

Minutes

Meeting held in Studdal Church Hall on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2022 at 7.30 pm.

**1. Present and Apologies**

**Present**

B Merriman (Chair)  
A Calthorpe  
D Willet  
KCC Member Steve Manion  
DDC Member Nick Kenton  
A Nigol (Clerk)  
4 members of the public

**Apologies**

G Akhurst  
L Steger  
H Densham

**2. Declarations of interest**

None

**3. Approval of the minutes 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022**

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 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022**

Follow up on some of the risks on playing field which 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.

**5. Visitors**

No report

**6. Finance**

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

Chq No.

001524 Clerk	November wages	£468.00
001525 Clerk	November ex – One drive	£13.68
001526 Clerk	Expenses- reflectors for bollards	£10.99
001527 Joe Stroud	Allotment grass cutting 2022	£350.00
001528 Southern Water	Allotment water bill	£130.12

ii) Bank mandate change. Four former councillors have been removed from the bank mandate. Cllr Steger was added to the mandate by the bank.

**7. Precept/Budget**

To discuss 2023 budget and precept. Councillors considered the second draft of the budget for 2023/4 circulated by the Clerk. Any actual precept amount would be considered at the January meeting.

**8. Notification of external auditor appointment for the 2022-2023 financial year for the 5 years period**

Cllr Merriman suggested this item to be carried to the January meeting.

## **9. John Foche charity**

Update from Cllr Calthorpe who has spoken to the charity and they confirmed that they would not require Parish councillor as a trustee.

## **10. Local Community**

- i) Reflectors update on verge bollards opposite Canton. New reflectors have been installed by Clerk. There are some spare reflectors left if needed to be installed elsewhere in the parish.
- ii) Update on blocked drain outside the nursery. Clerk has been in touch with KCC, they have given 12-week time frame, however this might have been delayed even more due to recent rainfall as they are focusing on the areas with higher flood risk.
- iii) Cllr Willet confirmed that him and Cllr Akhurst have started tackling the Millennium bank overhanging branches and the trees below the BMX track. Half the work is done. The rest of the work to be carried out in December-January.

## **11. Local Planning**

To note:

- i) 22/01307 Little Mongeham House, Willow Woods Road, Little Mongeham, CT14 0HR  
Installation of through floor internal access lift. Grant listed building consent.
- ii) 22/00996 Great Napchester Farm Napchester Road Whitfield CT15 5HD Change of use of agricultural building to provide manager's office, pottery studio, toilets, covered storage, and storage of property maintenance materials and equipment (part retrospective) (amended description)- Grant Permission.

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

Both KCC member Steve Manion and DDC member Nick Kenton wished everyone a happy Christmas and reported on the following:

2023/4 Budget challenging as the inflation 10 per cent plus and the council tax increase is limited to 5 per cent maximum.

Food and activity vouchers for children who receive benefit related free school meals. Road services using new plastic material to coat the roads. KCC is trying to tackle blue badge abuse. Sandwich guild hall refurbishment going on until May 2023. KCC is looking to collect green waste from wheely bins. If people are already on green waste scheme, there will be no extra cost.

## **13. Allotments & Orchard**

- i) Grant funding online application update. Due to Cllr Steger's absence to be carried to the January meeting.
- ii) The new measurements for two new plots update. To be carried to the January meeting.
- iii) Update on the allotment waiting list. In total there are 4 people on the waiting list. Clerk has emailed every individual on the waiting list. One of them not interested, one is interested and two have not responded. Clerk to follow up. Cllr Calthorpe offered to speak to one of the waiting list people she knows personally.

## **14. Correspondence**

- i) DDC Housing needs survey will open 10<sup>th</sup> January and run until 7<sup>th</sup> March 2023. Clerk to action and publish on the website and notice boards.
- ii) 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. Steve Manion has emailed to the manager and will follow up once there's been an investigation and update.

- iii) A letter from the member of the public suggesting the tree planting in public space. He was invited to attend the meeting and to present his plan to plant trees and hedges on public land. Cllr Merriman explained that parish hasn't got much public land and the playing fields already have trees planted around the field. Cllr Merriman asked Gary to investigate if Woodland trust would give to the community some smaller amount of little saplings and Parish could coordinate this with the local residents if they register their interest to plant trees in the garden.

**15. Co-opt to fill the Parish Councillor vacancy.**

One candidate had applied for the position. Robert Buxton to be co-opted. This was proposed by Cllr Merriman seconded by Cllr Calthorpe and all members voted in favour.

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

Cllr Merriman thanked Simon and Diane and Doug and Audrey for erecting the lovely Christmas tree on the Three Horseshoes Green.

Apologies from Cllr Calthorpe who is unable to attend the January meeting.

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

Monthly Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023 7.30pm – Studdal Church Hall

Meeting closed: 20:17

Cllr Merriman wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and invited the members of public and Councillors to stay for mince pies and mulled wine.