



**Draft Minutes Ordinary Meeting Leysdown Parish Council**  
**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at Leysdown Village Hall 6pm Start**

**Present:** Cllr Martin (chair), Cllr Partis, Cllr Brennan, Cllr Probets

**Members of the Public:** 9

18:00 Meeting Starts

**24/028 Apologies:** Cllr. Whiting of SBC and PC Maybank

**24/029 Declaration of Interests:** None

**24/030 Approval of Minutes for the meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024:** Proposed Cllr. Brennan, Second Cllr. Probets. All agree

**24/031 Matters Arising:** Cllr. Partis has heard from the company who maintain Graveyard that they are no longer able to continue due to personnel reasons.

ACTION – Advertise the job for tender

Handyman role was previously discussed at January's meeting. Will need to put together and job description and terms.

ACTION – Contact KALC for advise re contract and advertise role.

**24/032 Public Session (limited to 15 minutes):**

\*MOP asked how many people made a quorum at Parish. Cllr. Martin advised 3. MOP questioned why it was only Cllr. Martin and Cllr. Partis who commented. Cllr. Martin advised last minutes showed Cllr. Brennan and Cllr. Probets also comment.

\*MOP questioned why the previous co-option post wasn't sent to the local Facebook group to advertise. Cllr. Martin showed MOP email where it was sent to them. MOP agreed was correct email address, unsure why not received.

\*MOP states first time attending a meeting but would be interested in becoming a councillor if there are any vacancies. Cllr. Martin advised there are and will be discussed as next item and MOP is welcome to apply.

**24/033 Co-option of new councillors and vacancy:** Amanda Curtis is no longer a councillor due to not attending meetings within 6 months, this makes 3 current vacancies. 1 application has been received so far.

Vote to co-opt: Cllr Partis votes against, Cllr. Probets abstains, Cllr. Brennan votes in favour, Cllr. Martin votes against.

Cllr. Martin requests clerk contact SBC to request representatives to cover the 3 vacancies until they can be filled.

ACTION – Clerk to contact SBC as advised. New notice of vacancy to be posted.

**24/034 External Councillors Reports:** Cllr. Whiting's report read by Cllr. Martin (appendix 1). Cllr Tara Noe – SBC looking to remove 2 dog poo bins in Bayview. SBC have been contacted to ask why as only 2 in area. Awaiting response. Cllr. Martin and Cllr. Probets explain how a bin could be moved to a more central position. Cllr. Noe request Cllr. Martin send locations describe and she will take forward.

ACTION – Cllr. Martin to send Cllr. Noe location

Cllr. Noe describes how planning application 24/500546 is not representative of the photos recently shown on social media. MOP states concerned as plan has no mention of noise or lights. Cllr. Noe explains all factors will be looked at and that anyone can comment on the application.

**24/035 Police Reports:** Cllr. Martin reads PC Maybank's report. Requests MOP keep reporting through the portal.

**24/036 Planning:**

Application 24/500546/FULL – Cllr. Martin lets MOP speak who has a report from the Environmental Health. Report handed to clerk and read out, concerns re the noise and lights.

Cllr. Partis – no objections provided the environmental report is considered.

Cllr. Probets – no mention of if local wildlife such as bird population will be affected. Would want the environmental report taken on board

Cllr. Brennan – Believes nothing will be enforced.

Cllr. Martin – Would be of benefit to community but again would want the environmental report considered and to stick to application.

ACTION – Clerk to raise concerns from environmental report via planning portal but no objections if considered.

Appliaction 24/500732/Full – No objections.

**24/037 Christmas Lights Competition 2024:** Ideas discussed for residents competition in Parish. Cllr. Noe suggests making it a competition for most creative rather than best so not based on who spends most. Dates of judging 16-20<sup>th</sup> December 2024 between 18:00 and 20:00. Amazon vouchers for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Cllr. Martin asks who would like to judge. Local residents Malcolm Pamplin and Denise Shurman volunteer to judge. Idea of lights competition for local business also discussed.

ACTION – Clerk to make advertisement for residents competition. Finalise the details next meeting. Add parish lights to next month's agenda.

**24/038 Volunteers for Parish Gardening Team:** Following on from January's meeting no one came forward to volunteer. Clerk has today received an email from HMP Stamford Hill about helping out in Parish with tasks like this.

ACTION – Clerk to respond to prison and add to agenda next month.

**24/039 Summer Events – Field near Graveyard, Painted Games on Promenade:** Clerk has contacted company who painted the promenade games and is awaiting a quote.

Cllr. Martin proposes using wet pour on the playground and incorporating a tribute to Pauline Wenham in this. Cllr. Noe advises maybe able to look into grants.

Discussion about use of land near graveyard. Cllr. Probets raises concerns re location near to road and safety. Cllr. Martin raises concerns about if a service would need to take place.

All vote against use of graveyard field.

ACTION – Clerk to get quotes for wet pour and contact big local for funding.

**24/040 Social Media:** Current clerk and chair do not have access to the Facebook page previously used. Discuss new Facebook page and a Instagram page. MOP offers to help get access to Facebook from former clerk. Proposed Cllr. Martin. Second Cllr. Probets. Cllr. Partis agrees. Cllr. Brennan against  
ACTION – Clerk and chair to set up new Instagram. MOP will assist with accessing the Facebook page and then be removed from admin role.

**24/041 Approval of Email Policy:** Cllr. Martin proposed, Cllr. Probets second. All agree.  
ACTION – Post on website

**24/042 Approval of Privacy Policy and data protection course:** Cllr. Martin proposes. Cllr. Probets second. All agree.  
ACTION – Post on website and clerk to sign up for KALC data protection course at £16.

**24/043 Community Resilience Plan:** Cllr. Martin explains the community resilience plan from KALC for use in a Parish emergency. Cllr. Noe advises she has asked SBC if they have plans. Sheppey Light Railway Greenway Project has a proposal for Jenkins Hill to be used as part of route, in a emergency could be used for vehicles if needed. Cllr. Martin requests if any MOP would like to volunteer to be involved in the community resilience plan to contact the clerk.  
ACTION – On next months agenda.

**24/044 CCTV Camera:** Is now in position and active. Cllrs. would like to seen images.  
ACTION – Clerk to arrange for councillors to view. Add to April's finances for approval.

**24/045 Members Grant Cllr. Tara Noe:** £300 grant received from Cllr. Noe. Councillors and MOP say thank you. Will be put towards the Christmas lights as agreed in application.

20:06 – Cllr. Noe leaves

**24/046 Bank Mandate Update:** Cllr. Martin received notification she will be added to mandate.

**24/047 Finance Cheques for approval:**

|                                    |                |                     |
|------------------------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| <b>BT</b>                          | <b>£60.19</b>  | <b>Direct Debit</b> |
| <b>Bank Charges</b>                | <b>£9.50</b>   | <b>Direct</b>       |
| <b>Clerks Wages 29/01 to 25/02</b> | <b>£488.40</b> |                     |
| <b>Reimburse R Garrard Stamps</b>  | <b>£6.00</b>   |                     |

All agree and approve.

**24/048 Second Public Session (limited to 5 minutes):** MOP mentions new trees planted by SBC.

**24/049 Any Other Business:** None

**24/050 Date of Next Meeting:** 11<sup>th</sup> April 2024 – All agree

**24/051 Close of meeting:** 20:07

**Signed:**

### **KCC Report, March 2024 - Cllr Mike Whiting**

Southern Water - flooding and sewage discharges.

I have organised meeting in Queenborough with Southern Water, local ward members, Queenborough Town Council and a representative of Castlemere Avenue residents to discuss flooding issues at Castlemere Avenue, and wider river and sea discharge pollution and Southern Water's plans for improvements across Sheppey in the future.

Update of Oasis Academy.

I have been in discussions with Leigh Academy Trust, East Kent College Academy Trust, my colleague Cllr Booth, Gordon Henderson MP and KCC's education officers and Cabinet Member. I also met with Schools Minister Baroness Barren. Everyone is working to agree the final points that will allow everything to go ahead and the new school to open in September, as planned. We are waiting on Government sign-off by the Minister. The deadline for applications to either Leigh at Minster or East Kent College at Sheerness has been extended past the deadline set for other school admissions. Further letters will be sent to parents once the Minister has signed everything off. Meanwhile, I have been assisting families confused by what is going on.

My advice to everyone who did not get their preferred school(s) but were offered Oasis, is to accept the Oasis place and get their appeals in for the places they really want. Accepting a place at Oasis does not affect any appeal, or place on any waiting list.

I continue to assist parents with school places and school transport.

Special Education on Sheppey.

I met this month with SEND team at KCC to discuss primary provision for families on Sheppey. KCC is currently carrying out a review of provision. While there is provision in mainstream schools on Sheppey, they are looking to see if a new Special School is required. With regard secondary SEND provision on Sheppey KCC has made available £2.5m for a new Snowfield Academy Trust SEND secondary school in Minster, to open in 2025.

The new Sadden Academy Special School on the Halfway School site is due to open in September 2024. Details are at <https://www.sabden.org.uk/4277/opening-consultation>. The new school will serve up to 120 secondary-aged pupils with Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs, some with associated autism spectrum conditions or social communication difficulties. Once established, it will also offer outreach services for local schools and their pupils.

The Elmley Dray independent school, on the site of the old Elliott Park School in Minster, is also open for children aged 9 to 19 diagnosed with Autism, display autistic traits, have sensory difficulties and have social & emotional difficulties such as anxiety. Those with an EHCP should contact KCC regarding admission to the school. Details are at <https://elmleydrayschool.co.uk/index.html>

I continue to report fly-tipping at Eastchurch and Warden cliffs to the Environment Agency, Police and Swale Borough Council.

I have been asked by a member of the public for a crossing to be installed outside St Edwards School, Sheerness. I am looking into that with officers at KCC Highways. I look forward to seeing any emerging Highway Improvement Plans (HIPs) as they are developed across the Parishes and Towns on Sheppey. As you know, HIPs need to have the support of Andy Booth and me as your KCC Members to move them forward and we are happy to be involved in their development.

Following KCC's decision to keep open the Children Centre in Warden Bay as a Family Hub, I set up a meeting with GPs and KCC managers to discuss how we might get more health services based at the centre. I think there is a real need for maternity, health visitor, GP and other NHS services at the east of the Island. The GPs and KCC property managers have agreed to meet further to discuss what might be possible.

KCC is now consulting on its plans to permanently close Blackburn Lodge. As I have stated previously, I would prefer them to keep the home open, not only for residents but also for the day care it offered. However, if KCC does decide to close the home then I would want them to include a condition, as they did last time they decided to close the home, that it won't close permanently until there is suitable alternative provision on the Island for Island residents and those needing specialist day care. The consultation is open until 7 May, 2024, and can be found at; <https://letstalk.kent.gov.uk/blackburnlodgeconsultation>. I urge as many people as possible to respond and have their say. If your residents need paper copies of the consultation then please contact me.

I try to keep residents informed on important matters via my Facebook page, /CllrMikeWhiting.

If any issue arises during your meeting that concerns KCC services or anything in my report then please email me at [mike.whiting@kent.gov.uk](mailto:mike.whiting@kent.gov.uk) or call me at home on 01795 842631.

I hope this update is helpful

Kind regards,

Mike

**COUNCILLOR MIKE WHITING**

Conservative Member serving the Isle of Sheppey

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