

A meeting of the Seal Parish Council was held on THURSDAY 13^h January 2022 in Seal Pavilion on Seal Recreation Ground at 7.30pm

Present:

Mr Haslam
Mr Bourne
Mr Martin
Mrs Weston
Mr Michaelides
Mr Spencer
Mrs Talbot
Mr Boorman
Mr Bulleid

Also present the Clerk, Councillor Hogarth and Councillor Gough

Parishioners Question Time:

One parishioner and Planning Consultant attended the meeting to discuss a planning application and the planning committee heard their concerns and their personal reasons behind their application. The Planning Committee will reflect on their views and look at the application after the parish council meeting

1 Apologies: Mr Penn and Mr Tavare

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

3 Declarations of Interest - None

4 Clerk's report

Play equipment repairs have been completed over the Christmas holidays. The slide has now had black matting placed under the slide, steps made even, new rails. New surface around the tunnel area, and minor adjustments/repairs to the play equipment which were required under the ROSPA inspections.

RWE have removed dead trees along the east side of the recreation ground.

We have had to purchase 3 new litter bins during the Christmas period as they are damaged.

We had a response from Network Rail, Greg Thomson says, "Regarding any installation of a pavement across the bridge, this would be for the authority overseeing highways to decide upon and then engage with their structures team regarding creating a new footpath on the road bridge. In this instance it would be for Kent County Council to look at this proposal first before engaging with them. Their structures team would certainly be willing to discuss this matter further." Their response will be forwarded to Councillor Gough.

MDH Contractors - References were successful and we have now received their signed copy of the agreement for the work specified in their tender.

5 KCC Matters – Councillor Gough's report

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.

- Reduction on A25 speed limit- Councillor Gough said that he should be able to fund this through small works budget in the new financial year and has had an engineer on site.

- Update on resurfacing due to the bad condition of small roads in Seal, in particular Church Road, Pudding Lane and Zion Street. Councillor Gough said that the area has been

added to the pothole blitz but not sure what the budget is at this stage. Mr Payton is fully aware of the Church Street issues.

- Childsbridge Lane Railway Bridge - white lines no room for pedestrians, particularly those with pushchairs and cyclists. Hatching by the bridge was removed some time ago. Councillor Gough has looked into JTB papers but couldn't find the plans what was completed out of the funding of Nick Chard's funds. But Whitney Gwillim will follow up.

- Childsbridge Lane - speed signs, glasdon gates, KCC produced estimate for Parish Council to pursue.

- Underriver House Road, work was completed by UK Power Network's last year, cabling underground, the clerk explained due to the surfacing of the tarmac it has now started to crack all the way down the road from Underriver House towards Underriver Farm where it was channelled out to put underground cabling in. Mr Payton will follow up.

- Fawke Wood Road, St Julians potholes which have recently been filled – A steward will mark up the area for patching.

- Reducing speed limits along country lanes, this is a general issue and there has been information through Vision Zero on rural roads and speed. Being a general problem for many nationwide KCC may be able to advise further.

- Bitchet Green Area, there is an area of hard standing off Rooks Hill at the Bitchet Green end which is currently barriered off, could be used for extra parking for the Cricket Ground, this is highways land, Now that the triangle has stopped people from parking it would be helpful to have more parking along that lane. The area could be turned back to tarmac or even hard core and type 1.

Ashplatt Footpath is covered with leaf mulch and is treacherous, not lit and most of where its slopes in STC area can be quite dangerous. Councillor Gough will follow up.

5.1 Wildflower project

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.

6 Other Matters Requiring Discussion and Action

6.1 Highway Improvement Plan

Mr Haslam reported on the meeting to facilitate the funding on the Childsbridge Lane scheme. There is only 100 metres in Seal with minimal amount of work to replace signs, if we don't change 30mph and leave to 40mph. This could affect the price from £5,000 and then add ons for example optional extras' in the form of red high friction surfacing, white gateways and non-standard road markings such as dragon's teeth these can add to the significant costs. These costs were discussed at the meeting in December for a Traffic Road Order consultation, report by KCC and KCC design. Councillor Gough generously said he would fund the TRO to get the process moving. It would be helpful if a letter was sent to each Parish Council explaining that he has done this and giving the cost of how much each parish council would have to fund so that we can get it approved at a parish council meeting.

The Parish Council to propose KCC go ahead with an informal consultation with local residents on double yellow lines, Church Road, Zion Street. Mr Haslam received an email from Whitney Gwillim around the need for consultations, something the parish council was not aware of and if it had been this would have been done already.

The Parish Council to prepare for new projects for the next financial year's HIP. Councillors to email any proposals to Mr Haslam.

Mrs Weston will lead on updating the Parish Plan. Mrs Talbot has kindly volunteered to help.

ACTION: CH and FW

6.2 Fawke Wood Road, St Julians Road

The Parish Council mentioned at the last meeting about the leaves and earth covering the double yellow lines which have recently been installed, could we consider street cleaning for this area. Obviously, the leaves will need to be cleared but the white lines have been reinstated and wardens are in the area issuing tickets.

6.3 Electric charging points and Climate change

An update from Mr Penn regarding surveys.

ACTION: MP

6.4 Shared Enforcement Van

Proposal to investigate an enforcement van.

ACTION: RB

6.5 HMS Seal Memorial Garden

The work on the memorial garden has been completed to a good standard and will require tidying in Springtime.

ACTION: CT

6.6 Seal Village Memorial Tree

KYN are due to discuss the tree on a zoom meeting organised.

6.7 Welcome Back Fund Grant update

Mr Bourne to update the location of the bench in St Lawrence Ground for installation and a further update on installation of benches. Delivered at Romshed Farm, two for Underriver to be installed by Rob Crouch, one for St Lawrence and one for Seal. Mr Haslam proposed that Rob Crouch installs 4 benches at a cost of £250 and this was seconded by Mr Spencer. and agreed unanimously. A quote will be required to remove a bench at St Lawrence Ground and install one of these benches.

ACTION: RB/CT

6.8 Bench project

At the last meeting we were awaiting a quote to assemble and install 11 benches around Seal Village, including the wooden bench. A quotation has been received cost estimated at roughly £160.00 per seat to assemble, erect, plus materials concrete, fixing bolts and cost of disposal. Mrs Talbot raised that if the benches were placed on grass areas the grass will get worn easily and thought that paving slabs would be an option to have under those benches. The Clerk will ask for another quote.

ACTION: Clerk

6.9 Seal Recreation Ground

Following on from the last meeting the clerk instructed work to be completed on the slide costing £3,497.50 and additional expenditure was incurred due to damage and areas reported on ROSPA inspections which required urgent completion over the Christmas period. Total costs were £7,904.50 which is within our budget for the year.

6.10 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.

6.11 Sevenoaks Quarry Site

A draft response following the meeting and public exhibition on 20th October to be prepared by Mr Martin with Councillors contribution for approval at the meeting. No planning response has been made as we are awaiting for the planning application to be received.

Councillor Hogarth raised that there were meetings with SDC and STC, on the Childsbridge Lane Railway Bridge and they were in discussions with highways for maybe a traffic light

system which could be funded. The Parish Council was not aware of this discussion, and it wasn't raised in the consultation back in October and therefore we would be interested to hear further on funds available. Councillor Gough will be in contact with them. The Parish Council would like to know whether a recording of the meeting with SDC and STC was made and see the PowerPoint of the meeting.

Tarmac has invited SPC for a zoom meeting in the next couple of weeks to discuss further and Councillors should email the clerk or Mr Martin with dates.

ACTION: TM

6.12 Seal Pavilion and Projector screen

Update from Mr Penn

6.13 KALC Community Award Scheme

The Parish Council considered two nominees for this year's award and voted on who was the nominee for 2022.

ACTION: The clerk to submit nomination.

6.14 St Lawrence Recreation Ground

A discussion was held over dog bins and litter bins for the Recreation Ground and as there isn't a litter bin in the area, the clerk will contact SDC to see if they would provide one.

7 Accounts and Cheques

Cheques signed December 2021

006194	Mrs C Boland	£86.84	Signs, Zoom subscription and Broadband
006195	Richard Abel Landscapes	£72.00	Mowing
006196	Holiday Caretaker		Salary
006197	Caretaker		Salary
006198	Kent County Council		Pension Fund
006199	Clerk		Salary
006200	Inland Revenue		Deductions
006201	The Society of Local Council Clerks	£171.00	Membership
006202	Kent County Council	£160.62	Cleaning Materials
006203	Sevenoaks District Council	£213.80	Sacks and Refuse
006204	Sevenoaks District Council	£32.80	Refuse collection
006205	Wybone Limited	£1,108.73	Litter Bins

Cheques signed January 2022

006206	Inland Revenue		Deductions
006207	Kent County Council		Pension Fund
006208	Clerk		Salary
006209	Caretaker		Salary
006210	Mr Tavare	£111.90	Signs and Rattle Seeds
006211	K C Davies Limited	£45.00	Window Cleaning
006212	Safeplay PS Limited	£9,485.40	Play Equipment
006213	Stonepitts Farm	£168.00	Xmas tree
006214	Starboard Systems Limited T/A Scribe Accounts	£561.60	Licence
006215	Down to Earth Trees Limited	£436.80	Japanese Knotweed
006216	RWE Rural Services Limited	£588.00	Trees
006217	Gel Creative	£150.00	Website
006218	Richard Abel Landscapes	£427.54	Mowing
006219	Kent County Council	£118.62	Cleaning materials
006220	Spy Alarms	£108.00	Emergency lights

006221	Sevenoaks District Council	£197.20	Refuse collection and garden and recycling sacks
006222	Mrs C Boland	£63.39	Zoom subscription and Broadband

8 Annual Precept

The parish precept papers have already been circulated to the Councillors.
Mr Michaelides proposes that the Parish precept for 2022/23 is set at £78,950.

Mr Michaelides explained the precept for 2022/23 which will be set at the amended figure of £78,580, this is for a 2% increase in the charge per property with tax base increasing to 3% which means the increase of the precept will be 5%. Mr Michaelides proposes the annual precept be set at £78,580 and this was seconded by Mr Boorman and agreed unanimously.

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

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. The two trees which UVA had kindly donated were Crab Apple and Rowan tree for Seal Recreation Ground and St Lawrence Recreation Ground. It was thought that UVA may organise their own bench instead of a tree to mark the occasion. Mr Bourne said that he would plant one of the trees in St Lawrence Recreation Ground and that we might require a volunteer to plant Seal's tree. It was explained that it would be nice to map where these trees are located on the Green Canopy website. These trees are young and will require time to establish. Once they are established the parish council will look to purchase a plaque to mark the occasion.

ACTION: RB

10 West Kent Mediation

Received a letter from West Kent Mediation who are celebrating 25 years of providing confidential, impartial mediation service to every resident in West Kent. They are volunteer-led organisation with their team of fully trained local mediators conducting all the mediation work they undertake, thereby saving precious time and funds for a variety of public services. Eg. police/housing officers/social services. They rely on funding to support their service and would be grateful if the Parish Council would consider a donation towards their charity to help provide a much-needed service to the local community of West Kent. The parish council will not be donating to this cause.

11 Items for Information only

11.1 Citizens Advice North and West Kent

Citizens Advice have thanked us for our kind donation and continued support for this cause.

12 Planning

The Council agreed the minutes of the planning committee meeting on 22nd November and 13th December and ratified the responses to planning application consultations submitted after these meetings. Mr Bourne proposed and this was seconded by Mr Michaelides and agreed unanimously.

Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2013-30 Full Review 2021 – Consultation 16 December to 9 February 2022. Comments to be submitted.

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 9pm