

1382/September/2020

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ST MARY IN THE MARSH PARISH COUNCIL
held on THURSDAY 3rd SEPTEMBER, 2020, AT THE VILLAGE HALL,
JEFFERSTONE LANE, ST MARYS BAY, at 7pm.**

PRESENT: Cllr. G. Allison, Chairman
Cllr. T. Wilson, Vice-Chairman
Cllr. G. Comber
Cllr. T. Cooper
Cllr. P. Millen
Cllr. R. Tillson
Cllr. M Wilson
Clerk to the Parish Council
1 member of the public

APOLOGIES: None.

MINUTES:

Proposed by Cllr. Cooper, seconded by Cllr. Comber, that the Minutes of 6th August, 2020 be approved. Voting: Unanimous.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

Cllr. Allison and Cllr. Millen are council representatives on the Village Hall Management Committee and declared interest in items referring to the Village Hall.

CONSIDER ANY MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES WHICH ARE NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA:

1.Clerk informed that weed spraying around the bridge at Laurel/Taylors and a request for a solar light is being considered by F&HDC.

2.Cllr. Tillson informed he requested and received by return details that business rates to public conveniences is to be shelved.

3.Cllr. Tillson enquired when a response will be forthcoming from the Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC) regarding the parish council's decision that opening of the village hall is premature and should be reconsidered in October.

Cllr. Allison informed there is no response forthcoming and VHMC disregarded the parish council's decision. The village hall has started operating community facilities.

Cllr. Tillson questioned the legality of the hall operating and Government's advice is that village halls should not operate at the current time. Cllr. Tillson requested sight of the village hall Risk Assessment. Cllr. Cooper informed a draft risk assessment has been produced.

The legality of operating was again questioned and created much debate. The parish council is divided in its view on the matter with those representing the village hall in favour of opening the hall and the remaining parish councillors opposed to it being open to the public until it is safe to do so.

After much debate, it was agreed that the Monitoring Officer at F&HDC be requested to act as judiciary over the legality of the hall operating.

Cllr. Allison informed the parish council's view is only advisory and the VHMC does not have to act upon it.

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Cllr. Terry Wilson stated the VHMC must take total responsibility for the health and safety of staff and users.

Proposed by Cllr. Tillson, seconded by Cllr. Comber that the VHMC provide with immediate effect a w.c. and kitchen area for staff only which should remain locked to users of the hall.

Voting: For: 6, Abstained 1 (chairman declined to vote)

Proposed by Cllr. Tillson seconded by Cllr. Cooper that legal advice be requested from the Monitoring Officer, F&HDC. Voting: Unanimous.

Cllr. Cooper agreed to provide an electronic copy of the draft Risk Assessment to Councillors

CORRESPONDENCE:

F&HDC:

- 1.Cllr. Terry Mullard forwarded a request from a member of the public for benches outside the village hall. The request will be discussed as a separate item at the next council meeting.
- 2.Notice of Vacancy will no longer include a clerk's home addresses. Neighbouring councils are being asked to act as a 'care of' address to enable clerks to redact their personal information from the existing procedure.

KCC:

A response has been received from the Leader regarding the parish council's concern for the future of Romney Marsh Day Centre. Council considered the response unsatisfactory and requested a further letter be sent asking when a decision will be made about the Centre.

KALC:

A virtual planning seminar will be held on Kent Planning White Paper Information on 11th September. Cllr. Tillson will attend.

HIGHWAYS ENGLAND:

Notification received that construction work on the M20 will take place at J8 and J9 from September through to November inclusive to install a moveable barrier system. A diversion route via the A20 will be in place during this time.

POLICE:

Local crime report on Romney Marsh received and had been circulated to councillors prior to the meeting. The local area has suffered from day trippers and numerous calls were received about inconsiderate parking and drivers.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

An appeal has been lodged against the decision to refuse the planning development at 1 & 3 Dunstall Gardens.

Y16/0434/SH - non material change matters. Clerk informed council of current situation.
Chelsea Cottage
6 Dymchurch Rd.

20/1101/FH - Erection of a two-storey rear extension.
15 Pipin Close
Proposed by Cllr. Mike Wilson, seconded by Cllr. Comber, that
No Objection be raised.
Voting: Unanimous.

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Chairman informed there has been no activity at the Sands Development Site for some weeks. Cllr. Cooper informed a show house will open on 14 September.

Council considered Section 106 and CIL. Clerk requested to clarify if the system is due to change. Cllr. Cooper suggested a list of projects required in the village be produced.

Cllr. Tillson informed there is a statutory requirement for the district council to produce a list of disbursements each year and this should be requested later in the year, for clarification as to how Section 106 monies has been spent.

MATTERS RELATING TO PLAYING FIELD, JEFFERSTONE LANE, 7 ACRE FIELD AND GLEBE LAND:

Playing field: A retractable post has again been vandalized /hit and is very weak but still in position. Council to monitor.

7 Acre field: Reply received from Llewelyn Lloyd regarding the handling of the council's planning application. Letter had been sent to councillors prior to the meeting. Council's view is that the application should be pursued and be prepared for re-submission at an appropriate time.

Proposed by Cllr. Comber, seconded by Cllr. Millen that a drainage report be produced and the council's agent be notified accordingly.

Voting: Unanimous.

Glebe Land: Awaiting outcome of tree survey/report.

MATTERS RELATING TO SLIPWAY, SEAWALL AND FORESHORE:

Clerk read email from seawall trader re lack of trading this year due to COVID-19.

FINANCE:

Proposed by Cllr. Tillson, seconded by Cllr. Terry Wilson, that the accounts be accepted. All agreed.

Total expenditure for month £ 1,759.35

Current Account balance: 40,723.74

Business Account balance: 14,810.59

Income: half-year precept £21,500 has been released from F&HDC.

PLAY PARKS:

Clerk has made contact with F&HDC officers but a response is still awaited.

SPECIAL PROJECTS:

Council agreed to hold a low-key Remembrance Day Service on Wednesday 11th November bearing in mind there will still be social distancing and limited numbers legally able to attend. Clerk informed Raymond Moses is poorly and will try to secure a deputy to lead the service if required.

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COUNCILLOR REPORTS:

Cllr. Millen informed parking in and around Newlands is a problem. New parking Laws will provide district councils with authority to deal with such matter.

Meeting closed 8.25pm.

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN OF ST. MARY IN THE MARSH PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING ON THURSDAY 1st OCTOBER, 2020, AT 7PM,
AT THE VILLAGE HALL JEFFERSTONE LANE, ST. MARY'S BAY**

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Approve Minutes of the Meeting held on 3rd September, 2020.
3. Receive any declarations of interest. (*Councillors should disclose prejudicial interest/s in any item/s on this agenda. Councillors with a prejudicial interest must describe and give details of the interest*).
4. Consider any matters arising from previous Minutes which are not covered elsewhere on the Agenda.
5. Consider correspondence
6. Consider planning applications
7. Consider any matters relating to the Playing Field, Jefferstone Lane, 7-acre field and Glebe Land, St. Mary in the Marsh.
8. Consider any matters relating to the slipway, seawall and foreshore
9. Consider finance:
10. Play Parks:
11. Special Projects Update:
12. Seating on grass fronting the village hall:
13. Village Hall:
14. Councillor Reports.