 Welcome Back Fund Grant update

Mr Tavare is having a meeting with Rob Crouch on the installation on Benches for 2 for Underriver, 1 Stone Street and 1 for the playground.

ACTION: CT

7.10 Wildflower Project

Licence prepared for Seal Allotments to be approved by the Council. Proposed by Mr Haslam and seconded by Mr Michaelides and agreed unanimously.

27 Wildflowers grew in Childsbridge Lane, Seal is taking longer and Underriver has been a success with 53 species counted. We do need volunteers to help and if you are interested,

please contact the clerk or Mr Tavare. Unfortunately, a resident who was very passionate about the area of Godden Green has had no luck in sourcing volunteers for this project with no support for help. Therefore, without the volunteers this project may not go ahead and SDC may have to return to cutting all the green.

ACTION: CT/Clerk

7.11 Old Fire Station

Leonette Roussouw has said that she would be happy for a circle to be cut out of the forecourt 2 metre distance, two thirds from the pavement to replace the middle planter. The Parish Council will require to amend the lease agreement to reflect the change and to draft an agreement between all parties. Firstly, the Parish Council will check the plans to see if there are any issues with pipework etc for the forecourt area. Leonette Roussouw is also trying to get their contractor to provide some maintenance to the exterior of the property including the windows but unfortunately there has been some delay.

ACTION: Clerk/ JS

7.12 Emergency Plan

The Parish Council discussed whether the Parish needed an Emergency Plan and it was agreed our website highlights links to various websites and information, this can be kept updated and therefore it was agreed that we wouldn't require an emergency plan.

7.13 Ightham Mote/Knole Park

Mr Penn presented the Parish Council with a suggestion about having a passenger train for visitors attending National Trust places in our area. The Parish Council decided that this wasn't a priority for us at the moment.

7.14 Seal Pavilion

At the last meeting it was raised that the Parish Council should discuss a budget for a projector and screen to be agreed.

Mr Penn presented a paper setting out the different ways of enabling the Parish Council to use a projector and screen. He was thanked for his work on this, it was agreed that the bigger screen should be sought and the parish council agreed a budget of up to £500. This was proposed by Mr Michaelides and seconded by Mr Haslam and agreed unanimously.

ACTION: MP

7.15 Seal Recreation Ground

Following receipt of the ROSPA inspections on the playground, the clerk will set up a site meeting with Mr Tavare and Mrs Talbot on the matters that require addressing on our inspection reports.

ACTION: Clerk

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

At the last meeting, Mr Michaelides to propose a donation of £500, in recognition of the increased workload as a result of Covid. Mrs Talbot proposed that we pay £500 towards a donation, and this was seconded by Mr Boorman and agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: The Parish Council agreed to pay £500 for a donation.

7.17 West Kent Neighbourhood Watch Association

Mr Michaelides to propose a donation of £250 and this was proposed by Mrs Talbot that we pay £250 towards a donation, and was seconded by Mr Boorman and agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: The Parish Council agreed to pay £250 for a donation.

7.18 Councillor Vacancy

The Parish Council is actively seeking new Councillors. It is 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. It was suggested for Mr Haslam to advertise on our facebook page.

ACTION: CH

7.19 Remembrance Day

Wreaths to be laid on Remembrance Day 14th November at St Lawrence Church by Mr Penn, St Peters and Pauls by Mr Michaelides, Godden Green by Mr Boorman and St Margarets Church by the Clerk.

7.20 KALC AGM 13 November 2021

Two volunteers to attend the KALC AGM, which is being held virtually on Zoom on Saturday 13 November 2021. Unfortunately, our parish councillors are unable to attend this event.

8 Accounts and Cheques

Cheques signed October 2021

006155	Boston Seeds Limited	£200.99	Wildflower Plug Plants
006156	The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal	£95.00	Wreaths
006157	RWE Rural Services Limited	£180.00	Trees
006158	St Lawrence Village Hall	£29.00	Hall hire
006159	Playsafety Limited	£185.40	ROSPA inspection Play equipment
006160	Mr O Boorman	£60.00	Councillor Course
006161	Clerk Expenses	£79.38	Zoom Subscription, Broadband, Dog Bags
006162	Sevenoaks District Council	£394.70	Refuse Collection and Dog Waste
006163	Richard Abel Landscapes	£1,962.48	Mowing
006164	Jane Haselden	£150.00	Website
006165	Spy Alarms Limited	£408.00	Security lighting
006166	Clerk	£150.00	Petty Cash
006167	Kent County Council	£47.46	Stationery
006168	Edward Tyrell (Fencing) Ltd	£624.00	Fencing
006169	Kent County Council		Pension
006170	Caretaker		Salary
006171	Clerk		Salary
006172	Inland Revenue		Deductions
006173	Mr David Wood, Sevenoaks Gutters	£370.00	Guttering
006174	Martins Painting and Decorating and General Repairs	£543.00	Maintenance
006175	CPRE	£36.00	Membership

9 Items for Information only

9.1 Queens Platinum Jubilee celebrations 2nd June to 5th June 2022

Dates for Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebrations, for communities to get together for celebrations, including “planting a tree for the platinum jubilee” everyone can be involved schools, individuals, communities and groups. Please see website:

<https://platinumjubilee.gov.uk/>

9.2 Underriver Recreation Ground

The clerk has discussed the area with KCC PROW, who have inspected the site and removed any loose dead wood away and the plan is to put weed suppressant and type 1 to the area.

10 Planning

The Council to agree the minutes of the planning committee meeting on 27th September, and ratify the responses to planning application consultations submitted after these meetings. Mr Boorman proposed and Mr Haslam seconded and this was agreed unanimously.

Mr Martin raised Sevenoaks District Council Strategic Planning Consultations organised by SDC launching a call for sites, and are inviting local residents, landowners, developers, businesses and other interested parties to submit sites for potential future development within Sevenoaks District.

Tarmac event scheduled for 20th October, the parish council have given points on the implementation on A25 some agreement on funding between KCC, Tarmac and Parish Council.

As part of the ongoing work on the Local Plan and the evidence base, Sevenoaks District Council (SDC) is currently undertaking an update of the Settlement Hierarchy. Please could each Parish Councillor update the spreadsheet and email Mr Martin who will compile an update.

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 at 9.15pm