

Minutes

Meeting held in Studdal Church Hall on Tuesday 4th October 2022 at 7.30 pm.

Immediately prior to the meeting a minute of silence was held to mark the death of Queen Elizabeth the Second

1. Present and Apologies Present

G Akhurst (Chair)
H Densham
L Steger
D Willet
KCC Member Steve Manion
A Nigol (Clerk)

2 Members of the public

Apologies

B Merriman
A Calthorpe
DDC Member Nick Kenton

2. Declarations of interest

None

3. Approval of the minutes 6th September 2022

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

4. Matters arising from the minutes 6th September 2022

Defibrillator batteries and pads been checked by the clerk and updated in the National Defibrillator Network. Property list and physical assets list is now published on the parish website.

5. Visitors

No comments

6. Finance

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

001516 Clerk	September wages	£468.00
001517 Clerk	September ex - Onedrive	£13.68
001518 B Merriman	Expenses. Gift for Cllr G Smith on his retirement	£14.50
001519 Kent County Council	Allotment rental 05.04.22-04.10.22	£17.50
001520 CPRE-The Countryside Charity	Annual membership renewal	£36.00

- ii) Bank reconciliation at 24th September 2022. Due to postal strike action, the bank statements didn't arrive on time therefore to go on November meeting agenda.
- iii) Bank mandate change. Cllr Willet to complete the request.
- iv) Chq No.001515 M Pays Update on Chocksgoaway donation of £300.00 that was approved at the September meeting:

Councillor Akhurst explained that as Chocksgoaway did not have their own bank account the donation was made to the Secretary of Chocksgoaway who then made an equivalent donation to Chocksgoaway gofundme site. A screenshot of that donation with Sutton by Dover PC's name showing as donee has been provided by the Secretary. This procedure was approved by Councillors Akhurst, Merriman and the internal independent auditor.

7. Option to opt out of the SAAA central external auditor appointment arrangements.

All local authorities have been given the option to opt out of the central external auditor appointment. Decided there is no reason to opt out and therefore to remain opted in for the next five- year period. This was proposed by Cllr Akhurst and seconded by Cllr Steger and all members voted in favour.

8. Precept and Budget

Councillors considered the budget for 2023/4 circulated by the Clerk and the run rate in the current year. Councillor Akhurst explained that the main element responsible for the proposed increase in precept for 2023/4 was the change in salary for the clerk more correctly reflecting the level of responsibility involved in such a role. The feeling amongst Councillors was that the Council should not be eating into reserves in order to cover any of the proposed increase, it being recognized that in real (rather than percentage terms) the potential increase would be around £5 a year for a band D household. Any actual precept amount would be considered at the December meeting.

9. KCC Allotment rental

KCC to confirm with their surveyor whether it's possible to have once a year payment. Clerk to follow up with KCC accounts team.

10. Parish Councillor Vacancy.

DDC Electoral services have been notified about the vacancy and the notices have been displayed at the Council offices at Whitfield, Parish notice boards and on the website. Electoral Services will inform Parish council after 12th October and let the Clerk know whether there will be an election, or whether Parish Council may co-opt to fill the vacancy. It was decided that if co-option was permitted a notice would go onto the website and in Rural Roundup mid-October and actual co-option would occur at the December meeting.

11. John Foche charity new representative needed.

No documentation has been presented indicating that the Council must provide a Parish Councillor as trustee. Cllr Akhurst reported that Cllr Calthorpe was happy to continue to provide support at the John Foche Christmas catering event.

12. Local Community

- i) Verge bollards opposite Canton. Cllr Akhurst thanked everyone involved. Clerk to check what options are available regarding reflector stickers for the bollards.
- ii) Drain outside the nursery blocked. Steve Manion kindly promised to chase KCC.

- iii) Verges and hedges on Roman Road and Chapel Lane. They were cut back a couple of weeks ago, however some areas still need doing. Cllr Densham persuaded one landowner to cut back one problematic hedge.

13. Local Planning

For consideration by Councillors:

- i) 22/01216 Land South West Of Fieldings, Stoneheap Road, East Studdal CT15 5BU
Erection of a detached dwelling, with associated parking and landscaping.
The council was in favour of the new house design but had no comment to make on the merits of the overall application.
This was proposed by Cllr Akhurst and seconded by Cllr Densham and all members voted in favour.

Noted:

- i) CON/22/001113 Pumping Station, Forge Lane, Sutton CT15 5DG
Regulation 5 (The electronic communication code (conditions and restrictions) (Amendment) Regulations 2017)
notification for the installation 3m x 3m substation- Prior Approval not required (28 day notification)
- ii) CON/20/01546/A Site at Chapel Lane, Ashley CT15 5HY
5 - Foul sewage- Condition Approved
- iii) CON/20/01546/B Site at Chapel Lane, Ashley CT15 5HY
6 - Surface water disposal- Condition Approved
- iv) CON/20/01546/C Site at Chapel Lane, Ashley CT15 5HY
7 - Samples of materials- Condition Approved
- v) 22/00927 2 Meadow Cottages, Homestead Lane, East Studdal CT15 5BP
Erection of two storey and single storey side/rear extension (side porch to be demolished)
DCC - Grant planning permission

14. Report from DDC/KCC

KCC member Steve Manion reported on the following:

Next Wednesday key DDC meeting to progress on local plan.

DDC planning committee meeting to consider on proposed airstrip application (21/00626) is taking place 13th October.

KCC has given out grants of around 150 K from over two years coming from Lottery funding, which has been good support for local charities and causes. 2023/4 Budget planning ongoing. DDC has received funds from KCC to support the most vulnerable households with cost of living crisis.

15. ROSPA annual inspection report

Cllr Akhurst ran through the areas of action on the annual safety report provided by ROSPA. Some risks may have been resolved by the expansion of joints and footings now that the hot dry weather no longer with us. Cllr Willet kindly offered to check the footings of the new waste bin and bench and the bolts on the activity circuit to see if they had suitably tightened up. He also agreed to replace a piece of split

timber that seated two bolts. Trees at the lower boundary near the BMX track may need pruning and will be checked when Cllrs Willet and Akhurst attend to overhanging branches along Downs Road.

16. Allotments

- i) Grant funding application update. Hedge and tree work has been agreed and a quote has been received for digging in water supply and providing water storage.
Council is happy for 3 quotes received to go through to the funding application. It was proposed by Cllr Steger, seconded by Cllr Willet and all members voted in favour.
- ii) The new measurements for two new plots. To go on November meeting. Cllr Steger and Cllr Willet to take the measurements.
- iii) Letter received requesting addition to Allotment waiting list. Clerk to email and acknowledge the letter.

17. Orchard

18. Correspondence

- i) Response from Highways about the tree opposite Fir Tree farm Chapel Lane affecting the visibility of the next door property. They met the owner, who promised to cut the tree back. Follow up beginning of September however no response from Highways. Email reminder sent.

19. Any other business to report/matters to discuss

It was highlighted by Cllr Densham that the roads haven't been swept since summer. Clerk to contact DCC.

Manston airport freight operation application has been reapproved by Transport secretary (the first approval having been overturned by judicial review). Riveroak Strategic Partners has indicated that there will be a further period of public consultation. They are engaging with the CAA who did not accept their proposals first time round.

20. Chair for November Meeting. Cllr Calthorpe has agreed to chair the meeting in the absence of Councillors Merriman and Akhurst. Councillors will need to nominate and approve her as chair at the meeting itself. Councillor Akhurst asked for councillors to be especially supportive as it will be her first council chair.

21. Date and status of next meetings

Monthly Tuesday 1st November 2022 7.30pm – Studdal Church Hall

Meeting closed: 8:48pm

Ahti Nigol