

Meeting held in Studdal Church Hall on Tuesday 3 December 2019 at 7.30 pm.

- 1. Present and apologies**
- B Merriman (Chair)  
G Akhurst  
A Calthorpe  
K Little  
G Smith  
H Densham  
S Smith (Clerk)  
4 Members of the public
- Apologies: D Willet  
KCC Member Steve Manion

**2. Approval of the 5 November minutes**

The minutes were proposed as a true record of the meeting by Cllr Akhurst seconded by Cllr Calthorpe and all members voted in favour. They were signed by the Chair

**3. Declarations of interest**

Cllr Calthorpe declared an interest on item 10. Donation towards the free Christmas dinner for elderly residents in the parish.

**4. Matters arising from 5 November meeting**

*PAT Testing.* All done.

*Great Napchester Farm.* The update from DDC was read out. Works have ceased at the site, and a planning application is to be submitted. DDC to keep the Parish Council updated with the timescale.

*First Response training.* Cllr Little had held another successful training session on the previous Friday, attended by 6 people. There are still some of the first aid booklets available.

*Canton parking.* The bank is looking churned up again. Cllr Merriman had been along to the site but no-one had been about to speak to. She offered to pay another visit.

*Manston consultation.* This had been submitted by Cllr Smith on behalf of the Council. Riveroak, who own the airfield have submitted a General Permitted Development Order to the national planning inspectorate bypassing Thanet District Council, the local planning authority.

*Swing.* Colin Little had kindly removed the swing seat. The frame has not been removed yet as the ground is still too wet.

*Basketball hoop.* The 'Do not climb' sticker is now up on the hoop.

*Gates on public footpaths.* Cllr Akhurst had replied to the resident who had complained about the gates on the footpath opposite Studdal House Farm being tied up with string. The gates now have less string and the stile has been mended.

The flooding of the road at the Community Centre has been reported to Highways.

**5. Visitors**

No reports

**6. Playing field**

i) Boundary fence. The Councillors again discussed how to contact the person responsible for the fence as the cows are still escaping into the playing field. It was agreed to pursue the various leads so that the clerk can write and pass on the concerns of the parish council.

**7. Community upkeep**

- i) Flower bed at the Memorial garden. No update.
- ii) Cutting back of hedge at picnic area Jacks Bush. Stiles and Bates are happy for the hedge to be trimmed. It was something they used to do themselves but since the trees have grown up, their hedge trimming equipment no longer fits.
- iii) Reducing number of trees at picnic area Jacks Bush. It was agreed to hold a site meeting to discuss both the tree reduction and the hedge cutting. Arranged for Friday 13th December at 10.00 am. Cllrs Merriman, Akhurst and Little to attend plus any other councillor who could make the meeting.
- iv) email from local resident concerned about trees in Homestead Lane. The Councillors discussed the trees on the bank opposite the property. The land owner has already been approached by National Power who have it on their work schedule to reduce some of these trees as they are close to power lines. Cllr Densham offered to look into this further with a view to getting some idea of National Power's timescales and also offered to cut some of the ivy off the trees to help reduce the weight. Clerk to reply to the local resident with an update.

A local resident also reported the hedge and trees in Homestead Lane, opposite Meadow Cottages as these have become overgrown and are obscuring the street light. Details of the person to contact were discussed. Clerk to write to pass on the safety concerns of the parish council.

It was also reported that the lamp post at McCombie Cottages is not working. Clerk to report.

## **8. Reports from DDC/KCC Members**

None

## **9. Finance:**

- i) To approve the payment schedule for December with the proviso that Wyman Electrical Ltd issue a new invoice in the name of the parish council and secondly the replacement cheque is not handed out until the bank has given some notification that the original cheque has been stopped. This was proposed by Cllr Calthorpe seconded by Cllr Little and all members voted in favour.

Chq No.

001364	Clerk	November wages	£347.50
001365	Clerk	November ex	£ 20.00
		Onedrive subscription	£ 13.68
001366	C Little	Groundwork November	£ 15.00
001367	Southern Water	Allotment water	£ 58.99
001368	Dover District Council	Election costs	£117.63
001369	Wyman Electrical Ltd	PAT Testing	£ 45.60

The Council discussed the increase in the expected amount and considered it was for the extra item PAT tested.

001370 J Stroud (replacement cheque) Allotment/Orchard grass cutting £350.00

001363 has been lost in the post. Letter to bank to stop cheque, signed by Councillors. Clerk to action.

## **10. Donation towards the free Christmas Dinner for elderly residents in the Parish .**

Cllr Calthorpe left the meeting.

Cllr Calthorpe is organising a Christmas dinner for elderly residents of the parish.

To donate £50 under section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 towards costs was proposed by Cllr Smith, seconded by Cllr Merriman and all members voted in favour.

Cllr Calthorpe returned to the meeting.

## **11. Website**

To discuss the Cantium proposal of a 3 year contract at a cost of £995 for the first year. The Parish Council need their website to be compliant with the new accessibility regulations and Cantium

were no longer going to host the website for no charge. A small working group made up of Claire Inglin, Cllr Calthorpe and the Clerk to look at the options. The latest date for accessing archived data has not been confirmed yet. Cllr Smith offered to try to back up the current website information on to the encrypted hard drive. To be looked at again in Feb/March in good time to have the site migrated.

## **12. Budget/Precept**

The Councillors discussed the precept request for 2020 to 2021. By the beginning of January the Council should have the tax base figure from DDC.

To submit a request in January for a precept of £12,899 (which equates to an 8.7% increase and the vast majority of which is down to charges for website - see item 11) was proposed by Cllr Merriman seconded by Cllr Calthorpe and all members voted in favour.

## **13. Local Planning:**

For consideration by Councillors:

i) Planning Policy. There had been a poor response to the public consultation in the parish. However, publication of the local site allocation documents may cause residents to become interested in local planning. It was decided to leave the planning policy on the agenda although no action would be carried out for the moment.

Noted:

i) Update from DDC re Great Napchester Farm. Covered under matters arising.

ii) CON/18/01040/A Meadowside, Stoneheap Road, East Studdal CT15 5BU. 3 - Material schedule provided. Condition Approved

iii) 19/01312 Land Adjacent to Spinney Cottage, Waldershare Road, Ashley CT15 5JA Prior approval for the construction of an agricultural vehicle/machinery access. Prior Approval Refused

## **14. Highways**

i) Traffic Accidents in Sutton. A local resident had reported an accident on the bend in Sutton at the Church Hill/Vale Road junction. It has not yet been recorded on the accident register although people were hospitalised. To report this to Highways when chasing up the Beacon Hill crossroads work was proposed by Cllr Akhurst seconded by Cllr Merriman and all members voted in favour. Clerk to action.

## **15. Allotments**

Waiting list. No current plot holders want to give up their plots for the moment. 2 people are on the waiting list. It was agreed to create 2 new plots in the location Cllr Little has suggested, on the basis of the size of the existing smaller plots. If there is further demand for new plots, the Parish Council will have to go back to the original allotment holders to reduce some of the plot sizes. Cllr Little offered to have a look at the trees on the site and to measure out new plots. The current agreement was discussed. A new letter and rental agreement to be sent out in April with a plan showing the plot location.

A query arose on the public liability cover for family members of plot holders visiting the allotment. Clerk to query this with the insurance company.

## **16. Correspondence**

Consultations/Surveys/For consideration

KALC.

i) VE Day 75 arrangements. 8/5/2020. Cllr Calthorpe offered to ask the Community Centre committee at their January meeting if they would be interested in a joint venture. To discuss again.

## **17. Any other business to report/matters to discuss**

The Christmas tree light "switch on" at The 3 Horse Shoes is scheduled for Saturday 7th December at 5.00 pm

**18. Date of next meeting:**

Tuesday 7 January 2020 at the Church Hall, Studdal at 7.30 pm

Meeting closed 9.15 pm

Cllr Merriman wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and invited them to stay for a mince pie and festive drink.

Signed: Cllr Barbara Merriman

Date: 7th January 2020

A paper copy is on file with the Clerk.