

SELLING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 21st October 2021 at 19:00 hours at Selling Village Hall

Present: Cllr Andrew Bowles (Chair), Cllr Kevin Hobson, Cllr Sue Henderson, Cllr Andy Day, Cllr Amanda Saunders, Cllr David Woollett, Wendy Gregory (Clerk) **plus Ward Cllr Tim Valentine and 3 members of the public.**

10.21.01 Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chairman welcomed everyone. Apologies were received from Cllr Kitchen due to urgent work matters and from Ward Cllr Gould due to a scrutiny committee meeting and County Cllr Lehmann due to urgent KCC work. The Chairman told the meeting that Cllr Henderson had advised she may be late.

10.21.02 Declarations of interests and dispensations

Cllrs had no interests to declare.

10.21.03 Items to be taken in a private session

No items were required to be taken in private session

10.21.04 Confirmation of the Ordinary Minutes of the last Meeting

The Chairman asked councillors if they had any comments regarding the accuracy of the draft Minutes from the Ordinary Parish Council meeting of 16th September 21. A request was made to add additional information to minute reference 09.21.07. It was proposed by Cllr Bowles and seconded by Cllr Hobson that the minute should remain as is. A vote took place, 3 votes for, 1 vote against and 1 abstention. An item under minute reference 09.21.12 was amended. The minutes were initialled and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

Resolved: The Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 16th September 2021 were approved.

10.21.05 Clerk's Report

The Clerk gave an update on the SLCC conference and thanked councillors for making it possible for her to attend in person. An Environmental Enforcement Officer visited Neames Forstal to investigate the reports of vehicles parking on grass verges. The officer spoke to builders working at one of the properties and was advised that the damage to the grass verge would be repaired when the work was completed. The officer was satisfied with the replies and said that there has been no breach of any rules. Residents who raised concerns have been informed. Requests for two additional signatories to be added to the NatWest Bank Account have been submitted and the notice of the conclusion of the audit for March 2021 has been uploaded to the website.

Resolved: The Clerk's report was received.

10.21.06**Open Forum**

Ward Cllr Valentine reported that Swale Borough Council have voted to move to a committee system of governance. The committees will be formed from all parties, aiming to make decision making more democratic. This will start from May 2022

10.21.07**Financial matters****a) Bank Account Balances and Reconciliation****Current Account**

Opening Balance as at the last meeting	£6,415.05
Plus Receipts	6,590.00
Less Payments	£784.19
Closing Balance	£12,220.86

Reserve Account

Opening Balance as at the last meeting	£15,217.72
Plus interest payments	.12
Plus transfer from the Current account	£0
Closing Balance	£15,217.84

Less payments not yet cashed £ 585.40

Total monies as of 30th September 2021 £26,853.30

Resolved: The bank account balances and reconciliations were received.

b) Accounts for Payment

- i) Clerks salary £597.13 by BACS and expenses for September '21 £377.54
A vote was taken over whether to pay the clerk's expenses; 4 votes in favour and 2 abstentions. Cllr Saunders wished to be named as voting to abstain.
- ii) Selling Village Hall £135.00 for the Outreach P.O.
Payment was agreed by all
- iii) Streetlights £51.00
Payment was agreed by all

Resolved: The above invoices were approved for payment.

c) Existing contracts

Cllr Hobson proposed and Cllr Day seconded that the street lights contract should be put out for tender. A vote took place and it was agreed unanimously.

Resolved: The street lights contract will be put out to tender

d) Remembrance Sunday

It was proposed by Cllr Bowles and seconded by Cllr Hobson that Cllr Bowles will lay the poppy wreath on behalf of the parish council and the residents of the parish. A vote took place and was agreed unanimously. Cllr Bowles proposed that a donation of £50 be made to the Royal British Legion, seconded by Cllr Saunders and agreed unanimously.

Resolved: Cllr Bowles will lay the poppy wreath and a donation of £50 will be made to the Royal British Legion.

10.21.08 Planning Applications

There were no applications to be considered.

10.21.09 Duchy Development

Cllr Bowles gave an update on the recent presentation on the scheme for elected councillors and raised concerns that the developers appear confident that the development will take place and there wasn't noticeable opposition to the development from Faversham Town Council representatives. The current Selling Road would cease to exist as a through route for motor vehicles, although open to cyclists and pedestrians and Cllr Bowles said that the alternative routes would be at a new junction at the Macknade farm buildings and the railway. Ward Cllr Valentine also attended the presentation and agreed with Cllr Bowles' comments and added that there may be a problem with who pays for the alterations that would be required at Brenley Corner and raised concerns by the increase of traffic on the A2 made worse by the proposed installation of additional traffic lights and roundabouts.

Resolved: Councillors will maintain a keen interest in these proposals.

10.21.10 Swale Borough Council Local Plan Consultation

Cllr Hobson attended the pre-consultation meeting and the presentation from the meeting has been circulated to councillors. The new consultation period is 29th October to the 29th November. Cllr Valentine advised that it is going to Cabinet on 27th October and the agenda for that meeting is online with the full consultation documents. Any comments on the consultation will need to be made afresh as the documents will not be rolled over from the previous consultation. Cllr Saunders requested that the resident who asked for her email to be read at the meeting on this matter be thanked and sent details of the consultation and the deadlines. Cllr Hobson asked for the presentation and details of the consultation be put on the website and Facebook pages and to notify Parishioners to submit their comments on the Local Plan in advance of our November meeting as well as responding individually to Swale Borough Council.

Action: The SBC Local Plan Consultation will be on the agenda of the November meeting to resolve a response. Information will be posted on the website and Facebook page. The previous response will be re-circulated to councillors.

10.21.11 Speedwatch

Cllr Kitchen and Cllr Hobson had a field visit with the Community Speedwatch Manager for Kent Police, PC Alan Watson. Three sites were identified as suitable for Speedwatch along Selling Road. The recommended next steps are:

To gather evidence about traffic concerns from residents. Whether that is speeding or HGVs or pollution etc and where these spots are. It was recommended to do this via a survey both online and hard copy, distributed through the Parish Magazine, the school, shop and pubs. The results of the survey and what actions are being taken should be published and shared throughout the community and the Highways Improvement Plan updated. If the council wishes to go ahead with the scheme PC Watson will undertake a formal risk assessment and set-up training for volunteers. It was recommended that the Parish Council consider changing the current wish for a speed limit of 20mph at the station area to 30mph because this speed limit is enforceable. Councillors may wish to consider requesting blue 'Unsuitable for HGV' signage. Once specific problem areas have been identified following the survey, contact the Highways Inspector to arrange for those areas to be reviewed. Then consider applying for a 'Traffic Regulation Order' for the whole village which would give a blanket 30mph speed limit.

Action: Cllr Hobson will circulate a written report via the Clerk. To resolve to publish a survey at the next meeting.

10.21.12 Defibrillators

- i) **To receive an update on the installation of the third defibrillator**
Councillors have checked the Land Registry and the land at the side of The Sondes isn't owned by residents of Sondes Court and therefore subject to the written permission of the owner of The Sondes, the defibrillator can be installed on the outside wall.

Resolved: The Clerk to provide a short document for the owner of The Sondes to sign to give permission for the Parish Council to install the Defibrillator Cabinet on the outside wall of The Sondes and to connect to an electricity supply. Cllrs Bowles and Day to request a signature and arrange for the work to be done as soon as possible.

- ii) **To receive an update for the maintenance plan for the unit at the school**
Cllr Hobson advised that the school has a system in place for doing the regular checks for the unit at the school.

- iii) **To receive an update for the maintenance plan for the unit at Sandbanks**
Cllr Henderson agreed to undertake monthly checks on this unit.

Action: The Clerk to purchase a book and pencil to install inside the cabinet to record the checks.

10.21.13 Matters concerning the Highways Improvement Plan

- i) **Flooded roads**

Cllr Day has been reporting flooding on the KCC Highways 'Report a Fault' portal and providing photographs each time he is aware of a flooding incident. The latest information received from KCC is that they are looking at adding gauges and additional signage at the bridge in Fox Lane but are not prepared to add flashing

lights. Cllr Day believes this is a mistake because drivers won't see the measures until they are in the water which is too late.

The other area regularly flooding is at the bottom of the first hill on leaving Selling closest to the train station. KCC are in contact with the landowner to ask permission to dig out the ditch, a request has been made for the installation of a soakaway to give a permanent solution to this problem and this is under review.

Action: Cllr Day will continue to report problems and to influence satisfactory solutions.

ii) Results from the speed check on Selling Road

The results from the speed check installed on Selling Road, close to The Sondes have been circulated to councillors and a virtual meeting arranged for Friday, 29th October with KCC representative Sarah Ellock to understand the figures and to hear Sarah's opinion of what influence the results will have on the aim for a speed reduction.

10.21.14 Review of the Privacy Policy

Cllr Bowles proposed that the Privacy Policy be adopted, seconded by Cllr Woollett and agreed by all.

Resolved: The Privacy Policy is adopted.

10.21.15 Cultivation Licence

i) Amendments to the Cultivation Licence at Monica Close

Cllr Hobson proposed and Cllr Saunders seconded that the strip of land allowed under the current Cultivation Licence should remain protected and this was agreed unanimously.

Resolved: To amend the Cultivation Licence to maintain the cover for the strip of land at the back at Monica Close.

ii) To resolve to request a new Cultivation Licence for the land opposite The Sondes

Resolved: No decision to be taken at this time

iii) To resolve whether to book Bethany Pateman to visit the parish and advise on planting and if so, for which sites.

It was proposed by Cllr Bowles and seconded by Cllr Saunders that Bethany Pateman is invited to visit the parish to advise on planting and was agreed unanimously.

Resolved: To issue an invitation to Bethany Pateman

iv) To resolve whether to request a site survey for the grass triangle at Fox Lane

Resolved: To review after Bethany's visit.

10.21.16 Community Fast Broadband scheme

The Clerk advised that KCC Broadband Project Manager, George Chandler has been given access to the Parish Council scheme by Openreach and has found some addresses that should have been included in the scheme. George has been in touch to advise of this and to say that it is crucial to include all of the addresses at the beginning of the scheme because if they are found later, this incurs additional costs and delays. The Clerk requested permission to work with George to get the data

correct for the scheme and Cllrs Bowles and Saunders spoke in support of this, no one spoke against. Cllr Bowles suggested that the representative for KCC should be invited to speak at the Open Meeting. A discussion took place about whether other contractors should be allowed to present at the meeting.

Resolved: George Chandler will be advised that councillors are happy for him to assist with the data for the scheme. It was agreed that another meeting will be arranged for residents to learn more about the fast-broadband scheme and the speakers will be representatives of Openreach and KCC. It was agreed that the meeting will be open to all and attendees will not be allowed to make a sales pitch.

The Chairman interrupted the meeting to advise that the 2 hours limit was approaching and there were more items than time to resolve. Cllr Saunders proposed that item 10.21.19 is resolved and all other items be moved to the next agenda, seconded by Cllr Hobson. A vote took place and 5 votes were in favour and 1 vote against.

10.21.17 Signs to 'Not litter' and a rubbish bin for the car park

Resolved: To be considered at the next meeting

10.21.18 The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Resolved: To be considered at the next meeting

10.21.19 Website and social media updates

An email was circulated from Cllr Hobson resigning as support for the website and social media due to other commitments.

It was proposed by Cllr Saunders and seconded by Cllr Bowles that the Clerk manages the website and Facebook page and if the workload becomes too great to put the matter on the Agenda to be resolved at that time. A vote took place and it was agreed by all.

Resolved: The Clerk will upload items to the website and Facebook page

10.21.20 South East Water Complaints

Resolved: To be considered at the next meeting

10.21.21 Matters raised for information purposes

Resolved: To be heard at the next meeting

10.21.22 Correspondence

Resolved: To be heard at the next meeting

10.21.23 Items to be placed on the next Agenda

To resolve to publish a survey in support of Speedwatch and identify traffic issues, SBC Local Plan, **Signs to 'not litter' and a rubbish bin for the car park** - to resolve whether to support a resident's request to add signage along Selling Road to 'not litter' and to request a rubbish bin in the car park next to the school. **The Queen's Platinum Jubilee** - to resolve to purchase a tree to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and to resolve where to plant it. **South East Water complaints** -to

resolve a response to the problems caused by South East Water. Budget and the Precept for 2022-23. Risk Assessment. Any other items to be considered, should be emailed to: clerk@sellingparishcouncil.gov.uk no later than Tuesday, 9th November, 2021

10.21.24 The next Ordinary Parish Council meeting will take place on Thursday, 18th November 2021 at 19:00 at Selling Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 21:06 hours.

Signed..... Date

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