

A meeting of the Seal Parish Council was held on THURSDAY 11th April 2024 in Seal Pavilion on Seal Recreation Ground at 7.30pm

Present:

Mr Michaelides

Mr Penn

Mr Bourne

Mr Boorman

Mr Bulleid

Mr Haslam (Chairman)

Mr Ratcliffe

Mr Kay

Absences : Mrs L Talbot and Mrs R Stiasny

Also present the Clerk, Councillor Hogarth, Councillor Thornton and Councillor Gough

Parishioner Question Time: There were no Parishioners present.

1 Apologies for absence received from Mrs L Talbot

2 The minutes of the last meeting were agreed and signed.

3 Declarations of Interest - None

4 Clerk's report

Underriver

KCC had cleansed 6/7 gulleys in Carters Hill, the one by the Church does have vegetation /hedge growing around it and therefore it was difficult to cleanse but they have informed the Council that they will be returning to cleanse the gulley and we wait for a date.

UVA updated us that the noticeboard has been installed and the residents are pleased with the refurbishment, and we thank the parishioner for all their hard work in completing it.

Mr Haslam had received an email of resignation from Mr Ryan and reported this to the Council for Seal Ward due to work commitments, we therefore have 2 vacancies in Seal Ward.

5 KCC Matters – Councillor Gough's matters

Wildflower verges – KCC have been in contact with the PC to attend a team's meeting and we await to hear from our Councillor's when they are due to attend.

Carters Hill – 6/7 gullies have been cleared, the vegetation has been cut back and they have bucketed it, although it does require a further cleanse, KCC have inspected the manhole, and the ditch does require dredging and they will need to contact the landowner.

Also in Carters Hill –KCC have inspected the condition of roads in Underriver and noticed that there is building work in Underriver House Road which they will revisit once the building work has finished.

Ashplatt footpath – Councillor Gough will follow up the path that requires clearing which has leaf mulch on both sides, Sevenoaks Town and Seal.

Gulley cleansing – from southside of railway bridge going north 6 gulleys require unblocking. KCC will follow up on the cleansing in Childsbridge Lane.

KCC have £8.6m to spend on highways this year across the county. The pot whole blitz runs from March to October this year. The costs of resurfacing roads have increased and in the interim period they patch the roads as is generally cheaper.

6 District Councillors Report

Councillor Thornton will provide a report at the Annual Assembly, we are at early stages of a project happening on the land to the east of the High Street and there will be public engagements happening in April and we will require residents' input. The Leisure Centre is now 40 years old and due to climate targets and expense we are working with KCC to decarbonise the building. It is early stages but a long-term project.

SDC have confirmed that they are replacing clear waste sacks with bags for life (Canvas Bags) and they will also no longer be providing black sacks to residences with the remaining stock given to food banks. The new Canvas bags are used by over 130 councils and are weighted with Velcro top and are considered to work well. SDC are continually looking at ways to improve waste collection and recycling.

SDC are responsible for cleaning graffiti from the road signs and the road street name and KCC Highways are responsible for cleaning their road signs.

7 Kent Police update

PC Costin attended the meeting to give us an update on speed checks which have been happening in Seal in Childsbridge Lane, evidencing drivers speeding up to 52mph. They are present in the area and will continue to monitor the speed in Seal. Councillor Thornton said it would be good to have speed enforcement in Stone Street. Mr Bourne will provide the SID data. PC Costin would be happy to attend speed watch sessions, there are drivers turning right out of Zion Street, and with police presence this would help. It is requested that any antisocial behaviour incidents are reported to the Police via the online live chat and if possible local video evidence provided for further investigation.

8 Other Matters Requiring Discussion and Action

8.1 Mobile SID Unit

A volunteer is required to assist Mr Bourne in the weekly moving of the mobile SID unit. This involves downloading the previous weeks data, changing the battery over and relocating the unit around the Parish. Mr Bulleid said that he would support and help out when required over the 6 sites. Mr Haslam would help on the A25 and Childsbridge Lane.

8.2 Community Speedwatch Seal

Mr Ratcliffe has kindly offered to be the coordinator for Seal Speedwatch and would welcome residents to assist him to set up a community speedwatch group in Seal. Ideally 3 people would be the maximum for 2 days a month for a maximum of 2 hours and this would involve recording the vehicle, speed, and time.

8.3 Seal Croft Cottages

The Parish Council to consider from the last meeting to widen SDC owned parking bays by 2 feet on the road by 9-12 Seal Croft Cottages on Childsbridge Lane. The Chairman said he would speak to planning and land management to see what the implications would be and report back at the meeting. This was deferred to the next meeting.

8.4 Administration

The Parish Council to consider the Grant Award Policy, as suggested from the last meeting to have clear guidelines for village halls as well as voluntary groups and other organisations and Mr Michaelides received no representation, but Mr Haslam would be in contact with Mr Ryan to discuss any representations received therefore this was deferred to the next meeting.

8.5 KYN

Know Your Neighbours have asked the Parish Council if we could consider a waste bin by the kissing gate near A25 and a bench to be replaced from the one that was vandalised. The Clerk will arrange for some quotes.

8.6 Seal Recreation Ground Trees

A resident has asked whether the Parish Council to consider reducing the height of the Holly Tree’s at the back of their garden. The Parish Council agreed for the resident to prune the Holly Tree that effected his garden, but we would like photo evidence of the tree and how much reduction.

8.7 Seal Recreation Ground Recycling Area

Mr Kay suggested that a Seal Parish litter pick could be organised with local resident’s and in conjunction with Seal Primary School. Mr Haslam said this can be organised outside the Parish Council meeting and that Mr Penn could be involved with sourcing equipment and high vis vests. Mr Kay volunteered to lead on this litter pick event.

Seal Recycling area, it was discussed that this area is being used more and as a result of this the bins were full and overflowing. The Clerk will discuss this with SDC to see how they can support this from reoccurring and will report back at a future Parish Council meeting.

A request was made from Seal Primary School to have a litter bin outside the school in Zambra Way.

9 Parish Plan

The Parish Council to consider the Parish Plan and update as necessary. Mr Haslam will update it for the next meeting.

10 Sevenoaks Quarry Steering Group

Unfortunately, our Councillors couldn’t attend the meeting, but Mr Haslam is going to an event this week and will update us on anything that it relevant to Seal.

11 Action Plan

The Clerk raised that we do require online banking soon and Mr Michaelides said to set up an application with NatWest dual control for 4/5 people.

Mr Penn had provided an update on IT Services and support and would provide the quotes received at the next meeting.

12 Accounts and Cheques

Mr Michaelides proposed the cheques and direct debits and this was seconded by Mr Haslam and agreed unanimously.

Cheques signed April 2024

Cheque No	Payee	Amount	VAT Reclaim	Description
006625	Mrs C Boland	£51.50	£8.58	Broadband
006626	Air Ambulance Charity KSS	£350.00		Donation

006627	Sevenoaks Volunteer Transport Group	£250.00		Donation
006628	M Davies Limited	£30.00		Window Cleaning
006629	C Cornwell	£340.00		Boiler Repair, Seal Pavilion
006630	Sevenoaks District Council	£411.10	£63.05	Dog Waste and Refuse collection
006631	T D Geer Limited	£444.00	£74.00	Heaters and Replacement thermostat valves, Seal Pavilion
006632	Jane Haselden	£160.00		Annual Website Renewal
006633	Streetlights	£420.00	£70.00	Streetlights
006634	Mrs C Boland			Clerks Salary
006635	Kent County Council			Pension
006636	Mrs C Ward			Caretaker Salary
006637	Inland Revenue			Deductions
006638	C Cornwell	£1,450.00		Replacement Heater, Seal Pavilion
006639	CCLA Investment Management Limited	£100,000.00		Investment Account

Direct Debits Received to date

Payment Date	Payee	Amount	VAT Reclaim	Description
25/4/2024	Npower	£322.82	£15.37	Streetlighting
05/4/2024	Peninsula	£206.31	£32.78	HR Services
20/4/2024	British Gas	£276.77	£13.18	Seal Pavilion Gas
4/4/2024	Castle Water	£23.61 Total charges £580.64 in credit	£3.94	Seal Pavilion Cricket Ground Water

13 Items for Information only

13.1 PROW/Commons Working Group

This group has now been set up and its aims and objectives have been circulated with this agenda. They have also included details on the first project they will be looking at and will report back to the Council in due course. The Council noted the aims and objectives for the group.

13.2 Annual Assembly

We have our Annual Assembly taking place on Wednesday 15th May at 7.30pm and we welcome Parishioners to attend. There will be a chance to discuss any issues with Councillors, County Councillors and District Councillors and there will be refreshments afterwards.

14 Planning

The Council received and noted the minutes of the planning committee on 14th March 2024 the responses to planning consultations submitted after those meetings which have been circulated.

The Next Parish Council meeting will be 9th May at Seal Pavilion at 7.30pm.

Matters for Information Only

A reminder to report all Highway issues direct to KCC 03000 41 81 81

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem> –

A reminder to report problems on PROW to 03000 41 7171 8am-8pm Mon-Friday.

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/environment-waste-and-planning/public-rights-of-way/report-a-problem-on-a-right-of-way>

Please report street light outages in Seal (other than on the A25) to the Parish Council.

Meeting closed 9.30pm