

Minutes

Meeting held in Studdal Church Hall on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022 at 7.30 pm.

**1. Present and Apologies**

**Present**

A Calthorpe (Chair)  
H Densham  
L Steger  
D Willet  
KCC Member Steve Manion  
DDC Member Nick Kenton  
A Nigol (Clerk)

4 Members of the public

**Apologies**

B Merriman  
G Akhurst

**2. Appointment of a new chair for the meeting**

Cllr Calthorpe agreed to chair the meeting. It was proposed by Cllr Densham seconded by Cllr Steger and all members voted in favour

**3. Declarations of interest**

None

**4. Approval of the minutes 4<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

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

**5. Matters arising from the minutes 4<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

It was mentioned by Cllr Calthorpe that it is still unclear whether John Foche charity would require Parish councillor as a trustee. Cllr Calthorpe to find out and give an update next meeting.

**6. Visitors**

Blocked drain outside the nursery. Covered later in the meeting

**7. Finance**

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

Chq No.

001521 Clerk	October wages	£468.00
001522 Clerk	October ex – One drive	£13.68
001523 C Little	Grass cutting July, August, September	£750.00

ii) Bank reconciliation at 23<sup>th</sup> September 2022. The current account has a balance of £14,263.01 and the reserve account has £15,645.17 making a total of £29,908.18 To approve the bank reconciliation was proposed by Cllr Calthorpe seconded by Cllr Steger and all members voted in favour.

iii) Bank mandate change. Cllr Steger was not added to the mandate by bank. A new request has been sent to the bank and has been processed now. There are four ex councillors still on the mandate. Clerk to action and request the bank to remove ex councillors from the mandate.

**8. KCC Allotment rental**

KCC has confirmed that once a year direct debit payment can be set up, however KCC happy to receive a cheque by post twice a year as previously if this is more convenient for the Parish council if

clear payment instructions and invoice counterpart are included with the cheque. It was proposed by Cllr Calthorpe seconded by Cllr Willet and members voted in favour.

#### **9. Parish Councillor Vacancy**

This has been advertised on the Parish website, notice boards and Rural Roundup. Deadline to apply is 18 November 2022. So far there has been one expression of interest.

#### **10. Local Community**

- i) Reflector options for the verge bollards opposite Canton. Clerk was in contact with Highways Manager and they suggested to order sticker reflectors from online retailer at a cost of £10.99 Clerk to action. It was proposed by Cllr Calthorpe seconded by Cllr Steger and all members voted in favour.
- ii) Update on blocked drain outside the nursery. Email from KCC who had taken closer look and drains are due in November with no specific date given to avoid any disappointment if there is a delay. There is a 12-week time frame once reported.
- iii) Update on verges and hedges on Roman Road and Chapel Lane. The verges and hedges have now been cut back. Update from KCC Highways who confirmed that the rural roads of the parish were cut on the Swathe cut programme on 12 September and the junctions that get further work to aid visibility were cut 28 September. The Swathe cut is 900mm from the edge of the carriageway and cuts ground vegetation only.
- iv) It was noted that Cllr Akhurst and Willet have offered to tackle Millennium bank overhanging branches when the leaves are down and take a look at the trees below the BMX track. To be completed sometime mid-December.

#### **11. Local Planning**

For consideration by Councillors:

- i) 22/01307 Little Mongeham House, Willow Woods Road, Little Mongeham, CT14 0HR  
Installation of through floor internal access lift. The council decided not to comment on the application.

To note:

- i) 21/00626 Manor Farm Willow Woods Road Little Mongeham CT14 0HR  
Change of use of land to an airfield to include a runway, helipad, erection of 2no. aircraft hangars, flight office and toilets, workshop/plant storage building, glamping for 10no. pitches, associated parking and a vehicular access track. Permission refused.
- ii) Bridleway EE451 at Ripple and Sutton. Confirmed definitive map. The Order has now taken legal effect, although the route requires work to bring it into a fit condition for public equestrian/cycling use and, therefore, there may be a delay before it is available for use as a Bridleway.

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

DDC Member Nick Kenton reported on the following:

DDC suffering with the cost of everything influenced by Brexit, post pandemic and war in Ukraine.

KCC looking how they can continue supporting the local bus services and leisure services and what they can afford. Cost of borrowing in Westminster has also had an impact.

Local plan Regulation- 19 planning is out and what district is proposing. Hard copy has been sent to all local parishes.

There was a successful recruitment day at KCC.

KCC Member Steve Manion reported on the following:

Kent Mineral and waste local plan is out.

Flu& covid jabs are available as the season has arrived.

The budget for 2023. Next year will be very challenging as the inflation rate is currently 10 per cent, but the council tax only increases by 2.5 per cent.

### 13. ROSPA annual inspection report

Cllr Willet had an update on relating to issues from ROSPA annual inspection report. Some risks have been resolved by the wetter weather, especially the expansion of joints and footings which are no longer loose. Cllr Willet kindly offered to replace a piece of split timber that seated two bolts.

### 14. Allotments & Orchard

- i) Grant funding application update. The 3 quotes that the council had agreed were sent off to Ashford to apply for the grant, however the online application is required. Cllr Steger to action and fill in the online application
- ii) The new measurements for two new plots update. For the next meeting to be measured by Cllr Steger and Cllr Willet. Clerk to contact 3 first people on waiting list. Clerk to action.

### 15. 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. Another email reminder sent, but no update yet. Clerk to follow up with the owner.
- ii) A message from a local resident at High Winds, Strakers Hill requesting information about the parish tree warden as they are planning to remove the conifers at the front. Their tree surgeons have already checked and confirmed they don't need permission, however they wanted politely to inform the parish. Work will be done beginning of December. There is a tree warden in the parish.
- iii) DDC Local Plan vision to 2040 received (372 pages) and posters for the public to have their say. To go on the website, clerk to action. Hard copy available, at the moment with Cllr Willet.
- iv) KALC. AGM Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2022.
- v) KCC. Message from Steve Manion about [more food vouchers for families with FSM children](#).
- vi) Kent County Council (KCC) has announced a significant boost to its Community Transport Grant funding. The Community Transport Grant enables parish councils, charities and community groups to apply for a grant funded by the local authority to help them provide transport for their local communities.
- vii) Update on Village Green application from KCC. Cllr Akhurst contacted KCC about the progress of the application submitted 2017. Unfortunately, KCC has no trace about the application. Cllr Akhurst called KCC who said that one explanation is that it was missing some information and was therefore returned to the applicant. Cllr Akhurst has confirmed he had not received any such return. Clerk to email Steve Manion from KCC for an update.
- viii) Graham Smith has confirmed that he has deleted his PC email address.

### 16. Any other business to report/matters to discuss

It was raised by the member of the public that local Tip bookings to get a slot have been challenging for bigger vehicles. Nick Kenton suggested to call KCC for the vouchers.

The orchard signage has been taken down.

Water at the allotment has been turned off for the winter. Water meter reading as of 1<sup>st</sup> November 653  
It was reported by the member of public that a pile of green waste was dumped on the bonfire at the allotment.

The allotment gate has been left often open, therefore laminated sign needed to remind people to shut the gate. Doug has agreed to make the sign.

There are still apples on the ground at the orchard. Doug agreed to inform allotments owners if they want any.

The flower boxes by the Three Horseshoes have been planted

Christmas tree lights to be switched on by the Three Horseshoes on 3<sup>rd</sup> December

A letter from the member of the public suggesting the tree planting in public space. To go on December agenda and to be decided once all Councillors are back.

Festive brew and mince pies to be served during the December meeting. Cllr Merriman to action.

**17. Date and status of next meeting**

Monthly Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2022 7.30pm – Studdal Church Hall

Meeting closed: 20:41

Ahti Nigol