

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

Present:

Mr Michaelides

Mr Martin

Mr Haslam (Chairman)

Mr Boorman

Mr Penn

Also present the clerk and Councillor Gough

Parishioner's question time.

Four parishioners attended the meeting, one was interested in Zion Street following on from the last meeting, the Chairman said that Cllr Hogarth had an update on Zion Street, SDC had spoken about the clearance of the industrial freezer which is owned by the shop store and are waiting for a quote from KCC for it to be removed. There were discussions around the parking spaces which aren't big enough for cars and the parking issues. One of the parishioner's said that it is a safety issue and measures taken will affect other streets.

- 1 To receive and accept apologies for absence: Mr Bourne, Mr Bulleid and Councillor Thornton**
- 2 The minutes of the last meeting were agreed and signed.**
- 3 Declarations of Interest - None**
- 4 Election of Seal Ward Councillor**

Mrs Rebecca Stiasny was elected as a Councillor for Seal Ward and signed the declaration of acceptance of office, Rebecca lives in Seal with her family, works for an investment platform and is looking to study for a law degree and is looking forward to helping the community.
- 5 Election of Underriver Ward Councillor**

Mrs Talbot was elected as a Councillor for Underriver Ward and signed the declaration of acceptance of office.
- 6 Clerk's report – No update given**
- 7 KCC Matters – Councillor Gough's matters**
 - Childsbridge Lane, correction to white carriageway lines after road resurfacing on the railway bridge. The hatching requires following up further.
 - SID Bracket for A25 east before Park Lane – this is still outstanding and waiting further for information.
 - Zion Street – outcome from inspection from recent resurfacing
 - Seal Village Car Park signs?
 - Godden Green Pond, a build up of silt and weed clearing, Councillor Gough asked the clerk how much it costs in 2019 and said that she would forward the cost onto Lewis Sutton and cc Councillor Gough, Councillor Gough mentioned that KCC may have a cheaper option. It would be quicker for the Parish Council to organise and KCC to pick up the bill, the vegetation would have to be taken out with the silt. The problem with the silt is that when KCC tarmac the road all the dirt came off the roads and it was too much for the silt trap.
 - The land outside St Peters and St Paul's Church is not owned by the Church or the Farm and is unregistered Manorial Waste Land, according to the historic maps of the

village provided by David Williams this is Highways land. Attendees of the Church are finding this unsafe; we ask KCC take responsibility to maintain the area. Mike Payton is looking at the land ownership which are highways and KCC have sent an email to the Parish Council on land ownership. The Chairman will send to the clerk historic maps to forward to Councillor Gough to look into further.

- Councillor Gough mentioned that Ian Watts the Area Education Officer who attended the meeting back in September is in contact with Lorraine Butler Head of School and will be discussing issues and next steps to be taken next week on parking issues, along with travel bans. KCC are looking at the land by Ash Platt Road that backs onto the school, although this is relatively small, there are larger parts which are owned by private individuals and Biffa, but KCC would have to negotiate and approach landowners for development. Councillor Gough mentioned he wasn't sure of the members fund next year, £60m overall budget will accelerate next year, social care responsibilities, KCC are under pressure, and it is very challenging times.
- The Parish Council had received the HIP response from KCC and noted the new template.
- The Parish Council had mentioned whether there was anything that we could do on enforcement side due to the cars turning right at the junction. Speed-watch could help the situation.

8 Other Matters Requiring Discussion and Action

8.1 ROSPA Inspections

The Council to review the play safety annual inspection reports received and discuss areas of repair. The Clerk had contacted ROSPA as one of the items showed that it is not compliant, although this is low risk and it was compliant in 2020, no further action was reported. The Council received the annual inspection and a copy of the visual inspections which could be simplified for our Caretaker to complete a visual inspection for the general day to day wear and tear, vandalism etc. The clerk also received correspondence from ROSPA on quarterly operational inspections which the Council could consider paying for in addition to the Annual Inspection which is received. This was quoted some time ago and the clerk said that she would come back in January with costs involved.

ACTION: Clerk

8.2 A25/Ashplatt Road Speed Proposal

Mr Haslam has drafted the speed proposal and this was acknowledged for submission by the Council.

8.3 Highway Improvement Plan

Updates and amendments to Childsbridge Lane, A25, Godden Green and Zion Street. KCC have responded to our HIP and the Parish Council noted the change in template and this will be reformatted and circulated in January.

8.4 Wildflower Project

The Council has received quotes ranging from £360 to £775 to cut back the wildflower verges. The Council discussed quotes received and at this time felt that if we cut the verges now to tidy them up this year, we could reassess next year. A resident had spoken to Mr Martin about the verge outside their property opposite the White Rock Inn pub and it does affect the access to their property. The clerk will forward a letter to the 4 Council houses to ask whether they were still happy to have the wildflowers outside their property or would they prefer to have it cut 6 times a year as part of the KCC cutting regime. The Council should reassess next year on the licence's dependant on the residents' responses. The clerk noted that Catts Cottage, Black Charles, and Seal Allotments licences were up for renewal

and the Council agreed to renew them Mr Boorman said that he would prepare the paperwork. Mr Michaelides proposed that we spend £360 for cutting back all wildflower verges this year and this was seconded by Mr Penn and agreed unanimously. It was also discussed whether KCC could produce a quote to cut the Wildflowers for a one-off cut and collect as part of their contribution and we would find out how much it costs.

ACTION: OB/Clerk

8.5 CIL Contributions

The Council have received funds from Contributions A £11,147.48 and B £7,431.66.

8.6 Seal Pavilion

We have received the agreement signed by Sevenoaks Football Club. The Council discussed placing a key safe at the Pavilion for the recreation ground gate padlock key. Due to Emergency services and out of hours the Council would install a key safe of the same model already used on the Underriver Village Hall to hold the access gate key. When the location has been chosen under in the view of the security cameras, we would wait a couple of weeks first to see whether any problems arise before we decide to place the keys there. This was proposed by Mr Martin and seconded by Mr Boorman and agreed unanimously. It was noted the light by the west pavilion double doors was not working and neither were the recreation ground floodlights, the Clerk will organise for Spy Alarms to ensure these are working appropriately.

ACTION: Clerk

8.7 Underriver Village Hall

At the last meeting the Council agreed to pay £4,000 for expenditure which is in our budget this year, with extra £1,000 for next year's financial budget, however this leaves the UVA short of £3,000 which we propose to pay from Village Hall Reserves to complete their kitchen refurbishment. The Council discussed costs, and UVA had contacted the Parish Council to say that they can fund the extra £3,000 themselves and therefore would be happy to receive £5,000 in support of their refurbishment. Mr Boorman proposed, and Mrs Stiasny seconded, and this was agreed unanimously. The Finance Chairman said that we won't budget next year the £1,000 as it is already spent this year.

8.8 KALC AGM

The Council to consider 2 parish representatives to attend the AGM on 19th November. Unfortunately, our parish representatives were unable to attend the AGM, and will send our apologies.

8.9 Councillor Vacancy

There are currently vacancies in Seal Ward if you would like to become a Parish Councillor, please contact the clerk. It was mentioned that posters and advertising in the local advertiser for new Councillors and for the Chairman to place on social media and Next door. At which point the Chairman left the meeting and Mr Michaelides took over as Chairman for remainder of the meeting.

9 Accounts and Cheques

Cheques to be signed November 2022

Cheque No	Payee	Amount	VAT Reclaim	Description
006369	Martins Painting and Decorating and General Repairs	£1,783.34		Red Telephone Boxes Repainted
006370	Playsafety Limited	£261.00	£43.50	Annual Inspection
006371	Flare Electrical Contractors Limited	£91.50	£15.25	Defibrillator Unit

006372	MDH Horticultural Contractors	£1,620.00	£270.00	Mowing
006373	Nathalie Newaj	£75.00		Hall hire deposit
006374	Sevenoaks District Council	£32.80		Refuse Collection
006375	Spy Alarms	£540.00	£90.00	Annual Maintenance
006376	Jane Haselden	£300.00		Website
006377	Streetlights	£681.42	£113.57	Streetlighting
006378	Mrs C Boland	£63.39	£10.57	Zoom and Broadband
006379	Kent County Council			Pension Fund
006380	Inland Revenue			Deductions
006381	Caretaker			Salary
006382	Clerk			Salary
006383	T D Geer Limited	£1,556.34	£259.39	Annual Servicing and repair work
006384	Underriver Village Association	£5,000.00		Grant

Direct Debits Received to date

Payment Date	Payee	Amount	VAT Reclaim	Description
28/10/2022	SEFE Energy/Gazprom	£25.70	£1.22	Seal Pavilion Gas
21/11/2022	British Gas	£102.19	£4.87	Seal Pavilion Electricity
24/11/2022	Npower/eon	£197.61	£9.41	Streetlighting
20/11/2022	BT	£407.46	£67.91	BT

10 To agree the budget

The Council to consider the budget for 2023/24 which was discussed at the Finance committee meeting. The Council will formerly approve the budget subject to change due to the tax base and Council tax. Mr Martin proposed, and Mr Michaelides seconded, and majority agreed.

11 To agree the precept

The Council to consider the precept for 2023/24 discussed at the Finance committee meeting.

The Council will formerly approve the precept, but this is subject to change, due to the tax base and Council tax. Mr Michaelides proposed, and Mr Martin seconded, and majority agreed. The Council will propose the final figures in January.

12 Remembrance Sunday

Wreaths to be laid on Remembrance Day 13th November at St Lawrence Church - MP, St Peter's and St Paul - CH, Godden Green – OB and St Margaret's Church LT

13 Items for Information only

13.1 St Margaret's Church

Thanked the Parish Council for their grant towards the churchyard mowing.

13.2 Godden Green

Residents have raised the issue regarding the parked vehicles on the verge and the clerk has spoken to SDC who are addressing some issues to replace the bollards this winter.

14 Planning

The Council to accept the minutes of the planning committee meeting on 13th October and 24th October and to ratify the responses to planning application consultations submitted after these meetings. Mr Michaelides proposed, and Mr Boorman seconded and agreed

unanimously. Mrs Stiasny was welcomed by the Planning Chairman to join the Planning Committee.

Our Planning Chairman, Otford Planning Chairman and Kemsing Planning Chairman and clerks were arranging a meeting to discuss Sevenoaks Quarry Site planning application, our Planning Chairman would like to know whether there were particular issues that they wanted to discuss.

15 Matters arising since distribution of this agenda

The Clerk mentioned that she had received correspondence about Gatwick Airport who were holding virtual meetings on 5th December 5.30pm-7.30pm and 9th December 10.30-12.30pm and if Councillors wanted to attend then they should contact her.

The memorial bench which was discussed at the last meeting. The price has significantly come down in price due to having no Seal Logo on the bench and just the wording In Memory of HMS Seal on the top rail and the clerk has changed style of the bench slightly which is still the same price as quoted £1,557.50 including fixings and delivery.

ACTION: Clerk

It has become apparent that a number of the councillors have filled up their email boxes and have no facility to save and archive documents online. A solution to this needs to be found and discussed at the next meeting.

ACTION: Clerk

Item 16 was discussed after item 8 as our Chairman Mr Haslam had to leave the meeting early as he had other commitments and therefore signed and approved the Clerk's Salary Review which was agreed by the Council. The Clerk was not present for this item on the agenda. But re-joined the meeting after this item was discussed.

16 Clerks Salary Review 2022-23

The Council adopted the proposal from NALC recommendation on the Clerks Salary Review 2022-23 and this was agreed.

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 12th January, 7.30pm at Seal Pavilion