

WEST KINGSDOWN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on **Wednesday 23rd June 2021** held at Old School Hall
West Kingsdown .

Members of the Council: Cllr Mrs P Bosley (Chairman), Cllr G Christie (Vice Chairman), Cllr I Bosley, Cllr S Gray, Cllr D King, Cllr D Land, Cllr Mrs M Richards, Cllr R Spiller, Cllr Mrs L Spencer, Cllr Mrs J Watchorn.

5 Members of the public and Cllr Brazier

Apologies Cllr Miss Holdstock

David Diboll, a tribute from the Parish Council.

The Chairman gave the following tribute:

David Diboll died unexpectedly on Friday 4th June at the age of nearly 81

David had lived in the village all his life, his parents ran Diboll General stores along the main road. David was a great asset to the Community, always active. Always finding something to do, but at the same time just quietly getting on with jobs without many of us even knowing all that he did do.

When he "retired" from his insurance job he started working for the Parish Council, and for many years he has been our litter picker and odd job man and more. He was on the Church Woods Management Committee, and regularly carried out work in Church Woods, he was a tree warden, a pond warden, he carried out maintenance work in St. Edmunds churchyard and the Parish Burial ground, gritting the shops or outside the library in icy weather and so much more.

The Clerk recalled he always quietly got on with what he3 was asked to do! Hewill be very much missed in West Kingsdown.

David may you rest in peace. You were a knowledgeable asset to West Kingsdown and will be sorely missed by so many.

1 minute silence was held as a mark of respect for David

Memorial

The details of his funeral have not been released yet but the Clerk has received several comments from residents asking how the Parish can remember David contribution to West Kingsdown Members are asked to consider.

Members of the Public and Councillors who wish to raise matters.

Brands hatch

Brands Hatch Liaison Group had taken place and the circuit had survived the pandemic, it had made 25% staff redundancies and had few zero hours contract staff currently working, Residents passes for 2020 still valid this year, pre bookings to enter currently in place. There had been a couple of noise complaints following a drifting event, this has been reported to Brands hatch by Mr Birley.

Grounds works, hedge trimming and grass cutting, had taken place around the boundary of the circuit. The, next liaison meeting will be in September after some large events.

Footpaths – encroachment:

Public rights of way. A resident from Kingsingfield Road spoke regarding the encroachment of the public right of way in Kingsingfield Road - SD271A and commented it was a breach of the covenant on the land and residents in that road, KCC had written to resident in 2015 requesting the public verge was reinstated but this had not been adhered to. The Chairman asked Mr Barry, as the Parish Council ~Footpaths Officer for comment. He agreed with the residents' concerns and asked for Mr Munns from KCC to carry out a survey of Kingsingfield Road and Russetts Road to identify the issues and discuss a workable solution. This was agreed by Members and Members asked if they could attend. The Clerk to request a site survey. The Clerk was also asked to request that the concrete pillars at Summerleigh be removed.

Standsted Lane to ash Lane:

- No road name plate at the Ash Lane end of the road. Clerk to ask SDCC for new sign.
- Signage missing - give way sign at crossroads with Ash Lane. Clerk to request KCC
- Bend in the dip of the road, half way along was missing, Clerk to request from KCC
- Litter pick required along Stansted Lane, Clerk to request SDC to carry this out.

Planning Committee

Members of the Parish Council: Cllr J Watchorn (Chairman), Cllr I Bosley (Vice-chairman), Cllr Mrs P Bosley, Cllr Gray, Cllr G Christie, Cllr King, Cllr D Land, Cllr Mrs M Richards, Cllr Spiller & Cllr L Spencer.
Apologies Cllr Miss Holdstock

The decisions taken in respect of the following planning applications were ratified.

SE/21/01501/LDCPR: Millview Park London Road :

Use of land a caravan site subject to not more than 24 caravans shall be located on the site at any one time

SE/21/01576/CONVAR: The former piggeries north of Red Clyffe London Road:

Variation to conditions 2 and 10 (Plans) 13 Hard surfaces) and 16 (soft Landscaping) of 19/01238/FUL redevelopment of the site comprising existing Class B8 building and open yard storage to provide new class B1/B2/B8 building and relocated associated storage along with additional car parking and landscaping. As amplified by amended drawings received 7/6/19

SE/21/01599/FUL: The Warrens 179 Knatts Valley Road:

Erection of 2 m high feather edged boarded fence and gates and landscaping

SE/21/01627/LDCPR Birch Hill 28-29 Ashen Grove Road:

Proposed erection of a single storey rear extension

SE/21/01535/HOUSE: Chellowdene Ashen Grove Road:

Demolition n of exiting lean to structure to erect replacement with associated alterations to roof profile

SE/21/01670/LDCPR 24 Oakland's Close :

Proposed single storey rear extension

Planning agenda

SE/21/01391/HOUSE 7 Kingsingfield Close

Proposal Demolition of existing single storey garage and outbuilding. New single storey rear extension with flat roof and glazed lantern light. New two storey side extension. Objection and comment

SE/21/01434/PAE Magrose Kingsingfield Road

Proposal Prior notification of a single storey rear extension which extends 6.63m beyond the rear wall of the original dwelling house with a maximum height of 3.75m and eaves height of 2.27m. No objection

SE/21/01499/FUL: Hollywood gardens School Lane

Change of use of the land to a gypsy / traveller site for one family and the retention of a static caravan and outbuilding to allow continued use of the land as a gypsy/ traveller site for one family and retention of a static caravan and outbuilding. Objection

SE/21/01857/HOUSE 41 Southfields Road :

Proposed single store rear extension No objection

Trees

SE/21/01844/WTPO 1 Jasmine Court, London Road

Proposal Oak tree - prune by 3m no objection

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

Apologies for absence: Cllr Miss Holdstock

Declaration of Interests relating to items on the Agenda None declared

Minutes of Previous Meetings

The MINUTES of the Planning Committee meeting held on Wednesday 26th May 2021 were submitted. It was moved from the Chair that they be signed as a true record. **ALL IN FAVOUR**

The MINUTES of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 26th May 2021 were submitted. It was moved from the Chair that they be signed as a true record. **ALL IN FAVOUR**

Any Urgent Business

The Chairman ruled that any business received since the despatch of the Agenda, by reason of special circumstances, be considered, in order to avoid any undue delay and have up to date information

Diary Item: No diary items

Footpaths

SD271:

The Clerk has asked KCC PROW officer for an update re sunken drain / mainhole cover on the path at GossView Kingsingfield Road and also to comment on the gate that has been installed in the gap leading to Kaysland along the designated footpath **NOTED**

SD271A

A residents had asked KCC to reinstate the grass verge to public footpath along Kingsingfield Road, this is an ongoing situation This matter had been discussed in the public period

Correspondence

A. Complaint:

A letter had been received from resident, Mr R Wicker, and this was tabled for Members' information. Several communications with questions prior to this have already been received and the correspondence answering the questions was also tabled. Members noted the questions and answers and agreed that the questions had already been answered and therefore agreed that a response be sent repeating the answers.

B. Safety

A letter is due to be received by residents

SDC have been contacted by the Counter Terrorism Policing South East and Regional Organised Crime Unit who have confirmed that they will be undertaking a pilot communications campaign 'Small Towns and Villages - Deterring Crime, Defeating Terrorism' in the Sevenoaks District, which will go live towards the end of June and run across July.

Residents and businesses in the Sevenoaks district will receive a booklet and set of Z-cards providing advice on household and business security, as well as how to reduce the risk of terrorism. These will be delivered by Royal Mail. In the same mailshot they will also receive a letter outlining the rationale for the campaign – that residents in small towns and villages are less likely to think terrorism is something that can happen to them – and stressing that the town has not been selected for any particular risk. i.e.: It is a pilot to test responses to the campaign ahead of a potential national roll out.

Attached is the suite of posters that have also now been agreed (landscape and portrait for each of the four towns in England and Wales). These will be used in a local newspaper ad and locally in digital display.

This pilot is part of a national campaign and being led by the Counter Terrorism Policing Headquarters (South East), who can be contacted at nctphq.comms@met.police.uk if you require any further information. Please note that it is not a District Council or Community Safety Partnership initiative. **RECEIVED**

Events – For Members information

- a) Sevenoaks District Fun Day at Gamecock Meadow Monday 2nd August 10-2pm
- b) Kingsdown FC have conformed the date of Saturday 24th July for a fund raising event on the Gamecock Meadow, unlikely to take place
- c) St Edmunds Summer fair to be held on 31st July at Gamecock meadow

RECEIVED**Christmas lights:**

The Christmas lights are being stored by Gala Lights they have been in contact to enquire whether we want to add additional items for this year. A suggestion is to add stars to the middle of each swag There would be an additional cost of £125 each star, 4 Stars would be needed (one at the centre of each swag).£500.

The cost to install the pea lights and the new stars In December would be a total of £1,325 ex vat
It was proposed through the Chair to purchase the stars for the Christmas lights

8 In favour
1 against
1 abstention

Finance

The Finance papers were circulated to Members prior to the meeting and it was noted that an income of £7.11 had been received. It was proposed by Cllr I Bosley and seconded by Cllr Gray that payments totalling £10,153.05 be paid

ALL IN FAVOUR**Hever Road Shops:**

There are three remaining trees at the shops in Hever Road that have yet to have the cages removed, paving levelled and bark chippings laid. To complete these three the cost would be £1,700. Mr C. Yarnold has also offered to maintain the bark chippings for the first year at the site, replacing when required, this offer is free of charge.

It was agreed they looked a lot better than the grids and the bark had stayed in place. Proposed by Cllr Christie and seconded by Cllr Richards to accept the quote and have the remaining three tree grids removed.

ALL IN FAVOUR**Burial ground:**

A. Kent grasslands (the contractor for the Burial Ground) has been asked to cut a large fir tree from one of the older graves that is not attended and family have not responded to communication sent.

B. There are also some low hanging branches near to the war memorial and low hanging over the path and over grown shrubbery along an area that was cleared back a couple of years ago. To carry out this work there would be a cost of £250 plus VAT. The cuttings would be chipped on site. Proposed by Cllr I Bosley and seconded by Cllr Land to accept this quote.

ALL IN FAVOUR

C. The Grass in the last month had grown extra fast and with recent sun and rain the grass will be extremely long if left for a month. The Clerk has asked the contractor to carrying out an extra cut, (it has been previously authorised for the Clerk to use her discretion with two additional cuts If required)

NOTED**Litter picking:**

Following the sad passing of David Diboll his position as litter picker will appear in Sekem July edition and will go onto Facebook West Kingsdown residents page and news page - David was more than the Parish Litter picker, the Clerk would frequently ask his to carry out small jobs and he would lend his hand to many many things , fencing, replacing posts, gritting pavements and more and the Council will need to consider how it gets these tasks done in the future.

The content of the advert was agreed.

The gatekeeper has been emptying a bin at the pavilion and Recreation ground as a temporary solution, (paid) The Clerk has emptied the burial ground bins and litter picked Millfield and Gamecock car park for the last fortnight to make sure litter is collected. Members agreed to help with litter picking until someone was employed to do this

NOTED.**Trees Stanwell House Botsom Lane**

Protection for trees at Stanwell House, Botsom Lane, West Kingsdown.

When considering whether it is appropriate to serve a Tree Preservation Order (TPO), the Council is Required to consider government advice about whether such legal protection is justified. Considerations include the quality of the trees, their condition and the location and species and the impact on the wider landscape. The power to issue a TPO is discretionary.

SDC will for example, look at how visible trees are and their impact and prominence. This will include consideration of how visible trees are in views from public areas.

In assessing the impact and on the local environment, landscape designations, are relevant. This site is in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and trees are an important part of the characteristics of the area. The site is in the Green Belt but this is not a designation based on the qualities of the landscape. The aim of Green Belt policy is to prevent urban sprawl and keep land permanently open. Planning policies that relate to protecting the Green Belt from inappropriate development like the erection of new buildings, are not directly relevant to considering whether or not a TPO should be served.

The Arboriculture and Landscape Officer has visited this site on a number of occasions recently to consider whether it is appropriate to serve a TPO to protect some or all of the trees on this site. SDC have concluded that there are some trees on site that it would be appropriate to protect, due to their contribution to the landscape, their visibility and impact. These are the Beech trees on the rear boundary, (excluding the conifers) that provide some screening for the site for views from the south. As the conifers are not species that would be considered suitable for this landscape, these will not be protected. The TPO will be served in due course and an officer from the Council will make those with an interest in the land aware once this has been done. The Forestry Commission also have a role in protected trees, and have been contacted. Members welcomed this decision by SSDC to protect the remaining trees

RECEIVED

Village Hall update.

The flood barriers had been put in place last week following a yellow weather warning from the Met Office. These had been relatively easy to erect. A trolley had been purchased to hold the barriers. The additional drainage that had been put in place last year, seemed to assist greatly with the disperse of water. The hall was increasing in usage as restrictions relaxed

Church Woods;

The Church Woods Committee were still in shock following the death of David Diboll. He would be very much missed. Works continued to be carried out to clear paths. Recently two dormice were found, although if this summer is a very wet one they will struggle to survive. Members of the Committee had met with a resident to enable him to access the woods on his mobility scooter.

Old school update

Groups were operating in the hall, pre school and dance studio. The Committee is awaiting an estimate to tarmac further parts of the car park and a quote to clear gutters. Vandalism had taken place on 4th June and 5 windows were smashed. A claim is going through the insurance company for replacement windows..

Office:

Follow the Governments announcement for a delayed stage 4 out of lockdown the office opening will be delayed by one week. The Clerk will be on annual leave and the Parish office will be closed from Wednesday 30th June to Monday 12th July. The Clerk will work from home until Tuesday 20th July when the Parish Office will be re-open. (subject to the Government's announcement on Monday 19th July)
The office will be open to the public between 11am-1pm Monday, Tuesday and Fridays only. **NOTED**

Matters Arising

No matters rising

Newsletter Items

None identified

July Meetings

Planning and General Purpose Committee Meeting: Monday 12th July 2021 Main Hall, Old School, School Lane 7.30pm

Finance Committee Meeting: Monday 12th July 2021 Main Hall, Old School, School Lane, following the GP Committee

Planning and Parish Council Meeting: Wednesday 28th July 2021 : Main Hall, Old School, School Lane 7.30pm

Meeting closed at 9.10pm