

SELLING PARISH COUNCIL
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**Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on
Thursday 21st March 2024 at 19:00 hours at Selling Village Hall**

Present: Cllr Kevin Hobson (Chairman), Cllr Andrew Bowles, Cllr Sally King, Cllr Garry Evans, Cllr Andy Day, Cllr Anthony Kitchen and Wendy Gregory (Clerk) and 3 members of the public.

03.24.01 Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Cllr Sue Henderson.

03.24.02 Declarations of interests and dispensations

Councillors had no interests to declare.

03.24.03 Items to be taken in a private session

No items were requested to be taken in a private session.

03.24.04 Confirmation of the Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting

The Chairman asked if councillors had any comments regarding the accuracy of the Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on the 15th February 2024. Councillors had no comments.

Resolved: The Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 15th February 2024 were signed by the Chairman as a true record.

03.24.05 Clerk's Report

The drains on the Oversland side of the bridge on Fox Lane have been cleared. The mud was removed from the road, and the gullies dug manually. There was so much mud that a mini digger was used to clear it before the sweeper came in. The two drains at Hogben's Hill were cleared on 29th January. The crew reported the drains were slow running, so the problem has been re-assigned to an engineer to look into this further. A copy of Cllr Day's survey was forwarded to the officer. We are waiting to hear back from Southeastern Railways about the empty building on Selling Station. This was an action from the last meeting to find out what the plans are for the old toilets which are now boarded up. A complaint was raised with Southeastern Railways about the vandalism taking place at Selling Station, the latest being several glass panes being broken in a shelter on the platform. No response has been received as yet. A number of problems were reported on the Kent 'Report a Fault' Portal last month and the following have been completed: The silver birch on the verge next to 1 Neames Forstal has had the lower branches cut back. The overgrown hedges on Selling Road towards Monica Close have been trimmed. A new metal barrier has been installed at the bottom of the footpath ZR651. Also reported were an abandoned metal fence and graffiti on a name sign. These were reported on the Swale website but unfortunately the website doesn't have a facility to obtain an update. The defibrillator at Perry Wood has been removed because it appears to have a faulty battery. The battery is still under

warranty and we await a telephone call from the manufacturer. **Resolved:** The Clerk's report was received.

03.24.06 Open Forum

A resident attended the meeting to answer questions about their Market Garden business. They apologised for starting work prior to submitting planning applications but explained this was due to the time-sensitive nature of the works because at their pre-application meeting with a planning officer from Swale Borough Council they were told that they would need two reports from the Conservation Officers which would take a while. When the reports are available a retrospective planning application will be submitted. A resident gave an opinion on the planned 80th Anniversary of the D-Day celebration. The resident was advised that additional information about the event would be revealed under the agenda item.

03.24.07 Financial matters

a) Bank Account Balances and Reconciliation

For January 2024

Opening Balance as at the last meeting	£2,932.43
Less Payments	£1,230.68
Closing Balance	£1,701.75
Reserve Account	
Opening Balance as at the last meeting	£15,455.91
Plus, interest payments	£17.81
Closing Balance	£15,473.72
Less uncleared cheques	£ 71.04
Total monies as of 29 February 2024	£17,033.39

Councillors were asked if they followed the reconciliation, they agreed.

Resolved: The bank account balances and reconciliation were approved and the documents initialled by Cllr Day.

b) Invoices for Payment

- i) Clerk's part salary and expenses for February '24 £130.55
- ii) Vision ICT Ltd £43.20
- iii) KALC Data Protection workshop for Cllr Hobson £44.40
- iv) KALC Data Protection workshop for Cllr Day £44.40
- v) ICO – Data Protection - £40.00

c) Accounts for Payment (for information only)

- i) Clerk's salary £635.70 by Standing Order 12-02-24
- ii) SSE Southern Electric by Direct Debit 27-02-24

Resolved: The above invoices were approved for payment and the cheques were signed by Cllr Day and Cllr Bowles. The accounts for payment for information only were received for the Clerk's salary and for SSE Electric.

03.24.08 **Planning Applications**

To consider planning policies, applications and appeals received and resolve to submit comments where appropriate. *Please note that any applications received following the issue of this agenda will be considered.*

24/500276/FULL Ivy Cottage, Willow Tree Walk, Clockhouse Lane. Change of use of land to residential garden and erection of a detached garage, including dormer and external staircase to storage area above. **Resolved:** Councillors had no objections to this proposal but asked that the objection by the owner of the neighbouring property be considered by the Planning Officer.

23/505760/FULL. The Lodge, Three Beeches, Perry Wood. Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of 1 new replacement dwelling. **Resolved:** Councillors had no objections to this proposal.

23/505533/EIHYB Duchy of Cornwall Development

i. Response to the proposal

Nine percent of the land within the proposal is in Selling and there would be significant changes for Selling Road. It was proposed by Cllr Bowles that the parish council hold an Extraordinary meeting to discuss the development and allow residents to voice their opinions, seconded by Cllr Day, agreed by all. **Action:** To check the availability of the village hall on the chosen date of Wednesday 3rd April at 7:00pm. Invite councillors from Boughton-under-Blean to the meeting. **Note:** A meeting has been organised by Dunkirk Parish Council on the 2nd April to discuss this. A request for an extension for comments has been made by the Clerk at Boughton-under-Blean Parish Council.

ii. Request from Boughton-under-Blean Parish Council to engage with them. Resolved: Councillors agreed to engage with Boughton-under-Blean Parish Council in respect of this planning application.

03.24.09 **Planting to protect the grass verges in Church Lane**

Cllr Hobson advised that the Gardener's Association have suggested to lightly dig over the mud strip and plant 'Elephant Ears; Bergenia' and 'Lesser Comfrey; Symphytum Goldsmith' over the grass part, both plants are easy to grow and hardy. **Action:** To thank the Gardener's Association and advise that councillors are happy with their suggestions and to ask for assistance.

03.24.10 **Grass verge at the junction of Selling Road and Monica Close**

Cllr King suggested planting wild flower seeds. **Action:** Cllr King will provide a document with this suggestion and to ask residents if they wish to get involved.

03.24.11 **Community information leaflet**

Cllr Hobson has researched what other parish councils have done and is booked on a webinar to assist with drafting a document to be circulated at a future date.

03.24.12 **Portrait of His Majesty King Charles III**

Resolved: The parish council will request a free portrait of King Charles III under the HMK Portrait Scheme on behalf of HM Government.

03.24.13 **Event to mark the 80th Anniversary of D-Day**

i. Cllr Hobson gave an update on the plans of the 1940s themed event to be held on the 6th June for Selling residents.

- ii. It was proposed by Cllr Kitchen and seconded by Cllr Day that the parish council ask the Selling Village Hall Committee to donate the cost of the hire of the village hall for the event. A vote took place and it was agreed unanimously. **Action:** Selling Village Hall Committee will be asked to donate the cost of the hire fee for the hall.
- iii. It was proposed by Cllr Hobson and seconded by Cllr Kitchen to increase the Community Event budget for 2024-25 from £500 to £750 with an allowance to make total monies available to £1,000 to cover costs, the allowance to be paid back when monies have been collected from attendees. A vote took place and it was agreed unanimously. **Resolved:** The budget for Community Events for 2024-25 was increased to £750 and an allowance of an additional £250 will be available as a loan, to be reimbursed from the event fees.

03.24.14 Annual Parish Meeting 25th April 2024

The speaker for the Annual Parish Meeting will be Patrick McGrath, Chairman of Hatch Mansfield and joint creator of the Domaine Evremond project with Pierre Emmanuel Taittinger. Patrick returns to Selling to talk about the progress that has been made in the Domaine Evremond vineyard, planted at Selling Court Farm during the last 2-years and the plans for the future. **Action:** Request reports from community groups to be reported in person or circulated as written reports.

03.24.15 Matters concerning Highways

- i) **To receive any updates concerning flooded roads and resolve further actions**
Councillors spoke about the drains that still need to be cleaned.
- ii) **To receive any update on the Community Speedwatch Scheme**
Cllr Kitchen advised that he had spoken with the new officer managing the Community Speedwatch Scheme about a Speed Indicator Device now that the 30mph speed limit has been extended through Selling.
- iii) **To hear of any other matter concerning highways and resolve further actions**
Councillors will report details of lorries direct to the Lorry Watch Team.

03.24.16 Matters raised for information purposes only from portfolio holders and adopted-schemes. Any matters raised to be advised by a written report, circulated prior to the meeting, or provided as a verbal report.

- i) **Law and Order.** PC Gary Morris' report was circulated to councillors and will be uploaded to the website. Cllr Day spoke about a murder in Boughton under Blean, vandalism at Selling Station which has been reported to British Transport Police. **Action.** To contact British Transport Police to raise concerns about the rising levels of vandalism and invite a representative to a parish council meeting.
- ii) **Perry Wood.** No report.
- iii) **Public Rights of Way.** No report.
- iv) **National Landscapes.** No report.
- v) **Village Hall Committee.** Cllr Henderson circulated a report. The leylandii has been cut back, the landscaping around the hall is due to take place within the next couple of months, the dead trees will be cut down and the vegetation tidied on the front slope in October and quotations have been requested for mowing the car park area.

- vi) **KALC/SAC.** The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, 26th March 2024 and both Ward Councillors have been asked to request that Swale Borough Council allow future meetings to take place at Swale House.
- vii) **Church Building Trust.** No report.
- viii) **Selling School.** The next Governors' meeting will take place on 22 March 2024.

03.24.17 Correspondence

A request for speed humps in Fox Lane sent to the clerk and a number of councillors was discussed under item 03.24.15 (Highways) and Cllr Kitchen advised the resident, that the part of Fox Lane referred to was not within the parish of Selling and recommended that the request should be sent to Boughton-under-Blean Parish Council.

03.24.18 Items to be placed on the next Agenda

Any items for consideration to be emailed to: clerk@sellingparishcouncil.gov.uk, no later than Tuesday, 9th April, 2024

03.24.19 The date of the next Ordinary Parish Council meeting is the 18th April 2024

The meeting closed at 20:56 hours.

Signed.....

Date