

A meeting of the Seal Parish Council was held on THURSDAY 14th July 2022 in Underriver Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present:

Mr Michaelides

Mr Martin

Mrs Talbot

Mr Haslam (Chairman)

Mr Boorman

Mr Bourne

Mr Bulleid

Also present the clerk, Councillor Thornton and Councillor Gough

Parishioners Question Tim

3 parishioners attended the meeting, one resident was interested in the Parish Council and was very supportive. UVA Secretary thanked the Parish Council for their support this year, including the barrier baskets look lovely, the grass looks great, the UVA are pleased with the picnic benches and the donation towards the Platinum Jubilee celebrations. There are plans for summer refurbishment programme for the Underriver Village Hall, the floor is to be polished, cracks fixed and redecorated and new cupboard for archives. Digital archives to be more accessible. Next year the plan is to refurbish the kitchen which has lasted 26 years.

Another resident mentioned the changes to the school bus routes which has cause concern with the community over the bus cancellations, 80 bus services effected, 40 axed. Go Coach T3, which is in the Tonbridge boundary has been cut and will affect people in rural locations. Parents are very concerned and feel that KCC should be supporting parents especially when parents pay for Kent travel which KCC organise, central government should be funding District Councils for these services, many will protest. Councillor Thornton said it was hugely across Kent, SDC have no responsibility in the bus routes but are responsible for air pollution. KCC are the main contact who are having crisis meetings. SDC are putting pressure on KCC to find a solution forward. Councillor Thornton said that many services in our parish haven't been affected.

- 1 To receive and accept apologies for absence:**
- 2 The minutes of the last meeting were amended in item 6.7 and signed to include "Seal Recreation Ground" and add "if we couldn't find an alternative location."**
- 3 Declarations of Interest - None**
- 4 Clerk's report**

Just an update to say that KCC have completed the surfacing on the Underriver Public Right of Way, unfortunately the surface which has been laid down isn't what the Parish Council had asked for originally or planned with Nicky Biddall as stated in our minutes of October 2021. A couple of residents had said that it looked quite urban.

A special mention to a resident who plants the flowers in Seal the Horse Trough just outside the kebab shop, many years it has been looked after by one of our residents, a local gardener in the village, who is still happy to maintain and carry out planting in Summer and Winter months and flowers always look remarkable. Thank you for all the support and work done over the years.

5 KCC Matters – Councillor Gough’s matters

- Cyclist Sign – Carters Hill – to discuss KCC response
- To discuss volume of traffic using A25- HGV’s
- A25 and Childsbridge Lane, there were objections to both consultations which will be raised at the Joint Transportation Board on 13th September. The County and District Councillors will be in attendance and support of 2 parish representatives and Councillor Thornton.
- The rail bridge is still under audit regarding the hatching out on the bridge. Obviously the dragon teeth will be on hold until Childsbridge Lane is approved. Tarmac are looking into priority lights over the Railway Bridge, along with a cycle path. The Parish Council said that we would require a path for the safety of pedestrians.
- Underriver House Road – the clerk updated Councillor Gough about the tarmac which was laid due to the works by UK Networks had cracked along the centre of the road and Mr Martin said that the tarmac is not being sealed which is causing the problem.
- 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. Councillor Gough confirmed that Zion Street, Pudding Lane and Church Road is due to be resurfaced. This has been delayed due to Thames Water but has now been reprogrammed.
- Zion Street – KCC consultation starts 22 July runs for 3 weeks, we will have to see what the outcome is as to whether it will require to go to the Joint Transportation Board. If all goes well yellow lines and patch work can be done at the same time for both sides of the junction.
- It was noted at the meeting that the grass verge 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 have grown quite high. The clerk is in contact with Robin Hadley and Councillor Gough confirmed that the cutting should be completed next week.
- Home Zone Sign in Bentley Meadows damaged, not sure who is responsible.
- Seal Primary School –this is in hand with KCC along with the Local Highways Team and Highways Group and the Community. The focus is Ash Platt Road and overflow in Childsbridge Lane, this falls under Richard Streatfield boundary. Mr Haslam reported due to the recent sports day, the area was full of cars, even Seal Recreation Ground. KCC are looking at the wider picture, daily problems during school times. and if the walking bus was operational then this was ease parking issues which was part of the agreed expansion plans. Ian Watts Education Officer was involved a few years ago and plans were put in place although not implemented.
- Seal Village Car Park sign, KCC have raised a job for this work.
- The bus routes many set to be cancelled. Expecting to take place in Spring. The school bus usage is still 20% below pre-pandemic levels Various grants from government coming through April through to October. KCC had to reduce bus services. Bus subsidy reductions didn’t have an effect, the decisions are from the bus operators having huge problems. KCC will work with bus operators involved with Kent Travel Saver. Most services effected KCC don’t subsidise. 97% are purely commercial. Only a small percentage are subsidised. The Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) will be out in October which could help with new routes and KCC are working towards supporting services and will provide central information.
- Mr Haslam also raised the road closure at Childsbridge Lane, no notification has been received.

6 Other Matters Requiring Discussion and Action

6.1 Administration

- a) Staff Committee Terms of Reference to be considered as necessary and the staff committee should meet to review them.
- b) Social Media and Electronic Communication Policy to approve as necessary.
The Parish Council will discuss with working parties items 6.1a) and b) for September.

6.2 Bentleys Meadow – Home Zone Area

The Parish Council to discuss the home zone area as it is looking quite neglected. The Clerk has received correspondence from KCC that they will put planters back on program. Councillor Hogarth had met up with a WKH representative and he agreed there is a lot that can be done. He is hopeful that they will find a way to refresh the planters and remove the weeds, possibly in August if not sooner. He is looking into replanting options and is sure WKH would welcome suggestions from residents. Councillor will talk to SDC about litter picking but if there would be some resident support, and am sure SDC would be happy to provide the kit and help out, And he will find out who is responsible for repairing the damaged "Home Zone" sign and get it fixed and look at putting wood preservative on the wooden posts.

6.3 Bus Shelter – Childsbridge Lane

There are reports of constant graffiti and scratching on the aluminium bus shelter and rubbish which is looking dreadful and does not enhance the area at all. The clerk will try and organise work within the agreed budget.

6.4 Red Telephone Boxes

The Parish Council should look at repainting the telephone boxes in the parish as the paintwork starting to deteriorate. The clerk will organise the work to be completed within the agreed budget.

6.5 Housing Needs Survey

Sevenoaks District Council are undertaking a 5 year housing needs survey programme of all their rural parishes and have commissioned Action with Rural Communities in Rural Kent to undertake the work. The Parish Council agreed mid- September would be a good time for the survey.

6.6 Defibrillators

A volunteer to help check the defibrillator 3/4 times a year. Mr Bourne volunteered to check the defibrillators and the clerk will record it. Councillor Thornton mentioned that the defibrillator in Underriver her father had funded in the past and might be willing to fund a replacement, the clerk will write a letter to him.

ACTION: Clerk

6.7 Wildflower Project

The Parish Council to give an update on the licences for Carters Hill and Childsbridge Lane. Mr Boorman said that these were completed, ready for the clerk to forward to KCC.

ACTION: OB

6.8 Seal Recreation Ground

The Parish Council discussed the replacement basketball hoop. It was hoped that the Parish Council would pay up to £1,500 for a basketball net, the parish council will look into purchasing the equipment.

ACTION: Clerk/CH

6.9 Seal Pavilion

The Parish Council to discuss the condition of the fence enclosure. The Parish Council agreed to change the slats which required repairing. The pea shingle has been laid by Mr Boorman around the Pavilion.

6.10CIL Spending Board

Does the Parish Council wish to identify a project to be worked up for next year's bid. 25% is given to the parish on smaller projects. The current board is considered on 17th July for this year's bid. UVA would be able make an application and details are on the SDC website. The Parish Council discussed future projects for example traffic lights at the junction of Park Lane, Childsbridge Lane and A25 which would have to be discussed further and agreed with KCC.

6.11Memorial Garden

The Parish Council to discuss ideas of how we can improve the area. Mr Tavare cleared 60% of the area, the ground is very dry and hilly, with shrubs planted. New fencing is required at the back of Johnson Court boundary. The area requires levelling and membrane down, seed/turf. Mrs Talbot will prepare specifications for our mowing contractors. Once the area is looking better and tidy the Council will purchase the lectern. The sign has been removed for the time-being until we can restore the area.

7 Accounts and Cheques

Cheques July 2022

Cheque No	Payee	Amount	VAT Reclaim	Description
006301	K C Davies Limited	£15.00		Window cleaning
006302	Glasdon UK Limited	£779.23	129.87	Litter bin
006303	Community Heartbeat Trust	£741.60	£123.60	Battery and Pads
006304	Kent County Council			Pension
006305	Inland Revenue			Deductions
006306	Caretaker			Salary (May and July)
006307	Clerk			Salary
006312	Mr David Wood	£290.00		Guttering
006313	Mrs C Boland	£63.39	10.57	Zoom and Broadband
006314	Victim Support	£250.00		Donation
006315	Sevenoaks District Council	£184.80		Refuse and annual waste transfer fee
006316	Mrs Louise Evans	£75.00		Hall deposit
006317	R Crouch	2,924.00		Installation of benches
006318	Streetlights	390.00	65.00	Streetlighting
006319	Community Heartbeat Trust	£2,562.00	427.00	Defibrillators
006320	Cancelled Cheque			Cancelled cheque
006321	MDH Horticultural Contractors	£1,842.60	307.10	Mowing
006323	Sevenoaks District Council	£378.30	63.05	Dog waste

August Cheques				
006308	Caretaker			Salary
006309	Kent County Council			Pension
006310	Clerk			Salary
006311	Inland Revenue			Deductions
006322	MDH Horticultural Contractors	£1,890.00	315.00	Mowing

Cheques Returned

006268	Caretaker			Salary (May)
006293	Mr D Wood	£290.00		Guttering

Direct Debits Received to date

Payment Date	Payee	Amount	VAT Reclaim	Description
26/06/2022	Gazprom	£113.96	£5.43	Seal Pavilion Gas
20/06/2022	British Gas	£118.22	£5.63	Seal Pavilion electricity
28/06/2022	Npower/eon	£189.63	£9.03	Streetlighting
20/07/2022	British Gas	£107.76	£5.13	Seal Pavilion electricity

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. We now have 4 vacancies, one in Underriver Ward although Mrs Talbot has expressed her wish to change Wards and become a Councillor for Underriver and 3 vacancies 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. The clerk mentioned whether we should include articles to be advertised through The Advertiser of what projects the parish council are involved in or a newsletter to see if we gain interest from the community.

8.2 Seal Recreation Ground

Family Fun Days will be running again this year, starts on 25th July between 10 am-2pm the first one is organised at Seal Recreation Ground. Please do come along and see support the event organised by SDC and there's no need to book, simply turn up and have fun. Please visit www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/summerfun

The Parish Council will be fencing off a large area to the north end of the Recreation Ground to enclose Japanese Knotweed, this is so that the area can be treated and contained. The proposed treatment date is 12 September. Once the fencing is in there will be signage around the enclosed area with no access to the site.

The Parish Council discussed the benches which were placed in Seal Recreation Ground recently, 3 benches were installed which KYN/Seal Village Fund paid for, 2 on the west side of the recreation ground, 3 on Zambra Way and 1 at Seal Village Hall also paid by the SVH which was repositioned to include the cycle rack, and one in Church Road, the

patio area was cleared to install the bench on the corner of Childsbridge Lane. The Parish Council would like to thank Mr Crouch for doing a fantastic job.

8.3 Seal Primary School

Awaiting a meeting to be organised between the Seal Primary School and KCC regarding the parking issues, a parish representative to be present.

9 Planning

The Council agreed the minutes of the planning committee meeting on 9th June and 27 June and ratified the responses to planning application consultations submitted after these meetings/ This was proposed by Mr Michaelides and seconded by Mr Bourne and agreed unanimously.

Sevenoaks Neighbourhood Plan – The Parish Council were in agreement for the planning committee to respond if the consultation falls before the next parish council meeting.

Matters for Information Only

Transport for south east has recently launched their draft Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) for South East England. The plan provides a framework for Investment in Strategic transport infrastructure services and regulatory interventions in the coming decades. The consultation closes on 12th September.

FREE family nature trails

Five, free eco-trails are being set up across the District so families can enjoy local wildlife and win a fabulous eco-hamper. The trails will be set up between 22 July to 4 September by Sevenoaks District Council and The North West Kent Countryside Partnership in Crockham Hill Commons, Farningham Woods, Hosey Commons, Oxenhill Shaw and Shoreham Woods.

Seal Football Club

Seal Football Club are looking for a new administrator to take over the club, if you could contact Michael Deamer if you are interested in taking it over. The club has run for over 128 years with 27 years of commitment.

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 9.30pm

Date of Next Meeting 8th September, 7.30pm at Stone Street Village Hall