

SELLING PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held at Selling Village Hall on
Thursday 19th March 2020 at 7.00pm**

Present: Cllr Andrew Bowles (Chair), Cllr Kevin Hobson, Cllr Sue Henderson, Cllr Andrew Day and Wendy Gregory (Clerk) **and 5 members of the public**

The order of items on the agenda to be discussed was changed to enable members of the public to leave the meeting early if they wished. Item 15 and item 07 were moved ahead of item 05 followed by an emergency motion

03.20.01 Welcome and apologies for absence

Cllr Bowles welcomed attendees. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Amanda Saunders and Cllr David Woollett due to self-isolation. following the Prime Minister's statement made at tonight's news conference - followed by the Rt Hon Helen Whately's instructions issued on the Channel Four news programme- it is a given that the government is advising the adoption of its latest published rules about extension of social distancing, which include avoiding unnecessary social interaction and limiting non-essential contact".

03.20.02 Declarations of interests and dispensations

Cllrs had no interests to declare.

03.20.03 Items to be taken in private session

No items were taken in private session

03.20.04 Confirmation of the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 20th February were approved. Proposed by Cllr Day and seconded by Cllr Hobson

03.20.15 Neighbourhood Watch Encourages Protecting the Isolated and Vulnerable During the Covid 19 Outbreak

A discussion took place about how the Parish Council might lead and co-ordinate the effort to help and protect residents during the Covid 19 Outbreak.

It was agreed that a letter would be sent from the Parish Council and would be delivered to all households in the village providing contact details for those able to help and for those requesting help. Already many offers of help have been made.

03.20.00 An emergency motion was introduced by the Chairman. That the Council considered the advice from KALC issued to all Clerks and Chairman from Public Health England received 16th March and on the same day from KALC and SLCC. The Council considered the recommendation to approve a scheme of delegation under LGA72s101

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for delegation upon resolution specifically 'to consider extending the delegation of Council decisions to the Clerk during any period of restricted activity declared by the Government in respect of the Covid-19 Outbreak. The purpose of this delegation is to enable the Council to

fulfil its responsibilities to its residents'. It was noted that as a consequence the Council would need to meet less often to consider strategic issues. The Clerk and nominated Councillors would handle the routine executive items.

It was resolved that in the interests of public health, for a period of four months with immediate effect from Thursday 19th March, 2020 until Friday 10th July 2020 the Proper Officer of the Council (The Clerk) acting in consultation with the Chairman Cllr Bowles and Vic-Chairman Cllr Hobson, shall have temporary delegated authority to transact the normal business of the council including authorisation for expenditure up to £2,000 per item to enable the Council to fulfil its responsibilities to its residents. **Proposed by Cllr Bowles, seconded by Cllr Hobson and agreed by all**

03.20.05 Clerk's Report

The Clerk's report was received.

03.20.06 Matters of interest arising (for information only)

It was agreed that reports would be sent by email.

03.20.07 Open Forum

A discussion took place about safety of vulnerable residents under item 15 and an offer of help was received from a member of the public under item 15.

03.20.08 Highways Matters

- i) The proposed Highways Improvement Plan was discussed and items re-prioritised.
Action: The Clerk to make the amendments discussed.
- ii) The matter of flooding was discussed at length. One of the problem areas may be due to a planning condition not being met and this is being followed up by Cllr Bowles.
- iii) PCSO Pashov sent a report following a visit to view the reported problem of vehicle parking at Hogben's Hill. He reported that it is a busy junction and parked vehicles may be causing inconvenience to other road users no further action can be taken from a Police perspective.
- iv) An email was received from Bidwells, who act on behalf of Corpus Christi College, Oxford who own the parcel of land known as Hogben's Common. They advised that they had been asked about the planned work due to take place on Friday 20th March and advised that they would Fell all dead and dangerous

trees within falling distance of the adjacent roads and properties. This includes 24 trees on the North & West boundary and 1 tree in the middle of the South boundary adjacent to outbuildings.

Action: The Clerk to contact Bidwells and advise of the wind tunnel effect after many trees were cut down 2 years ago and the undergrowth no longer supports the bank and loose earth slides into the gullies and blocks the drains

03.20.09 Village Survey

Cllr Hobson will provide an update by email

03.20.10 Request Owens Court Road to be amended to Owens Court Lane

The 'Street Naming and Numbering Team' have updated their records and signs for Owens Court Lane, have been ordered and will replace the current signs at Winding Hill and Selling Road, in approximately 8-weeks

03.20.11 Financial matters.

a) Bank Account Balances and Reconciliation

Balances:	
Account	Balance as of 06/03/2020
Current Account	£ 20,677.09
Less payments not cashed	66.15
Reserve Account	£ 5,214.02
Total	£ 25,824.96

The bank account balances and reconciliation were approved and agreed unanimously.

b) Resolved. Payments were agreed as follows:

19/03/20	1319	Invoice	Mrs Wendy Gregory Clerk's salary and expenses	£ 359.41
19/03/20	1320	Invoice	UK Power Networks	£ 4,003.20
19/03/20	1321	Invoice	Selling Village Hall	£ 350.00
22/02/20	D/D	Invoice	SSE	£ 26.11

03.20.12 KALC Audit Workshop

This event has been postponed

03.20.13 Great British Spring Clean 2020

This event has been postponed until September 2020

03.20.14 VE Day 75th Anniversary

The choice of tree was discussed and the Rowan was the preferred choice subject to the approval of the land owners.

Action: Cllr Bowles will check with the land owners.

Action: The Clerk to contact the nursery to advise that the planting may have to be delayed and to ask whether that creates additional challenges

Action: The Clerk to arrange for a plaque

03.20.15 This item was moved up the agenda to item 05.

03.20.16 Councillor's Reports (for information only)

Selling School – no report

Perry Wood – Cllr Henderson provided a written report

Public Rights of Way – no report

KALC Swale Area Council – Cllr Hobson will provide a written report on the meeting that took place on 9th March

Outside bodies – no report

Church Buildings Trust – Cllr Bowles will provide a written report

Consultation Documents – none

Mid-Kent Downs – no report

Village Hall – no report

03.20.17 Correspondence

Received notification from NALC of an invitation to complete the survey on Dementia

Action: Cllr Bowles and the Clerk to complete

Received an application for a Community Grant for a contribution towards the cost of the maintenance for the churchyard/burial ground serving St Mary the Virgin Church, Selling

It was agreed that this application to be discussed at the next Ordinary Parish Meeting.

Action: The Clerk to add this as an agenda item

Received a request for an application for a Community Grant of £250 or any amount from Kent Surrey Sussex Air Ambulance

It was agreed that this application to be discussed at the next Ordinary Parish Meeting.

Action: The Clerk to add this as an agenda item

03.20.18 Planning Applications

- i) The permanent siting of caravans at Owens Court Farm. Cllr Saunders attended and spoke on behalf of the Parish Council and a report received from Borough Councillor Valentine was read out by The Clerk, advising of Cllr Valentines arguments to attach conditions to any consent. The reason that the decision was deferred was because the boundary of the Area of Natural Beauty runs down Owens Court Lane. The application is just outside the ANOB. However, there is a requirement to preserve the setting of the AONB and therefore, the Planning committee took the view that the AONB unit should have been consulted. The application was deferred to allow that consultation to take place.
- ii) Application 20/500560/FULL 17 Neames Forstal. This application was discussed and no objections were made
Action: The Clerk to update the Planning Portal with a Neutral Comment

03.20.19 Items for the next agenda

- i) Grant request for maintenance of the Churchyard
- ii) Grant request from Air Ambulance Service
- iii) Response to the Corona Virus

Any further items to be considered should be emailed to:

clerk@sellingparishcouncil.gov.uk by Tuesday 7th April, 2020.

The meeting closed at 08.31pm

The date of the next meeting will be announced when the current restrictions are lifted.

Signed.....

Date.....

16th APRIL 2020