

Meeting held in Studdal Church Hall on Tuesday 4th April 2023 at 7.30 pm.

1. Present and Apologies

Present

B Merriman (Chair)
G Akhurst
H Densham
A Calthorpe
R Buxton
KCC Member Steve Manion
DDC Member Nick Kenton
A Nigol (Clerk)

6 members of the public

Apologies

D Willet

2. Declarations of interest

None.

3. Approval of the minutes 7th March 2023

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

4. Matters arising from the minutes 7th March 2023

- i) Clerk to contact KCC Highways to check whether they would deliver some road salt this time of the year. If not, some more needs to be ordered in early autumn.
- ii) During the last Parish Council meeting it was discussed whether Parish Council should give a donation to Chocks Go Away to support their consultation. The Council agreed to donate £300.00 should there be a request. It was proposed and seconded during the last meeting. Parish Council now have had a request for donation and it was agreed to donate £300.00
- iii) No update from Cllr Willet about the overgrown hedge at Waldershare Road and cutting it back by the Farmer. To be discussed next meeting.

5. Visitors

A local resident requested to speak under the planning agenda item.

6. Finance

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

Chq No.

001538 Clerk	March wages	£468.00
001539 Clerk	March ex - Onedrive	£13.68
001540 Clerk	Grease bands for the Orchard	£25.95
001541 Netwise	Website hosting & domain renewal	£420.00
001542 Kent County Council	Allotment rental 5-10-22 to 4-4-23	£17.50
001543 C Little	Grass cutting January-March	£750.00
001544 Sutton Parish Community Centre	Charitable donation	£300.00

ii) Bank reconciliation at 24th March 2023. The Current account has a balance of £9,383.08 and the Reserve account has £15,694.23 making a total of £25,077.31 To approve the bank reconciliation was proposed by Cllr Merriman seconded by Cllr Akhurst and all members voted in favour.

iii) Bank mandate change. Cllr Buxton to be added to the mandate and recently resigned Councillor to be removed. It was proposed by Cllr Merriman seconded by Cllr Calthorpe all members voted in favour. Clerk to contact NatWest. It was also noted that Natwest Deal Branch is closing on 5th July 2023.

7. Appointment of Internal Audit

To appoint Claire Inglin as internal auditor was proposed by Cllr Merriman seconded by Cllr Calthorpe and all members voted in favour.

8. AGAR 2022/2023

A new external audit was appointed for small authorities. The Chair requested for a review of internal controls and asked all Councillors to review all the documents online whether they are correct or need some amendments. To go on May agenda.

9. Insurance Renewal

Insurance renewal is due 11th June 2023. Clerk to send back the questionnaire and get a quote from the brokers. To go on May agenda.

10. Renewal of Grass Cutting Contract

The Council received a quote for £3600.00 per year from the current subcontractor for ten cuts a year. The Council will pay in four equal quarterly payments. The Contractor agreed to have a two year contract. The Contractor to provide a proof of an up to date insurance policy. Clerk to action. It was proposed by Cllr Merriman seconded by Cllr Densham and all members voted in favour.

11. Local Community

- i) Council to consider purchasing a new grit bin to replace the one gone missing at the Boys Hill. Clerk contacted KCC Highways and the missing bin is under the investigation. Clerk to follow up with KCC Highways. To go on May agenda.
- ii) Update on Waldershare Road fly tipping issues. Cllr Merriman double checked whether the medical waste reported by the member of the public last meeting but couldn't find anything. The waste in plastic bags at the end of the Waldershare road was collected by DDC.
- iii) Update on untidiness around the C&M Hayes Warehouse. Clerk emailed twice but haven't had any update from C&M Hayes.
- iv) Update on Goldstone Hollow. DDC Planning Enforcement has created an investigation.
- v) Update on blocked drain outside the nursery. The issue was reported to KCC and is now under investigation.
- vi) Update on road sweeping at the Homestead Lane. It's been reported to KCC and they are looking into that.
- vii) Update on building practices on the Nursing site on Downs Road. DDC Planning Enforcement has created an investigation.
- viii) Update on playground football nets. Cllr Calthorpe kindly agreed to take the measurements of the football nets and Clerk to get the price for the new ones. To go on May agenda.

12. Litter Pick.

Annual Litter pick is taking place on 15th April. The information is on the Parish notice boards and website.

13. Coronation Celebrations.

The Council received an update from Cllr Calthorpe about the celebrations plans.

14. District and Parish Council Elections.

All Councillors had received acceptance on their nomination forms from DDC.

15. Annual Parish Meeting 23 May 2023.

Clerk to book the Hall 7:30pm -9:30pm

- i) The Council discussed the format of the event and Cllr Buxton suggested to invite Dr Walker to talk about the tree planting within the parish.
- ii) The Council agreed to spend up to £50.00 on refreshments. Cllr Calthorpe kindly agreed to provide some refreshments for the event. It was proposed by Cllr Merriman seconded by Cllr Akhurst and all members voted in favour.

16. Local Planning

For consideration by Councillors:

- i) 23/00191 Forge Farm House, Forge Lane, Sutton, CT15 5DG. Erection of stable block, hay barn and games room, below ground garden room with changing room, plant and swimming pool (existing buildings demolished)

The Councillors discussed the application and decided to object to the application for the following reasons:

1. Part of this development is in the conservation area.
2. It is overdevelopment for the size of the plot.
3. The new development can be seen from the conservation area.
4. It's also visible from three footpaths.
5. The new development would have an impact on wildlife such as bats and swallows.

The member of the public also shared their concerns about this development.

Clerk to submit the response to DDC Planning.

- ii) 23/00138 Ale Farm , Vale Road, Sutton, CT15 5DH. Erection of two storey rear extension, side raised deck, alteration to fenestration and roof (2 chimney stacks demolished)

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

Noted:

- i) 23/00055 Koringi Downs Road East Studdal CT15 5DB Erection of an annexe.
Refuse planning permission.

17. Report from DDC/KCC

KCC member Steve Manion reported on the following:

Bird flu still actual and people who have any home birds such as chickens, ducks or geese, have been asked to register their poultry if they want to receive any updates on the Avian flu cases in their area. Fostering, emergency in foster care and more families are needed to help in fostering.

Blue badge issues. KCC is investigating and tracking down the individuals who are misusing the blue badges.

DDC member Nick Kenton reported on the following:

Littering and its cost is a huge challenge for DDC at the moment. DDC team just finished their spring clean and collected 500 bags of rubbish.

18. Allotments & Orchard

- i) Grant funding handover and application update. Ex-Councillor Steger had handed over all the information about the grant funding for Clerk to follow up. To go on May agenda.
- ii) Update on the allotment waiting list. One member of the public is interested on allotment rental. Cllr Merriman and Clerk to follow up and arrange the viewing of the allotment plot available.
- iii) Agree allotment rentals for the year 2023/24. The Council agreed to keep the allotment rentals the same as year 2022/23. Contracts to go out to the plot holders. Clerk to action.
- iv) Member of the public raised the question whether the allotment holders are still allowed to go up to the orchard and pick some apples. The Chair explained that the Council organises once a year an apple day when people have been asked and pick some apples.

19. Correspondence

A letter was received from NatWest about Deal Branch closure. A letter from Chocks Go Away asking for a donation.

20. Any other business to report/matters to discuss

Cllr Densham reported that there was a flooding in the Lagoon near where he lives which is caused by the drains not been cleaned and when it rains it causes a flooding. Clerk to contact Mr Bourner from KCC and request for all the drains throughout the Ashley to be cleared as well both Roman Roads and Chapel Lane.

Clerk to email Cllr Kenton from DDC all outstanding enforcement cases for an update from Planning Enforcement.

The Chair thanked Cllr Akhurst for his invaluable support and work as a Parish Councillor for 14 years.

21. Date and status of next meeting

Tuesday 9th of May 2023. The AGM will starts at 7.15 pm followed by the monthly meeting at 7.30 pm– Studdal Church Hall.

23rd May 7.30pm Annual Parish Meeting- Studdal Church Hall.

A member of the public who didn't speak under the item 5, queried what were the Parish Council concerns about the Goldstone Hollow. The Chair explained that there were some concerns and complaints from the neighbours about the noise and lots of vehicles been parked at the property, therefore Parish Council has to report these concerns to Dover District Planning Enforcement and explained that any new development needs a planning permission. The Chair invited the owner of the Goldstone Hollow to attend next parish council meeting, if he wants to come and share his concerns and plans with the Parish Council.

Meeting closed

20:35

A Nigol

Parish Clerk