

STALISFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held remotely on 27 May 2020.

Present: Cllr Cat Horn (Chair), Cllr Holly Andrews, Cllr Tracy Dove, Cllr Chris Norwood and Cllr Nina Williams.

Also present were County Councillor Andrew Bowles and Ward Member David Simmons.

1. Election of Chairman

Cllr Horn welcomed everyone to the meeting

Cllr Dove **PROPOSED** Cllr Horn for Chairman; **SECONDED** by Cllr Norwood: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**. Cllr Horn will sign her Declaration of Acceptance of Office at the next physical meeting of the Council.

2. Apologies

All Members were present.

3. Declarations of interest

None were declared.

3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held on 9 January 2020

Cllr Horn read the minutes of the meeting held on 9 January. It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the minutes as a true record of the meeting, the minutes will be signed by Cllr Horn at the next physical meeting of the Parish Council.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Cllr Dove asked where the memorial bulbs will be planted.

Cllr Horn said the daffodil bulbs will be planted on the slope between The Plough and the green.

Cllr Dove asked if other Parish Councils are using HugoFox as their webprovider.

The Clerk reported that her other Parish Council are using or are moving to HugoFox. Unfortunately, she was unable to create the new website for Stalisfield earlier due to an operation on her hand, the new website will be built after the internal audit has been conducted.

Cllr Norwood reported that he had not been able to find suitable tables for the Village Hall.

KCCllr Bowles said he has made a grant of £524.50 to the Village Hall Committee towards the tables.

Cllr Dove said the Village Hall Committee would like ten new rectangular tables and ten new round tables with a trolley for the round tables. These will match the chairs. The old tables will be used for outside events.

5. Public Time

SBCllr Simmons asked if the Village Hall Committee had applied for the small business grant from Swale Borough Council. Grants of up to £10,000 are available.

Cllr Dove said the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown has had a huge impact on the finances of the Village Hall, a number of weddings have been cancelled and the deposits returned.

Fundraising events have also been cancelled. Cllr Dove thanked SBCllr for the information.

KCCllr Bowles reported that KCC Highways is carrying out an increased amount of work on pot holes and resurfacing while the roads are quieter.

KCCllr Bowles said Kent County Council is holding an increasing number of meetings remotely and the first planning meeting has been held online. It has taken some time to set this up as some Councillors only have iPads. It is hoped to run the existing calendar of meetings in July. The COVID-19 epidemic is extremely costly to Kent County Council and it has only been reimbursed 50% from Government. There is also an issue with the reduced collection rate of taxes and this will make the budget for 20-21 irrelevant. There has been a massive increase in unaccompanied minors entering the country through Kent and this has not been shared out among the shire counties as usual and the extra financial burden has decimated the budget. The County Council now has a duty to inspect care homes, the Council has the work but not the funding.

Cllr Horn thanked KCCllr Bowles for his report.

6. Planning Matters

i. Ref: 20/501571/FULL

Address: The Stables Derbies Court Stalisfield Road Stalisfield Faversham ME13 0HN

Proposal: To enlarge 2 No. existing windows to the South West elevation.

The Clerk reported that this application has been refused.

ii. Ref: 20/500757/FULL

Address: Highlands Stalisfield Road Stalisfield Faversham Kent ME13 0HY

Proposal: Demolition of existing dwelling and outbuildings and erection of a replacement dwelling with detached double garage (revised scheme to 17/503842/FULL).

Councillors considered the application and comments from neighbours. The site is in Conservation Area and an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and new builds should be buildings of outstanding merit. The proposal probably strikes the right balance between modern architecture and the vernacular. The Parish Council would be supportive of the proposal if the dominant cladding were to be of natural materials. We would want to make sure the building materials are appropriate and natural for the area. Concern was raised that there is no detail regarding the raised ground and this will have to be sensitively completed. The landscaping around the property is as important as the house.

7. Finance

i. Councillor expenses

There were none

ii. Invoices

Cheques raised out of meeting on 31 March 2020, Mrs W Licence for salary and expenses £665.53 (cheque no 283); HMRC PAYE £139.73 (cheque no 284).

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay the following invoices:

- a) Swale Borough Council- recharge of election costs £64.90 (Chq no 285).
- b) Came & Co- insurance £218.00 (Chq no 286)
- c) Mr D Horton- village green mowing £425.00 (chq no 287)
- d) KALC -subscription £162.74 (Chq no 288)

iii. Grant requests

a) To consider request for a grant from The British Red Cross

b) To consider request for a grant from Marie Curie

Councillors considered the requests from the national charities and agreed not to make a grant at this time. The Council's reserves will be monitored.

8. Community Resilience Plan

Cllr Horn reported the village Community Resilience Plan is working well with small groups of residents linking in and supporting each other.

Cllr Dove reported that everyone seems to be fine and that there has been no losses through COVID-19.

9. Any Other Business

Cllr Dove said the internal audit is due.

ACTION: Cllr Dove to ask the Internal Auditor if she is willing to carry out the audit again this year.

Cllr Horn thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

10. Date of next meeting: 16 July at 6.30pm

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.40pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting:

Chair

Date: 16 July 2020