

SUTTON BY DOVER PARISH COUNCIL  
<https://suttonbydoverparishcouncil.org.uk/>

Minutes

Parish Council meeting  
6th October 2020 07:30 PM

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

**2. Declarations of interest**

None

**3. Approval of the Minutes 1 September 2020**

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

**4. Matters arising from the Minutes 1 September 2020**

*Apple day.* Cllr Little reported that the apple picking event had been very quiet, nevertheless it had been very nice to see the people who had visited.

*Training event.* Cllr Little had attended the virtual training event.

**5. Finance:**

i) To approve the payment schedule for October was proposed by Cllr Calthorpe seconded by Cllr Akhurst and all members voted in favour

Chq No.

001409 Clerk	September wages		£347.50
001410 Clerk	September ex	£ 20.00	
	Onedrive subscription	£ 13.68	
	Stamps	£ 7.80	£ 41.48
001411 C Little	Grass cutting (quarterly)		£750.00
001412 Kent Association of Local Councils	Training event		£ 60.00
001413 Kent County Council	Allotment rental		£ 17.50
	(5 April 2020 to 4 Oct 2020)		

ii) Bank reconciliation 24 Sept 2020. The balance in the current account is £11,273.18 and the deposit account balance is £15,636.30 making a total of £26,909.48. To accept the reconciliation was proposed by Cllr Merriman seconded by Cllr Akhurst and all members voted in favour.

**6. Local Planning:**

For consideration by Councillors:

i) DOV/20/00865 14 Meadow Cottages, Homestead Lane, East Studdal, CT15 5BP

Erection of a dwelling

To support the application was proposed by Cllr Merriman seconded by Cllr Calthorpe and voted in favour by majority.

After discussion of the application it was noted that perhaps The Council should revisit the Parish Planning Policy to make any necessary revisions.

Cllr Smith brought to the attention of the meeting, the change in wording of the planning letter sent out to councils to notify them of an application. The new wording referring to DDC includes the phrase 'The Council's performance in determining applications is subject to national targets' Cllr Manion suggested contacting DDC Cllr Kenton to ask for an explanation of these targets. Clerk to action.

Noted:

CON/20/00611/A The Cider Works, Sandwich Road, Waldershare, CT15 5AU

Condition 6. Closure of access. DDC condition approved

## **7. Playing field**

i) Play equipment, fault with slide. Cllr Willet had kindly made sure the slide was not usable after the fault was found. Under guarantee, Playdale are manufacturing a new part which will hopefully be installed in the week commencing 26th October.

ii) Seating at the recreation ground. To purchase a bench, funded by SPARC and an additional picnic table both with soft fixings at a cost excluding VAT of £1136.17 was proposed by Cllr Merriman seconded by Cllr Smith and all members voted in favour. SPARC have given a cheque to the Parish Council for £834 towards the seating with the balance of £302.17 being paid by the Council.

It was noted there may be an extra cost for fixing. Once ordered the Councillors to meet at the recreation ground to decide where to site the benches.

Covered later in the meeting but reported here. The inscription on the bench was discussed and agreed.

iii) To install and purchase bird spikes for 2 pieces of play equipment at a cost of £97.62 including VAT was proposed by Cllr Merriman seconded by Cllr Akhurst and all members voted in favour.

## **8. Allotment**

i) Waiting list and allocation of sites. A site meeting had gone ahead and options for new plots had been re-thought. It was suggested that some of the land given over to the orchard could be reverted back to make allotments. Although a few fruit trees were affected they were considered to be diseased and not good specimens. The options to be given to new holders to either keep, reduce or remove the fruit trees from their new plots. Cllr Little, assisted by Cllr Merriman, offered to measure out the new plots, other councillors would then be able to take a look at the proposed area. The residents on the waiting list would also be invited to check they are happy to take on the plots.

It was noted that subdivision of plots may be a possibility for the future.

ii) Bonfire area. At the moment there is an area at the back for bonfires but this has become overgrown, possible relocation to be discussed at the next meeting.

## **9. Orchard**

i) Pruning and cutting back. Cllr Merriman informed the meeting that it is 2 years since the boundary hedge was cut back and at the back of the orchard there are 4 good trees which cannot be reached as they are covered in brambles. The Councillors, to consider having a designated budget for the maintenance of the orchard. To be discussed next month when considering the budget/precept.

The apple trees also need pruning. To consider holding a volunteer pruning day in January to do this. To be discussed again in January hopefully at a face to face meeting.

## **10. Community Upkeep**

i) Programme of Maintenance for Physical Assets inspection list. As there are no urgent items on the list it was decided to leave further discussion until a proper meeting could be held in the new year.

Thanks to Doug Vickers who has kindly stabilised the bin on the bank at the entrance to the allotments. Thanks also to Audrey Vickers for cleaning the plaque dedicated to Ray Odell.

#### **11. Memorial for Ron Little**

Ron's family have arranged for the raised flower bed to be made and it is now installed at the Memorial Garden. The Councillors decided on the wording they would like on the remembrance plaque. Sizes and costs to be circulated prior to the next meeting and then finalised at the November meeting. Clerk to action.

#### **12. Report from DDC/KCC**

Cllr Steve Manion reported on the following:

*KCC*

The Council has financial pressures this year although they have received some central government funding.

The Council has been considering new ways of doing things with meetings being held virtually, by phone and face to face.

Visits to the Whitfield recycling site have been increased to every week for residents.

*DDC*

The Council are working together with the police on fly tipping issues.

Control of the housing stock is being taken back by the Council.

#### **13. Correspondence**

i) email from Tilmanstone Parish Council regarding Paramotors and use of field. Tilmanstone Parish Council are collating their own log. It was noted that the 12 month period does not necessarily have to run consecutively with the calendar year.

ii) email regarding keeping dogs on leads at the recreation ground. A query had been sent to the Council asking under what legislation are dogs to be kept on leads at the recreation ground. The query had been answered explaining that although there may not be specific legislation, it was considered a community responsibility to keep the dogs on leads for the well being of other play area users.

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

*Overgrown trees and hedges at the bottom of Church Hill.* Cllr Akhurst offered to ask the landowner when the hedge cutting is scheduled to take place. Cllr Manion reported that Highways had been notified of the overhanging trees and would be approaching the land owner about this issue.

*Traffic lights on A256 at Barville Roundabout.* Cllr Willet 's concerns were passed on about these traffic lights which are constantly green, perhaps leading drivers to assume that traffic from the right is being held and therefore the normal rule of giving way to traffic from the right at the roundabout may be ignored. Cllr Manion had been approached about this concern before and explained to the meeting that the distance between the lights and the roundabout conform to national design standards. Cllr Manion offered to forward this information to the Clerk for passing on to the councillors.

*Bus Shelter.* The library/swap shop has grown rather large taking over much of the space. With the bad weather coming, it was agreed there should be a clear area for people to use the shelter when waiting for a bus. Cllr Little offered to have a sort out and put up a notice asking for a seat to be kept clear.

#### **15. Date and status of next meeting:**

Tuesday 3 November 2020 - Venue to be confirmed

Meeting closed:

Signed: Cllr Merriman

Date: 3rd November 2020

A paper copy is on file with the Clerk.