

Minutes

Meeting held in Studdal Church Hall on Tuesday 6 March 2018 at 7.30 pm.

- 1. Present and apologies:**
 - B Merriman (Chair)
 - H Densham
 - C Hogben
 - G Smith
 - A Calthorpe
 - R Little
 - 12 Members of the public
 - KCC Member Steve Manion (left the meeting at 8.45)
 - DDC Member Nick Kenton (arrived later in the meeting)
 - S Smith (Clerk)

Apologies: G Akhurst
- 2. Approval of the 6 February minutes:**

The minutes were proposed as a true record of the meeting by Cllr Hogben, seconded by Cllr Little and all members voted in favour and they were signed by the Chair.
- 3. Declarations of interest:**

None
- 4. Matters arising from 6 February meeting:**
 - Vale Road.* The footpath is now entirely clear.
 - Flooding at the Allotments.* The problem is still going on. The e-mail response from the Flood Management Officer from the Countryside Partnership was referred to, notifying the Council of the discussion with local land owners and the subsequent actions. Cllr Merriman and Cllr Little offered to try to arrange a meeting.
 - Dementia Friends.* No attendance due to the bad weather.
 - Data Protection.* e-mail from each Councillor to confirm they are no longer holding e-mails over 3 years old. To be confirmed still.
 - Commercial vehicle, Strakers Hill, planning breach.* Enforcement and the Environment agency are working together and looking into the case.
 - Deep water sign.* Still not installed. Clerk to remind Highways again.
 - Noticeboard.* Cllrs decided to keep the noticeboard in situ as it is still in good order and to perhaps move it when it needs replacing. Clerk to reply to PCC to let them know.
- 5. Visitors:**

A local resident has asked permission to shoot rabbits with an air rifle on the community orchard. He has the correct public liability insurance and has done a risk assessment. The Councillors discussed this. The decision was left until further advice had been sought.

A representative from the PCC pointed out that the hedge is overgrowing the noticeboard and they would be quite happy for the noticeboard to be moved.

A local resident asked for her objection to the rabbit culling to be noted.
- 6. Reports from DDC/KCC Members**

KCC Member Steve Manion reported on the following:

 1. The Sutton facebook page has been updated
 2. Potholes. These can be reported on the website.
 3. The KCC are having a 'big conversation' about transport and have been discussing ways the services can be combined.
 4. Bus summit. This is going ahead in June.
 5. Boundary review. The DDC meeting to discuss this has been put back. Responses by 9/4/18

Cllr Densham mentioned to Cllr Manion, that the number to report local snow ploughing to, was closed after office hours.

Cllr Merriman thanked KCC for keeping the communications regarding the weather and roads up to date. DDC Member Nick Kenton's report recorded here but given later in the meeting. He reported on the following:

1. There has been a substantial grant for the rapid transit scheme.
2. The Council are currently buying back ex council houses to help increase housing stock.
3. Citizens Advice and Age Concern will be hosting DDC offices.
4. There is now a grant to get empty shops back into use again.

7. Finance:

To approve the payment schedule for February

Chq No.

001256 Clerks wage -February (inc hmrc refund) £692.50

001257 Clerks expenses - February ex £20.00

Onedrive subscription £13.68

McAfee £24.50

Lock for filing cabinet £4.68

Booking fee Community Centre £12.00 £ 74.86

(agreed under agenda item 16.)

001258 R. Little - Orchard tree expenses £18.68

To approve the payment schedule for February was proposed by Cllr Hogben seconded by Cllr Calthorpe and all members voted in favour.

8. Appointment of Internal auditor

To reappoint the internal auditor was proposed by Cllr Merriman, seconded by Cllr Calthorpe and all members voted in favour. Cllr Calthorpe to remain as Councillor with financial responsibility to check accounts first.

9. Data Protection and storage

To discuss DPO appointment. Two options were put forward. The DPO Centre at a cost of £600 for the first year and £300 for subsequent years. The Council would need to join a group of 6 local parish councils for this provider to be able to offer the service. The company looks to be very up to date on the policies and requirements. The alternative is SATSWANA at a cost of £150 per annum.

It was decided to investigate further and agree the appointment at the April meeting.

10. A Defibrillator for the Parish

Kent Fire and Rescue Service have been offering free defibrillators. Interest has been registered with KFRS and an application form applied for. Clerk to chase up.

It is anticipated that the PCC will donate £250 to the cost of the defibrillator.

The Community Centre committee are holding their meeting in March. It is hoped that funding will be offered towards the cost.

Clerk to contact BHF to try to establish whether or not the application has to be in by 21/3/18 and if there will be funding available from the BHF next year.

Cllr Little reported that the first response training is still in the process of being arranged. This topic to go on the agenda for next month.

11. Speeding and traffic issues

A driver from Maydensole was reported speeding through the parish. If the car registration number is recorded, it will be reported to the police.

12. Annual Parish Meeting and AGM

The date for the AGM was set for Tuesday 1st May 2018 at 7.00 to precede the ordinary monthly meeting.

The date for the Annual Parish meeting was set for Tuesday 29th May 2018 at 7.00 pm. Clerk to check the availability of the halls. Cllr Calthorpe kindly offered to organise the refreshments. To spend up to £50 on refreshments was proposed by Cllr Little, seconded by Cllr Smith and all members voted in favour. Clerk to pass the dates on to Rural Roundup.

13. Local Planning:

For consideration by Councillors

To discuss planning policy.

Cllr Smith offered to head up a group of both Councillors and interested local residents to pen out a draft planning policy focusing on local aspects of planning. Cllr Hogben, Cllr Calthorpe and Cllr Merriman agreed to join the working group to put ideas together with a view to being in a position to consult at the Annual Parish meeting in May.

Cllr Smith had been approached by local residents after the last meeting with concerns about local planning issues. Cllr Smith expressed his concerns with the current trend in planning and explained that generally people respect the planning system because there is a level playing field.

He felt Changes of Use in the parish were playing the system and more and more people have been taking liberties. He felt that, if this continued people would lose respect for the system. At the last Parish Council meeting, DDC had said that enforcement is discretionary. Cllr Smith voiced his concern that if there is no redress, the whole system could break down. He insisted that a breach of planning should be tested with a planning application otherwise there is no opportunity for the Parish Council or local residents to object to a potential breach.

DDC Member Nick Kenton explained that there had been staffing issues in Planning. He explained the permitted development is a right which cannot be affected. He also explained that restructuring on how planning would be dealt with and complete changes in the Enforcement department will make considerable improvements. Cllr Kenton explained that DDC Enforcement intend to make serious breaches of planning more visible as a deterrent to potential offenders.

Cllr Kenton then gave his report (recorded under agenda item 6.)

DOV/18/00125 East Studdal Nurseries, Downs Road, East Studdal, CT15 5DB

Outline application for the erection of 10 dwellings (existing nursery buildings to be demolished retaining existing dwelling) (appearance, landscaping, layout and scale to be reserved)

The Council discussed this application. The response, to refer back to the 2010 letter to DDC recommending no more than 10 houses on this site and to state the Council are still of the same opinion. To comment on this being an outline application only and the Parish Council would not support an increased number of houses on the site. To also add concerns about the current inadequate water supply. This was proposed by Cllr Smith, seconded by Cllr Merriman and all member voted in favour. Clerk to send response to DDC Planning.

DOV/18/00157 Canton, Downs Road, East Studdal, CT15 5DB

Variation of condition 2 of planning permission (DOV/17/00697) to allow amendments to the approved plans (section 73) The Council decided to make no response to this application.

DOV/18/00178 Pilgrims Nook, West Studdal, Sutton, CT15 5BH

Erection of an agricultural barn

The Council discussed this application. To object to the application on the basis that there is no agricultural need for the barn and to point out the site of the barn is badly located. This was proposed by Cllr Little, seconded by Cllr Hogben and all members voted in favour. Clerk to send response to DDC Planning.

For information - Noted

DOV/17/00540 Aquajoy, Little Mongeham, stutton, CT14 0HW

Outline application (with all matters reserved) for the erection of three dwellings. DDC has received an appeal for this application.

DOV/17/00399 Land adj to Homestead Farm Bungalow, Waldershare Road, Ashley, CT15 5JA

Erection of three detached dwellings and creation of associated vehicular access and parking. DDC has received an appeal for this application

DOV/17/01198 Land at The Follies, Downs Road, East Studdal, CT15 5DB

Certificate of Lawfulness (existing) for continued use of land by mobile stabling/store. DDC granted permission

14. Litter pick

e-mail from local resident re Ashley/Waldershre Road. In support of the proposed litter pick and has kindly reported the local fly tipping.

Litter pick event to go ahead on 7th April.

15. Correspondence

Consultations/Surveys - For consideration

KALC

i) Planning workshop/training. Chilham village hall 10/3/18 9.30 am to 12.30 £60 + VAT . No take up.
Planning workshop/training. Sandwich Town Council 5/4/18 6.00 pm £60 + VAT. Cllr Merriman would like to attend. To spend £60 on the training workshop was proposed by Cllr Smith, seconded by Cllr Calthorpe and all members voted in favour. Clerk to book a place.

ii) Local Government ethical standards. Consultation response by 18/5/18. No response

iii) Membership survey. Deadline for return 29/3/18. Clerk to complete.

iv) South East Water. Resources management plan. 12 week consultation. Cllr Merriman pointed out some of the local plans. No response.

Local Government Boundary Commission. Electoral review. Consultation closes 9/4/18. The number of Councillors is being reduced to 32. It is proposed that Sutton will join the Whitfield Rural ward with Langdon. No response. Information noted.

16. Community upkeep

Allotment/Orchard. Purchase of spray for tree work at a cost of £18.38 was proposed by Cllr Merriman, seconded by Cllr Smith and all members voted in favour. It was noted that a local resident has the appropriate licence to help out with the spraying as it is in a public place.

A local resident who had previously enquired about allotment availability had questioned whether all the allotments were being used fully. Members of the committee to take a look when they take part in the hedge cutting.

Hedge cutting event. To agree risk assessment. All agreed.

Local plan review. The play areas and sites identified on DDC map were confirmed. Clerk to respond to DDC.

17. Any other business to report/matters to discuss

A query arose on the timing of the Parish Council elections. It was agreed that 2019 would be the next one.

It was reported that the telephone mast on Boys Hill appears to be getting taller. Clerk to ask DDC.

18. Date of next meeting:

Ordinary meeting Tuesday 3 April 2018 at 7.30 pm at Church Hall Studdal

Meeting closed 9.20

Signed: Barbara Merriman (Chair)

Date : 03/04/2018

Paper copy on file with clerk