

Minutes

Meeting held in Studdal Church Hall on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 7.30 pm.

**1. Present and Apologies**

**Present**

B Merriman (Chair)  
D Vickers  
H Densham  
KCC member Steve Manion  
A Nigol (Clerk)  
6 members of the public

**Apologies**

R Buxton  
DDC member Nick Kenton

**2. Declarations of interest**

Cllr Vickers declared an interest on item 7 i)

**3. Approval of the minutes 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2024**

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

**4. Matters arising from the minutes 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2024**

- i) Cllr Merriman thanked KCC Highways for replacing the missing salt bin at Boys Hill.
- ii) The new playing field net supports have arrived and Clerk delivered them to Cllr Willet, who kindly agreed to install them. No update from Cllr Willet.
- iii) The drain at the bottom of Church Hill has been reported to KCC Highways but no update yet. Clerk to follow up with KCC Highways.
- iv) The local resident who was interested in renting the allotment plot has started works and the Council had agreed previously they won't be charged until the new year's rates.
- v) The rotten and broken sign post at the junction of Boys Hill and Willow Woods has been removed and replaced with new post, we are now waiting for the new pointers to be installed. The give away sign has also been straightened.
- vi) Concerns were raised about the trees both sides of Sandwich Road just the other side of A256 Clerk reported the issue to KCC Highways.
- vii) The over grown hedge on Stoneheap road has been reported to KCC Highways and it's under the investigation.

**5. Visitors**

- i) The Chair welcomed Police Constable Jon Bowler from Dover Police Station attending the meeting to introduce himself to the local residents and Parish Councillors. Several issues were raised by the local residents about the speeding in Forge Lane and bike racing on Saturdays and Sundays on Napchester Road.
- ii) Parking issues were reported on Homestead Lane near Meadow Cottages.
- iii) A member of the public reported about the continuing issues with Great Napchester Farm. A huge number of fireworks had been let off by the Airbnb guests staying at the farm on New Years Eve, which had affected the horses on the field.

- iv) A member of the public raised the issue about the overgrown hedge on Stoneheap road near the Newlands Farm and the broken edge of the road. Clerk had reported the issue and sent the pictures to KCC Highways. Clerk to follow up.

## 6. Local Community

- i) Defibrillator battery and pads outside the Studdal Church Hall are about to expire and need replacing. The Council agreed to purchase a new battery and pads. To spend £379.20 on new battery and pads was proposed by Cllr Merriman seconded by Cllr Vickers and all members voted in favour. Clerk to order new battery and pads.
- ii) The missing sign posts on Roman Road and Strakes Hill junction and the one in Little America have been reported to KCC Highways. Clerk to follow up with KCC Highways.

## 7. Finance

Cllr Vickers left the room.

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

Chq No.

001587 Clerk	January wages	£468.00
001588 Clerk	January exp – One drive	£14.76
001589 Clerk	McAfee renewal (2 years)	£69.99
001590 Clerk	Defibrillator battery and pads	£379.20
001591 D Vickers	Allotment Shed removal mileage	£25.00
001592 Cornilo Churches	Donation for the upkeep of the Churchyard in Sutton	£200.00

Cllr Vickers returned to the room.

- ii) Bank reconciliation at 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2023. The Current account has a balance as at 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2023 £13,930.08 and the reserve account as at 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2023 £15,843.59 making a total of £29,773.67 To approve the reconciliation was proposed by Cllr Merriman seconded by Cllr Vickers and all members voted in favour.

## 8. Precept and Budget

Update on 2024/2025 precept. £16,227 was submitted to DDC and Clerk received the confirmation from DDC finance department.

## 9. Insurance

The current insurance policy with Gallaghers/Hiscox will expire in June 2024. Clerk to reach out for other companies for a new quote. To go on March meeting agenda.

## 10. Local Planning

Noted:

- i) CON/21/01940/E. The Homestead. Homestead Lane, East Studdal, CT15 5BN  
Discharge of condition 10 (external joinery) pursuant to application 21/01940 Erection of 2no. pairs of semi-attached dwellings, bin stores, bike store, associated parking, vehicle turning and formation of vehicular access. Condition approved.
- ii) 23/01365 The Malverns. Downs Road, East Studdal, CT15 5DA. Erection of first floor extension and alterations to porch. Permission granted.

The Council discussed concerns regarding drains being blocked with mud outside the new development next to The Homestead. Cllr Merriman agreed to follow up with the site manager.

### **11. Section 106 contribution from East Studdal Nurseries in Downs Road**

The Council had written to DDC to express the interest about the funds, but no response so far. The Parish Council need to decide and have a plan on what the funds are to be used for eg. additional play equipment/gym equipment. The money needs to be spent in the playing fields. To go on March meeting agenda.

### **12. Resubmission of application to KCC to adopt Three Horseshoes Green as a Village Green**

- i) The Council discussed about the resubmission of the application. Cllr Merriman, Cllr Vickers and Clerk met to look at the paperwork required and agreed to put this application of re-submission forward to the Council to vote on the adoption of the Village Green. It was proposed by Cllr Merriman seconded by Cllr Vickers and all members voted in favour. To go on March or April meeting agenda.

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

KCC member Steve Manion reported on the following:

- i) KCC budgeting in progress.
- ii) Adult social care, kids social care.
- iii) Waste crimes and fly dipping update.
- iv) Lots of litter on the roads which is very costly. DDC litter pick twice a year now.

### **14. Playing Field**

- i) ROSPA, in their annual inspection reports, have reported the overgrown hedges and branches hanging down on the playing field need to be cut back. The Council received three quotes for cutting back the boundary hedge and the branches hanging down. The Council reviewed the quotes and decided to go with the lowest quote of £400. It was proposed by Cllr Densham seconded by Cllr Vickers and all members voted in favour. Clerk to write to successful Tree Surgeon and agree a date for the works to be carried out. Clerk to ask for a quote for ringing the trees from ivy. To go on March meeting agenda.

### **15. Allotments & Orchard**

- i) The Council discussed the apple tree pruning day at the Community Orchard. The Council had received a letter from the allotment holder who had visited the orchard with the people he knew from the local community and who used to do the pruning professionally. They had visited the Community Orchard and while visiting the Orchard already had done some major pruning of the trees. They also had emailed their recommendations about the future pruning activities for the Council to consider. The Council decided to cancel the community pruning day.  
Another letter was received from the volunteers who pruned the apple trees suggesting to replace some of the trees in the future. Clerk to write and thank for the suggestions and invite the people who volunteered to attend next community day and ask if they are happy to share their skills with the local community in the future.
- ii) One of the local farmers has cut back the boundary hedge between his land and the allotments. A note of thanks to be written by the Chairman.
- iii) Letter from the allotment holder about the installation of the new shed and the vehicle going up to the allotment damaging the entrance to the allotments. Parish Council to add a clause to the allotment agreement to avoid such issues happening in the future again. To go on March meeting agenda.
- iv) Water authority, no update. Clerk to follow up.

### **16. Community Litter Pick**

- i) The date has been confirmed, 13<sup>th</sup> April 10:00AM- 1:00PM. It was proposed by Cllr Merriman seconded by Cllr Densham and all members voted in favour. Clerk to book the Community Hall.

Council to agree on risk assessment and to spend up to £50.00 on refreshments. To go on March meeting agenda. The information to be published on the website, notice boards. Clerk to action.

### **17. Correspondence**

Noted:

- i) The minutes of the KALC Dover Area Meeting had been circulated to Councillors. Cllr Merriman attended the meeting and gave an update.
- ii) Email from KALC with a letter attached from Bruno Peeke, Pageant master for D-Day 80 (the Anniversary Guide was also attached for reference).
- iii) Email from KCC. Pre-Submission Draft of the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024-2039 - Regulation 19 Public Consultation January 2024. Date for completion 29/2/2024.
- iv) Email from local resident regarding poor broadband connectivity. Clerk to write to BT from Parish Council about poor connectivity.
- v) Message from a local resident. Traffic accident, Forge Lane. It was discussed under the item 5 i) Clerk to report back to a local resident. Clerk to contact KCC posing the question why no permanent 30 mph signs on entry road to Sutton - Forge Lane, Church Hill or Vale Road.

### **18. Parish Councillor vacancy**

Two vacancies at the moment. To keep in the agenda for March. Clerk to re- publish vacancy notice on the website.

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

Road sweep required. Clerk to contact DDC.

### **20. Date and status of next meetings**

Monthly Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024 7.30pm – Studdal Church Hall

Signed: Barbara Merriman

Date: 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Paper copy on file with Clerk