

Minutes

Meeting held in Sutton Community Centre on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2021 at 7.30 pm.

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

Apologies:                      G Akhurst  
   K Little

**2. Declarations of interest**

Cllr Merriman declared an interest on item 6. Finance

**3. Approval of the minutes 19<sup>th</sup> October 2021**

After a small alteration to the spelling of Chocks Go Away, the minutes were proposed as a true record of the meeting by Cllr Merriman seconded by Cllr Calthorpe and all members voted in favour.

**4. Matters arising from the minutes 19th October 2021**

Chocks Go Away. A couple of the councillors had attended the fundraising event at Northbourne. Cllr Willett to look at the planning report compiled by the group. Clerk to pass it on. All other councillors have seen the report.

Road sweeper. Has still not visited the parish. Clerk to chase up. Comments were also made about the standard of the KCC grass cutting in the parish.

New office equipment. To be purchased by the December meeting.

Damage to trees. A couple of youths found damaging the trees in the playing field have been approached by a councillor. No further reports of it happening again.

Dog walking message. This has been put on the website, notice boards and village Facebook page.

Bus shelter. An appeal was made for anyone passing to take a bag of books away to charity shops.

Police crime survey. Advertised on the website and notice boards.

Empty property. DDC Environmental Health have been approached. More information is needed for the issue to be taken any further.

**5. Visitors**

No report

**6. Finance**

Cllr Merriman left the meeting.

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

Chq No.

001467 Clerk	October wages	£ 367.50
001468 Clerk	October ex - Onedrive	£ 13.68
001469 CPRE	Annual subscription	£ 36.00
001470 B Merriman	Apple day expenses	£ 11.44
001471 Sutton Parish Community Centre	Hall hire - Aug, Sept, Oct, Nov	£ 40.00

Cllr Merriman returned to the meeting.

## **7. Local Community**

i) Defibrillator. Cllr Merriman ran through the current checks made on the defibrillator. To purchase a battery and pads at a cost of £314.40 plus p+p and a rescue kit for £24.99 was proposed by Cllr Merriman seconded by Cllr Willet and all members voted in favour.

ii) New bin for the parish. The councillors discussed the need for a new bin and the DDC charge for emptying one. It was decided to put this on hold for the moment, to monitor the situation and perhaps reconsider the purchase after the litter pick in the spring.

iii) Verge opposite Canton. The councillors discussed several ways of trying to protect the verge to allow the grass to grow. Concerns were voiced as to whose responsibility the land and any bollards installed on it would be. KCC Member Steve Manion offered to contact Highways to make enquiries and to ask them to advise the Clerk on the situation.

## **8. Local Planning:**

For consideration by Councillors:

i) DOV/21/01563 5 Meadow Cottages, Homestead Lane, East Studdal, CT15 5BP

Erection of two storey side and rear extensions, installation of front porch (existing side, rear and porch extensions to be demolished).

To support the application and to ask the Planning department to take into account that the front door canopy is an original feature, could it therefore remain so it is the same as the other properties in the row of cottages. This was proposed by Cllr Merriman seconded by Cllr Willet and all members voted in favour. Clerk to submit response to DDC Planning.

ii) DOV/21/01590 The Lodge , Stoneheap Road, East Studdal, CT15 5BU

Erection of detached double garage.

To support the application was proposed by Cllr Merriman seconded by Cllr Willet and all members voted in favour. Clerk to submit response to DDC Planning.

iii) DOV/21/00879 Forge Farm House , Forge Lane, Sutton, CT15 5DG

Erection of two storey rear and single storey side extensions, side porch, balcony with glass balustrade, alterations/replacement windows, entrance walls, sunken patio, rear steps and installation of underground propane gas tank (existing garage/games room and side porch to be demolished).

Councillors were informed of objections to the application from a local resident. The local resident to be advised to submit their comments to DDC Planning, Clerk to action.

The Councillors discussed the application and reaffirmed their previous reservations about the brick wall which has already been built. It was decided that as the property is within a conservation area and there have been objections to it from the local population, the application and any issues raised should be referred back to DDC Planning for their expertise in conservation. This was proposed by Cllr Smith seconded by Cllr Merriman and all members voted in favour. Clerk to submit response to DDC Planning.

To note:

None

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

KCC member Steve Manion reported on the following:

Social care. KCC are still looking into funding questions that have been raised.

Deal Hospital. KCC are questioning whether the appropriate consultation has taken place.

Waste. Reports are in circulation that the service may still not be back to normal.

Local Plan. The Regulation 19 consultation is to take place in February.

A question was asked about the application for the Little Mongeham airfield. It was reported that the application is still going through the planning system. A comment was made that the proposed draft local plan would make a stronger case against the Little Mongeham airfield than the current national planning policy framework.

#### **10. Playing field**

- i) Dog waste bin. Cllr Willet offered to see how difficult it would be to remove the old bin from the post.
- ii) Rospa report. As it is unlikely anyone will be using the bench over the winter, it was decided to leave the bolt cover issue until spring and have another look then for a better solution as long as it is sorted out before the next Rospa inspection.
- iii) Painting of the bench and youth shelter. The work still needs to be done. Colin Little has kindly offered to forgo his payment for the recently completed community jobs and for the amount to be put towards the painting of the bench and youth shelter which is in need of considerable work. This would probably need to be put off until the spring. Cllr Willet had already offered to paint the bench earlier in the year and expressed an interest in painting the youth shelter, a quote for the cost to be considered before the work goes ahead. The Rospa information to be given to Cllr Willet. Clerk to action. To go on the agenda for April 2022.

#### **11. Allotment**

- i) Flooding advice from Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership. The recent enquiry about the channel had been replied to. For the current problem it was recommended that a low earth bund be built up in the field, trees be planted in the corner and the grass allowed to turn into scrub land. As this is private land it was considered unviable to be able to take up these recommendations at the moment. It was decided to monitor the problem.

The soakaway at the Outrigger is blocked. Clerk to report it to Highways.

#### **12. Orchard**

- i) Grass cutting contract. It was decided to go with Joe Stroud's £350 offer for another year. It was agreed the area is looking very well kept. Clerk to write to accept his offer.

#### **13. Precept/Budget**

Further discussions on next year's precept request. To go on the December agenda.

*Allotment water.* It was decided not to allow any more for this and to keep an eye on the next bill that comes in.

*Allotment grass cutting.* It was decided to go with Joe Stroud's £350 offer for another year.

*Bin emptying charge.* The new bin idea has been shelved for the moment until after the litter pick in spring.

*Defibrillator.* It was suggested to change the £300 misc/Section 137 line to £200 for misc/section 137 and a separate line for the defibrillator at £100

#### **14. PC meetings venue for 2022**

As the Church Hall is out of action, meetings will take place in the community Hall at least up to the end of the financial year. Clerk to action.

#### **15. Christmas refreshments at December Meeting**

The Councillors briefly discussed whether to go ahead with refreshments for local residents after the meeting and decided to offer mulled wine and mince pies which Cllr Merriman kindly agreed to bring along. To spend up to £30 was proposed by Cllr Merriman seconded by Cllr Smith and all members voted in favour.

#### **16. Correspondence.**

- i) NALC Survey on the impact of in-person council meetings. Decided not to complete.

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

Cllr Densham reported that the hedge/verge cutting will be going ahead next week and the snow plough has been serviced.

The police/NHW are introducing a new 2 way engagement tool for notifying parties of alerts in the parish. Clerk to sign up for the parish council.

KCC grants. Information has been circulated about claiming back Covid expenses retrospectively. All councillors to take a look for consideration at the December meeting.

Salt bins. Cllr Densham kindly offered to fill them up.

Avidety. The power company have been working in the village and have offered to put a light between the two properties, Oaklands and Half Acre House but require instruction from DDC. DDC to be contacted to ask them to instruct the power company to do this work. Clerk to action.

**18. Date and status of next meeting:**

Tuesday 7th December 2021 7.30 pm – Sutton Community Centre

Meeting closed: 9.02

Signed: Cllr Barbara Merriman

Date: 7<sup>th</sup> December 2021

A paper copy is on file with the Clerk.