

Minutes

Meeting was held in Studdal Church Hall on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2024 at 7.30 pm.

**1. Present and Apologies**

**Present**

B Merriman (Chair)  
D Willet  
R Buxton  
D Vickers  
H Densham  
KCC Member Steve Manion  
A Nigol (Clerk)  
12 members of the public

**Apologies**

DDC Member Nick Kenton

**2. Declarations of interest**

None.

**3. Approval of the minutes 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

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

**4. Matters arising from the minutes 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

i) Drain at the bottom of Church Hill is still blocked with mud. The photographs were taken and Clerk had sent them to KCC Highways. Clerk received an email confirming that KCC Highways had visited the site and now waiting for the works to be programmed.

ii) The missing finger pointers at Boys Hill/Willow Woods Road and missing signs at Roman Road and Waldershare Road have not been replaced yet. Clerk to follow up.

iii) Stoneheap road, the hedge was cut back and the road has been repaired by KCC Highways.

iv) Parking issue on the pavement outside Meadow Cottages. Cllr Merriman had created notes and circulated to the Councillors for any comments. There had been no comments. Cllr Merriman agreed to distribute some leaflets to the local residents reminding them to ensure they leave enough space for pedestrians and those pushing buggies to pass without having to step into the road.

v) No update from BT about the poor broadband connectivity.

vi) Speed limit issues in Sutton. Clerk to contact Highways Improvement Plan people and investigate the options available.

vii) Road sweeper was seen; however, some areas still not been swept and some of the drains are heavily blocked.

viii) Clerk had written to the owner of the land opposite Meadow cottages about the overgrown hedge and received a response from the land owner confirming that they will investigate what works needs to be done and agreed to keep the Parish Council updated.

**5. Visitors**

A member of the public raised the issue about the road sweeping not been done in Ashley for a long time. Ongoing issues with blocked drains. Clerk to follow up.

**6. Finance**

i) To approve the payment schedule for April was proposed by Cllr Merriman seconded Cllr Willet seconded

Chq No.

001596 Clerk	March wages	£468.00
001597 Clerk	March exp – One drive	£14.76
001598 Kent County Council	Allotment rental Oct-March	£17.50
001599 DDBKA	Donation Asian Hornet prevention	£50.00
001600 Sutton Community Centre	Hall hire Litter pick event 13 <sup>th</sup> April	£15.00

ii) Bank reconciliation at 24<sup>th</sup> March 2024. The bank statements for March didn't arrive on time, therefore to go on May meeting agenda.

#### 7. Insurance update

Clerk had received a quote from one of the Insurance companies and waiting for another quote from the current insurance company. To go on May agenda.

#### 8. Local Community

i) The shrubs in the Memorial Gardens owned by the Parish Council need cutting back. Cllr Merriman agreed to check with possible contractors. To go on May meeting agenda.

#### 9. Update from Planning Enforcement regarding 12 Meadow Cottages, Goldstone and Hollow Sutton Vale Caravan Site. No update from Planning Enforcement yet. Clerk to chase again.

A local resident emailed about the Great Napchester Farm, that the works are still ongoing despite the planning application was withdrawn. Clerk to follow up with the Planning Enforcement.

#### 10. Local Planning

For consideration by Councillors:

- i) 24/00054 Land Rear Of Sideways, Downs Road, East Studdal, CT15 5DB  
Change of use of land for the erection of a self-build dwelling, sewage treatment plant, formation of a driveway with parking and gate (existing barn and aviaries to be demolished).  
Since the last meeting the Parish Council was in correspondence with the owners of the land, who now have provided their title deeds confirming they have the right of way. Clerk to contact the landowners and submit additional comment regarding the right of way.
- ii) 24/00189 Fourwinds, Pommeus Lane, Ripple, CT14 8HZ. Erection of 2 side/rear extensions, rear balcony with glass balustrade, rear raised decking/steps, replacement roof, dormer windows to front and rear elevation with 7 rooflights to facilitate a loft conversion (existing side and rear extensions to be demolished) Council decided to support this application. Clerk to submit response to DDC Planning.
- iii) 24/00277 Fir Tree Agricultural Farm, Caravan At, Chapel Lane, Ashley. Variation of condition 2 (residential use of land) of planning permission. 21/00628 for (Siting of a static caravan for residential use (temporary for a 3 year period) (retrospective)) to allow for an extension until 31st May 2026. The Parish Council discussed the application and listened to representations made by the neighbours who raised their concerns about the site having become a small holding and not just a caravan also a further extension would mean the caravan had been on site for 6 years and may well eventually become a permanent caravan siting. The Council also listened to applicants' representation regarding delays due to weather, lack of building supplies and illness within the family. After discussion the Parish Council decided to leave the decision to Dover District Council. The Parish Council requested that this application goes to a full planning committee and should an extension be granted it includes a clause requiring the caravan's removal from site at the end of that period.
- iv) 24/00299 Fieldings, Stoneheap Road, East Studdal, CT15 5BU Change of use and conversion of outbuilding to 'Self-build and Custom Build ' residential dwelling (existing outbuilding to be demolished) Council decided to support this application. Clerk to submit response to DDC Planning.

To note:

None.

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

The Parish Council discussed the options for the use of the money and which equipment would be suitable for the playing field. Cllr Merriman agreed to ask the voluntary group called Sparc for their recommendations regarding the playing field equipment in order to put in the claim.

## **13. Update on resubmission of application to KCC to adopt Three Horseshoes Green as a Village Green**

Clerk had filled in the application form details and handed it over to Cllr Merriman to review what additional information is required. To go on May meeting agenda.

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

KCC member Steve Manion reported on the following:

- i) New Alzheimer campaign with QR code has been launched.
- ii) Rural prosperity fund for local businesses is now available.
- iii) More unaccompanied children migrants arriving on boats.

## **15. Playing Field**

- i) Cllr Merriman proposed to spend £380 for tree ringing from ivy was seconded by Cllr Densham and all members voted in favour. Clerk to contact the contractor.
- ii) Update on Playing field new net supports. Cllr Willet confirmed that the new football net supports have been installed.

## **16. Allotments & Orchard**

- i) The Parish Council discussed the parking issue near the allotments and decided that although Parish Council provides allotments for the community, Parish Council is not required to provide parking.  
The Parish Council decided to be trialling a system whereby allotment holders can take their vehicles on site when weather permits, be this winter or summer. Details of the scheme will be issued to all allotment holders shortly.
- ii) Agree allotment rentals for the year 2024/25. The Council agreed to keep the allotment rentals the same as year 2023/24. Contracts to go out to the plot holders. Clerk to action.
- iii) The Council received a letter from an existing allotment holder not renewing the contract, Clerk to publish info about the available allotment on the website and the notice boards.
- iv) The Parish Council discussed the request of erection of a shed and greenhouse by the allotment holder and agreed to allow both installations on land next to his allotment. PC to look into any additional rental cost.
- v) Allotment grant. No update. Clerk to follow up.

## **17. Community Litter Pick**

The date has been confirmed, 13th April 9:30AM- 12:30PM and the Community Hall has been booked. The information will be published on the website and notice boards.

## **18. Correspondence**

These were noted:

- i) Email from DDC regarding the Nominations for English Heritage Blue Plaque scheme.
- ii) Thank you email from Mrs Harrowell, Dover District Beekeepers Association for the £50 donation towards the prevention of Asian Hornets.

- iii) Email from Services Coordinator for Macmillan working within Crossroads offering some posters and leaflets. Clerk to contact and request some electronic leaflets to be published on the notice boards.

**19. Parish Councillor vacancy**

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

**20. Annual Parish Meeting 21<sup>st</sup> May 2024**

- i) The Parish Council discussed the format of the meeting. Community Centre, a local PC Jon Bowler and Church Hall to be invited. Clerk to contact.
- ii) The Council agreed to spend up to £50.00 on refreshments. It was proposed by Cllr Willet seconded by Cllr Densham and all members voted in favour.

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

- i) Dog bin near the gates on playing field needs replacement. Clerk to get some quotes. To go on May meeting agenda.
- ii) A local resident from Meadow Cottages complained about the poor internet connectivity and their neighbours parking their cars in front of their entrance. The Chair suggested them to speak to their neighbours. Clerk to follow up with BT whether they can have more capacity.
- iii) A member of the public reported that trees had been cut down at Strakers Hill that belong to The Homestead. Clerk to report to DDC Tree preservation department requesting they investigate.
- iv) The current grass cutting contractor handed in their notice. Clerk to reach out for new quotes.

**22. Date and status of next meetings**

Annual General Meeting on 7th May with starts at 7:15PM followed by the May monthly meeting at 7.30 pm– Studdal Church Hall, there being no further business the meeting closed at 09:05PM

A Nigol  
Parish Clerk