

A virtual meeting of the Seal Parish Council was held on Thursday 9th July 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 M Brown

Mr J Spencer

Councillor R Hogarth

Councillor J Thornton

Councillor R Gough

Also present the Clerk

Apologises: Mr A Michaelides

Parishioner's question time - None

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed and signed.

Declarations of Interest – None

ACTION

The Chairman reported back on the Clerk's appraisal and was pleased with her huge achievement which she has gained this year.

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**

Ongoing highway matters

Gulleys around Meadowlands, Zambra Way and Bentleys Meadow are cleansed and completed and checked.

2 Gulleys needs a job raised and this is on a 28 day order.

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 reported that this is on the list of jobs to be done.

3 blocked rainwater drains, Underriver House Road, Councillor Gough reported a range of jobs that have not been completed and that this has now been raised along with Carters Hill and Rooks Hill.

Councillor Gough reported on an additional log in portal for councillors.

Highway Schemes

Resurfacing of Bank Lane - KCC are checking drainage and ditches some of which are in private ownership and looking to see if this will cause any issues for KCC.

RG

Copse Bank/Ashplatt Footpath

The maintenance on Copse Bank footpath still

needs attention. Councillor Gough reported that contractors visited site on 25 June and there is movement in this area and that plans are being taken forward.

RG

Bentleys Meadow

No further updates necessary.

RG

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 KCC is trying to ensure heavy lorries keep to the main trunk roads as far as possible into their journeys, but for Seal the problem is that this an A class road and the problem also relates to the lack of slip roads onto the M25 Councillor Gough reported that he will take this up again.

MB/CT

Household Waste

Councillor Gough reported that a new booking system to replace the existing one which is considerably more user friendly and expanding up to 33,000 slots available, which will allow people to go twice a month and more. The system has proved successful and avoided queues and has maintained social distancing and worked well.

RG

Department of Transport

Department of Transport had released money for active travel, walking, cycling etc and KCC has to bid for this and secured 100% on first tranche £1.6 million and working on a second tranche for £6.4million KCC will look at schemes in our area. KCC looking to spend on priority schemes, speed limits, reserve spaces and lanes. Public Transport Sector are under pressure, fewer people using the public transport and using their cars. KCC want to boost active travel and support and are addressing the implications of returning back to school in September.

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

The Council felt frustrated by the lack of success in the HIP so far. It was agreed that there needs to be an understanding of what can be done and looking at neighbouring Parish HIPs might help. Mr Brown will take the lead on the HIP with the help of Mr Haslam and Mr Penn, move this forward with a view to meeting Mr Bineham in August /September. Councillor Hogarth mentioned rationing 40mph down to 30mph in Seal to Bessels Green and working with Linda Larter at Sevenoaks Town Council on this. Mr Brown raised that we should focus on the old points raised in our HIP this year and any new points will need to be raised on the next HIP.

MB/CH/MP

Traffic around the Fawke Common entrance to Knole Park

It appears that the signage along St Julians road preventing parking was helping. SDC are offering free parking at the weekend and this is encouraged. There are also a considerable amount of cars parking in One Tree Hill and on Fawke Wood Road to St Julians Road, which causes the lanes to narrow. It is felt that this is going to be an ongoing problem for the future. It was suggested to write and organise a meeting with STC to discuss issues with parking around Knole area and the parish.

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 access Bridle Lane path. It was suggested that no parking signs might help but it is part of the wider problem that needs addressing.

FW

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 and the clerk should proceed with the work.

Playground Equipment in Seal Recreation Ground

Due to government guidelines, the play equipment is currently closed but measures are being put in place so that the playgrounds at both Seal and Bitchet Green can open shortly. The Parish Council thanked Mr Tavare for the thorough review of what is required to open up under the Covid requirements and approved his posters with minor amendments, The Risk Assessment has been drafted for COVID and the Pavilion and will be agreed by email and circulated to Councillors.

Clerk

Seal Recreation Ground Car Park

There are wooden posts which have been knocked down. The Council to repair the wooden post which are broken.

Clerk

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. The Parish Council are considering work to be done.

Clerk

Website Accessibility

Mr Brown has prepared a draft of the website accessibility statement and we are looking for a third party to test the site before we publish.

Clerk

South East Water

The Clerk has been emailed to ask whether we would publicise the importance of saving water on either parish magazine, noticeboards or website. If there are materials that are easily promoted the Clerk can consider this, but it is not felt to be a priority at this time.

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 Parish Council agreed that this was positive activity and wished to encourage the younger generation to engage in such matters and agreed subject to the Scouts complying with their own COVID and regular risk assessments,

Clerk

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 Parish Council confirmed we would like to apply for this service in our parish.

Clerk

A consultation opens 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 to forward a response by the deadline.

Local Housing Needs

The SDC Housing Enabling Officer had provided a progress report on the 3 social housing sites in the Parish.

It was agreed that Mr Martin would draft a letter to SDC confirming the Parish Council's support for their development as rural exception sites for social housing.

The disposal of land behind Sealcroft cottages by SDC has been deferred pending clarification of the proposal, and the Parish Council should conform that its support for development of this site depends on its use for social housing.

The Parish Council has also been asked to comment on pre-application plans for Mills Crescent. Mr Martin will circulate the plans as pdf files, and Councillors should now give him their comments.

TM

Items for information only and updates if necessary**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.

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. We could find more verges and liaise with KCC on cutting regime. Mr Tavare to update further.

CT Pending CV-19

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 Pending CV-19

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

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.

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.

Planning

The Council agreed the Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings on 11th and 22nd June 2020. Mr Bourne proposed and Mr Tavare seconded and this was agreed unanimously.

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

005947	Mrs C Boland		Salary
005948	Mrs C Farrow-Ward		Salary
005949	Inland Revenue		Deductions
005950	Mrs Boland	£139.97	Wall Dispensers and Sanitiser
005951	Richard Abel Landscapes	£2,243.52	Mowing
005952	Mrs C Boland	£163.15	PPE and signage
005953	Mrs C Boland	£53.39	Reimbursed Broadband and Zoom
005954	Kent County Council		Pension Fund
005955	Kent County Playing Fields Association	£20.00	Annual Subscription
005956	Spy Alarms Limited	£241.20	Fire extinguisher, intruder and Fire Alarm
005957	Hi Way Services Limited	£1,140.00	Markings on Road surface Car Park
005958	Paul Webb	£150.00	Network issue
005959	Mr A J Mcfayden	£211.00	Plumbing
005960	Sevenoaks District Council	£32.80	Refuse collection

AOB

Seal Village Hall to be discussed at the next meeting regarding how we can try to support the Hall Committee to find a solution to reopen the Village Hall with new fresh ideas for the hall. Mr Brown would review the questionnaire results previously obtained as there could be individuals and ideas that could be followed up to make progress. Councillors to discuss at the next meeting. Mr Davies does a considerable amount of work on minutes and agendas and feel there needs to be fresh ideas and new additional members for this community asset.

Matters for Information Only

The Parish Council will be closed on 13th August through to 28 August and will reopen 1 September, anything urgent please contact the Chair on 01732 463372.

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 9.30pm

