

A meeting of the Seal Parish Council was held on THURSDAY 11th November 2021 in Seal Pavilion on Seal Recreation Ground at 7.30pm

Present:

Mr Haslam
Mr Bourne
Mr Martin
Mrs Weston
Mr Michaelides
Mr Spencer
Mr Talbot
Mr Penn

Also present the Clerk, Councillor Gough and Councillor Thornton

**1 Apologies – OB- Work Commitments,
TB – Other Commitments, CT – Medical Reason**

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

3 Declarations of Interest - None

4 Clerk's report

The clerk presented 3 tenders to the finance committee meeting and MDH Horticultural Contractors were successful in their tender. The clerk is in the process of organising references etc. and their licences.

Car Park Signs A25 – The Clerk had approached KCC, to find out whether the signs were being installed as locations were given to KCC. Unfortunately, the budget has been cut and they are currently unable to progress with the installation of the signs until the new financial year budgets.

Underriver Recreation Ground

The Clerk has spoken to Nicky Biddall from PROW, contractors seem to be extremely busy at present, and work will commence in the New Year, the ground is wet at the moment and will mark easily and therefore it would be better for the ground to be drier.

Japanese Knotweed

Due to the timings and knotweed starting to die, treatment would be unsuccessful. Down to Earth will prepare a management plan in January for treatment in September 2022.

5 KCC Matters – Councillor Gough matters

Updates on -

- Cyclist are coming down Carters Hill at great speed. The Schemes Project Manager to investigate examples of signage produced by the parish council. The clerk to contact Weald PC.

- 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 will look at reducing the speed to 30mph. Whitney Gwillim has got an engineer to cost it up, budgets are tight and this may come out of the small works budget for next year. Parents have asked whether it could be reduced to 20mph than 30mph, notably around schools at specific times. There are schools who have this arrangement so worth consideration. On the bigger picture of the A25 the Parish Council urged for a longer-term plan and commitment to improving cycling and walking in order to address the congestion and pollution levels through Seal village.

- 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. Councillor Gough reported that arrangements should be made within the next two weeks to discuss the 3 options on our HIP.

Mr Haslam attended at Kemsing Parish Council meeting and they were not going to fund signs on Childsbridge Lane.

- Resurfacing due to the bad condition of small roads in Seal, in particular Church Road, Pudding Lane and Zion Street. KCC are putting in a further enquiry and bid for the potholes blitz to this area.

Mr Haslam said the white lines over the railway bridge had been redone giving no room for pedestrians, particularly those with pushchairs and cyclists. Mrs Talbot said that there was hatching in this area and it has disappeared. Nick Chard was involved in this some time ago and a traffic order was made. Councillor Gough will ask Streetworks about the traffic orders around this area

The clerk brought up that UK Power Network, worked on cabling underground in Underriver House Road last year and unfortunately it has cracked along the channelled area of the road and this will just erode over time.

Mrs Talbot brought up that pot-holes in Fawke Wood Road, St Julian Road pot holes have been filled but there is a dip in some of the pot-holes which have been filled. The Parish Council would like to know who inspects and validates the work as the outcome is frequently poor quality which is not good value for money.

The clerk asked Councillor Thornton whether the road at Fawke Common could be cleaned as the new double yellow lines at Knole Park are disappearing in places due to the earth and leaves on the roadside.

6 Other Matters Requiring Discussion and Action

6.1 Electric charging points and Climate change

Mr Penn gave an update on the electric charging points in the Recreation Ground Pavilion.

The survey has gone out to the village shops in Seal and library, we have had 20/30 responses back, and 150 hand posted to the village. Mr Haslam to send a link on social media. It would be useful if our Parish Councillors would complete the survey and residents to have their view. The survey has been published on our website. Mr Penn discussed whether the Sevenoaks Quarry Site had proposed plans for EV Charging points. Mr Michaelides said that plans were put in place but not sure of how many.

Councillor Thornton said the existing strategy does have an option to have EV Charging points. The Parish Council will have to seek planning permission for Seal Recreation Ground as we are in a conservation area.

ACTION: MP

6.2 Speed

Following an accident on Bitchet Green Road, the parish council to consider some action to deter speeding in this area. This must be a County wide and national problem and it would be good to know more about measures that can be put in place to reduce speeding on country lanes. Councillor Gough will look into it further.

There is an area of hard standing off Rooks Hill at the Bitchet Green end which is currently barriered off, but could this be used for extra parking.

ACTION: Councillor Gough

6.3 Firework Displays

The clerk mentioned that she had received a letter from a resident asking whether traffic management could be put in place and stewarding for future fireworks events. The Parish Council said that it is the organiser's responsibility to put measures in place for these kinds of events. She also mentioned that in Zambra Way on the green, cars were parked on the green for the event, and this is owned by the Parish Council.

6.4 Shared Enforcement Van

Proposal to investigate an enforcement van. – No update

ACTION: RB

6.5 HMS Seal Memorial Garden

The clerk is organising for the rest of the work to be completed following investigations from West Kent Badger Group and subsequent investigations.

ACTION: CT/Clerk

6.6 Welcome Back Fund Grant update

SDC have delivered the benches and we will organise for volunteers to distribute and install them. Mr Bourne will organise a meeting to discuss where we can install the bench at St Lawrence Ground.

ACTION: CT/RB

6.7 Wildflower project

It was disappointing that so few volunteers turned up to help with cutting and raking the verges having left them for wildflowers. It was agreed that the clerk will arrange for the remainder of Childsbridge Lane to be brush cut by our contractor and Mr Tavare then can continue to collect and remove the cuttings. Catts Cottage, Black Charles Barn and Seal Allotments the clerk has been in contact with KCC on licences for these locations and have not yet received the information requested. An additional sum was included in the budget to help provide cutting next year should volunteers continue to fail to come forward.

ACTION: Clerk

6.8 Bench project

Mr Tavare updated the council regarding quotes for assembly and installation of 11 benches around Seal Village, including the wooden bench. Due to our Contractor being extremely busy at present an update with revised installation costs will hopefully be made at the next meeting in January.

6.9 Old Fire Station

Mr Spencer to discuss the forecourt area in front of the Dentist and the option of having a large wooden planter. The clerk mentioned that if a circular hole was dug into concrete which effects the forecourt area which is leased, we would need to change the lease agreement to reflect the change. Due to expense for all parties the parish council decided that a wooden planter would be the best option. Mr Tavare will contact KYN to see if they are in agreement.

ACTION: CT/ JS

6.10 Seal Recreation Ground

Following receipt of the ROSPA inspections on the playground, it was agreed that a small working group to include Mrs Talbot would help the clerk decide the best option. The slide is in need of attention and is urgent now and requires a contractor to build up the erosion of the slide as it is severely eroded. The clerk had arranged some quotes costing £3,497.50 and £2,200 and it was agreed due to the urgency that this would be signed off by the Finance Chairman and Chairman.

ACTION: Clerk

6.11 Councillor Vacancy

The Parish Council is actively seeking new Councillors 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.

6.12 Sevenoaks Quarry Site

Mr Martin had sent a paper to all Councillors with his thoughts following the meeting and public exhibition on 20th October. Councillors supported his comments and in particular noted that the addition of 300 more dwellings would impact significantly on the road and

other infrastructure in the area. Parish Councillors should contribute their ideas to the Planning Chairman for a draft response to be prepared in January.

Councillor Thornton understands that SDC are currently in the process of setting up a meeting between the leader, Cllr Peter Fleming, KCC & Tarmac on the issue.

ACTION: TM

6.13 CIL Contributions Received

During the period April 2021 to September 2021 inclusive we have received in Payment A £2,009.83 and Payment B £1,339.90.

We have been notified from SDC that we are able to use CIL contributions for the installation of benches in Seal and this can come out of Payment A and/or Payment B to fund this project.

6.14 Internal Auditor

The clerk has recommended to the Finance Chairman that Lionel Robbins should be our internal auditor for next year 2021/22. Mr Haslam proposed and Mr Spencer seconded and this was agreed unanimously.

6.15 Seal Village Hall

Seal Village Hall is looking for a new Chairman. The Village Hall AGM is on 17th November. Seal Village Hall Management Committee - Please contact Alan Davies by email sealvillagehall@gmail.com.

6.16 Seal Recreation Ground

The parish council to discuss next steps in development. The Parish Council agreed to replace the basketball net and look at the surveys from the public consultation to see how we can develop for future improvements.

ACTION: JS

6.17 Seal Pavilion and Projector screen

Update from Mr Penn – None

7 Accounts and Cheques

Finance Chairman reported that the Annual Precept would be circulated with the budget to all Parish Councillors to be agreed at the next meeting in January.

006176	Mrs C Boland	£63.39	Zoom and Broadband
006177	Citizens Advice in North and West Kent	£500.00	Donation
006178	West Kent Neighbourhood Watch Association	£250.00	Donation
006179	Spy Alarms Limited	£598.80	CCTV and Security Lighting
006180	K C Davies Limited	£45.00	Window Cleaning
006181	Sevenoaks District Council	£251.00	Garden Sacks/refuse sacks/recycling
006182	Streetlights	£681.42	Street lighting
006183	The F A Bartlett Tree Expert Co Limited	£510.00	Memorial Garden
006184	Richard Abel Landscapes	£2,072.40	Mowing
006185	Mr O Boorman	£60.00	Councillor Training
006186	Seal PCC	£650.00	Churchyard Mowing
006187	St Lawrence PCC	£600.00	Churchyard Mowing
006188	St Margarets PCC	£575.00	Churchyard Mowing
006189	Kent County Council		Pension Fund

006190	Mrs C Boland (Clerk)		Salary
006191	Mrs C Farrow-Ward (caretaker)		Salary
006192	Inland Revenue		Deductions
006193	Mrs C Boland	£12.01	Signs

8 Items for Information only

8.1 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/>

The Parish Council will participate in planting a tree, locations suggested Seal Recreation Ground, Underriver Recreation Ground and St Lawrence Recreation Ground. A plaque was also suggested to mark the occasion. UVA had kindly offered 2 trees, at this stage we are not aware of the type of trees offered, the Parish Council will need to consider the type of tree to be planted, size and at this stage where these trees will be located to mark the occasion to be discussed at the next meeting.

ACTION: All

9 Planning

The Council to agree the minutes of the planning committee meeting on 14th and 25th October, and ratify the responses to planning application consultations submitted after these meetings. Mr Martin proposed and Mr Penn seconded, and this was agreed unanimously. Mr Martin referred to application 21/03376/CONVAR (1 Jubilee Rise, Seal) which the Committee had considered on 25th October and had been unable to form a view because the plans submitted were unclear. The Committee had subsequently been informed of a clarified description, which is for a change to materials and an increase in the size of a small porch. Mr Boorman had circulated his view that there need be no objection, and this was agreed by Planning Committee Members present. There were no new applications for consideration by the Committee.

The Clerk mentioned at the end of the meeting to remind Parish Councillors that it was Remembrance Sunday.

Reminder to think of who to nominate for the KALC Nominations for the Community Award for next year as we may have a tight deadline in January.

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 9.30pm