

SUTTON BY DOVER PARISH COUNCIL
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Minutes

Parish Council meeting
Held remotely using the Zoom platform
5th January 2021 07:30 PM

Cllr Merriman opened the meeting by wishing everyone a Happy New Year in these difficult times.

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

2. Declarations of interest

Declared later in the meeting. Cllr Smith declared an interest in item 6. Planning iii) Lynwood.

3. Approval of the minutes 1 December 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 December 2020

Bench and picnic table. Both installed.

Memorial Plaque. Cllr Merriman offered to organise its installation and it was agreed to hold a commemorative event later in the year.

Donated bench. Finding someone for the repair is still on going but the bench is safely stored.

Precept. DDC has sent out a draft spreadsheet which shows a change to the tax base. (Yet to be approved by DDC). It looks like the figure of £13,149 agreed by The Parish Council last month will be the figure used for the precept request as it is less than a 1.99% increase.

Orchard grasscutting. The contractor is happy to cut the grass to the left and right of the newly cleared area although there was a concern mentioned about getting too close to the bees. The bee lady is to reinstate the roped off area.

Lagoon. Cllr Densham had reported that the lagoon is coping with the water levels although no-one from Highways has been along to check whether it needs cleaning out. Clerk to report again to Highways.

Salt bag. Not received yet. Clerk to chase up.

5. Finance:

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

Chq No.

001422 Clerk	December wages		£ 347.50
001423 Clerk	December ex	£ 20.00	
	Onedrive	£ 13.68	
	Memorial plaque	£100.00	£ 133.68

ii) Bank reconciliation at 24th December 2020. The current a/c balance is £7,447.32 and the reserve a/c balance is £15,636.70 making total funds of £23,084.02. To accept the bank reconciliation was proposed by Cllr Merriman seconded by Cllr Calthorpe and all members voted in favour.

6. Local Planning:

For consideration by Councillors:

i) Planning policy and the value of the Council's response to applications. Cllr Smith gave a brief background to the meeting of the various changes in the planning process/rules. He explained that he felt applications were now being judged by DDC in terms of government targets and therefore, not as much notice was being taken of the parish council's views. For this reason he would be excluding himself from planning in the future.

The way forward was discussed. The Councillors present thought updating the planning policy was something all members of the council should be part of. It was decided to put discussions on hold for a couple of months and add it to the agenda as soon as the whole council could meet in person.

ii) Dover District Local Plan Consultation. Request to display posters. Invitation to tutorial session on 21/1/2021 at either 10.00 am or 7.30 pm. It was agreed to display posters in both noticeboards, at the bus stop and in the Community Centre notice board with electronic versions to be displayed on the website and sent on to Rural Roundup. Clerk to action. Cllr Calthorpe offered to display the information on the Studdal Facebook page.

iii) Lynwood. Report of noise nuisance and possible planning breach. This was discussed by the Councillors. It was decided to ask for more information about the complaint. If the report related to a noise nuisance to advise this should be reported directly to DDC Environmental health and if it was about a possible planning breach then further information to be asked for in writing for the Parish Council to decide what action to take if any. Clerk to action.

iv) DOV/20/01483 1 Meadow Cottages , Homestead Lane, East Studdal, CT15 5BP

Conversion of garage to habitable room and erection of a first floor extension over garage

(retrospective) Cllr Smith excluded himself from the discussion. It was proposed by Cllr Merriman that no action be taken, seconded by Cllr Akhurst and voted in favour by majority.

Noted:

i) CON/19/00692/A The Lodge, Stoneheap Road, East Studdal. 4 - Archaeology. DDC Condition not approved.

ii) DOV/20/01141 Hillcrest, Strakers Hill. Erection of a single storey side extension. DDC granted permission

iii) DOV/20/01184 Bherunda, Stoneheap Road, East Studdal CT15 5BU. Erection of a rear dormer roof extension with Juliette balcony and conservatory. DDC granted permission

iv) DOV/20/00368 Sutton Vale Caravan Park and Country Club, Vale Road, Sutton CT15 5DH Creation of a new gated vehicular access. DDC granted permission

v) DOV/20/01215 11 Meadow Cottages , Homestead Lane, East Studdal, CT15 5BP. Erection of two storey side extension. DDC granted permission.

vi) DOV/20/00955 Stoneheap Farm, Willow Woods Road, Little Mongeham CT14 0HS. Creation of a sand school for exercising horses. DDC granted permission.

7. Report from DDC/KCC

Cllr Manion wished a Happy New Year to the Chair and Council.

Cllr Manion offered his sympathies with Cllr Smith's views and agreed there had been a lot of changes in planning over the last year which may have tilted the balance more to the developers. He did emphasise that with the local plan framework coming up for consultation it would be important to have input from the communities.

Lockdown. The Dover statistics although high are falling.

No symptom testing site. Opening in Dover this week.

Road cleaning. KCC has been clearing up the M20 and DDC will be cleaning the A20 and A256 after the HGV disruptions in the area.

Food poverty. Being looked into by DDC.

8. Playing field

i) Picnic bench. Incorrectly constructed. The new picnic bench was cemented in by Doug Vickers with help from Colin Little. After installation the fault in construction was noticed. The manufacturer is very apologetic about the mistake. They have agreed the Council can keep the bench and have offered various options as compensation. It was decided to take up their offer of a new picnic bench with fixing kit. Clerk to action. Doug Vickers has agreed to correct the fault on the picnic table. Cllr Willet has also kindly offered to do this, to be thanked for his offer, although declined this time. Clerk to action.

ii) Public Spaces Protection Order. DDC is updating its PSPO areas. The current plan shows the old play equipment site as a dog exclusion area. A request has been made to remove this and add a 'dogs on lead' area for the whole recreation ground. It has been emphasised to DDC that people are not always taking notice of the request at the field to keep dogs on leads. DDC have offered to arrange additional patrols in the area if necessary. DDC have noted the parish council's request and will be visiting the site before putting together a document for consultation. It was agreed to keep an eye out for the consultation and to ask people in the village to respond to it.

iii) Risk Assessment. New guidelines were issued on 22 Dec 2020. The Council have reviewed the guidelines and there is no indication that the play equipment needs to be closed. The risk assessment was reviewed and it was unanimously agreed that it stands and the resulting actions i.e. the notice at the site is adequate.

9. Allotment

i) Thank you gift. To purchase a gift of wine for Doug Vickers as a thank you to show the parish council's appreciation for all his hard work at the allotments up to a cost of £20 was proposed by Cllr Merriman seconded by Cllr Calthorpe and all members voted in favour.

10. Orchard

i) Ideas for community involvement. The seasonal events were discussed. The spring event might not be able to go ahead because of lockdown. Cllr Calthorpe offered to cover the summer picnic, Cllr Merriman, the autumn apple day and Cllr Akhurst offered to cover the winter event. To revisit next month to add dates and to liaise with Cllr Little as she is absent this meeting.

ii) To discuss/agree quotes for tree pruning. The details of the 2 quotes were discussed. It was agreed to discuss again at the February meeting after clarification of tree numbers.

iii) To discuss topping of trees. To be discussed after the pruning quotes have been finalised.

11. Programme of Maintenance for Physical Assets

Several jobs have already been sorted out: The wobbly bin at Ashley, the memorial plaque, the bird spikes and Colin Little is dealing with the bench on The Three Horseshoes green. The noticeboard at the Church Hall may need moving so it can be seen from the pavement. Doug Vickers has priced the old picnic table which needs painting as between £70 and £90. To repair or perhaps remove this was discussed. (Subsequent to the meeting, councillors have checked the condition of the picnic table and will discuss again at the next meeting). Cllr Merriman offered to draw up a list of works to get quotes for the jobs. The list to be passed to the other councillors and then on to the clerk to get prices. Clerk to action.

12. Correspondence to note

i) Guston Parish Council. email re the proposed inland border facility at Whitecliffs Business Park. The Council agreed it was very unfortunate for Guston that the proposed customs park is so close to them. It was agreed to write back to them to express the council's sympathies and explain that with the current 'Covid lockdown' situation, The Council felt they were unfortunately unable to help. Clerk to action.

ii) KALC. Climate adaptation survey. Date for completion 15/1/2021. Unable to complete as the format of the survey does not allow prior reading of the questions for the parish council to consider and complete with a joint decision. Clerk to feed this back to KCC. Cllr Manion also offered to pass this feedback on.

13. Any other business to report/matters to discuss

Bird spikes. A couple have become detached.

Defibrillator. Cllr Merriman offered to check it is working.

Christmas Tree on the green. Cllr Merriman thanked the local residents responsible for carrying on the Christmas tradition started by Ron Little.

Regency Cottage. It has been reported to DDC Enforcement that a lot of groundwork is going on at the property.

Potholes. There are a lot in Roman Road, too many to report individually online. Clerk to report them to Highways. Cllr Manion also offered to report this.

KCC Impact Survey. Asking what impact Covid has had on the parish council. The Council were not sure what information was being asked for. Cllr Calthorpe offered to take a look at it and Cllr Manion also offered to look into it.

14. Date and status of next meeting:

Tuesday 2nd February 2021 - Venue to be confirmed

Meeting closed: 21.22 pm

Signed: Cllr Barbara Merriman

Date: 5th February 2021

A paper copy is on file with the Clerk