

SELLING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 18th November 2021 at 19:00 hours at Selling Village Hall

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

11.21.01 Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chairman welcomed everyone. Apologies were received from County Cllr Lemann due to illness. The Clerk advised that Cllr Kitchen had emailed to say he may be delayed but would attend the meeting as soon as possible.

11.21.02 Declarations of interests and dispensations

Cllrs had no interests to declare.

11.21.03 Items to be taken in a private session

No items were required to be taken in private session

11.21.04 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 21st October 21. A request was made for an additional comment to be added under item 11.21.12 but as comments are not required to be recorded on the minutes, the request was declined. A request was made to change item 10.21.12 (i). A vote took place to confirm the accuracy of the Minutes. 5 votes in favour, 1 vote against. The minutes were initialled and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

Resolved: The Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 21st October 2021 were approved.

11.21.05 Clerk's Report

Cllr Bowles has been confirmed as an authorised signatory

A note pad and pencil and can of WD40 has been purchased for the maintenance of the defibrillator and cabinet at Perry Wood.

Notes following the virtual meeting with Sarah Ellcock about the results of the speed test have been circulated to councillors.

Work is continuing on obtaining quotes for the street lighting maintenance contract.

Resolved: The Clerk's report was received.

11.21.06 Open Forum

A member of the public requested that the Parish Council support local residents and contact Planning Enforcement to request that the winter storage of caravans under Planning Application 19/500768/FULL at Owens Court Farm is enforced. Ward Cllr Gould advised that he has been contacted directly on this matter and will look into it. Cllr Gould advised that at Swale the work was ongoing on the Regulation 18. The Chairman of the Village Hall Committee thanked the Parish Council for the

continuing support of the Outreach Post Office and said that now Barclays and Lloyds banks in Faversham have closed, monies can be easily paid in and paid out through this service. The Chairman also thanked the Parish Council for the donation to the Royal British Legion.

11.21.07 Financial matters

a) Bank Account Balances and Reconciliation

Current Account

Opening Balance as at the last meeting	£12,220.86
Plus Receipts	0
Less Payments	£1,544.78
Closing Balance	£10,676.08

Reserve Account

Opening Balance as at the last meeting	£15,217.84
Plus interest payments	.12
Plus transfer from the Current account	£0
Closing Balance	£15,217.96

Less payments not yet cashed £ 228.00

Total monies as of 31st October 2021 £25,666.04

Resolved: The bank account balances and reconciliations were received.

b) Accounts for Payment

i) Clerks salary £597.13 by BACS and expenses for October '21 £26.80

Resolved: The above invoice was approved for payment.

c) Application for funds under the 'Contain Outbreak Management Fund' (COMF)

A discussion took place about which items were included and the possibility of off-setting expected costs against additional costs. It was proposed by Cllr Bowles and seconded by Cllr Kitchen that the draft application be submitted. A vote took place 5 votes for and 1 vote against.

Resolved: The application for funds of £516.82 will be submitted

11.21.08 Planning Applications

Application 21/505804/FULL 1 Rhode Common Cottage, Rhode Common, Dunkirk.

Cllr Day proposed that no comments be submitted in relation to this application, seconded by Cllr Bowles and agreed by all.

Resolved: No comments to be submitted.

11.21.09 Budget approval and to determine the Precept for 2022-2023

This item was deferred.

Resolved: To resolve this item at the next Ordinary Parish Council meeting

11.21.10 Review of the Risk Assessment document

Cllr Bowles proposed that the Risk Assessment is adopted, seconded by Cllr Hobson and agreed by all

Resolved: The Risk Assessment is adopted.

11.21.11 Adoption of a Scheme of Publication

The Clerk advised the meeting that supporting papers are published on the Parish Council Website under 'Additional Documents'. Therefore 'Reports presented to meetings (non-confidential items) should be changed from 'apply to the Clerk' to Selling Parish Council website. The Chairman asked with this addendum is everyone happy? It was agreed unanimously.

Resolved: With the above amendment the Scheme of Publication was adopted.

11.21.12 Swale Borough Council Local Plan Regulation 18

A discussion took place as to whether to submit the previous document to the Regulation 19, in response to the Regulation 18. It was proposed by Cllr Saunders that a special meeting be held to resolve this matter, seconded by Cllr Hobson and agreed by all.

Resolved: An Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting will be held on Thursday 25th November to resolve a response from the Parish Council. Residents will be able to attend and speak in the Open Forum part of the meeting.

11.21.13 Community Speedwatch Scheme

i) Support for setting up a Community Speedwatch Scheme

It was proposed by Cllr Hobson and seconded by Cllr Kitchen that a Community Speedwatch Scheme is formed. A vote took place and it was agreed by all.

Resolved: To form a Community Speedwatch Scheme.

ii) To undertake a community survey to understand residents' concerns on traffic to progress the setting up of a Community Speedwatch Scheme.

Cllr Hobson proposed that the Parish Council undertake a community survey to understand and document residents' concerns on traffic in the village. Cllr Bowles added this survey would be in conjunction with the survey required for the Traffic Regulation Order for the station area of Selling Road. Cllr Bowles asked if everyone was happy with that and it was agreed by all.

Resolved: To undertake a community survey to meet the requirements of both the recommendations for setting up a Community Speedwatch Scheme and for the Traffic Regulation Order for Selling Road.

11.21.14 Matter concerning the Highways Improvement Plan

i) Review of the current speed limit requested in the HIP for Selling Road within the station area.

Cllr Hobson proposed that the current speed limit in the HIP is changed to 30mph as recommended by KCC Highways and Kent Police, seconded by Cllr Kitchen. A vote took place and it was agreed unanimously.

Resolved: The requested speed limit on the HIP for this area will be changed to 30MPH

ii) Support for the Traffic Regulation Order and to seek funding for the application

It was proposed by Cllr Hobson and seconded by Cllr Kitchen to apply for the Traffic Regulation Order and to seek funding for the application. A vote took place and it was agreed unanimously.

Resolved: The application for the Traffic Regulation Order will be made and funding sought for the cost of the application.

iii) Consultation with residents in support of the Traffic Regulation Order

Resolved: The consultation will be combined with the resolution under item 11.21.13 (ii)

11.21.15 Community Fast Broadband Scheme

Councillors and members of the public reported that the Open Meeting held on the 11th November when attendees heard from Tim Clarkson from Openreach and George Chandler from Kent County Council helped in understanding the current situation and the options available. A discussion took place by both councillors and members of the public and the main points made were:

- The Boughton Exchange, which most of Selling residents are connected to, is going to be upgraded to 'fibre to the premises' under the Openreach commercial programme within a 5-year plan.
- The Parish Council scheme includes many more residents who have not registered an interest in the upgrade, than have actively joined the scheme. To get fast broadband without incurring any costs for the installation would require a significant portion of the non-registered residents to be persuaded to join. The deadline to obtain this commitment is the 6th April 2022.
- Under the voucher scheme, residents have to upgrade to a fast fibre contract at a higher cost. There is no such commitment or clause under the Openreach commercial programme upgrade.

Cllr Hobson summarised the discussions and said it was with great reluctance, because a lot of work had gone into the setting up of the scheme, in view of the points made, he proposed that the Parish Council should withdraw the scheme. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Saunders. A vote took place and it was agreed by all. Cllr Hobson said, "we are very sensitive to the needs of some residents to improve their current broadband service and are aware this decision may cause them some distress."

Resolved: The Parish Council Community Fast Broadband scheme will be withdrawn.

11.21.16 Signs to 'not litter' and a rubbish bin for the car park

A request was received from a resident to put up 'do not litter' signs and a rubbish bin for the car park. The car park is managed by the Village Hall Committee and it is unclear where signs could be displayed and how. Cllr Bowles proposed and Cllr Saunders seconded that no action be taken and agreed by all.

Resolved: No action to be taken.

11.21.17 The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

A discussion took place about the difficulties of planting a tree as the Parish Council don't have any land. It was suggested that the occasion could be marked by purchasing something for the village hall. Cllr Bowles proposed that The Clerk write to the Village Hall Committee to ask if they are interested in the Parish Council funding or part-funding something for the village hall to mark the Platinum Jubilee and also to write to major land owners to ask if they would host a tree to be purchased by the Parish Council to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee. This was agreed by all.

Resolved: The matter to be resolved at a future meeting.

11.21.18 South East Water Complaints

Cllr Henderson proposed that the Parish Council write to South East Water to complain about the number of water leaks in Selling Road and to ask what their plans are to reduce this. Councillors agreed.

Resolved: The Clerk will write to South East Water to complain about the leaks and ask for details of their plan to resolve this.

11.21.19 Matters raised for information purposes only from portfolio holders and adopted schemes

- i) **Highways** – Cllr Saunders reported a problem at the junction of Shepherd's Hill and the road on which The Square stands, where earth is falling onto the road and blocking drains. The Clerk was asked to report this to County Cllr Lehmann. Cllr Day gave an update on the reported flooding at the bottom of the hill as you leave Selling from the station. KCC have advised that the blocked drains are going to be cleared and following that, a soakaway installed. 0.5metre lines have been drawn on the wall at the bridge at Fox Lane in preparation for the promised new signage.
- ii) **Law and Order** – Cllr Day reported that Kent Police have been called out 6 times to help rescue people stranded in vehicles caught in flood waters under the bridge in Fox Lane. A request has been made to the PCSO to check the car park at Perry Wood. The police will continue to monitor this area as well as the car park on Selling Road. Cllr Henderson asked that the station car park be checked regularly as well.
- iii) **Perry Wood** – No report
- iv) **Public Rights of Way** – Cllr Day noted that Swale Borough Council were considering stopping all funding for street lights.
- v) **Mid-Kent Downs** – Cllr Woollett, following on from his report in September, reported that Cleve Hill has been acquired by Quinbrook and has been re-named Project Fortress.
- vi) **Village Hall Committee** – No report
- vii) **KALC/SAC** – Cllr Saunders attended the AGM and reported on an interesting talk by Rachel Coxcoon, a copy of the presentation has been circulated to councillors. A resolution was carried to further bring 'airbnb' under planning control.
- viii) **Church Building Trust** – No report
- ix) **Selling School** - A report will be circulated at a future time

11.21.20 Correspondence

A number of emails have been forwarded to councillors from a resident and councillors were asked for a response. Cllr Saunders advised that she has no knowledge of a buffer zone being agreed, either as an individual or as a Parish Councillor. Cllrs agreed that what farmers grow on their land is not a matter for the Parish Council to intervene. Cllrs asked the clerk to advise the resident that action had been taken and 5 of the 6 councillors have visited the site following receipt of this correspondence.

Cllr Saunders asked that the poster advertising the vacancy at the Bensted Trust be displayed on the village notice boards.

10.21.21 Items to be placed on the next Agenda

Budget approval and to determine the Precept for 2022-2023. Any other items to be considered, should be emailed to: clerk@sellingparishcouncil.gov.uk no later than Tuesday, 7th December, 2021

10.21.22 The next Ordinary Parish Council meeting will take place on Thursday, 16th December 2021 at 19:00 at Selling Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 21:28 hours.

Signed.....

Date