

SELLING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held remotely on Thursday 18th February 2021 at 18:00 hours by video conference

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

02.21.01 Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chairman opened the meeting and there were no apologies

02.21.02 Declarations of interests and dispensations

Cllrs had no interests to declare.

02.21.03 Items to be taken in a private session

No items were required to be taken in private session

02.21.04 Confirmation of the Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on January 21st 2021

A discussion took place about whether the comment made about the status of the funds under a top-up scheme by Kent County Council for helping rural communities access faster broadband be included under item 02.21.11 Government's funded Voucher Scheme. A proposal was made for an amendment by Cllr Saunders that the phrase concerning the status of KCC funded top-up scheme be added to the minutes. Seconded by Cllr Woollett. There were 2 votes supporting this amendment and 5 against.

Resolved: The minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 21st January 2021 were approved and Cllrs Saunders and Woollett requested that their objections be noted. The Confidential Minutes of the same date was approved by all.

02.21.05 Clerk's Report

Environmental projects at Swale have advised that Fox Lane is now under the contract monitoring officer for Faversham to check each month and any drop in standard will be reported to the contractor with an instruction to arrange for cleansing. However, road cleansing can only take place under traffic management. Fox Lane will be in the next list of roads under traffic management and KCC will provide the time frames. It was discovered that the defibrillator at Perry Wood wasn't in working order and when the one at Selling School was checked it was found to be in a similar state. As a matter of urgency replacement batteries and pads were purchased and installed under S101 delegated powers. Clancy Dowcra Head Office still haven't responded to the complaints about the damage that was done by the vehicle driving across the grass at Neames Forstal

KALC have agreed to a credit of 50% for the planning course that was attended by Cllr Henderson and so the invoice is being re-presented this evening for payment. The course that was cancelled last month by KALC for the Dynamic Councillor has been rebooked for the 16th March for Cllr Kitchen. The village hall committee requested that a pro-forma invoice was paid to allow for the delivery of the soft bark for the children's play area. This was done under S101 delegated powers. The play bark is due to be delivered soon and the final part of the play equipment the buff board is due to be installed on the 14th April.

Resolved: The Clerk's report was received.

02.21.06 Open Forum

Ward Cllr Valentine is currently working on the Local Plan. Cllr Bowles thanked Cllr Valentine for agreeing to attend the Open Meeting arranged for residents of Selling by the Parish Council and said that anyone is welcome to attend the meeting but as far as speakers are concerned, it is a platform for residents of Selling to express their views. Cllr Hobson thanked Cllr Valentine for sharing details of the Open Meeting on his social media.

02.21.07 Matters resolved under the scheme of temporary delegation under LGA72s101

- a) A letter was sent to Swale Borough Councillors asking them to vote against the local plan as suggested by MP Helen Whately
- b) A public meeting has been arranged to discuss the Swale Borough Council Local Plan
- c) Replacement batteries and pads and stickers for the defibrillators at Selling School and Perry Woods have been purchased.
- d) An additional 10 hours has been allowed for the Clerk to research the broadband scheme, provide a draft letter, key names and addresses, print, fold and stuff letters and affix postage stamp to 339 personalised letters.

02.21.08 Financial matters included under the scheme of temporary delegation

- a) The pro-forma invoice for the replacement batteries, pads and stickers for £716.40 including VAT was paid.
- b) The pro-forma invoice for the bark for the children's playground £1,212 including VAT has been paid.

Action: The Clerk to send copies of both invoices to Cllr Saunders.

02.21.09 Financial matters

a) Bank Account Balances and Reconciliation

Current Account

Opening Balance as at the last meeting	£29,071.15
Plus Receipts	
Less Payments	£671.54
Closing Balance	£28,399.61

Reserve Account

Opening Balance as at the last meeting	£5,216.92
Plus interest payments	.04
Closing Balance	£5,216.96

Less payments not yet cashed **£ 4,701.48**

Totals as of 25th January 2021 **£28,915.09**

Resolved: The bank account balances and reconciliation were approved.

Note: Cllr Saunders requested that the council look at transferring some of the money in the current account to the reserve account.

b) Accounts for Payment

- i) Clerks salary £585.43 by BACS and expenses for Jan 21 £53.38
- ii) Playdale Playgrounds Ltd £3,537.60 incl VAT
- iii) KALC Planning Training Course Cllr Henderson £60 incl VAT
- iv) KALC Charing virtual meeting for Cllr Hobson £42 incl VAT
- v) KALC Dynamic Councillor training for Cllr Day £60 incl VAT

Resolved: The above accounts were approved for payment.

- vi) Playdale Playgrounds Ltd £3,537.60 incl VAT

A discussion took place about the timing of the receipt of this invoice as it was received on the day of this meeting and emailed to councillors for approval. Cllr Saunders proposed that the payment should not be paid because it wasn't shown on the Agenda and this was seconded by Cllr Woollett. The vote was two in favour, four against and one abstention.

Resolved: The invoice was approved for payment.

c) Request to fund the cost of the hire of the village hall

A request has been received on behalf of the Village Hall Committee to fund the hire of the hall for 1.5 hours every week (£15) to support a visiting Post Office. Cllr Henderson gave an update on the use of the service; week 1 ten people used the service, week 2 six people used the service, weeks 3 and 4 there has been no service due to weather and a technical issue. Cllr Henderson agreed to continue to monitor usage. Cllr Saunders proposed that this matter is raised at the Annual Parish Meeting to allow residents to give their views of whether they would like the Parish Council to support this initiative. Seconded by Cllr Hobson, agreed by all.

Resolved: To put this request on hold until the Annual Parish Meeting and ask residents whether they would like the Parish Council to support this initiative.

d) Proposal for a redesign of the website

Cllr Hobson gave an overview of the current website and outlined the plans to improve it. To remove the existing clutter of the home page and the non-compliant content and to install a carousel to showcase some images. Vision ICT have quoted £60 + VAT to tidy the home page, move items from the home page to the news pages and remove the accessibility non-compliant items. To install the carousel will cost £35 + VAT. Cllr Hobson, proposed that the website be updated as reported and that the carousel be installed. The Chairman took a count of the votes: 4 in favour, 1 against and Cllr Woollett abstained.

Resolved: VisionICT will be instructed to update the website and install the carousel.

02.21.10 Planning Applications

There were no applications

02.21.11 The Government's funded voucher scheme for fast broadband

The Clerk gave an update. 339 personalised letters have been sent to residents of Selling asking if they would like to register for this scheme. 67 addresses have already been registered with the Parish Council's scheme and there were another 7 requests to go on. There are at least another two groups within Selling who have also registered with Openreach. The next decision to be taken is when the scheme should be closed to adding any new names because this then moves the project onto the next phase. Cllr Hobson asked the councillors to help promote the scheme and get as many people as possible to register and particularly to businesses in the area as businesses attract a higher value of voucher. The Chairman proposed that the decision on when to close the scheme is deferred and that all Parish Councillors continue to promote the scheme by contacting residents, businesses and the school. Seconded by Cllr Kitchen.

Resolved: The proposal was carried with five votes in favour and two abstentions.

02.21.12 Update Selling Press and Media and Social Media and Email Policy

The Clerk gave the background as to why an additional rule was required to the current policy. Cllr Saunders proposed that a slight change is made to the wording of the additional rule so that it reads: "The moderator may also remove third-party postings that advertise or promote a business or service." Seconded by Cllr Bowles and agreed by all.

Resolved: The Press and Media and Social Media and Email Policy will be updated with immediate effect. **Action:** The Clerk to action the addition and upload to the website.

02.21.13 The Local Plan

Cllr Bowles said that the open meeting will be a meeting for the residents of Selling. It is helpful that representatives from Swale Borough Council will be present to answer legal and technical questions. Cllr Bowles said that there is a need for a short introduction of where we are with the Local Plan which may be best left to the technical planning officer at Swale. Cllr Hobson said it was important to have a clear objective for the meeting. That is about letting people have their voice but also

informing about what they can say to make a difference and that what they say gets recorded and the timeframes for that and how that can be done. A discussion took place about how residents were being informed about the Local Plan and Cllr Saunders reported that it is possible to request a paper copy of the Local Plan from Swale Borough Council free of charge. It was agreed that councillors would make a personal choice of whether they requested a printed copy of the 1000-page Local Plan. Cllr Henderson reported that Ward Cllr Valentine has published the 3-pages from the Local Plan that relate to the Neames Forstal development on Facebook.

It was agreed that the date of the Extraordinary Parish Council meeting will take place on Thursday 25th February 2021 at 18:00. The agenda for the Extraordinary meeting will be to Resolve Selling Parish Council's response to the Swale Borough Council's Local Plan consultation and any other actions that the Parish Council may wish to take. Time permitting to finish off the business from the Agenda of the 18th February. 2021. An invitation to attend will be extended to the Ward Councillors but there will be no public forum.

02.21.14 The next meeting will be the Extraordinary Parish Council meeting to be held by video conference on Thursday 25th February 2021 at 18:00. Permission was sought by the Chairman and agreed by all, to extend the meeting beyond the scheduled 2 hours to finish items 12 and 13 and the meeting closed at 20:20 hours.

Signed.....

Date