

A meeting of the Seal Parish Council was held on THURSDAY 9th June 2022 in Seal Pavilion on Seal Recreation Ground at 7.30pm

Present:

Mr Michaelides

Mr Martin

Mrs Talbot

Mr Haslam (Chairman)

Mr Penn

Mr Boorman

Also present the clerk

Two parishioners attended the parish council meeting to discuss Zion Street waiting restriction double yellow lines consultation. One parishioner didn't think that the matter would be solved with just the proposed restriction is in place, it has no impact and have neither seen cars parked there and would be a waste of SPC money. The wall is constantly being knocked down where it is narrow. Restricting HGV's should be made compulsory rather than advisory. You cannot get an HGV down there by the bend without damaging the wall with cars parked on the pinch point at the corner. Another parishioner was in support of the consultation. Lived in the area for 6 years does support double yellow lines but not all around as stated in the consultation as no one parks there. The problem is the white bays people are parking outside of the bay and this narrows the road. The wall is constantly damaged through vehicles unable to get through. Near 1 Church Road there are blind spots. Currently the unrestricted parking can make it difficult for Emergency/refuse collection and delivery vehicles to get through, double yellow lines and were requested to be painted on both sides of the road, at 1 Church Road and 42 Zion Street to allow unrestricted access through the junction.

1 To receive and accept apologies for absence:

Mr Bourne – other commitments

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

3 Declarations of Interest - None

4 Clerk's report

Repairs have been instructed to the guttering by the garage, unfortunately due to constant criminal damage, these downpipes are being taken off the wall . Sevenoaks Gutters have been instructed to repair the damage and clean the Guttering to the Pavilion to ensure that the water runs sufficiently.

Edward Tyrells has repaired the fencing by the play area due to the damage caused by the fire and we are thankful for the work that was completed in time for the Queens Jubilee. The Council commented that the Recreation Ground looked lovely for the celebration.

We also had the area caused by the fire reseeded with some top soil and further top soil was placed by the bench.

We have had problems with the lighting in Seal Recreation Ground which has caused lighting to be continuing on at times. We are assured that this fault has been rectified. Although one of the lights in the car park is still faulty and requires further investigation to find the fault, this could be a wiring issue.

Some maintenance is required to the ladies toilet, which is ongoing at the moment, we are looking to replace the sink with a pedestal as this would be less costly than replacing the support which has now eroded.

The clerk attended a Data Protection Course and Councillors may wish to attend a further course to update themselves.

5 KCC Matters – Councillor Gough’s matters were not discussed as not in attendance

- Underriver Recreation Ground, PROW
- Cyclist Sign – Carters Hill – to discuss KCC response
- HGV’s volume of traffic using A25, solutions to weight and width restrictions, dangerous to pedestrians, elderly and children in relation to air quality requires monitoring. Councillor Gough to update
- A25 and Childsbridge Lane update
- The Bridge is still under audit regarding the hatching out on the bridge. The dragon teeth on the Childsbridge Lane are under the Assets Management Team.
- Underriver House Road – KCC update required.
- Zion Street – resident reported people turning right at junction and poor parking in School Lane near entrance of library area, invisible road markings and pot holes.
- It was noted at the meeting that the grass verges in Underriver requires cutting as part of the cutting regime for the village it hasn’t been done since last year and the weeds are growing quite high and looks awful.

6 Other Matters Requiring Discussion and Action

6.1 Administration

a) Standards in Public Life Review – to note the government response to the committee for Standards in Public Life review and to consider writing to the MP to request support for an early day motion (EDM) calling for effective sanctions. At the last meeting it was requested that the clerk forward the template letter which has been received by SLCC for the Council to approve at the next meeting. The Council proposed for the letter to be sent to our MP and this was proposed by Mr Martin and seconded by Mr Penn and agreed unanimously.

b) The Parish Council to review the volunteer policy and risk assessments and update as necessary for approval of Council. The Council discussed the policy and recommended that the Clerk contact Riverhead Parish Council to see if they had a volunteer policy which they could share. Our policy was too involved and thought it was too much for volunteers to adhere too and risk assessments were too onerous and didn’t think that it was suitable for volunteers. Therefore, our policy will have to be renewed and updated and therefore isn’t suitable for our Council.

6.2 Highway Improvement Plan

The Parish Council discussed the consultation results on Zion Street. Residents have raised concerns and other issues outside No 1 pinch points. Parking in general, HGV’s, we were asked to confirm the 11 metres proposed restriction within the consultation includes past the gate and giveway outside No 42. People raised the Harding Garage vehicle parking, people ignoring and parking outside or across the parking bays. The Council was asked include restrictions outside No 1 Church Road and consider permit parking. The Council proposed to amend the consultation to include No 1 to have double yellow lines on that side as well as the consultation that it is place outside no 42 to include the access to the property. We should consider additional parking bays, encourage more people parking on the recreation ground and if we had electric points there this may encourage people to park there. There needs to be traffic wardens to enforce the area to ensure that appropriate parking measures are in place. Mr Boorman proposed we amend the HIP to include parking restrictions at the crossing of the Greensands Way Public Footpath along St Julians and to request double yellow lines at the pinch points on both sides of the road at No 42 Zion St and No 1 Church Road, seconded by Mrs Talbot and agreed unanimously.

ACTION: LT

6.3 A25 SID Column

The Parish Council to discuss converting from VAS to SID site. The Council agreed to convert a VAS to a SID site permanently and this was proposed by Mr Martin and seconded by Mrs Talbot and agreed unanimously.

ACTION: OB

6.4 Defibrillator

The Parish Council discussed the defibrillators at both Underriver and Seal locations as they are withdrawing the product. Mr Penn proposed to purchase 2 new defibrillators and this was seconded by Mr Martin and agreed unanimously. The Council agreed to keep using the existing cabinets for the time-being until such time they require replacing.

6.5 Wildflower Project

The Parish Council are reviewing the licences for Carters Hill and Childsbridge Lane for approval at the next meeting.

ACTION: OB

6.6 Seal Pavilion

The Parish Council agreed to purchase a ton of pea shingle to be placed in the drop by the enclosed play area, quotes ranging from £45 plus delivery or £50.40 no delivery. The Parish Council agreed to purchase pea shingle and this was proposed by Mr Martin and seconded by Mr Penn and agreed unanimously. Mr Boorman has volunteered to fill the drop with the pea shingle and will be assisted by Mr Haslam.

ACTION: The Clerk/OB & CH

6.7 Seal Recreation Ground

The Finance Chairman agreed the chestnut paling fencing to enclose Japanese Knotweed in the woodland area, 2 quotes received ranging from £4,575 to £5,742 and we have opted to engage with Edward Tyrell at £4,575 with extra strimming costs of £200. Due to the urgency of treating the area it was requested that the Council follow-up with Edward Tyrell to guarantee the date of the erection of the fencing to enable the weed treatment to be carried out before the end of the season.

Down to Earth management plan was amended because the knotweed was not fenced before growing season and therefore treatment would be for an additional year for a total of 6 years from October 2022 to October 2027.

The Parish Council discussed the replacement basketball hoop. It was agreed that the Parish Council would pay up to £1,500 for a basketball net and the parish council would agree by email for purchasing the equipment before the next meeting.

The Council discussed the bench which was going to be placed at Seal Village Hall, unfortunately there is an agreement in place with SDC who funded the cycle racks and therefore Mr Martin proposed that the bench be repositioned to Seal Recreation Ground and this was seconded by Mr Penn and agreed unanimously. The Council agreed that the Seal Village Hall who had funded the bench would be reimbursed.

It was noted that overhanging branches should be pruned back from the Pavilion to the bottom entrance past the play area as required.

ACTION: The Clerk

6.8 Old Fire Station

The Parish Council discussed the repairs to the dentist wall. It was noted that the Parish Council were unhappy with the quality of work that was completed by recommendation from the delivery driver of the business. The brickwork is unevenly staggered and is not level. The bricks do not appear to be the same type as the existing wall and is not in keeping with the original building and looks awful. The Council will be taking this up with the Dental Surgery to ensure that the work is to a high standard and completed to the standard that is expected of the business. Leonnette Rossouw has confirmed that the outside tap can be used to water the tree and therefore no water butt is required.

6.9 CIL Contributions

The Council has used funds from Payment B of £3,079.44 on benches received.

6.10 Donations

The Parish Council discussed a request for a donation by Victim Support. Mr Michaelides proposed to pay a donation of £250 and this was seconded by Mr Penn and agreed unanimously.

7 Accounts and Cheques

Cheques signed June 2022

Cheque No	Payee	Amount	VAT Reclaim	Description
006282	Caretaker	£413.28		Salary
006283	Clerk	£1,269.11		Salary
006284	Inland Revenue	£145.90		Deductions
006285	Kent County Council	£510.12		Pension
006286	Mrs L Becker	£75.00		Hall deposit
006287	Mrs C Boland	£63.39		Zoom and broadband
006288	Spy Alarms Limited	£1,519.20		Maintenance and repair
006289	Kent Association of Local Council	£60.00		Course
006290	Edward Tyrell (fencing) Limited	£2,349.00		Fencing
006291	Richard Abel Landscapes	£540.00		Planters
006292	K C Davies Limited	£15.00		Window Cleaning
006293	Mr David Wood	£290.00		Guttering repair and clean
006294	MDH Horticultural Contractors	£3,286.20		Mowing
006295	Sevenoaks District Council	£363.80		Sacks and refuse
006296	Kent County Council	£87.40		Stationery and cleaning
006297	Seal Village Fund	£1,000.00		Donation
006298	Kent Association of Local Councils	£1,177.30		Membership
006299	ASL Group Limited	£11.48		Photocopier
006300	Mr G Jones	£75.00		Hall Deposit

Cheques Returned

006275	Seal Know Your Neighbours	£1,000.00		Donation
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Direct Debits Received to date

Payment Date	Payee	Amount	VAT Reclaim	Description
27/5/2022	Gazprom	£131.97	£6.28	Seal Pavilion Gas
28/5/2022	Npower	£196.76	£9.37	Streetlighting
13/6/2022	Castle Water	£626.15	£41.13	Water rates
20/5/2022	British Gas	£127.55	£6.07	Seal Pavilion Electricity
20/5/2022	BT	£438.50	£73.08	BT

Payment Received

Payee details	Description	Amount
Arthur J Gallagher	Insurance Claim	£1,372.00
Kent Association of Local Councils	Covid Grant	£545.94

8 Items for Information only

8.1 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. We now have 4 vacancies, one in Underriver Ward and 3 in Seal Ward. 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.

8.2 Sevenoaks Volunteer Transport Group

The Chairman has thanked the parish council for their kind donation, this contribution is extremely valuable to them in supplying transport needs for local residents.

8.3 KSS Air Ambulance Charity

KSS Air Ambulance Charity has thanked the parish council for the donation received and continue to give every patient the best possible chance of survival and recovery.

8.4 Reports from Councillors

To receive any reports for information – No reports received.

9 Planning

The Council agreed the minutes of the planning committee meeting on 5th May and 23 May and ratified the responses to planning application consultations submitted after these meetings. Proposed by Mr Michaelides and seconded by Mr Boorman and agreed unanimously.

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 9pm

Date of Next Meeting 14 July at Underriver Village Hall