



Draft Minutes Ordinary Meeting Leysdown Parish Council
Thursday 11th April 2024 at Leysdown Village Hall 6pm Start

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

Members of the Public: 7

18:00 Meeting Starts

24/052 Apologies: Cllr Whiting, Cllr Noe and PC Maybank

24/053 Declaration of Interests: Cllr. Martin 24/060 24/500922/FULL

24/054 Approval of Minutes for the meeting on 14th March 2024: Proposed Cllr. Brennan, Second Cllr. Martin. All agree.

24/055 Matters Arising: Office requires a new shredder. ACTION – clerk to get prices.

24/056 Public Session (limited to 15 minutes):

MOP offered to help with gardening. Cllr. Martin advises no one else came forward. MOP asks if have 3 quotes for graveyard. Cllr. Martin advises will be discussing at today's meeting.

MOP has concerns around the planning application to be discussed later (500823) as previous conditions and restraints ignored with regard to noise and light pollution. Have been campaigning for over 4 years and made reports to environmental health. New establishment opened is advertising 24 hours but do not have license for this. Cllr. Martin explained will take forwarded comments on the new application and to report any issues to KCC if conditions aren't being implemented.

MOP would like to discuss idea for Christmas lights. Has seen where children design the lights and they are made into displays. Cllr Martin agrees to add to discussion later on agenda.

MOP raises concerns re air ambulance landing areas. Questions if Spinney can be used. Advised area not large enough.

MOP advises seating has been removed by SBC from along the promenade.

24/057 Co-option of new councillors: Notice received from Swale Borough Council yesterday that petition for election received and to await advice.

24/058 External Councillors Reports: See attachments at end of minutes.

24/059 Police Reports: None received.

24/060 Planning:

24/500823/full comments: Cllr Partis – anti-social and cannot support. Cllr. Brennan – Negative opinion, antisocial. Cllr. Proberts – Area already messy and noisy, cannot support. Cllr. Martin – They’ve said themselves is “considerably noisy and intrusive” so cannot support.

Cllr. Martin leaves hall at 18:42. Cllr. Partis takes the chair.

24/500922/full comments: Cllr. Brennan – it is a lot bigger than previous and is tall. Cllr. Partis – have spoken to neighbours and they are not fussed. Doesn’t look out of place in the area. Cllr. Proberts – The alternatives maybe worse such as a flat roof that could have things put on top. ACTION – Clerk to report comments to SBC Planning.

Cllr. Martin returns and takes the chair at 18:50

24/061 Requests for Donations: Air Ambulance £350 request – Proposed Cllr Partis. Second Cllr. Brennan. All agree. Citizens Advice no specific amount requested – Proposed by Cllr Brennan £350 also. Second Cllr Proberts. All agree. Cllr. Partis would like to ask if possibility of a clinic on eastern end of island.

24/062 Change of Date for Meetings: Proposed by Cllr Proberts to move to a Wednesday so he is more likely to be able to attend. Second Cllr. Martin. All agree if hall has availability. ACTION – clerk to check with hall and if possibly arrange new dates.

24/062 D Day Event: Ideas discussed including suggestions from KALC and the official DDay website. Proposed Cllr Martin to order Lantern of Peace and light at 21:15 on 6th June at Bandstand as per official website. Can see if salvation army band are available. Second Cllr. Brennan. All agree. ACTION – clerk to order lantern and contact Salvation Army. To see if village hall or Rose & Crown are holding weekend event.

24/063 Handyman Decision: Following KALCs advice to hire self-employed handy man on as and when basis. Proposed Cllr. Martin. Second Cllr. Brennan. All agree. ACTION – to find someone to change lock on office door.

24/064 Christmas Lights and Competition: ACTION – Clerk to get quotes for lights made out of children’s designs (1 from each class at school), golf ball lights (wrap around) and feature lights. Ask KCC if will allow children’s designs if made correctly.

Poster for resident’s competition made by clerk. Cllrs. looked at. Proposed Cllr. Brennan. Second Cllr. Proberts. All agree. Save for later in year to put up.

24/065 Painted Games on Promenade: MOP advised former councillor Pauline Wenham had organised different games that weren’t the ones painted. Believed these would be more of a fitting tribute. MOP will let clerk know which ones she wanted so clerk can get prices. Discuss next meeting.

24/066 Playground Wet Pour: Quotes are out of budget and grants currently not available. Cllr. Partis advises should be SBC responsibility. Cllr. Brennan agrees should be SBC as does Cllr. Proberts. Cllr. Martin thinks needs to be shelved until grants available. ACTION – Clerk to contact Cllr. Noe and ask for SBC to look into and take over.

24/067 Graveyard Decision: To advertise for self-employed gardener or firm to maintain. Clerk to contact Warden Parish again to see if will contribute to cost. ACTION – advertise for quotes for monthly grass cutting maintenance. Once have 3 quotes call a extraordinary meeting as needs to be sorted asap.

24/068 Community Resilience Plan: Clerk and Cllr. Martin are booked onto a course to advise on completing the resilience plan in May.

24/069 Clerk Wages by BACs: Proposed Cllr. Martin. Second Cllr. Proberts. All agree. ACTION – To be arranged with bank when possible.

24/070 Remembrance Day: Ideas discussed. Sunday 10th November, Salvation Army Band, Poppies from graveyard to bandstand, 3x wreaths, use D'Day lantern, purchase new poppies, poster/banner made. ACTION – clerk to make enquires and find prices. To discuss again in future meeting with details.

24/071 Finance: All cheques approved, proposed Cllr. Martin. Second Cllr. Proberts. All agree. Balance of NatWest Account on 25/03/2024 is £24,536.85

24/072 Second Public Session (limited to 5 minutes): MOP questions where local police are as lots of antisocial behaviour still and no presence. KM advised to keep reporting as more reports more chance we will get more of a police presence. MOP asking about traffic calming measures at Jenkins Hill. Cllr Martin advised is being reported all the time and a previous survey said the area did not breach the threshold for amount of traffic surpassing the limit. Advised Cllr. Noe is looking into. MOP mentions there seems to be excess mud on the road in Leysdown going to Bay View from lorries travelling up road. MOP questions if we will be entering Parish in Bloom this year. All councillors agree not likely this year now.

24/073 Any Other Business: Cllr. Martin has received a plan for children's centre showing limited use. Cllr. Martin advised she will be discussing with KCC. SLRG have their AGM on 25/04/24 and the Love Lane Church in Minster.

24/074 Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 9th May – Ordinary meeting and AGM. Proposed Cllr. Martin. Second Cllr. Partis. All agree. Leysdown Annual Parish meeting is due before end of June. ACTION – Clerk to ask about availability at Leysdown hub for a meeting on a Wednesday after 6pm.

24/075 Close of meeting: 20:26

Signed:

Councillor Whiting Report:

Please find below my April report. I'd be grateful if you could share it with your members and add to the minutes of your next meeting.

I have dealt with one specific complaint from a Leysdown resident who contacted me regarding highways, but my report is a more general Island-wide report. Details are correct at the time of writing, but things can change very quickly!

WARDEN BAY PLAYING FIELD I have again written to the owners of the playing field next to the Village Hall with regard to opening up for public use again. I have had no reply. I have been unable to get an email address or telephone number for the either Mr Richard, who are listed as the owners of the site with Land Registry. If anyone has any ideas how to move this forward then I would be happy to assist further.

OCEAN HEIGHTS/UASC KCC announced that its plans to open a reception centre for unaccompanied asylum -seeking children (UASC) at the Ocean Heights residential care home in Minster have been cancelled after the home owners pulled out of the sale to KCC. A letter was sent to some residents in the area around the home a day before the four-day Easter bank holiday which caused great anxiety. The main areas of concern expressed by the 100+ residents that contacted me were: safety and security, complete lack of consultation, associated proposed closure of Blackburn Lodge and lack of health and education facilities for the UASC. There are plenty more, but they are the main headings. Swale Council confirmed to me that the planning permission at Ocean Heights, Class C2, would cover use as a children's home. On hearing about the letter to residents, I requested an urgent meeting with KCC. A meeting was set up, but cancelled following the last-minute withdrawal of the site by the site owners. Page 1 of 3 Members' Room Kent County Council County Hall MAIDSTONE ME14 1XQ 01795 842631 mike.whiting@kent.gov.uk April 2024 To the Parish Clerk and Members of Leysdown Parish Council I have said to KCC that the lack of consultation with residents was inexcusable, and that if they have future plans for something similar on Sheppey then they must ensure all parties, most of all the local residents, a fully consulted and involved in the conversations.

OASIS ACADEMY The Government has confirmed the formal closure order of Oasis Academy on Sheppey. This paves the legal route for the two new Academy Trusts to open in September. This has been a battle with Government that I have fought with others over many years, and I am really pleased we have got to this important milestone. Parents who were offered a place at Oasis will have received letters explaining how to express their preference for either the Minster or Sheerness sites. I understand applications for places on Sheppey rose by 50% this year in anticipation of the new schools opening.

CLOSURE OF KINGSFERRY BRIDGE Network Rail has confirmed its planned closures of the Kingsferry Bridge to allow them to replace the lifting ropes. The date are below, and Network Rail will publish replacement rail/bus timetables etc later. Bridge closure dates: • Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 June • Saturday 15 to Saturday 22 June (8 days) • Saturday 29 June to Saturday 8 July (8 days) • Saturday 13 to Sunday 14 July I have written to the police to ask how they will deal with any emergency closure of the Sheppey Crossing should that clash with any of the dates above. Separately, engineers are looking at how quickly they can remove the metal barriers on the A249 at the Grovehurst roadworks. I am waiting on confirmation of a likely target date.

SPEEDING MARINE PARADE, SHEERNESS I have met with KCC Highways to discuss road safety along Marine Parade, Sheerness, between Barton's Point and The Ship on Shore. The road has a terrible safety record, and very sadly there was another fatality recently. KCC Highways has in the past couple of years improved signage and lines along this stretch, and the mobile speed camera does visit from time to time, but I think more needs to be done. They have agreed, as a first step, to carrying out speed surveys along that stretch - currently the speed limit is 40mph. A speed survey is a first necessary step to any further road safety improvements or for making the case for a permanent speed camera. I know that both Sheerness Town Council and Minster Parish Council are keen to see something done along this stretch of road, and, as I say, a speed survey by KCC Highways is a very welcome first step.

REFUSE COLLECTIONS I have had many complaints that refuse isn't being collected. This is because of difficulties following Swale Council changing its contractor from Biffa to Suez on 25 March. Frankly, since then, the performance has been shocking. Each day more bins are missed and catching up with the backlog becomes more difficult. I have raised residents' concerns with Swale Council who says the contractor is getting more resources in and some rounds have been reviewed. In addition, I have helped those with home to school transport and other issues. I hope the above report is helpful, but if any matters arise during your meeting then please let me know and I will do my best to assist.

Kind regards,
Mike CLLR MIKE WHITING
Kent County Council Member serving The Isle of Sheppey
mike.whiting@kent.gov.u

Councillor Noe's Report:

I am not able to attend the next meeting due to being required at the planning committee, but am happy to send you a report.

Regarding bin collections

Swale Council recently began a new service with Suez, which has caused significant delays in collection, particularly recycling. There are a number of factors including difficulties with the size of some vehicles and staff sickness.

They have sent numerous catch up crews, but are still quite behind. A lot is going on in terms of trying to fix the problem including the hiring of new drivers to provide additional crews.

At the moment, residents are being told to expect collections on the day they have been told is their new collection day, and reports are showing positive results this week.

Last night they released information about specific routes, but did not provide details about Sheppey East Area. As soon as I receive a response I will let you know.

If bins are still missed on their new collection day this week, I encourage anyone to email me at taranoe@swale.gov.uk. If an entire street has been missed, or a specific reason provided, please let me know, as I am trying to help get problems like blocked routes resolved.

As a result of the problem, there has been excess litter strewn about. Eastchurch recently did a spring clean, and Warden is arranging litter picking this coming weekend. A lot got accomplished in a short time, and I'd be happy to get involved should Leysdown do the same.

Amusements

As a result of the last meeting, I have spoken to a number of people at the council regarding the applications, noise and light pollution. *The applications will put all issues under greater scrutiny, and will allow the council to define how problems will be reported and how they will be enforced in a manner than will be an improvement on how this has been dealt with in the past.*

As Jimmy G's has an adult gaming license, they are not subject to opening hours other amusement centres may have, thus the reason why there is noise and light going beyond 10pm.

Noise issues fall under environmental, which I can report to should the noise level be excessive after hours.

There have been reports of planning breaches from this and other amusements which are currently being looked at.

Regards

Tara