

A meeting of the Seal Parish Council was held on Thursday 13th February 2020 in Seal Pavilion on Seal Recreation Ground at 7.30pm

Present

Mrs F Weston

Mr A Michaelides

Mr C Tavare

Mr C Haslam

Mr J Spencer

Mr T Martin

Mr Penn

Mr Bourne

Mr Brown

Mrs C Boland Clerk

Apologises: Mr T Bulleid, Councillor R Hogarth, Councillor J Thornton, Councillor R Gough

Parishioner's question time

A presentation took place from Sevenoaks Scouts, and Mr Morrish, Chairman of Seal Group, Mr Roberts, Sevenoaks Scouts Estates and Ms J Brookbank, Seal Group Scout Leader, were present.

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed and signed.

Declarations of Interest - None

ACTION

KCC Matters – Councillor Gough was not present, so matters for RG below were not discussed

New and high priority outstanding issues for the PC for discussion

Childsbridge Lane Railway Bridge – A proposal to add a pedestrian pathway and traffic lights at the Railway Bridge, forwarded to Councillor Gough prior to meeting.

RG

Childsbridge Lane Railway bridge – A proposal to move the village sign for Seal meaning a speed limit could be introduced needs a response from KCC.

Ongoing highway matters needing attention, not for discussion, just update when done

HGV sign going west from Seal to Otford

HGV signs on Pilgrims Way needed in both directions.

Bridleway sign at One Tree Hill, Carters Hill, requires replacing.

Schools - progress with Seal PS and Trinity

Update on use of the bus layby at Trinity/Weald School.

RG

Sevenoaks Local Plan and Sevenoaks Quarry

The clerk reported from the SDC Forum that SDC are still to await the Inspector's report in order to decide their next steps. Their presentation made clear that Neighbourhood Plans submitted in the near future need to demonstrate consistency with existing policy otherwise does run the risk of becoming out of date when the new Local Plan is finalised.

Mr Martin, Mr Michaelides and Mr Bourne met Tarmac at their invitation. Tarmac are unwilling to progress their proposals without the site being allocated in the new Local Plan. They are close to agreeing a solution for Bat and Ball junction with KCC, and are working on a revised design for the site to accommodate a primary school. Tarmac seek a car park for recreation and school access but the PC remain opposed to vehicle access from Childsbridge Lane. KCC will ask for a new bridge over the railway to the Otford Road retail area.

A presentation by Tarmac to Sevenoaks Town Council also took place and can be viewed on their website.

Bentleys Meadow

Maintenance works of Home Zone. Councillor Gough investigating whether the maintenance of the Home Zone can be delegated to Seal Parish Council or to West Kent Housing Contractors.

RG

Other Matters Requiring Discussion and Action**Seal Scout Hut**

Sevenoaks Scouts outlined the options for the of the Seal Scout hut. Due to the Scouts quadrupling in number, there are limited options with the current hut in poor condition, insufficient size, traffic, road safety for children, and little storage. They have looked at potential new sites, selling their current site to raise funds for the new site within the area. The Pavilion would mean shared usage, which would not be feasible as it would require packing away. Extending the premises comes with challenges. Also considered Seal Village Hall but unfortunately there is not enough space for storage, drop- off would be difficult and there is no outdoor space. However as a second option the space at the bottom right of Recreation Ground could be suitable for a new building with outdoor space. This would require planning permission and the legal arrangement would require that the building belongs to the Scouts on land leased from the Parish Council.

Their preferred site with great potential would be to convert the barn on the Tarmac site off Childsbridge Lane. This would have excellent indoor and outdoor potential for activities, parking could be made available, and storage. The Parish Council is opposed to vehicle access to the Tarmac site from Childsbridge Lane but will consider what support it can offer to the Scouts.

FW/
Clerk**Highway Improvement Plan**

The Council approved the updated HIP, Mr Michaelides proposed and Mr Martin seconded and this was agreed unanimously. To be forwarded to KCC.

Seal Recreation Ground Car Park - Height barrier, Bollards and Gates

To consider action needed to conclude the licence for operation of a walking bus with KCC. Mr Spencer has heard back from Invicta and amendments are to be made, we are still however waiting from Invicta and the Solicitor.

The Clerk has yet to speak to the Primary School to find their intention for the walking bus Mr Martin to amend the signage as discussed by the Council so that quotes can be obtained.

The parish Council are pleased with the work on the bollards so far and we are waiting for a replacement metal gate which is due at the end of March.

Mr Bourne reported that application for Lawful Development Certificate for height barrier has been accepted. The parish council should hear by 23rd March.

Clerk
TM/
Clerk

CIL – SDC advised on this occasion that they will not give permission to use CIL money for the project on the bollards and replacement gates. Councillor Thornton had expressed her concerns by email to SDC regarding CIL money, and the Clerk will chase on the matter.

Clerk

Playground Equipment in Seal Recreation Ground

Received an additional quote from Artificial Lawn Company for artificial grass around the Tunnel of £2,910, our quotes range from £1,580 to £2,910. The Council proposed we spend £1,580 on artificial grass. This was proposed by Mr Brown and seconded by Mr Spencer and agreed unanimously.

Clerk

Top Banana

Top Banana requested for the Council to look at WIFI for the pavilion and the Council proposed we pay a 2 year contract of £36.99 per month with a one off charge £8.50 for the hub. Mr Brown proposed the expenditure and Mr Tavare seconded. This was agreed unanimously.

Clerk

Upgrade of PC

The clerk urgently requires an upgrade for her laptop, details circulated to Councillors were commented on prior to the meeting and subject to the clerk's consideration of these points, the Council proposed we use Computer Troubleshooters for expenditure of £1,528.92 on the upgrade. Mr Martin proposed, and Mr Michaelides seconded, and this was agreed unanimously.

Clerk

Seal Village Hall

Seal Village hall committee have spent £14,949 on refurbishing the hall and have asked for a grant from the Parish council to go towards the expenditure.
The Council gave approval for £2,000 to go towards the village hall expenditure. This was proposed by Mr Michaelides and seconded by Mr Bourne and agreed unanimously.

Sevenoaks Volunteer Transport Group

SVTG is a registered charity which provides low cost transport for elderly infirm and disabled residents of the district. 80% are 75 years old or older. SVTG have written to ask whether the parish council would consider making another grant towards their costs. Mr Michaelides proposed we pay £100 towards a grant and this was seconded by Mr Tavare and agreed unanimously.

Alcohol Licences

Details of applications for alcohol licences in Seal to be circulated to Parish Councillors prior to meetings for decision at the meeting.

Clerk

CPRE

CPRE are looking for a parish representative who can take a special interest in planning and who can alert them on any issues of concern, as this is a crucial period of the Sevenoaks Plan. It was agreed that the Planning Committee should provide liaison with CPRE but that first the Clerk should provide Mr Martin with CPRE's request.

TM

Clerk

Items for information only and updates if necessary**Community Asset**

Mr Spencer is dealing with the village hall application. The application for the allotments will not be taken forward, as the trustees are under an obligation not to sell it.

JS

Verge Cutting and Wildflower

The parish council are liaising with KCC and Kent Wildlife Trust on the sites.

There is an information evening on 16th April at 7.30pm in the Pavilion with wine, nibbles and a Powerpoint presentation to discuss the project and to ask for volunteers. Everyone is welcome to attend.

CT

Parish Plan

Our Parish Plan is approved and finalised and can now be viewed on our website, Facebook and through KYN, and members of the public are invited to the Annual Assembly and parish council meetings.

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.

Planning

The Council agreed the Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings on 9th and 20th January 2020 which had been circulated. Mr Michaelides proposed and Mr Bourne seconded and this was agreed unanimously.

The Council ratified the responses to planning application consultations submitted after these meetings, which had also been circulated. Mr Tavare proposed and Mr Bourne seconded and this was agreed unanimously.

The Clerk reported that she had not received arrangements to meet the Town Council about the Tarmac Site and the Sevenoaks Neighbourhood Plan, and would remind their Clerk to offer a date. Consultation on the Sevenoaks Neighbourhood Plan began on 31st January and runs until 12th March 2020.

Clerk

Mr Martin will circulate a draft response from the Parish Council after Planning Committee on 24th February.

TM

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

Accounts and Cheques

The clerk had discussed the online banking arrangements with other clerks and as the clerks use a variety of different banks, the clerk decided to review in a year. The parish council were happy to continue to use cheques.

Cheques signed in February 2020

005863	Mr R Bourne	£58.50	LDC Application
005864	Mr C Tavaré	£49.98	Rakes etc for Wildflower Project
005865	Treestyle (UK) Ltd	£864.00	Tree work
005866	Richard Abel Landscapes	£113.85	Mowing
005867	Sevenoaks District Council	£1,800.00	Greensand Common project
005868	Edward Tyrell (Fencing)	£8,492.40	Bollards, deposit for metal gate and other fencing work
005869	Dalton Joinery	£463.20	Noticeboard repair
005870	Robert Crouch	£180.00	Tree work
005871	Kent County Council		Pension Fund
005872	Inland Revenue		Deductions
005873	Mrs C Farrow-Ward		Salary
005874	Mrs C Boland		Salary
005875	The Community Heartbeat Trust	£125.76	Pads and Battery
005876	Edward Tyrell (Fencing)	£408.00	Fencing works
005877	Mrs C Boland	£34.06	Gigaclear Reimbursement

AOB**Seal Spring Clean**

Mr Brown will organise the spring clean and will involve the school.

Greensand Project – Bitchet Green

There is a walk organised at Bitchet Green open to the parish on 12th May at 6.30pm.

Matters for Information Only

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 9.15pm