

SEAL PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Parish Council
Mrs Clare Boland

Telephone: 01732 833360

Email: sealparishc@outlook.com

Website: www.sealparishcouncil.org.uk

Office hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9am-1pm

**Clerk's Office
Valley House
Carters Hill
Underriver
Sevenoaks
Kent
TN15 0RY**

You are hereby summoned to attend a virtual meeting of the SEAL PARISH COUNCIL which will be held on THURSDAY 9th July 2020 beginning at 7.30pm to transact the business shown on the agenda below.

There will follow 10 minutes Parishioner's question time

LEAD

- 1 Apologises**
- 2 Agree the minutes of the last meeting.**
- 3 Declaration of Interest**
- 4 KCC Matters – Councillor Gough matters**

a) New and high priority outstanding issues for the PC for discussion

Childsbridge Lane Railway Bridge incident – This is an important priority due to safety. KCC to look at the extension of speed limit through traffic counts. The Parish Council would like to take this forward but due to COVID-19 this is on hold until traffic returns to normal.

**Pending CV-19
Traffic count**

b) Ongoing highway matters

Gulleys around Meadowlands and up to the railway bridge –Update from Councillor Gough

RG

A25 SID column needs to be reinstated; this is currently on hold due to COVID-19 as traffic counts are required.

**Pending CV-19
Traffic count**

Mr Bourne to provide SID data for Childsbridge Lane.

A public bridleway sign on Carters Hill, One Tree Hill requires the post to be put back into the ground, Councillor Gough to update.

RG

3 blocked rainwater drains, Underriver House Road – Councillor Gough to update.

RG

Mr Haslam asked Councillor Gough whether there was a separate login to report these requests as he claimed this was mentioned at a Highway seminar. Councillor Gough to update.

c) Highway Schemes

Resurfacing of Bank Lane and around Seal may not have made the cut, Emily Kinsella to arrange drainage job on Bank Lane.

RG

d) Copse Bank

The maintenance on Copse Bank footpath which needs attention. Councillor Gough to update.

RG

e) Ashplatt Footpath

The Parish Council highlighted that the footpath heading towards the school needs a cleaning job. There is a lot of mulch on the pathway and bushes overgrown overcrowding the pathway which need some maintenance work. Councillor Gough to update if necessary. **RG**

f) Bentleys Meadow

This is a relatively small area that is not normally delegated but following a meeting with Robin Hadley it is proposed for KCC to contribute some upfront planting and support and for the local group to then take on responsibility. Councillor Gough is happy to contribute from his fund. The Parish Council would apply for a Cultivation Licence and carry out the necessary risk assessments to continue with the work. It was also discussed whether we could include litter clearance in the same way and have licences for certain areas and activities within the parish. Street cleansing is SDC's responsibility and spraying is KCC's. Councillor Gough confirmed that we could apply for a licence for litter picking, An update from Mr Tavare and Mr Brown. **MB/CT**

g) A25 temporary relaxation of HGV Vehicles

A resident reported a lot of traffic through the night on the A25 due to the relaxation of drivers' hours under COVID-19. Due to conclude 14th the real problem is M25 closures and freights not following signed diversion routes. KCC have raised the issue with Highway and are asking them to manage diversion properly. KCC will continue to keep an eye on the traffic volume around Seal.

5 Other Matters Requiring Discussion and Action**a) Highway Improvement Plan**

The Council has been asked to amend the HIP for this year. The Parish Council discussed ways in which we could improve it and whether to provide evidence or an independent view from a Highway Consultant. The Parish Council needs to focus on safety. Church Road – No injuries or collisions reported, the parish council requires evidence. Mr Bourne has data on speed which could be used for our roads. We need to focus on key improvements made. It was suggested to engage with Mr Bineham and ask his advice on what is realistic. The PC could look at an independent view and find out local information. Councillor Thornton to look into the Joint Transportation Board for the formalisation of speed across SDC.

CH/CT/TM/MB

The Parish Council requires further guidance on guidelines for the HIP to be able to amend the HIP for this year. The clerk raised the points with Mr Bineham and this was circulated to Mr Tavare, Mr Haslam, Mr Martin and Mr Brown who are leading on the HIP with further discussions on improvements. The Councillors to update the Council on matters raised at the last meeting.

b) Traffic around the Fawke Common entrance to Knole Park

Residents are concerned over the chaotic parking, speeding and spread of rubbish. Signs have gone up in St Julians Road, Tonbridge Road and Riverhill Cottages, which SDC can now enforce but these are short term measures.

At the last meeting various ideas were discussed including looking at the reservoir as an area for parking. Councillor Thornton to update further. It was also discussed at the last meeting and agreed to bring together the views of Weald Parish and write a letter to KCC Councillors, Roger Gough and Peter Lake, and SDC Councillors to seek a solution that is acceptable in the wider context.

FW**c) Bridle Lane/Park Lane**

A residents raised on double yellow lines on access routes to Bridle Lane path off Park Lane, double yellow lines on Park Lane opposite entrance to Bridle Lane for large vehicles like fire engines to be able to complete and make the turn needed to

For discussion

access Bridle Lane path. Details already circulated to Councillors for consideration.

d) Park Lane

Park Lane, Column 30 was crashed into some time ago and UKPN had to come out to make the column safe, so it could be replaced. We have now had confirmation that to supply and install a 5m galvanised column SL8 LED Lantern to be £1,175 plus VAT. This is currently covered under our insurance.

Clerk

e) Playground Equipment in Seal Recreation Ground

Due to government guidelines, the play equipment is currently closed until measures are put in place for COVID-19. Councillors to agree a policy for re-opening.

Clerk

f) Seal Recreation Ground Car Park

There are wooden posts which have been knocked down. Should the Council consider replacing with concrete posts.

Clerk

g) Seal Allotments

The Parish Council has been asked whether we could repair the northern boundary of the Seal Village Allotments. This is the boundary which runs adjacent with Wibble Way footpath which runs to the recreation ground from Childsbridge Lane and carries on along the back of Zambra Way this is to secure their site from the footpath. Mr Brown to look at the site and discuss further.

MB

h) Website Accessibility

Mr Brown to work with the clerk on website accessibility and to draft and finalise a Website Accessibility Statement to be published on our website to agree at July's meeting.

MB

i) South East Water

Clerk has been emailed to ask whether we would publicise the importance of saving water on either parish magazine, noticeboards or website, asked for the frequency of publications and deadlines whether a black or white copy and any associated costs involved.

Clerk

j) Scouts

The Group Scout Leader would like to organise for cubs to give something back to the community. They are planning on this being two-fold and something the young people can manage with their parent/guardian as like many organisations they can still not participate in face to face Scouting. They would like the Cubs to place posters around the village actively reminding people to a)put rubbish in the bins b)take rubbish home and most importantly not to drop it. They plan to follow this up with the young people using litter pickers and gloves then picking up rubbish on their walls around the village. The Council to agree during the pandemic that this would be appropriate.

For discussion

k) KALC/NALC

HM prison and probation Service, a community payback scheme, unpaid work 40 to 300 hours. Examples of work remove graffiti, charity work, cleaning wasteland, decorating public buildings. The Council to discuss whether our parish applies to the scheme.

For discussion

A consultation open to Councillors which will run 10 weeks from 8 June to 17 August on Standards in public life. Would encourage members to comment which looks to address new ways of working and issues such as conduct online and social media. Details emailed to Councillors.

All

l) Local Housing Needs

An update has been received from Liz Crockford, email circulated for discussion and to be noted.

TM/CH

6 Items for information only and updates if necessary**a) Seal Recreation Ground**

Seal Recreation Ground is one of the hotspots for Nitrous Oxide and Police will be keeping a close eye on the area. If you see any, please report to the Community Safety Unit and provide evidence.

b) Community Asset

Mr Spencer is dealing with the village hall application.

c) Verge Cutting and Wildflower

This project is currently on hold due to COVID-19. The Licence has been received and expires May 2021. The site in Underriver will have strict rules which apply to the work party on the road of which all volunteers will be informed. We could find more verges and liaise with KCC on cutting regime. Mr Tavaré to update further.

CT Pending CV-19

d) Councillor Vacancy – Seal Ward

At present we have an opportunity to become a parish councillor and have two vacancies available. If you are interested in becoming a parish councillor, please contact the Clerk.

e) Seal Spring Clean

Due to COVID-19 this is cancelled but rescheduled for 11-27th September. More details to follow.

f) Greensand Project – Bitchet Common

A walk organised at Bitchet Common will be arranged when the current COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.

FW Pending CV-19

g) Parish Bus Shelter Grant Application for the financial year 2020/21

Kent County Council (KCC) runs a Parish Bus Stop Shelter Grant (PBSSG) scheme. Councillors had been asked to bring any proposals for funding to the meeting and there were none to report at the last meeting. It was noted that the bus stop on the A25 was full of leaves and whether the Parish Council volunteers could clear them up.

CT/MB Pending CV-19

h) Bonfires in the Parish

To remind residents to be considerate when contemplating a garden fire in particular on hot days or conditions when smoke will drift some distance and cause a nuisance.

Clerk

i) New Funding for small businesses

Small businesses who did not qualify for Coronavirus Grant funding up to now can apply for a new source of financial help. SDC has £1.2 m of additional government funding to help small businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and is encouraging them to apply for a share of the money. Funding is open to Sevenoaks District based business with less than 50 employees and a turnover of less than £10.2 m. Although businesses that qualified for Small Business Grants and Retail Hospitality and Leisure Grants cannot apply. Businesses should visit www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/coronavirusbusinessadvice to find out more and apply.

7 Planning

The Council is asked to agree the Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings on 11th and 22nd June 2020 which have been circulated.

The Council is asked to ratify the responses to planning application consultations submitted after these meetings, which have also been circulated. There will be a short meeting of the Planning Committee after the Council Meeting for which an agenda is circulated.

8 Accounts and cheques

9 AOB

Matters for Information Only

Please see website for further information on health advice, financial advice for residents and waste and recycling services and residents who are vulnerable
<https://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/info/20069142/>

KCC advice on Coronavirus updates
<https://www.kent.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/health/coronavirus>

Main source of advice for Coronavirus
www.gov.uk/coronavirus

A reminder to report all Highway issues direct to KCC 03000 41 81 81
<http://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem> –

A reminder to report problems on PROW to 03000 41 7171 8am-8pm Mon-Friday.
<http://www.kent.gov.uk/waste-planning-and-land/public-rights-of-way/report-a-problem-on-a-right-of>

Please report street light outages in Seal (other than on the A25) to the Parish Council.

Mrs Clare Boland 9th July 2020