

SELLING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held at Selling Village Hall on Thursday 16th January 2025 at 7.00pm

Present: Cllr Kevin Hobson (Chair), Cllr Andrew Bowles, Cllr Jonnie Reeves, Cllr Alistair Gould (SBC), Bex Ratchford (Clerk)

Public: 2

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Day, Cllr Evans and Cllr King due to work commitments, and Cllr Henderson and Cllr Lehmann (SBC & KCC). The reasons for absence were **approved**.

2. Declarations of interest

Cllr Bowles and Cllr Reeves declared an interest in agenda item 7 as residents of Selling Court.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes were **agreed** as an accurate record of the meeting and were signed and dated by the Chair.

4. Clerk's report

- a. Action 1: borough and county cllrs contacted regarding Highsted Park and the waste report which is now available; SSL certificate requested.
- b. Action 2: all IT equipment purchased at a total cost of £482 plus VAT.
- c. Action 3: details passed on; agenda item 8.
- d. Action 4: lights investigated; agenda item 7.
- e. Action 5: APM speaker contacted and booked. Posters are available to advertise the meeting.
- f. Action 6: precept form returned and budget published.
- g. Action 7: details passed on and trees and drain reported; KCC has attended and assessed the trees as safe and cleared the drain and confirmed it is running freely. **Action 1: Clerk to send on photos once received.**
- h. Action 8: following an email from a resident, salt bins have been reported as empty; KCC has attended and will refill/repair as necessary.
- i. Action 9: sign reported.

5. Reports from borough and county councillors

Cllr Gould (SBC) reported that things are quiet at the moment, although there is some speculation over the devolution plans.

A brief report from Cllr Lehmann (SBC & KCC) was read out: KCC recently met to discuss the devolution plans. The rest of the report will be forwarded. **Action 2: Clerk to forward report.**

6. Public session

Residents raised issues as follows:

- all meeting documents including invoices were requested to be published; the minutes of the previous meeting had not been posted on the noticeboards; the agenda was posted on the noticeboards a day late. The clerk will respond in writing to the email sent about these issues. **Action 3: Clerk to respond in writing.**
- the potholes raised at the last meeting have been repaired.
- thanks were expressed to the PC for its work the previous year.
- many cars are speeding in the village and volume of traffic has also increased, particularly when the main roads such as the M2 are closed. It was noted that the majority of the village is national speed limit and Community Speedwatch can only be undertaken in the 30mph zones. Residents were encouraged to volunteer to assist with CSW. 'Quiet lanes' is an initiative that could be looked into but would need to be addressed via the Highways Improvement Plan. The issue of speeding has been discussed many times over the years and all possible steps have been taken, although 'unsuitable for HGV's' signs could potentially be installed.

7. Streetlights

Due to Cllr Bowles and Cllr Reeves declaring an interest in this item, there was no quorum to discuss it and it was therefore postponed to the next meeting. It was noted that the current UMS certificate is out of date and will need to be updated once a decision is made.

8. Selling station

Southeastern is waiting for a proposal from the PC and will then decide what can be achieved. They will undertake any work agreed up to the value of £1500, although this must be completed by April. Other sources of funding could be found if the project is likely to cost more. It was **agreed** to draw up a site plan and a proposal for work required for discussion at the next meeting. **Action 4: Clerk to organise site plan and prepare proposal.** Cllr Gould suggested installing a cycle channel on the bridge over the railway line.

9. Website

A resident had requested that the website be used to advertise local businesses. It was noted that the website can be used in this manner if the PC wishes but advised that a disclaimer be used to ensure the PC is not seen to be promoting any particular business. It was **agreed** that the PC website should not be used to advertise businesses, but could link to an independent website with these details, should one exist.

10. Finance

- a. The financial statement and bank reconciliation were reviewed and accepted. Bank statements from November and December had been sent on by the previous clerk and a change of address form has been completed with the bank and needs signing. **Action 5:**

Cllr Hobson and Cllr Day to sign change of address form. The address has been changed with SSE and the contract with the payroll provider has been cancelled, resulting in a credit note of £36.00 being issued. The software to do payroll in-house is in the process of being set up. The oldest unpresented cheque is from the previous financial year and has in fact been reissued, so the previous year's AGAR figures and this year's opening balance will need to be adjusted. **Action 6: Clerk to make necessary adjustments.** The finance page of the website needs updating. **Action 7: Clerk to start updating the finance page of the website.**

Account	Balance as of 31/12/24
Reserve account	14,952.56
Current account	13,387.54
Total	28,340.10

b. Payments were **agreed** as follows:

Ref	Payment	Net	*VAT	Total
D/D	SSE – energy supply (Nov)	54.59	3.74	58.33
D/D	SSE – energy supply (Dec)	56.42	3.86	60.28
1552	Bex Ratchford – salary and office rental 21/11/24-19/01/25	1584.24	-	1584.24
1553	Bex Ratchford – expenses (mileage, IT equipment, paper, stamps)	520.95	96.50	617.45
1554	Sovereign Play – play equipment balance (75%)	8874.17	1774.83	10649.00

* VAT to be reclaimed

11. Planning

- a. 25/500166 – Forge House, Crouch Lane – minor material amendment to 23/500867 – changes to internal layout and elevations and introduction of a north facing glazed balcony. Due to the late notice, it was **agreed** to request an extension and discuss this at the next meeting. **Action 8: Clerk to request extension.**
- b. The resident requesting support for a lowered driveway has been contacted to find out what stage the planning application is at; a response is awaited.

12. Highways

There is an issue with water coming from behind the village hall and running onto the road and down the hill, causing ice in cold weather. The source of the water needs to be ascertained.

13. Reports from parish councillors

Cllr Bowles will attend the county executive meeting but is unable to attend the KALC SAC meeting so Cllr King will go in his place.

14. Correspondence

All correspondence was noted.

- a. Following an invitation to use the Selling village calendar, meeting dates have been added.
- b. The SBC Eastern Area Committee meeting is on 25th February; Cllr Hobson is the representative although meeting dates often clash with PC meetings.
- c. Bensted's Charity is inviting funding applications; this could be a source of funding for the station.
- d. South East Employers is offering chairing skills training; it was **agreed** that Cllr Hobson would attend. **Action 9: Clerk to book training.**
- e. The Local Nature Recovery Strategy consultation is open; Cllr Bowles will attend the next meeting if appropriate.

15. Close and date of next meeting

The meeting closed at 8.13pm.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 20th February 2025 at 7.00pm.