

A virtual meeting of the Seal Parish Council was held on THURSDAY 8th October 2020 at 7.30pm

Present:

Mrs F Weston
Mr R Bourne
Mr C Tavare
Mr A Bulleid
Mr Michaelides
Councillor R Hogarth
Councillor J Thornton
Councillor R Gough

Also present the Clerk

Apologises: Mr J Spencer, Mr Martin and Mr Haslam

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed and signed.

Declaration of Interest – None

ACTION

KCC Matters – Councillor Gough matters

New and high priority outstanding issues for the PC for discussion

Childsbridge Lane Railway Bridge traffic counts – The Councillors agreed traffic counts locations that KCC had suggested and for an additional two locations near Zambra Way to be placed where our current poles exist and could be used for KCC equipment. The Parish Council will be interested in the data that KCC receives to compare with our own data. The clerk to confirm by email the other locations agreed to KCC.

Clerk

Councillor Gough reported some information which is also on our facebook page about the situation in Pilgrims Way/Pilgrims Way East. There have been 3 different incidents in the last 24 hours affecting the roads.

RG

The Report is “Kent Highways (KCC) carried out works in Pilgrims Way between Cotmans Ash Lane and Heverham Road to deal with a damaged verge. These works took place yesterday and were completed by the end of the day.

South East Water carried out an emergency closure of Cotmans Ash Lane because of a burst pipe. At one point it appeared that this could be closed until Monday. However, Councillor Gough has been informed by KCC Streetworks team that the works have been completed and the road has now been reopened. The biggest effect however has come from emergency closure by South East Water in Pilgrims Way East, also because of a burst pipe. South East Water are currently requiring an emergency closure until Monday. KCC Streetworks have challenged this pushing for patching works to be done and then the road to be reopened with works then completed over the weekend. However, South East Water argue that the damage (and resulting hole in the road) is too great for this, and in these circumstances, it is the utility’s assessment which prevails. However, the Streetworks team will push for earlier completion of the works if it all possible.” Councillor Gough will report on facebook with further updates.

Mr Tavare mentioned that there were no signs on Childsbridge Lane and no advance warning. Councillor Thornton mentioned that the A25 Bat and Ball has caused huge disruption and has been horrendous the knock-on effects have been put on the Sevenoaks Forum.

Ongoing highway matters

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**

Speed data on Childsbridge Lane showed 15% of vehicles speeding 40 mph or more, Mr Brown to use this data to Crime Support Unit, SDC to discuss this with the CSO.

Gulleys in Underriver House Road – last stretch of pipework not flowing properly, Councillor Gough to report further.

RG

Road sign reinstated on Carters Hill, One Tree Hill, although there is no road sign heading towards Sevenoaks, Fawke Wood Road, third sign missing.

RG

Highway Schemes

Bank Lane requires surface repairs at the junction of Bank Lane and Mill Lane where the friable surface on a steep slope is dangerous, at Riverhill farm where accumulated debris from running water narrows the road on a blind bend, and on Mill Lane where a utility trench is eroding because of surface water.

RG

Copse Bank/Ashplatt Footpath

The maintenance on Copse Bank footpath which links with Trinity School work. Councillor Gough to confirm whether work was completed. **RG**

Bentleys Meadow

The Parish Council have organised to start weeding the planters with 2 other volunteers. Mr Tavare to report further. **CT**

A25 temporary relaxation of HGV Vehicles

A resident reported a lot of traffic through the night on the A25 thought to be due to the relaxation of drivers' hours under COVID-19 but is ongoing. Councillor Gough to follow up due to the increase vehicle noise on A25 which causes huge impact throughout the ward. **RG**

Other Matters Requiring Discussion and Action**Highway Improvement Plan**

A separate SHIP speed HIP has been produced by Mr Brown and Mr Haslam. This is currently on hold following the new successor and will look to arrange a meeting with Whitney Gwillim, KCC. **MB**

Councillor Gough reported at the last meeting he would use his connections with Network Rail to find out who the Parish Council can speak too about a footbridge. Councillor Gough has emailed Mr Gash and will report at the next meeting. **RG**

The Parish Council have liaised with Sevenoaks Town Council over writing a joint letter from their Chairmen to the KCC Chairman on the reduction of speed on the A25, details circulated to Councillors. The Chairman asked the Councillors to email her with any additional information or comments which they feel could be included in the letter, in order for the clerk to forward this onto Sevenoaks Town Council Chairman for signature. Councillor Hogarth supports reducing the 40mph the entire length of the A25 from Bessels Green to Seal. **FW**

Traffic around the Fawke Common entrance to Knole Park

A meeting with Knole has been organised for the end of October to discuss parking issues around Knole and in the wider Parish. **FW**

Seal Village Hall

The Parish Council chaired a virtual meeting on 2 October to discuss the future bookings for and running of Seal Village Hall. The Chairman of the Village Hall, Alan Davis, Mr Tavare, Mrs Weston Mr Brown and others attended the meeting. New ideas were needed to drum up support and interest from the village. Although clubs book the facility, these are from outside the village. One use could be as a working hub. It was agreed that a questionnaire should be drawn up to engage residents' views and feedback on this and also on use of the recreation ground. Mr Brown and Mr Tavare to work together to produce a questionnaire. **MB/CT**

Seal Recreation Ground

A need to replace the basketball/netball facility on the recreation ground led to a discussion about sports and other activity provision on the ground. Mr Tavare had contacted an installation company and for fencing and lighting this would cost in the region of £80,000 and £35,000 for a less sophisticated facility. The clerk contacted Sevenoaks Town Council who advised that their building cost was £140,000 and should be ready by the end of the year. Mr Haslam has emailed a copy of the Borough Green Facility which has football and basketball but no gate open to the public. It is mainly used for football with basketball more of a secondary school sport and not aimed at primary schools. This basketball facility would be aimed at younger people, other options available would be table tennis, gym equipment, cycling in the wooded section. Sport England can fund getting people active dependant on what we would like to provide. There are options such as a half a court to practice shooting for netball. The Bat and Ball multi use facility is open for all to use with some exclusive use and some charges for certain activities. It was agreed that a questionnaire based on the STC template should be carried out to find out what residents would be interested in. **Clerk**

Mr Martin and the clerk met with Kier and Mrs Stapley at the car park to address the pathway which is eroding away and grass under the Chestnut Tree to be reseeded. Mr Brown will have a look at the area and report back to see if its cleared and reseeded. Mr Brown will ask the school if they would be interested in volunteering with litter picking.

MB

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. . SVA have had a quote for £1120 for 1.2m of chestnut paling and the Parish Council have another quote £956.96 with Mr Crouch which was proposed by Mr Michaelides and seconded by Mr Bourne and agreed unanimously.

Clerk

Website Accessibility

The Clerk has looked at other parishes websites and has been in contact with other clerks and has now had quotes ranging from Hugo Fox costing £399.99 plus £29.99 per month for 2 year email and hosting totalling £1,119.75. Gel Creative costing £850.00, plus 2 year website and email hosting £160.00 with an additional charge of monthly maintenance £50 per hour. Namesco will charge £700.00 for 2 year website and email hosting with a adhoc charge for maintenance £29.99. It was agreed that Mr Bourne and Mr Brown would work with the Clerk to take this forward. Examples of the favoured portfolio to be emailed to Councillors.

RB/MB
Clerk

Items for information only and updates if necessary

Park Lane

Park Lane, Column 30 is still ongoing, work is to be completed in due course to replace the column and groundworks.

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. Mr Haslam also reported Childsbridge Lane had also Nitrous Oxide found in the area. 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

The Council to approve risk assessments for mowing and strimming, wildflower project and litter picking. Details circulated to Councillors. Mr Tavare has seeded the area with native wildflowers and look forward to spring next year to see the mix.

CT

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.

Greensand Project – Bitchet Common

A walk organised at Bitchet Common will be arranged in the spring subject the COVID-19 restrictions at the time.

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.

COVID-19
Pending

Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2019/20

The Parish Council received the Notice of Conclusion of Audit along with the external auditor report and certificate and this was published on 18 September 2020.

Planning

The Council agreed the Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings on 10th and 28 September 2020. Mr Bourne proposed and Mr Michaelides seconded this was agreed unanimously.

The Council ratified the responses to planning application consultations submitted after these meetings. Mr Bourne proposed and Mr Michaelides 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

005988	PKF Littlejohn	£480.00	AGAR
005989	Mr R Bourne	£27.16	Reimbursement of Sheer nuts
005990	Kent County County	£15.91	Stationery
005991	Mrs C Boland	£53.39	Zoom and Broadband
005992	Society of Local Council Clerks	£118.80	ILCA Course
005993	Sevenoaks District Council	£378.30	Dog bins
005994	Kent County Council		Pension Fund
005995	Inland Revenue		Deductions
005996	Mrs C Boland		Salary
005997	Mrs C Farrow-Ward		Salary
005998	Mrs C Boland	£150.00	Petty Cash
005999	Mr C Tavare	£160.76	Safety Equipment and First Aid and Seed
006000	Mr J Boland		Training
006001	Richard Abel Landscapes	£2,911.56	Mowing
006002	St Peters & Paul PCC	£600.00	Churchyard Mowing
006003	St Lawrence PCC	£550.00	Churchyard Mowing
006004	St Margarets PCC	£525.00	Churchyard Mowing
006005	RBL	£95.00	Wreaths
006006	Peacock Salt	£158.62	Salt bin and Salt

AOB

Land at Seal Croft Cottages - it has been reported that land near the railway bridge has been fenced off and there needs some acknowledgement of the boundary as Seal Parish Council owns the land. This land is crucial if ever we want a railway bridge in future. The clerk to write a letter and to acknowledge boundaries. This was proposed by Mr Tavare and seconded by Mr Bourne and agreed unanimously.

Remembrance Sunday 8th November 2020, Godden Green Service will start at 9am. Mr Bourne to lay wreath

St Peters and Paul service will start at 10.50am at the War Memorial and Mr Michaelides to lay wreath

St Margarets and St Lawrence will go ahead social distanced, Mrs Weston to lay wreath in Underriver and Mr Penn to lay wreath at St Lawrence.

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.

Meeting closed at 8.30pm