

SEAL PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of SEAL PARISH COUNCIL was held on THURSDAY 10th October 2024 in Seal Pavilion on Seal Recreation Ground beginning at 7.30pm.

PRESENT

Mr C Haslam (in the Chair)

Mr O Boorman

Mr R Bourne

Mr A Michaelides

Mrs R Stiasny

Mrs L Talbot (Acting Proper Officer- taking the minutes)

Apologies Mr T Bulleid, Mr M Kay, Mr M Penn, Mr S Ratcliffe, Cllr J. Thornton, Cllr R Hogarth, Cllr R Gough.

Also present PC Tom Costin (for the first part of the meeting)

10 minutes question time

PC Costin updated the Council on cycle theft particularly from the stations and bike sheds. He said that burglary from garden sheds and garages was ongoing. He urged the community to report anything suspicious, no matter how small, car registration numbers were invaluable as they helped the police in many instances put together a number of reports.

He said that women walking alone should be vigilant at all times, to refrain from having two ear phones in when walking the dog or off a main route, always let someone know or leave a note where you are walking. Be aware of what is going on around you, if approached have your mobile phone ready to video or place a call and report any incidence.

When possible he would spend time at the Zion Street/A25 junction to speak to cars owners thinking of turning right. He would as always keep the Council updated and attend meetings when possible.

The Chairman on behalf of Councillors and parishioners thanked Clare Boland for her work as Parish Clerk over the last 5 years and wished her well for the future.

The minutes of the September meeting and EGM 18/9/24 would be agreed and signed at the next meeting as paper copies were not available to sign at the meeting.

Declarations of Interest - None

Update on last month

- Godden Green bench, Litter bins on recreation ground and hard standing in front of Memorial bench. All this work will be carried out week commencing 21st October.

- Zambra Way Litter bin – was on site and the position of it was being agreed with the school and should be in place shortly.

KCC Reports

No SDC report and Cllr. Goughs only confirmed information on the HIP.

HIP update from KCC report

Mrs Talbot had circulated the latest information from KCC on our HIP. It includes that the “Left Turn only” arrow on the road at the Zion Street/A25 junction is being scheduled to be put in place this December. KCC had requested a short survey is distributed to those resident’s living in and around Zion Street regarding proposals for Double Yellow lines at the A25 end of Zion Street to stop vehicles parking and reducing the road width which blocks the road. This would be undertaken by the Council.

The KCC will not undertake putting a mirror opposite Church Road, Stone Street. This was on the HIP as there have been a number of accidents with cars exiting Church Road onto Stone Street Road, due to poor visibility from the right due to overgrown hedges and speed of vehicles. We have obtained costs and a mirror plus pole would cost £320 plus fitting £140. Mrs Stiasny proposed “That the Council purchase the mirror and pole and have it fitted at a total cost of £460 Seconded by Mr Bourne This was agreed unanimously. The equipment will be ordered.

The KCC will not undertake putting up a cycling sign on Carters Hill. This was on the HIP due to a number of accidents with bicycles traveling too fast down the hill and colliding with vehicles. We are still waiting for permission from the National Trust to erect the sign on their land. The cost of the sign is £228.70 plus fitting £140. Mrs Stiasny proposed “That the Parish Council purchase the sign, pole and have it sited at a total cost of £368.70, subject to permission being given from the National Trust”. Seconded by Mr Bourne This was agreed unanimously. Once permission was is given the sign would be ordered.

Speed strips are in place around Godden Green and we hope to have the traffic data shortly.

The Updated HIP with our comments will now be sent back to KCC, Cllr Gough has offered funding on our HIP so we hope to hear back about that soon from him.

7. Policy documents, Standing Orders and Terms of Reference

These are all being put on hold until February 2025. Between now and the February agenda, Councillors are asked to review the documents, recently circulated in addition to a Social Media policy soon to be circulated. They have been asked to put forward any suggested changes. Committees to look at TOR’s and assessments to make sure they are still fit for purpose.

8. Children’s Play area work

This work unfortunately has been delayed being ordered, but is now in hand.

Recycling Seal Recreation Ground

A cost of £50 has been obtained to clear up all the litter in the hedges around the recycling area on Seal Recreation Ground. Mr Bourne proposed “The Parish Council ask Mr Chatfield to carry out the work as soon as possible for the cost of £50”.

Seconded by Mrs Stiasny. This was agreed unanimously.

Review Action Plan – was circulated at the last meeting, following discussion it has been updated and will be circulated to Councillors with the minutes.

Mr Michaelides to arrange for on-line banking, he will need certain information from Councillors which will be requested separately.

KALC Annual Subscription – This was agreed at the EGM 18/9/24

Accounts and cheques

006734	Community Heartbeat Trust	£76.74	£12.79	De-fib pads S/St
006735	Mrs C Boland			Final salary
006736	Mrs C Boland			payment
006737	HMRC			Deductions
006738	KCC			Pension
006739	Mrs C Ward			Caretakers salary

Direct Debits

16/9/2024	Castle Water	£94.62	£10.30	Seal Rec Aug 24
30/9/2024	Nat West	£5.95		Bank charges
20/9/2024	British Gas	£204.41	£8.60	Pav electricity Aug 24
25/9/2024	Npower	£248.42	£11.83	Street lighting Aug 2024
11/9/2024	Yu Energy	£155.47	£7.40	Pavilion Gas Aug 24
20/9/2024	Peninsula	£1400.31	£44.38	HR Services

Finance Committee and Staffing Committee meetings in October have been cancelled and will be rescheduled shortly.

Remembrance Sunday 10th November – The following Councillors will attend the services on behalf of the Council Mrs Stiasny -Seal, Mr Bourne – St Lawrence, Mr Boorman – Godden Green and Mrs Talbot – Underriver. The Chairman is purchasing the wreaths and will distribute them beforehand.

Office and working procedure during absence of a Clerk

Mrs Stiasny reported that the office phone number remains unchanged and has been diverted to a mobile for the time being, The Council email address remains unchanged. The Council discussed that a PO Box could be set up, then any change of Clerk in the future would mean an easy transfer of postal address. Mr Bourne would look into this. For the time being post is being collected. However, we are in the process of writing to suppliers and contacts giving Mrs Talbot’s address temporarily until changes are made.

The Chairman proposed "That a PO Box could be set up for the Parish Council mail at a cost of £400pa, if needed. This was seconded by Mr Michaelides and agreed unanimously.

A Locum Clerk was discussed and once we have firm figures on the cost, if necessary an EGM will be called to agree the details to take this forward quickly.

Planning

Planning minutes were noted from the 12th and 28th September 2024 planning meetings.

Meeting Closed 9.30pm