

WEST KINGSDOWN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Planning and Parish Council Meeting of West Kingsdown Parish Council held in St Edmunds Centre School Lane, West Kingsdown on Wednesday 19th July 2023

Eliza Ecclestone Owner of St Clere Estates –

An update was given to Members with a short presentation regarding a project called Bewilderwood, which was well received by members. It is a woodland adventure play area being sympathetic to the natural surroundings. Discussions had been had to Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council and Sevenoaks District Council but to date no formal application had been submitted. There would be local employment benefit as well as leisure enjoyment for local groups and families. Eliza said she would keep the Parish Council updated and a application was hoped to be submitted by the end of the year.

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

Brands Hatch vegetation: Rob Birley asked for an update re vegetation belonging to Brands Hatch at the paddocks exit in Scratchers Lane - Clerk to Chase for update.

Planning

Members of the Parish Council: Cllr J Watchorn (Chairman), Cllr I Bosley (Vice-chairman), Cllr Mrs P Bosley,
Cllr S Gray, Cllr G Christie, Cllr P Chalk , Cllr King , Cllr Mrs M Richards .

1. Apologies for Absence: No apologies

2 Declarations of Interest: No declaration of interest

3. Plans:

SE/23/01594/HOUSE:Tyro ST Clere Hill Road: Erection of a double garage. Objection

SE23/01831HOUSE 60 Hever Road: Single storey rear extension and garage conversion. Comment

SE/23/01661/HOUSE Woodside Rushetts Road: Proposal Single storey link extension between the main dwelling
and outbuilding. Objection

SE/23/08122/MMA 21 Hever road : Material amendment – Comment

23/01913/WTPO: 22 The Briars: DT1 TPO Oak reduce by approximately 1.5-2 m and lift to crown break.
Noted

Minutes of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 19th July 2023 St. Edmunds Centre School Lane.

Members of the Parish Council: Cllr P Bosley (Chairman), Cllr M Richards ,Cllr D King, Cllr I Bosley, Cllr S Gray, Cllr G Christie ,Cllr Mrs J Watchorn, Cllr P Chalk.

1. Apologies for absence: No apologies

2. Declaration of Interests relating to items on the Agenda: No declarations

3. Update re casual Vacancies Following meeting on Monday 17th July, Members had met and appointed three new councillors Cllr Victoria Bennett, Cllr Roy Seal and Cllr Rudi McCarthy who had all accepted the position and would attend their first Parish Council meeting on 23rd August - Members agreed to ratify the decision ALL IN FAVOUR

4. Minutes of Previous Meetings

The MINUTES of the Planning Committee meeting held on Wednesday 28th June 2023 were submitted
It was moved from the Chair that they be signed as a true record and any recommendations implemented
ALL IN FAVOUR

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5. 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.
The Chairman brought one item to Members attention – a Beech tree in the Burial Ground has lost a large branch and this was now lying against the hedge. No memorials had been damaged. Steve Launchbury had been asked to check the tree for safety and he reported that several other branches looked suspect. Quotes are being obtained to carry out safety work and cut up the wood.

6. **Diary Items.** No diary items

7. Footpaths

Kingsigfield Rd and Rushetts Rd: Mr Barry raised the matter of the whole of the area in front of properties being a right of way, this included the grass verges alongside the road. Some years ago he delivered a letter, written by KCC, to all houses reminding them of this. He reported recent issue when a property owner challenged him for walking on the grass in front of her property. He asked Members to agree that the exercise of delivering a letter be repeated and this was agreed. The Clerk to ask KCC for an up to date letter to be hand delivered by Mr Barry to residents in Rushetts and Kingsigfield Road. AGREED

SD 287 : fingerpost missing - Clerk to report

8. Correspondence

KCC Warden Review

On the 12th July 2023, KCC launched a consultation on a proposed redesign of the Kent Community Warden service, we want to share the proposals with you and hear your views, the consultation runs from 12 July to 3 October.

As set out in the 2023/24 budget, to help meet the financial challenge KCC is facing, the Community Warden service has been asked to reduce its annual budget by £1 million by 2024/25. Setting this year's budget was the most challenging it has ever been, due to increasing demands on KCC services and the cost of providing them.

To achieve this level of saving it has been proposed that the service is redesigned, ensuring that there is core Community Warden presence across the county, with teams covering two district authority areas. This would retain the community-based way the service currently works, but use data and information to identify need and where best to place wardens so they can have the most impact.

For any queries or to request hard copies of the consultation material please email CommunityWardenReview@kent.gov.uk or phone 03000 422688.

We would very much welcome your support in raising awareness of the consultation, and the opportunity for partners and residents to submit their views on the proposals and how they would affect them. Please pass this information on as appropriate. A PDF of the poster has been attached to this email to use if suitable.

Clerk and Chairman to send in a response to Warden consultation on behalf of West Kingsdown Parish Council, individuals were also welcomed to make their comments regarding the service. AGREED

Ash Cum Ridley ask the Parish Council if there is an option for the Parish Councils to sponsor a Warden, Would Hartley and West Kingsdown be interested in working with ACR

Members would like to keep open the dialogue with this, and discuss further after the KCC consultation
ALL IN FAVOUR

8. Hever Road Shops

Quote to trim the trees outside the shops

Theses have grown a lot and some branches are low level.

Quote 1 : Steven Aram

"I can remember trimming the trees previously when I was with SL TreeCare and I know the area has times of heavy pedestrian traffic. To work around this, I propose to carry out the work on a Sunday.

To reduce the 8 trees in height and trim to tidy, full clear up and removal of all arisings. Total cost £600.

For your information, the tree outside H. Suters looks very unwell, it is in massive decline, and one of the trees outside the coop is dead. I can take them to waist height included in the price or can grind to below soil level for an additional £150".

Quote 2

Jack Sharp

Works to line of 8 No. Hornbeams in front of shops on pedestrianized area.

Reduce and lift 6 trees back to previous cut points retaining growth where possible.

To remove and dispose of all arisings from the above works.

The estimated total cost of the above works. Total: £570.00

It was proposed through the Chair to accept the quote from Steve Aram with the additional option to remove and grind out the two trees with additional costs – total of works £750
ALL IN FAVOUR

8a. Hever Road Clear up and weeding of area:

Weekly litter clearing carried out by R Roots. Chairman would like to arrange a date for Members to help tidy the area outside the shops and car park rear of the co-op Wednesday 9th August 9.3am

9. Finance

It was noted income £6,808.09 had been received

It was proposed by Cllr I Bosley and seconded by Cllr King that payments totalling £9,702.18 be paid
ALL IN FAVOUR

10. Tennis courts

The Chairman advised that a meeting had been held with representatives of Football Association to discuss the refurbishment of the tennis court area for football training, netball, tennis. Funding of up to £25,00 is possible. In order to take this forward it was agreed that a working group be set up to explore the project and funding. Members would be Cllr P Bosley, Cllr I Bosley, Cllr Chalk, Cllr Christie, Cllr King., The Clerk mentioned a resident who had volunteered to help he is a local tennis player at Kemsing tennis club.

AGREED

11. CIL Spending board

This item could potentially link into the item above

SDC are pleased to inform you the next CIL Spending Board will be taking place on Wednesday 29th November 2023.

They would like to invite your organisation to bid for funding to help deliver local and/or strategic infrastructure projects which will benefit the local community.

You can make your bid for CIL funding through our online CIL Spending Board Application portal. A copy of the application pro forma has also been attached which can be submitted electronically or by post. To access the portal please visit <https://engagement.sevenoaks.gov.uk/strategic-planning/copy-of-applications-for-sdc-cilspendingboard/>

In order for your funding bid to be considered, all applications must be received by no later than midnight on Friday 15th September 2023.

This was noted and could possibly be an avenue for future funding application.
NOTED

12. Burial Ground

Members are asked to agree a date for a burial Ground tidy

This is usually an hour or two to tidy the area, bring along gloves, secateurs. Wheelbarrow and Skip provide by the Parish Council Wednesday 16th August at 9.30m AGREED

13. Gamecock Meadow

Works to trim the perimeter of the Gamecock including the boundary fence between Gamecock and houses in Bakers Avenue

£750 day rate estimated time allowed 2 days Quote received from Kent Grasslands It was proposed by Cllr Gary and seconded by Cllr Chalk to accept Kent Grasslands Quote for the perimeter of the Gamecock Meadow

ALL IN FAVOUR

14. Queens Jubilee tree

Chairman reported this tree had died and it was proposed through the Chair to buy a replacement later in the year, ALL IN FAVOUR

15. Village Hall Management Committee update/report

Recent work party had tidied the garden area and the refurbishment of the car park area was awaiting response from funding application. The proposal for block paving would help reduce the amount of sand walked into the hall. AGM had taken place this week and Dave King had duly been elected the new Chair for the Village Hall.

16. Matters Arising

Drives:

The Clerk to raise with planners about the about of grass garden that had been lost to hard drives, increasing the flooding risk in certain roads in heavy rains.

17. Newsletter Items

New Co Opted Members

August/September meetings

Wednesday 23rd August 2023 Planning and Parish Council Meeting. St Edmund's Centre 7.30pm

Monday 11th September Planning and General Purpose 7pm at Pavilion London Road

Wednesday 27h September Planning and Parish Council Meeting, St Edmunds Centre 7.30pm