

SOUTHFLEET PARISH COUNCIL

Due to the Covid 19 global crisis the MEETING OF SOUTHFLEET PARISH COUNCIL to be held on Monday 7th December 2020 was held remotely by telephone. Parish Council Members whilst working from home considered and resolved the subjects and matters set out in the Agenda.

Members considering the Agenda: Cllr M N Salway, Cllr I Brown, Cllr S Carter, Cllr L Tomkins, Cllr P Tester and Cllr C Willis

107/20 PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS AND THE LAW: Noted: The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 allows for Members to discuss items on the agenda remotely. Minutes of matters discussed/noted during the month will be published on the Parish Council website. This is subject to change if circumstances warrant.

108/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST. Cllr Brown declared a pecuniary/prejudicial interest in matters relating to Gravesham Borough Council Planning: and Enforcement matters in Dartford and Gravesend; Member of St Nicholas PCC and household near to the allotments.

109/20 MINUTES: The Minutes of the remote November 2020 meeting were considered, agreed to be a true record, and will be signed by the Chairman.

110/20 HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT MATTERS:

- a. Kent Highways: Highways issues reported to the contact centre during the month noted.
 - a. Highcross Road: Noted: KCC have ordered improved signage to discourage HGVs apart from access. A Lorry Watch Scheme for volunteers will be suggested to residents in the New Year, if there is no improvement in incidents.
 - b. Bus Meeting: Minutes of Zoom meeting on 27th October noted.
 - c. Betsham Road: To note extra 30mph road surface signage installed to aid traffic calming.
 - d. Station Road: Roadbridge over railway: Works commencing on 16th December controlled by traffic lights noted. Also installation of 30mph traffic calming signage on the approach to Betsham.

111/20 FOOTPATHS: No matters arising

112/20 PLANNING:

- a. To note observations given by the Planning Sub Committee on planning applications: -
 - Millbrook Garden Centre DA/ 20/01233/COU - The Parish Council continues to be opposed to the application on the grounds that: a/The site is within the Green Belt and the proposed use cannot in any way be associated with the current permitted activity at the site. b/ The proposal would increase vehicle movements on the already heavily trafficked B262 where there is almost daily congestion.

- Highfield Farm DA/ 20/01088/FUL - The Parish Council accepts that the application is within the agricultural use of the site. However would like a condition added to any consent that any further changes, agricultural or otherwise, must be the subject of prior planning consent. Likewise consultations with other agencies such as KCC Highways, Environment Agency etc.
- 3 Amphlett Close DA/ 20/01221/FUL - The Parish Council does not object to the structure, however makes the following comments:-
 1. Drainage: There have been historical drainage problems at the Vale Development, however It is noted the structure has a small hard standing base which should not cause issues with drainage.
 2. The structure should not be extended or used for purposes other than a leisure amenity without the benefit of prior planning consent to protect the special area.
- Court Lodge Farm DA/ 20/01343/FUL - The Parish Council is opposed to the application on the grounds that:-
 1. The proposal will result in yet more built development, which would have an adverse impact on the Green Belt. The Parish Council does not agree with many opinions expressed in the applicant's statement. We have a long established policy to protect the Green Belt. We also support farming in its proper purpose of growing food crops for people and livestock, and safeguarding woodland and wildlife. The application does not meet any of these aims.
 2. The site is low lying with local drainage problems.
 3. The proposal would result in more artificial light nuisance which is already a source of complaint from Southfleet residents
 4. The Parish Council already has serious concerns at the high levels of traffic including HGVs.

We ask DBC to refuse the application.

b. To note Consents granted. None

To note Consents refused. None.

c. Enforcement Issues: Correspondence noted:

- Court Lodge Farm- Scaffolding Business being investigated by DBC.

d. Planning Inspectorate hearings: Appeals for Northend and Drudgeon Farm noted

e. Planning: The PC queried with DBC the procedure for deciding Prior Approval applications on sites which may impact on the overall planning history of the site. DBC confirmed they have a set criteria to follow and there is no requirement to consult with interested parties.

f. Ebbsfleet Garden City: Paul Boughan, Community Liaison has confirmed KCC waste management are reviewing the options available to cater for waste disposal in the Garden City and the EDC is working with them to support this.

g. London Resort: Minutes noted from the Zoom Meeting on 4th November. It is agreed that at these stages of the consultations it is not necessary for PC Members to join the Zoom Meetings.

113/20 ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS/POLICE MATTERS/LICENSING ETC:

a. Police, Kent Fire and Rescue:

- Crime reports for October and November were noted from PCSO, Linda Prior. Local crimes included burglary, lost dog found, quarantine enquiry, stolen car on fire.
- CCTV signs: Vandalism of the sign in Foxhounds Lane was reported to DBC.
- Automatic Number Plate Recognition: To note consultation from Kent Police.

- b. Environment: - Fly Tipping: Reports noted in Dale Road, Hook Green Road and Foxhounds Lane.
- c. Trees, Hedges and Bulbs: To note any matters.

114/20 CODE OF CONDUCT/STANDARDS FOR ENGLAND, LOCAL GOVERNMENT, STANDING ORDERS : Nothing to report.

115/20 CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATION: COVID 19 CRISIS. The Government has announced from 16th December a Tier system, whereby the areas with increased cases will be in the highest Tier 3. Kent will be in the strictest Tier 3 resulting in hospitality businesses being closed including public houses. No mixing of households inside or outside.

116/20 SOUTHFLEET MEMORIAL FUND: Members agreed unanimously to the co-option of Mr Brian Rippington as a Trustee and Hon Treasurer of the Fund.

117/20 DONATIONS/GRANTS.

- The Vale Management Committee re: Childrens' playground. The Management Committee provided quotes for cleaning. It was agreed to donate £150 towards the costs as a one-off donation in recognition that children from other areas of the parish may use the playground.
- Allotment Society. The PC has asked the Society for details of maintenance or items that are required, and the cost, in order to consider a donation. All Members considered the request for approx. £1000 towards a providing an amenity area at the Red Street end of the allotments. Following Members individual discussion with the Chairman, a majority of Members agreed to donate £300 towards the cost. This amount is in line with the Covid Awards given to other Community Groups. It was also agreed to suggest the Allotment Society consult with householders near to the proposed amenity site, as this does constitute a change of use from allotment to amenity use.

118/20 PRECEPT:

- a. It was agreed to increase the Precept by an inflationary rate of 1% from £8800 to £8888 for the financial year 2021/2022
- b. A Community Covid Award Scheme was agreed. Awards will be given to the following:
 - Community Spirit Award £100 – the Ship, Broadditch Farm Shop
 - Covid Relief Award £100 – Betsham and Southfleet Cricket Clubs, Rainbows and the Club, Warren Road.
 - Covid Relief Awards £300 – Southfleet Village Hall, St Nicolas Church, Sedley's School

119/20 FINANCE:

- a. Bank Transfers agreed: -
 - Southfleet Village Hall. To note 2020 invoice is on hold pending further advice from the SVH Secretary
- b. Bank Transfers for December agreed:
 - Mrs J Hardinges (Salary and Expenses for Oct to Dec) £
(witnessed by Cllr Brown.)
- c. Bank Statements: Current Account £6136.88, Reserve Account £19,954.46 noted.

DBC Capacity Building Fund Grant: Award of £1855 for a Southfleet Parish sign and bollards in Station Road noted.