

SELLING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held remotely on Thursday 21st January 2021 at 18:00 hours by video conference

Present: Cllr Andrew Bowles (Chair), Cllr Kevin Hobson, Cllr Sue Henderson, Cllr Andrew Day, Cllr Amanda Saunders, Cllr David Woollett, Cllr Anthony Kitchen, Wendy Gregory (Clerk) Ward Cllr Valentine and Ward Cllr Gould **plus 5 members of the public.**

01.21.01 Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chairman opened the meeting there were no apologies

01.21.02 Declarations of interests and dispensations

Cllrs had no interests to declare.

01.21.03 Items to be taken in a private session

Agenda item 13 was agreed to be taken in private session

01.21.04 Confirmation of the Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting

Resolved: The minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 17th December 2020 were approved.

01.21.05 Clerk's Report

The planning application for the demolition and development of Perry Oaks Oast has been refused. The Parish Precept has been submitted and the percentage change will be reported as a decrease of 0.63%. Cllr Hobson's supporting paper for the positioning of the White Gates has been submitted to KCC Highways and the gates have been ordered. We are awaiting a response to the request for regular road sweeping in Fox Lane.

Resolved: The Clerk's report was received.

01.21.06 Open Forum

Ward Cllr Valentine reported that the fly-tipping on Featherbed Lane was collected by the council. The Local Plan will be coming to Cabinet in early February with a 6-weeks consultation before the elections in May. The Plan is over 1,000 pages. The sites not included in the plan are: the North Street development and Winterbourne Fields. There is a site at the south-west side of Neames Forstal for 90 houses. Previously this plan was for 3 sites of 30 properties but has been consolidated to make the development financially viable. Ward Cllr Valentine has voted against this proposal because of the high number of new dwellings. A discussion took place about the consultation and how residents could access the information, particularly those without access to the internet. Ward Cllr Valentine will investigate whether it is possible to obtain hard copies of the Local Plan or at least information on the Neames Forstal site. Charlotte Whitney-Brown was asked to enquire if MP Helen Whately was able to assist. Ward Cllr Valentine will liaise with the Clerk to arrange a Zoom meeting to give councillors and members of the public the opportunity to discuss the Local Plan. New signage has gone up in Perry Wood

and Swale Borough Council plan to remove jumps and cycle tracks. Work is going on to get the Hill Fort listed as a Scheduled Monument and then a gateway will be put up on the bridle path so that visitors will know they are entering a sensitive area. County Councillor Bowles gave his report. The County Council's budget is out for consultation. It is set at 1.9% increase plus 3% ring-fence for adult social services and the County Council meeting to finally set the budget will take place on 11th February. Warning notices to HGVs parking illegally have been stopped and now fixed penalties are being applied. The amount of traffic flowing through Dover is almost back to normal levels and is running smoothly at the moment. Flooding remains a problem. The soil water content is the wettest it has ever been. Water tables are above the surface level of many local roads.

01.21.07 Matters resolved under the scheme of temporary delegation under LGA72s101
None

01.21.08 Financial matters included under the scheme of temporary delegation
None

01.21.09 Financial matters

a) Bank Account Balances and Reconciliation

Current Account

Opening Balance as at the last meeting	£29,830.74
Plus Receipts	
Less Payments	£759.59
Closing Balance	£29,071.15

Reserve Account

Opening Balance as at the last meeting	£5,216.88
Plus interest payments	.04
Closing Balance	£5,216.92

Less payments not yet cashed **£ 310.86**

Totals as of 31st December 2020 **£33,977.21**

Resolved: The bank account balances and reconciliation were approved.

b) Accounts for Payment

- i) Clerks salary £585.43 paid by BACs and expenses for Dec 20 £121.48
- ii) Vision ICT £21.60
- iii) CPRE £50.00
- iv) Action Play and Leisure £2,268.00

Resolved: The above accounts were approved for payment and the invoice for the 'Planning' training from KALC was deferred because Cllr Henderson expressed disappointment at the presentation of the content.

Action: The Clerk to contact KALC to advise them of this decision and to investigate how this matter may be resolved. The Chairman will bring up this matter at the KALC Executive Committee meeting.

The Clerk replied to a query about the payment of the rowan tree and Cllr Bowles advised that the tree had been planted. The landscape gardeners; Vince Arshinev and his brother who planted it have refused payment of the materials and labour because they felt this was insignificant when compared to those who had lost their lives for which this tree was been planted in commemoration of.

c) Request to fund the cost of the hire of the village hall

A request has been received on behalf of the Village Hall Committee to fund the hire of the hall for 1.5 hours every week (£15) to support a visiting Post Office. Cllr Henderson gave the background information about the outreach Post Office service that commenced this week. Ten members of the community made use of the service. A discussion took place about whether a private business should be subsidised by the Parish council at the expense of other private businesses or whether a case can be made that by bringing the Post Office to the village, they are providing a service that is a benefit to the community, particularly during this period of lock-down.

Resolved: To ask representatives from the Village Hall Committee to obtain more information from the business owner and in particular why they couldn't or wouldn't pay for the hire of the hall themselves.

01.21.10 Planning Applications

- i) **Application ref: 20/505884/Full at 1 Rhode Common Cottages. Partial demolition of existing extension. Erection of part single storey, part two storey side extension, single storey rear extension and part ground floor part first floor side extension with balcony and a detached double garage.**

Resolved: There was no objection to this application.

Action: The Clerk update the planning portal

- ii) **Application ref: 21/500033/FULL amendment to the application for Cannister Hall**

Resolved: There was no objection to this application

Action: The Clerk to update the planning portal

- iii) **Application ref: 20/505912/FULL erection of a single storey side/rear extension, new doors to the first floor rear elevation and installation of photovoltaic panels of the roof at 30 Neames Forstal**

Resolved: There was no objection to this application

Action: The Clerk to update the planning portal

01.21.11 The Government's funded voucher scheme for fast broadband

Cllr Hobson gave an overview of the scheme. A discussion took place about the merits of the scheme, internet speeds around the village and information that residents may have already received about the scheme. Cllr Saunders recommended that any communication sent, should include the wording from the letter sent by MP Helen Whately, "I would highlight that this scheme is only running until the funding committed has been fully used or until March 31, 2021 at the latest". A proposal was made by Cllr Hobson and seconded by Cllr Day that a letter is sent to everyone in the village with suitable wording, understanding that residents may already be involved in a scheme, to set out the facts of the scheme. A notice will be put on the website and Facebook.

Resolved by 5 votes in favour and 1 vote against: The Clerk will send a mail-shot informing residents about the scheme with the assistance of Cllr Hobson.

Additional note: Cllr Woollett advised the meeting that due to a technical problem at the time of the vote, he had been unable to vote on this matter but wished to put on record that he would have voted against it.

01.21.12 Matters raised (for information purposes only) from Portfolio Holders and adopted schemes

i) Highways

Cllr Bowles reported that there had been 5,500 plus complaints about flooding. Cllr Hobson reminded the meeting that Highways will be installing the White Gates at the locations previously agreed. The sign has been designed for the approach to the village from Macknades. The other gate will be installed without a sign for the time being.

ii) Law and Order

A report from PCSO Dalton was circulated to councillors prior to the meeting. Cllr Day advised that a lot of the calls came from activity in Perry Wood. Tagging (graffiti) has become a problem. Cllr Hobson advised that photographs of the graffiti should be sent to the police. British Transport Police have seen an increase of 20% in the number of calls in regard to incidents at Selling Train Station.

iii) Selling's response to Covid-19

Cllr Hobson advised that the website would continue to be updated with the information received from NALC/KALC. Cllr Hobson reminded the meeting that the Parish Council had the resources and connections to help anyone in the community who requires help.

iv) Perry Wood

No report

v) Public Rights of Way

Cllr Day advised that no further progress had been made in getting the information on the interactive maps updated. He will continue to pursue this matter. Cllr Bowles advised that there was information about the workload of PROW, the report is available on the KCC website under the Regulation Committee.

vi) Mid-Kent Downs

No Report

- vii) **Village Hall Committee**
Cllr Henderson reported that the wooden boat has been installed in the children's play area and the rest of the equipment is due to be installed next week. The vegetation has been cut-back by a member of the public and they were thanked and praised for doing such a good and thorough job.
- viii) **KALC/SAC**
No report
- ix) **Church Building Trust**
No report
- x) **Action for Insects**
Cllr Hobson advised that there had been a lot of interest in the project and he had been approached by a number of people who wished to get involved. He will investigate the costs of introducing planters to add colour and cheer to the village
- xi) **Selling School**
Cllr Hobson advised that the school is running a 20-25% capacity teaching children as directed by the latest government restrictions. The school is undergoing a restructuring very soon. The Academy will be joining forces with another Academy. Cllr Hobson is joining the Local Governing Body and will be able to report back next month with the implications for the school and the amalgamation of the Trusts.

01.21.13 Nomination for 2021 KALC Community Awards Scheme

This item was taken in private session and the proposed nomination was agreed by all.

Action: To complete and send the nomination to KALC

01.21.14 Correspondence

The Clerk reminded councillors that Dunkirk Parish Council has asked if councillors wish to share information for any topics to be discussed at the Joint Transport Board. An update on the images sent to councillors showing a vehicle damaging the grass verge at Neames Forstal. Cllr Bowles has been working with the member of the public who provided the images. **Action:** Cllr Bowles has asked the Clerk to write to the company owner of the vehicle to advise them of the damage caused. Ward Cllr Gould was asked to check whether the land is owned by Swale Borough Council. Cllr Hobson advised that he has sent an email to the named company of the vehicle.

01.21.15 Items to be placed on the next Agenda:

Planters and street furniture for the village

The Local Plan

A request to expand the Conservation Area for Selling

Any other items to be considered, should be emailed to:

clerk@sellingparishcouncil.gov.uk by Tuesday, 9th February, 2021

01.21.16 The next meeting will be held by video conference on Thursday 18th February 2021 at 18:00. Permission was sought by the Chairman and agreed by all, to extend the

meeting beyond the scheduled 2 hours to finish the business and the meeting closed at 20:26 hours.

Signed.....

Date