

A meeting of the Seal Parish Council was held on THURSDAY 14th March 2024 in Seal Pavilion on Seal Recreation Ground at 7.30pm

Present:

Mr Michaelides

Mr Boorman

Mr Haslam (Chairman)

Mrs Talbot

Mrs Stiasny

Mr Ratcliffe

Mr Ryan

Also present the clerk, Councillor Gough

Parishioner Question Time

One Parishioner attended to support the working group in item 7.3, we have open spaces in the Parish, it requires work to improve it. It was requested to set up a working group to identify areas within the Parish, whether this is common land, or an extension to paths on common land or PROW. The Parish Council could then consider the proposals put forward by the group.

- 1 Apologies: Mr Bourne, Mr Bulleid, Mr Kay, Mr Penn, Councillor Thornton and Councillor Hogarth**
- 2 The minutes of the last meeting were amended to include request for a path instead of PROW and in the Parishioners question time item 2 to include section 13 which relates to the 2.8% increase which was agreed at the meeting and signed.**

3 Declarations of Interest - none

4 Clerk's report

Carters Hill, Underriver

WKHA have confirmed that an inspection report has been received and the plant is working, and no issue has been reported, WKHA have reported it to the Environmental agency.

KCC have requested drainage cleansing in Carters Hill and this is due to take place 18 March. They have inspected the site opposite the Forge and have chased street works to ensure Giga clear return to site. The clerk has noticed that the grips have been reinstated on the verge and KCC should inspect it further to ensure that it is wide enough and deep enough for the water to drain away.

UVA have reported that Southeast Water contractor might be able to do the gate reconstruction for the village green in the next couple of weeks. The groundworks are too wet at the moment and will need to reassess once we have prolonged period of dry weather.

Seal Pavilion

SEFE Energy contract will expire in April 2024, we have managed to secure a 3-year contract with Yu Energy.

The clerk has contacted Castle Water to remove the meter for Seal Cricket Ground.

A replacement wall heater will be fitted in the Easter holidays.

Kent Police

The local beat officers have been doing speed checks in Childsbridge Lane this week. It had been reported that motorists have been exceeding the speed limit specifically during school

drop off/pick-up times. The Beat Team Officers have engaged with both local residents and parents about local issues in Seal.

The Chairman reported that unfortunately due to timescales the application for a virtual terminal for Citizens Advice was not completed.

5 KCC Matters – Councillor Gough’s matters

Wildflower verges – The PC will await dates from KCC to attend a team’s meeting.

Carters Hill – Councillor Gough reported that cleansing work will be on 18th March and Lewis Sutton will follow up on 19th to inspect the grips.

Also in Carters Hill –KCC will look into the manhole that is overflowing causing further flooding and will check with the landowner.

Ashplatt footpath – on the Sevenoaks Town side the path requires clearing, there is a build-up of leaf mulch and will take it up with Richard Streatfeild.

A25 roadworks – there seem to be batches of works Southeast Water, a lot of emergency works taking place. It was suggested whether an inspector could check the signs.

In Underriver – there are road closure signs which you can gain access. If there is a road closure sign, can we stipulate where to access, can be frustrating for drivers especially in rural areas.

Gulley cleansing – outside Bentley Meadows there have been gulley’s cleansed but not all. Northside of the Railway bridge 6 gulleys blocked 1 cleared. Can we suggest unblocking all.

6 District Councillors Report

SDC will stop providing the black sacks from 1 April. Clear sacks will be provided until a recycling bag for life is available later this year.

7 Other Matters Requiring Discussion and Action

7.1 Sevenoaks Volunteer Transport Group

Mr Michaelides proposed a donation of £250 for SVTG and this was seconded by Mrs Talbot and agreed unanimously.

7.2 KSS Air Ambulance Charity

Mr Michaelides proposed a donation of £350 for Kent Surrey Sussex (KSS) and this was seconded by Mrs Talbot and agreed unanimously.

7.3 Public Rights of Way Working Group (PROW)

A working group will be set up to identify changes to existing and proposed footpaths or bridleways, extension to paths on common land and these proposals would then come to the Parish Council to consider work to be undertaken. Mr Haslam proposed to set up a working group which would consist of Mrs Talbot, Mr Boorman and a Parishioner and Mr Boorman seconded, and it was agreed unanimously. Mr Haslam and Mr Ratcliffe were also interested in supporting the group.

7.4 Seal Croft Cottages

The Parish Council discussed the request from residents to widen the SDC owned parking bays by 2 feet on the road by 9-12 Seal Croft Cottages on Childsbridge Lane. The Chairman should speak to planning and land management to see what the implications would be if this was acceptable. It was deferred to the next meeting.

At 9.35pm, it was raised that in our Standing Orders Parish Council meetings could be no longer than 2 hours, the Chairman proposed to extend the meeting and it was agreed.

7.5 Administration

The Parish Council discussed the Grant Award Policy, and it was suggested that we defer to next meeting we do require clear guidelines for village halls as well as voluntary groups and other organisations. Councillors should make representations to Mr Michaelides and Mr Ryan.

7.6 Committees

Mr Haslam proposed that Mr Kay and Mr Ratcliffe are members of the planning committee and Mrs Stiasny is a member of the Staffing Committee and this was seconded by Mr Michaelides and agreed unanimously.

7.7 Assets of Community Value

Mr Haslam proposed that land on the corner of Childsbridge Lane and Church Road is registered as a community asset, and this was seconded by Mrs Talbot and agreed unanimously.

8 Action Plan

Add HMS Seal Bench to place slabs under it. No other comments were raised.

9 Accounts and Cheques

Mr Michaelides proposes the payments and direct debits and this was seconded by Mr Boorman and agreed unanimously.

Cheques signed March 2024

Cheque No	Payee	Amount	VAT Reclaim	Description
006613	Clerk expenses	£111.49	18.58	Microsoft 365 Personal and Broadband
006614	Kent County Council			Pension Fund
006615	Clerk			Clerks Salary
006616	Caretaker			Caretaker Salary
006617	Inland Revenue			Deductions
006618	Sevenoaks District Council	£325.74		Refuse collection and Election poll cards
006619	CSG Global Education Limited	£209.80	£34.97	Cleaning materials
006620	Streetlights	£840.00	£140.00	Streetlights
006621	Westcotec Limited	£71.40	£11.90	Bracket for SID
006622	RWE Rural Services Limited	£96.00	£16.00	Tree work
006623	Sevenoaks Gutters Limited	£222.00	£37.00	Seal Pavilion
006624	Eliisa Makin	£75.00		Hall Hire deposit returned

Direct Debits Received to date

Payment Date	Payee	Amount	VAT Reclaim	Description
20/2/2024	BT	£372.00	£62.00	Seal Pavilion Broadband and office line
29/2/2024	SEFE Energy Limited	£221.06	£10.53	Seal Pavilion Gas
26/3/2024	Npower	£316.66	£15.08	Streetlighting

20/3/24	British Gas	£257.51	£12.26	Seal Pavilion Electricity
4/3/24	Castle Water	£23.14	£3.86	Seal Pavilion Cricket Ground
20/3/24	Castle Water	£142.02	£11.54	Seal Pavilion
Credit				
For the period 1 Aug 2023 – 31 Dec 2023	Castle Water	£650.96CR		Seal Recreation Cricket Ground

10 Items for Information only

10.1 Parish Plan

The Parish Plan has been circulated to Councillors for review at the Parish Council meeting in April. Councillors should comment to Mr Haslam by 2 April.

10.2 Assets of Community Value

The Parish Council have completed nominations forms for Seal Library and Five Bells Pub which have been received by Sevenoaks District Council.

10.3 Citizens Advice

Thanked the Parish Council for the recent donation of £500 in support of their advice services in the local community.

11 Planning

The Council received and noted the minutes of the planning committee on 26th February 2024 the responses to planning consultations submitted after those meetings which have been circulated.

The Next Parish Council meeting will be 11th April at Seal Pavilion at 7.30pm.

Matters for Information Only

A reminder to report all Highway issues direct to KCC 03000 41 81 81

<https://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.

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/environment-waste-and-planning/public-rights-of-way/report-a-problem-on-a-right-of-way>

Please report street light outages in Seal (other than on the A25) to the Parish Council.

Meeting Closed 9.45pm