

Minutes

Meeting held in Studdal Church Hall on Tuesday 5 November 2019 at 7.30 pm.

1. Present and apologies B Merriman (Chair)

G Akhurst

A Calthorpe

D Willet

G Smith

H Densham

KCC Member Steve Manion

S Smith (Clerk)

10 Members of the public

Apologies:

K Little

DDC Member Nick Kenton

2. Approval of the 14 October minutes

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

3. Declarations of interest

Cllr Akhurst declared an interest on item 10. i) Finance

4. Matters arising from 1 October meeting

PAT. Booked with Wymans for later in the week.

Great Napchester Farm. Clerk to ask for an update from DDC.

Sutton Pond. The runoffs are still overgrown but have not been flooding.

First Response Training. To be booked for a Friday in November.

Canton Parking. Cllr Merriman offered to take another look.

5. Matters arising from 14 October meeting

Manston consultation. Cllr Smith had attended the Manston Airport focus group earlier in the day and reported back to the Council. It would appear the proposed new outbound flight path runs directly over the Parish of Sutton. The consultation questionnaire to go on the website for local residents to complete. The Parish Council to send in their own response to the consultation which ends on 15th November.

6. Visitors

A local resident had input he wished to add to the Jack's Bush discussions. Covered later in the meeting.

7. Playing field

i) Rospa report. The swing at the playing field is to be removed for safety reasons. Cllr Densham offered to dig it out when the ground is drier. Cllr Smith offered to remove the seat in the mean time.

ii) Boundary fence. The cows from the neighbouring property keep escaping into the playing field. The Parish Council discussed who to contact with regard to the responsibility of the boundary fencing. Clerk to write to the appropriate party to ask them to ensure the fence is made secure.

8. Community upkeep

i) Flower bed at the Memorial garden. Colin Little kindly offered to build the raised bed. Ideally, the flower bed will be available for local residents to maintain and fill with plants of their own choice. To go ahead with the flower bed up to a maximum cost of £30 was proposed by Cllr Akhurst seconded by Cllr Smith and all members voted in favour

- ii) Cutting back of hedge at picnic area Jacks Bush. Permission to be sought from Stiles and Bates to cut back the hedge. Clerk to action.
- iii) Reducing number of trees at picnic area Jacks Bush. This was discussed again. Councillors to take a look at the site. To be further discussed at the December meeting
- iv) Gates on public footpaths. An email had been received commenting on the difficulty of using the footpath opposite Studdal House Farm as the gates were tied with multiple pieces of string that made them difficult to open and close. The landowner in question had indicated that this was because walkers periodically left the gates open which meant sheep were wandering. Cllr Akhurst offered to reply to the email. A problem with the stile on the footpath had also been reported and the Landowner has said that they would take a look at this.

9. Reports from DDC/KCC Members

KCC Member Steve Manion reported on the following:

Climate Change. Discussed recently by Cabinet.

Empty Properties. Additional funding to be allocated.

Budget. Consultation going ahead.

Cllr Manion offered to make enquiries about DDC's view on the Manston expansion

10. Finance:

Cllr Akhurst left the meeting.

- i) To approve the payment schedule for November was proposed by Cllr Calthorpe seconded by Cllr Densham and all members voted in favour.

Chq No.

001359	Clerk	October wages		£347.50
001360	Clerk	October ex	£ 20.00	
		Onedrive subscription	£ 13.68	
		Stamps	£ 7.32	£ 41.00
001361	C Little	Groundwork October		£ 15.00
001362	G Akhurst	Title deeds fee		£ 6.00
001363	J Stroud	Allotment/Orchard grass cutting		£350.00

Cllr Akhurst returned to the meeting.

- ii) To continue with Onedrive for Business due to renew on 27/11/2019 was proposed by Cllr Akhurst seconded by Cllr Willet and all members voted in favour.

11. Website

The free KCC EIS/Cantium website will be closed by September 2020. Clerk to ask KALC if they know the date when the current information on the EIS website will be archived and no longer available to access/transfer. The Councillors also discussed the various options and the implications of this cost on the Council's budget. It was decided that as the Council was not yet in a position to decide which site provider to move to the yearly figure for the Cantium platform of £995 should be included in the budget for next year it being recognised that a cheaper option may be explored. To be further discussed.

12. Budget/Precept

The Councillors discussed the budget again. The precept table to be updated for further discussion at the December meeting.

13. Christmas Drinks for the December Meeting

To spend up to £40 to provide a festive drink and mince pies to the local residents and councillors attending the December meeting was proposed by Cllr Merriman seconded by Cllr Smith and all members voted in favour. Clerk to action.

14. Local Planning:

For consideration by Councillors:

i) DOV/19/ 01231 The Outrigger, Chapel Lane, Ashley CT15 5HZ

Variation of condition 2 of planning permission DOV/15/00936 to allow change of materials (application under Section 73) The Council decided not to comment on this application.

ii) Planning Policy. To be discussed at the next meeting.

iii) Langdon Parish Council. Neighbourhood Development Plan. The Councillors discussed the proposal from Langdon Parish Council to work with them on a joint neighbourhood plan. It was decided not to go along with a joint venture for the moment as Sutton intended to focus on its own update of planning policies which the councillors would be able to use when considering planning applications in the parish. Clerk to write back to Langdon Council.

15. Highways

The Council noted the road closure of Boys Hill between 18-22 November.

Salt bins. Thanks to Cllr Densham for repositioning the parish council's salt bin. The KCC bin at Little America is broken and on its side. Clerk to report.

Gullies. it was reported that the soakaways and gullies at Outrigger, Little Mongeham, the Memorial Garden and the Three Horseshoes have all recently been flooding. Clerk to report to Highways.

Cllr Densham confirmed the level of the lagoon is satisfactory at the moment. He was also thanked for clearing out various drains in the parish.

16. Allotments

Waiting list. Cllr Little has spoken to all current allotment holders about the proposals for the site. To be discussed at the December meeting.

17. Correspondence

Consultations/Surveys/For consideration

KALC.

i) AGM Saturday 30/11/2019. Ditton Community Centre. No attendance. Clerk to send apologies.

ii) VE Day 75 arrangements. 8/5/2020. Councillors to look at the correspondence. To be discussed at the December meeting.

iii) Dynamic Councillor Workshop 23/11/2019 £60.00 plus VAT. Lenham. Cllr Willet to contact the Clerk if able to attend.

KCC. Budget consultation 2020-2021. No response.

To note:

18. Utility run up playing field road

i) To consider a motion to exclude the public from a discussion about the appropriate fee to charge was proposed by Cllr Merriman seconded by Cllr Akhurst and all members voted in favour.

The public were asked to leave the meeting.

ii) To consider the fee to charge for allowing a utility run under the playing field road

After considerable discussion as to prevailing guidance in this area which was understood to be between 30 to 50% of the planning uplift, the Council decided to settle upon 30% being the lower end as they do not want to be perceived as being unreasonable but do need to act responsibly with parish assets. The offer to be subject to contract, written wayleaves from the utility companies and payment by the beneficiary of Council's legal fees in the matter. This was proposed by Cllr Akhurst seconded by Cllr Willet and voted in favour by majority.

No public returned to the meeting.

19. Any other business to report/matters to discuss

SPARC. The newly formed group in the parish, set up to look into installing new equipment at the playing field is currently investigating avenues of funding. They have asked the Council to confirm

its ownership of the playing field and for the Council to give written permission for the group to apply for funding to install new equipment at the playing field. Clerk to send confirmation.

Trees, Homestead Lane. The Councillors discussed the email sent in by a local resident expressing concerns for their property. Clarification to be sought as to which particular trees are causing the concerns. Clerk to action.

Tree warden report. Noted.

20. Date of next meeting:

Tuesday 3 December 2019 at the Church Hall, Studdal at 7.30 pm

Festive refreshments will be provided at the end of the meeting.

Meeting closed.

Signed: Cllr B Merriman

Date: 3rd December 2019

A paper copy is on file with the Clerk