

A meeting of the Seal Parish Council was held on THURSDAY 10th February 2022 in Seal Pavilion on Seal Recreation Ground at 7.30pm

Present:

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

Also present the Clerk, Councillor Hogarth

1 Apologies: Mr Boorman, Mr Bulleid, Mr Michaelides, Mr Tavare, Councillor Thornton and Councillor Gough

2 The minutes of the last meeting were amended to include a cheque missed off the cheque list.

3 Declarations of Interest - None

4 Clerk's report

We have had an increase in graffiti at Seal Recreation Ground over the last couple of months which has been reported to the PCSO who is keeping a close eye on the area, SDC have cleaned the areas but unfortunately there is more graffiti.

The PCSO reports fly-tipping in Fawke Wood Road which they are patrolling.

SDC will be street cleaning Fawke Wood Road so that the double yellow lines are visible.

SDC have arranged for a litter bin at St Lawrence Cricket Ground.

The Clerk has now received licences from KCC for Catts Cottage, Black Charles Barn and Seal Allotments for the wildflower project.

5 KCC Matters – Councillor Gough's report – See Appendix for ongoing matters

Councillor Gough was not in attendance at the meeting but reported,

“Kensing Parish Council voted a few weeks ago not to contribute to the speed limit reduction on Childsbridge Lane. However, I have since discussed the matter with Whitney Gwillim and she believes that, by combining TROs for projects in the Seal area and reshuffling funding sources for projects (including from my Member's Fund) we can keep the scheme on track”. The Parish Council thanked Councillor Gough for this information.

Whitney will be writing to the Parish Council shortly on this and on the A25.

No further updates were reported.-

- Reduction on A25 speed limit

- Childsbridge Lane Railway Bridge – update following receipt of Network Rail letter,

- Childsbridge Lane - speed signs, glasson gates

- Reducing speed limits along country lanes – information/contact details

- 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.

- Ashplatt Footpath is covered with leaf mulch and is treacherous - Councillor Gough to follow up.

6 Other Matters Requiring Discussion and Action

6.1 Highway Improvement Plan

To discuss and agree the HIP circulated to Councillors. The Chairman thanked Mrs Talbot and Mr Haslam for working on the HIP.

Mr Martin particularly mentioned the speed limit in Underriver and whether it could be extended. Mr Haslam said identifying where this would go depends on the cost as the TRO order would cost £2,500 and does it warrant it. It is a Parish wide issue. Mr Bourne will look at the speed data to send across to Whitney Gwillim, but he requires to know the timeframe for the information.

Stone Street just requires a mirror to improve visibility this could go on the post for unsuitable HGV's. The amended change for the mirror were approved and the HIP was adopted, proposed by Mr Bourne and seconded by Mr Spencer and agreed unanimously.

ACTION: CH

6.2 Parish Plan

The Parish Council to agree and update the parish plan. Mr Martin proposed the parish plan and Mr Spencer seconded and agreed unanimously.

ACTION: FW/Clerk

6.3 Seal Village Memorial Tree

An update from Mr Tavare – No further update

ACTION: CT

6.4 Welcome Back Fund Grant update

The benches have been installed in Seal, Underriver and St Lawrence Ground. Mr Bourne thanked the clerk for arranging the litter bin in Bitchet Green along with a couple of other parishioners who were delighted for it to be done so quickly. Mr Bourne proposed we spend £150 to remove the bench and seconded by Mr Spencer and agreed unanimously.

ACTION: Clerk

6.5 Bench project

A quote was received 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. The Parish Council is awaiting a further quote on slabs to go under the benches where it may wear easily. Mr Haslam proposed to install 11 benches at a cost of £160 per bench and place 10 benches with slabs at a cost of £70 per bench, seconded by Mrs Talbot and agreed unanimously.

ACTION: Clerk

6.6 Councillor Vacancy

The Parish Council is actively seeking new Councillors. An interest in the local community is the main qualification but we are particularly looking for legal skills due to our current councillor with these moving out of the Parish. 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.

6.7 Sevenoaks Quarry Site

Mr Martin to update the Council on the meeting held.

Five parish councillors joined the Zoom meeting with Tarmac and their consultants on 26th January. A presentation of the proposal was given with no major changes from that seen in October 2021 although it was noted that mention was made of improving the safety of Childsbridge Lane bridge with traffic lights. An Outline planning application will be made in the coming weeks, and Councillor Thornton had previously anticipated that the consultation period would be longer than usual. The application will be for up to 800 dwellings plus 150 homes for the elderly, with a site for a primary school of up to 2 form

entry. Vehicle access to the dwellings will not be provided from Childsbridge lane. All matters will be reserved; in other words the details will be determined by future applications. The Parish Council will therefore consider how to secure the provisions that it feels necessary to make this development in the Green Belt acceptable, perhaps by seeking SDC and KCC agreement to suitable planning conditions. Discussions are taking place about the use of CIL funds, held by SDC, to enable the improvement of Bat and Ball junction to take place earlier than might be the case were it funded solely by Tarmac. It was agreed that Mr Martin would make a note of the meeting and ask Tarmac if they will hold a public meeting or other activity in Seal during the consultation period.

ACTION: TM

6.8 Seal Pavilion and Projector screen

As discussed at July's meeting update from Mr Penn and purchase to be approved. A budget of £500 was proposed in November and due to a more expensive screen and hard disk plus power lead to buy and suitcase there is further expenditure to be incurred and therefore we should increase the budget to up to £700, Mr Martin proposed, seconded by Mr Spencer and agreed unanimously. The Finance Chairman and Chairman will agree the amount spent. It was agreed that the Planning committee and clerk be trained on the equipment.

ACTION: MP

6.9 Grant - Outbreak Management Fund

We may be able to claim a grant from KCC for additional spending we have incurred for cleaning equipment during COVID. The clerk explained due to an increase in cleaning costs the expenditure above what you would normally spend was up to £545.94 and therefore we should claim for the grant for the period 1 November 2020 to 31 March 2022. This was proposed by Mr Haslam and seconded by Mr Bourne and agreed unanimously.

ACTION: Clerk

7 Accounts and Cheques

A cheque was returned for Gel Creative, cheque number 006217 as the payee details were incorrect another cheque has been reissued.

Cheques signed February 2022

Cheque No	Payee	Amount	VAT Reclaim	Description
006224	Action with Communities in Rural Kent	£90.00		Membership
006225	Jane Haselden	£150.00		Website
006226	R Crouch	£350.00		Benches
006227	R Crouch	£200.00		Strimming and tree work
006228	Caretaker			Salary
006229	Clerk			Salary
006230	Kent County Council			Pension
006231	Inland Revenue			Deductions
006232	Sevenoaks District Council	£16.40		Refuse Collection
006233	T D Geer Limited	£414.00	69.00	Heating
006234	Mrs C Boland	£63.39	10.57	Zoom and Broadband

Direct Debits Received to date

Payment Date	Payee	Amount	VAT Reclaim	Description
20 Jan 2022	British Gas	£135.10	6.43	Seal Pavilion Electricity
27 Jan 2022	Npower (eon)	255.68	12.18	Streetlighting
29 Jan 2022	Gazprom	£177.32	8.44	Seal Pavilion Gas
1 Feb 2022	Siemens	£113.40	18.90	Lease Rental

1 Feb 2022	Siemens	£48.00	8.00	Annual Service Fee
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7.1 Finance Committee Approval

Since our Finance Committee meeting approvals to date:
 MDH Horticultural Contractors £10,985 plus VAT to start 1 March 2022
 Safeplay Playground Services Limited £7,904.50 plus VAT.
 All Finance committee approvals listed were proposed by Mr Bourne and seconded by Mr Spencer and agreed unanimously.

The parish council would like to thank R Abel for all the work and support he has given to the parish council over the years and hope that he has a restful retirement.
 R Abel is still currently able to provide our planters for our parish.

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

A volunteer to plant one of the trees in Seal Recreation Ground and map the location of the tree on the Green Canopy website. Mrs Weston has agreed to plant a tree in Seal Recreation Ground which is located the west side of the Recreation Ground by the gate A25 and Mr Bourne said that St Lawrence Cricket Club and Football Club have agreed where the tree will be placed.

ACTION: RB and FW

9 Items for Information only

10 Planning

The Council agreed the minutes of the planning committee meeting on 13th January and 24th January and ratified the responses to planning application consultations submitted after these meetings. Mr Haslam proposed and Mr Bourne seconded and this was agreed unanimously.

Second phase development of land at Mills Crescent to Sevenoaks DC Call for Sites, Councillors to view the email circulated.

Councillor Hogarth mentioned it would be well worth looking at the application for Broke Hill development in the Green Belt. Making the case for Special Circumstances by offering facilities to sport clubs, with access by bicycles, did not sit well with the Inspector as the road structure is not suitable for this and the volume of traffic for 600 houses.

Other matters

The Bank mandate will require updating to include new councillors
 To set up a Trust Bank Account for St Lawrence.

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 8.30pm

APPENDIX – Ongoing Matters with KCC and the Parish Council

Seal

- A25: The SID column needs to be replaced. – The Parish Council to ask KCC for a bracket for a mobile SID.
- Update on resurfacing due to the bad condition of small roads in Seal, in particular Church Road, Pudding Lane and Zion Street.
- Yellow lines on the corner of Zion Street and Church Road:– This is already one of our priorities on the HIP.
- Cope Bank footpath – Completed last year to a good standard, Parish Council asked whether this could be considered annually for general maintenance.
- Flooding at Grove Lane and Park Lane from the pond. The highway drains into the pond which drains to west but overflows with high levels of silt. – KCC have dredged the pond and therefore this work has been completed.
- 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 this should be raised as a priority or included in the HIP. The Parish Council agreed that this was not a HIP issue, and it should be reported to KCC.

Underriver

- Fawke Wood Road, third sign missing for Underriver, this has now been completed by KCC.
- 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.
- 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.