

# **SOUTHFLEET PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the MEETING OF SOUTHFLEET PARISH COUNCIL held on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2022. Members considered and resolved the subjects and matters set out in the agenda.

**PRESENT:** Cllr M N Salway, Cllr I Brown, Cllr L Tomkins, Cllr P Tester, and Cllr C Willis

## **Apologies:**

**38/22 ELECTIONS:** - To elect

- a) Cllr Salway declared a wish to continue as Chairman which was proposed and seconded by Members of the Parish Council. The Chairman thanked Members and the Clerk for their consideration with her health issues.
- b) It was proposed by Cllr Salway and seconded by Cllr Tomkins that Cllr I Brown be Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council.
- c) The following areas of particular responsibilities and organisations were agreed:
  - Donations All members of the Parish Council
  - Trees Chairman and all members
  - Footpaths All members of the Parish Council
  - Southfleet Memorial Fund Chairman and Cllr Tester

**39/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** Cllr Brown declared a pecuniary/prejudicial interest in matters relating to Gravesham Borough Council Planning, Enforcement matters in Dartford and Gravesend and a Member of St Nicholas.

**40/22 MINUTES:** The Minutes of the Meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> April were considered. Agreed to be a true record and signed by the Chairman.

**41/22 CASUAL VACANCY FOR SOUTHLEET EAST WARD:** Two applications have been received within the deadline set. Members have interviewed a candidate and will be arranging a suitable time to interview the 2<sup>nd</sup> candidate before making a final decision.

## **42/22 HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT MATTERS:**

- a. Kent Highways: A noticeably short highways report noted.
- b. Road closures April/May and general maintenance matters noted including:
  - Red Street. Emergency closure by Thames Water will be followed up with KCC Highways as due to no notice given, it has affected the bus service and children travelling to school
- c. Hook Green Road: The Clerk has been liaising with the KCC Projects Officer on proposed traffic calming scheme on approaches to the Southfleet village centre. No update.
- d. Bus Services: The KCC Consultation on reductions to the subsidised services including cutting the 474/475 service to Bluewater and 489 Sunday service. The Parish Council has opposed the cuts and the Clerk was interviewed on Radio Kent and encouraged to respond to the KCC consultation which ended on 20<sup>th</sup> April. It has been reported that KCC has received £35 million from the Government for Public Services and Members are outraged at the cost cutting to the bus service which is vital for the most vulnerable parishioners.

- e. New Barn Road: Southfleet sign on parish boundary: Prior to the 1980's New Barn did come within the parish of Southfleet, but due to a boundary review, this changed and the Southfleet boundary line is now the West side of New Barn Road at the property known as Surlingham. The Parish Council as part of its heritage project instructed a sign maker to produce a sign to reflect the location of the boundary which was erected in the correct position adjacent to the Road, viewed by cars traveling North into Southfleet. Members declined the request to change the sign to read New Barn.
- h. Hook Green Road – Damaged Wall - Correspondence with the Vale Mgt Committee and KCC Highways noted. Ownership of the wall has been confirmed as a Company and due to the boundary dispute, the Parish Council has advised the Vale Mgt Committee to liaise with KCC direct.

#### 43/22 FOOTPATHS:

- a. PROWs in the parish: Signs are still missing: The Clerk will follow up with KCC Footpaths Officer.

#### 44/22 PLANNING:

- a. To note observations given by the Planning Sub Committee on planning applications: - None
- b. To consider planning application Consultations: -
- Land Off Foxhounds Lane Kent DA/22/00476/SCREEN Request for screening opinion for formation of 300MW battery energy storage system and associated infrastructure. The Parish Council opposes the request for and screening and application for formation of energy storage systems on the grounds of Green Belt considerations. It expects the Planning Authority to apply strict Green Belt policy to this application. The Parish Council is very concerned with the precedent that would be set if the application was given consent.
  - Wastdale DA/22/00417/FUL DA/22/00416/LBC- Erection of a single storey rear/side garden room extension. The Parish Council is opposed to the application. In i's opinion, the design is inappropriate to the setting of the Grade 11 Listed building.

c. To note Consents granted.

- DA/22/00115/FUL Belmont House Red Street Erection of a single storey rear/side extension

To note Consents Refused

- DA/22/00207/COU Court Lodge Farm Change of use of land to a temporary staff car park with associated hard surface (retrospective)

d. Enforcement Issues: No updates

#### 45/22 ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS/POLICE MATTERS/LICENSING ETC:

- a. Police, Kent Fire and Rescue: The May crime report was not available.

b. Environment

- Fly Tipping: The PC reported any issues of flytipping witnessed on the DBC online reporting tool including a huge mound of rubble in Foxhounds Lane, which was quickly removed.
- Circus – land adjacent to Millbrook – Correspondence with DBC was noted. There was concern with the permissions for the circus from 28<sup>th</sup> April to 8<sup>th</sup> May 2022, however DBC confirmed no permissions were required as it was exempt.

- c. Trees, Hedges and Bulbs: Woodland Trust trees continue to be nurtured. The Chairman confirmed she will donate a dogwood shrub to and a Chequer Tree to the Harris family to thank them for arranging the Platinum beacon lighting on 2<sup>nd</sup> June.

46/22 CODE OF CONDUCT/STANDARDS FOR ENGLAND, LOCAL GOVERNMENT, STANDING ORDERS: Apologies have been sent to DBC for attendance of their AGM.

47/22 CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATION:

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee: The Platinum seeds have been given to Sedley's and the Rainbows. Events are being arranged in the parish including:

2<sup>nd</sup> June – Beacon Lighting at 9.45pm at Broadditch by the Cricket Green

4<sup>th</sup> June - Jubilee picnic at the Village Hall

5<sup>th</sup> June – Individual Street parties

48/22 DONATIONS/GRANTS No requests for donations received. The Jubilee picnic organiser thanked the PC for their donation of £500 towards the Event.

49/22/FINANCE:

a Bank Transfers noted -

- |                                 |      |
|---------------------------------|------|
| • Singlewell Print (newsletter) | £125 |
| • Jubilee Picnic (Donation)     | £500 |

d. Bank Statements as of 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2022

Current Account £3,009.36

Reserve Account £33,429.57 (including £17,000 CIL)