

A virtual meeting of the Seal Parish Council was held on Thursday 11th June 2020 at 7.30pm

Present

**Mrs F Weston
Mr R Bourne
Mr C Tavaré
Mr C Haslam
Mr T Martin
Mr A Bulleid
Mr M Penn
Mr A Michaelides
Mr M Brown**

Also present the Clerk, Councillor J Thornton, Councillor R Gough

Apologises: Councillor R Hogarth, Mr J Spencer

Parishioner's question time - None

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed and signed.

Declarations of Interest - None

ACTION

KCC Matters – Councillor Gough matters

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**

Councillors have expressed their view that the Council should not permit KCC to install 2 road narrow signs on the green in its ownership at Church Street, because of the clutter this would create in the Conservation Area and no need for such signs. We would prefer the cost to be used to relocate signs on Childsbridge Lane which the Parish Council will pursue in its 2020 HIP. The clerk to inform Mr Bineham of this decision.

Clerk

Ongoing highway matters

Gulleys around Meadowlands and up to the railway bridge – Mr Gough had followed this up and Emily Kinsella would organise for this to be cleansed.

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

Mr Bourne to provide SID data for Childsbridge Lane.

No HGV on Red Lane – sign pointing wrong direction, this has now been completed.

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

RG

A sign that needs readjusting from Sevenoaks Prep School heading towards Underriver, and Knole park – this has been completed

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

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 follow up.

RG

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

Copse Bank

No further update.

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. No further update to report under Councillor Gough and Head of Planning.

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 and Mr Tavare and Mr Brown to discuss further.

CT/MB

The Parish Council proposed that we organise a cultivation licence to run volunteer groups to be managed for 3 to 4 times a year for weeding and spraying and this was seconded by Mr Michaelides and agreed unanimously.

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. Mr Brown asked Councillor Gough if he knew anything about this ending on 14th June. Councillor Gough to follow up.

MB/RG

COVID-19

No further update

Other Matters Requiring Discussion and Action**Seal Recreation Ground Car Park - Height barrier, Bollards and Gates**

The application for Lawful Development on the height barrier has been granted.

At the last meeting, the council proposed for expenditure of Contract Signs £1,055.30 this quote has been requested to include 4 posts for the 'No Camping' signage. Mr Tavare proposed we pay an extra £334.80 and this was seconded by Mr Michaelides and agreed unanimously.

Clerk

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. The Parish Council requires further guidance on guidelines for the HIP to be able to amend the HIP for this year. The clerk to raise the points with Mr Bineham and report to Mr Tavare, Mr Haslam, Mr Martin and Mr Brown who are leading on the HIP with further discussions on improvements. Mr Haslam asked whether we should look at a petition to generate interest from the public for Seal and Kemsing. The Council discussed whether we should have a separate document on speed limits throughout the parish, list of roads which are inappropriate. The Councillors to discuss further safety measures and speed and explore other avenues, providing evidence and support and prioritising what we need to focus on. It was discussed whether Zion Street is still an ongoing problem. We could use a histogram for data on Childsbridge Lane Bridge. A future meeting to be organised with Councillor Gough and Mr Bineham.

CH/CT/TM/MB

Traffic around the Fawke Common entrance to Knole Park

Residents are concerned over the chaotic parking, speeding and spread of rubbish and at some point, the public will lose their patience. Redlands is not a solution for parking which is owned by Knole. Signs have gone up in St Julians Road, Tonbridge Road and Riverhill Cottages, which SDC can now enforce but these are short term measures. The Sevenoaks Town Car Park is currently free for businesses and Knole. Sevenoaks parking charges are starting next week.

Although the current problem is exacerbated due to the closure of the car park at Knole, it raises a general issue over parking and speeding traffic along St Julians Road and the surrounding roads. This area is valued by families, walkers, dogs, horse riders and general leisure activities. It is also a through route from the main road to the hamlets and to Sevenoaks Prep School, in the Parish.

Various ideas were discussed including looking at the reservoir as an area for parking. Councillor Thornton will look into this. In the normal course of events local people park sensibly and there is sufficient room. Putting in yellow lines was not favoured as it is the first step towards urbanising the area. It was agreed that it would be useful to bring together the views of Weald Parish and to write to the KCC Councillors, Roger Gough and Peter Lake, and SDC Councillors to seek a solution that is acceptable in the wider context.

Mr Haslam proposed and Mr Brown seconded and this was agreed unanimously.

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. It was noted that the bus stop on the A25 was full of leaves. The Parish Council volunteers could clear them out.

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. The Clerk to look into our insurance for cover.

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 at the next meeting.

Items for information only and updates if necessary**Playground Equipment in Seal Recreation Ground**

The artificial grass has now been installed for the children to enjoy once the lockdown has been lifted. Due to government guidelines please do not enter the play area or use the play equipment outside of this area until further notice. Please report any usage by calling 101 or visit <https://www.kent.police.uk/services/report-a-crime/kent-police-online-reporting/> Please follow government guidelines at all times until lockdown has been lifted.

Councillor Thornton discussed that 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.

Community Asset

Mr Spencer is dealing with the village hall application.

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. Mr Tavare has spoken to Mr Hadley and the residents are happy. We could find more verges and liaise with KCC on cutting regime. We could liaise with Kemsing as people are keen.

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.

Seal Spring Clean

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

Greensand Project – Bitchet Common

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

FW

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.

St Lawrence Football Club

The Parish Council received a letter of thanks for their donation received.

Sevenoaks Volunteer Transport Group

The Parish Council received a letter of thanks for the kind donation received.

Planning

The Council agreed the Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings on 14th and 26th May 2020. Mr Tavare proposed Mr Bullied seconded and this was agreed unanimously. The Council ratified the responses to planning application consultations submitted after these meetings. Mr Tavare proposed and Mr Bullied seconded and this was agreed unanimously.

There will be a short meeting of the Planning Committee after the Council Meeting for which an agenda will be circulated.

Accounts and cheques

005931	Mrs C Boland	£39.29	Dog bags and Zoom
005932	Mrs C Boland	£150.00	Petty Cash
005933	Mrs C Farrow-Ward		Salary
005934	Kent County Council		Pension Fund
005935	Mrs C Boland	£39.00	Reimbursed Broadband
005936	Mrs C Boland		Salary
005937	Inland Revenue		Deductions
005938	Mr A McFadyen	£85.00	Plumbing
005939	Richard Abel Landscapes	£1,104.28	Mowing
005940	Sevenoaks District Council	£420.00	Recycling Sacks
005941	Cancelled cheque	£0.00	Cancelled
005942	St Lawrence Football Club	£250.00	Support Ground Maintenance
005943	St Lawrence Cricket Club	£250.00	Support Ground Maintenance
005944	Sevenoaks District Council	£500.00	Donation
005945	Kent Surrey Sussex Air Ambulance Trust	£250.00	Donation
005946	Wybone Limited	£221.99	Litter bin

Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2019/2020

Under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, we have published on our website the Notice of the period for the exercise of public rights and a declaration that the accounting statements are as yet unaudited.

AOB**Website Accessibility**

Mr Brown to work with the clerk on website accessibility and to draft a Website Accessibility Statement to be published on our website. The clerk informed that our website was 88% compliant.

MB

Mr Bourne has a delivery of PPE for the Community Speed Watch that will start next week. A maximum of 3 people nominated.

A litter bin has been purchased due to original one broken in Seal Recreation Ground and increase in litter.

Matters for Information Only

The Clerk will not be on jury service week commencing 15th June 2020 for 2 weeks, therefore office hours remain the same.

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>

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.

Meeting closed at 9.30pm