

SELLING PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held by video conference on
Thursday 16th April 2020 at 7.00pm**

Present: Cllr Andrew Bowles (Chair), Cllr Kevin Hobson, Cllr Sue Henderson, Cllr Andrew Day, Cllr Amanda Saunders, Cllr David Woollett and Wendy Gregory (Clerk)
District Cllr Tim Valentine and 4 members of the public

04.20.01 Welcome and apologies for absence

Cllr Bowles welcomed attendees.

04.20.02 Declarations of interests and dispensations

Cllrs had no interests to declare.

04.20.03 Items to be taken in private session

No items were taken in private session

04.20.04 Confirmation of the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting

The minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 19th March 2020 were approved with the following amendment regarding the recording of the absences of Cllr Saunders and Cllr Woollett. "that, following the Prime Minister's statement made at tonight's news conference - followed by the Rt Hon Helen Whatley'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". Proposed by Cllr Day and Seconded by Cllr Hobson

04.20.05 Clerk's Report

The Clerk's report was received.

Action: Clerk to forward the email from the PCSO to Councillors

Action: Clerk to forward the email sent to Bidwells to Councillors

Matters of interest arising (for information only)

Discussion took place about the recent problems of motorised vehicles and anti-social behaviour in Perry Woods and the response of the PCSOs.

04.20.06 Open Forum

Cllr Valentine reiterated that when commenting on Planning Application 19/500768/FULL, the siting of 15 caravans at Owens Court Farm, that any conditions should refer only to the caravans kept on site during the winter months. Cllr Valentine gave a general update on life at Swale Borough Council during the Covid-19 lock-down and how well the staff are adapting to the changed circumstances and monies are now flowing out to local businesses. The Chairman took the



opportunity of thanking a member of the public for the assistance given by the PPC in the printing of the letters that had been distributed to the residents of the village. Another member of the public took the opportunity of thanking local business for their help and support.

04.20.07 Matters resolved under the scheme of temporary delegation under LGA72s101

The matter of the change of name for Owens Court Road to Owens Court Lane has been referred back to Swale Borough Council. The purchase of the new signs has been put on hold and a request will be made for all residents to be consulted including those in Sheldwich and also for Sheldwich Parish Council to be consulted.

Meetings for 2020/21 will be scheduled for the 3rd Thursday in the month

04.20.08 Financial matters included under the scheme of temporary delegation

Date	Chq no.	Payee	Total
09/04/20	1322	Clerk's salary and expenses for March	£ 493.85
09/04/20	1323	Information Commissioners Office	£ 40.00
09/04/20	1324	KALC subscription	£ 386.88
09/04/20	1325	Vision ICT email accounts	£ 21.60
09/04/20	1326	HM Revenue & Customs PAYE	£ 243.91
09/04/20	1327	Glenda Smart	£ 27.61

04.20.09 Selling Parish Council's response to Covid-19

Cllr Hobson gave a comprehensive report as follows:

- We resolved to invoke Sec. 101 LGA 1972 at our full meeting prior to 'lockdown'
- Remain legal, open, transparent and accountable.
- Follow KALC and NALC advice and guidance
- Actively take on board info, advice and guidance from KCC, LGA, Local Govt Information Unit
- Provide trusted sources of information on Coronavirus from government
- Co-ordinate and signpost community support without trying to do it all ourselves
- Adopt an Arm's Length Body (ALB) approach to offers of volunteering & local initiatives
- Maintain business as usual as far as possible with consideration for potential online meetings for strategic issues where required
- Promote local businesses who provide a vital offer to community

Communication and media

- We have produced with the assistance of the PPC and delivered two letters since lockdown began. Feedback has been highly positive. The third edition is an A5 flyer with rainbow to put out
- We maintain a current, informative website and Facebook Page, with key sources of information and advice from government. We update both regularly and fastidiously (see links below)
- We use NHS media with key messages to populate our home / landing page and have encouraged other local organisations to do the same
- Work closely with our local Swale Borough Councillor and Kent County Councillor to ensure we can implement latest policy, and that key messages are promoted on our website and in Facebook posts at right time e.g. 'don't come to our woods, parks or beaches'

Collation and promotion of ALB services

- Network of street by street WhatsApp groups across village for food and medical supplies and recently a focus on preventing loneliness & exclusion
- IT support service for those needing help in setting up video conferencing (Zoom, Skype, Messenger etc.)
- Books, board games and magazine swap shop; accessed when on daily exercise
- Crime prevention - don't be scammed - messaging with latest Kent Police advice
- Keep Selling Clean pick up litter when on daily exercise walk
- Sunday virtual services with our vicar and church
- Counselling and pastoral care offer from local professionals
- News features on our website of local business initiatives by general store food provision and pub takeaways
- Local pub online quiz nights

Partnership with other agencies

- Liaison and meeting with Local Policing Team to engage, encourage, explain and enforce legislation on use of open spaces at peak times / good weather
- Joint promotion with Borough Council for the national community volunteers' initiative
- Active promotion of "Kent Together" 24-hour Helpline for vulnerable groups that cannot access support elsewhere
- Proposal to Borough Council a range of ideas to help engagement with people who are driving to our local beauty spot / green space: Perry Wood
- Weekly catch up calls with our Borough Councillor to foster close working



Feedback received

- NALC – “congratulations on your amazing case study”
- KALC – “Well done to you and the entire SPC team here on all that you have done to date, sadly, quite a few LCs in Kent despite the advice have not done as half as well as you have!”
- Increased Facebook interest since COVID-29 outbreak weekend before lockdown: our SPC Followers highest ever (96); Page Likes (86, up 25%); Page engagements *those who interacted in any way* 950 (up 258%); Page reach *those who saw any post at least once* 1440 (up 186%);

Next steps – reflect, review and some considerations for further engagement

- Are people dealing with their practical needs, or have they moved beyond this?
- What is right to engage about in the current context?
- What issues are emerging that need to be mapped and addressed before we can move on to a broader conversation?
- What is vital to progress as a Parish Council in our legal remit (for example, people’s mental health wellbeing)?

The Chairman thanked Cllr Hobson on behalf of the Parish Council for taking on the task of editing and putting the information together to share with the Community.

04.20.10 Community Grants

Application for a contribution towards the annual maintenance for the 2020/21 of the churchyard/burial ground serving St Mary the Virgin Church, Selling.

The meeting was paused for 5 minutes to allow attendees to join in the ‘Clap for Carers’ applause.

Resolved: It was agreed that the application could not be considered without sight of the accounts for 2019.

Action: The Clerk to request a copy of the accounts for 2019 as soon as they are available.

Letter requesting a donation from the British Red Cross

Resolved: It was agreed to pay a donation of £250

Proposed by Cllr Woollett, Seconded by Cllr Hobson and agreed by all

Letter requesting a donation from Air Ambulance

Resolved: It was agreed to pay a donation of £250

Proposed by Cllr Woollett, Seconded by Cllr Hobson and agreed by all



04.20.11 Councillor Reports

Resolved: It was agreed that all reports to be emailed.

04.20.12 Correspondence

There was no correspondence

04.20.13 Planning Applications

A discussion took place about Application 20/501366/FULL for a detached cart shed garage at Maron Cottage, Perry Wood and the application to divert Public bridleway ZR656 which was submitted in 2017 by the previous owners of this property

It was resolved that the council would respond "Noting the holding objection by a statutory consultee and that the Parish Council concur with the comments given in the letter from Michael Ellis dated 15 April and hope that the application will not be considered until a decision has been made on the bridleway.

Action: The Clerk to draft the response and circulate to Councillors

04.20.14 Items for the next agenda

- i) Clerk's salary and Conditions
- ii) Selling Parish Council's response to Covid-19

Any further items to be considered should be emailed to:

clerk@sellingparishcouncil.gov.uk by Tuesday 12th May, 2020.

The meeting closed at 08:26pm

The next meeting will be held by video conference on Thursday 21st May 2020 at the earlier time of 6:00pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

21st May 2020