

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF GUSTON PARISH COUNCIL
held on Tuesday 28th February 2023
at Guston Village Hall 7.30pm

PRESENT: Parish Councillors: Chair: Mrs Tracey Creed, Mr. Keith Gowland, Mrs Angela Surendoff, Mr. Matthew Sweetman, Cllr Martin Bates, Cllr. Steve Manion

Parish Clerk: Mrs Glynis Farthing.

ABSENT:

MEMBERS OF THE PRESS/PUBLIC:

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4350 Apologies for absence:

Mrs Claire Gurraj, Cllr. Oliver Richardson

4351 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Creed's husband does some work at the village hall

4352 Minutes of the last meeting

Proposed for acceptance by Cllr.Gowland, seconded Cllr.Surendoff

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 17th January 2023 be accepted and signed by the Chairman.

Chairman closed the meeting for public participation.

4353 Public Participation

No members of the public present.

Chairman reopened the meeting

4354 Kent County Council – Cllr. Manion

Cllr Manion explained the rise in KCC tax and the savings that need to be made.

Eligible Kent residents will receive a one-off £100 voucher for use towards their household gas and electric costs. Applications are open now until the end of March - or when this budget pot has been distributed. It is on a first come, first served basis and is one voucher per qualifying household.

The scheme is aimed at people who are impacted by the cost-of-living crisis and in need but are not currently eligible and therefore not receiving other government support released over recent months. To find out more, including the eligibility criteria, visit the website here

Professionals from partnership organisations are also making referrals into the scheme.

<https://news.kent.gov.uk/articles/household-support-fund-energy-vouchers>

4355 Dover District Council –Cllrs. Bates/Richardson

LEVELLING UP FUNDING

Two projects in Dover have been awarded over £63 million to deliver new investment to boost jobs, skills, and access in the town in the latest round of the Government's Levelling Up Fund.

Dover District Council has secured £18.1 million for the Dover Beacon project to transform a brownfield site on Bench Street in the heart of Dover town centre. The redevelopment of the site will include:

- An education campus providing training opportunities in creative and digital industries, expanding access and the curriculum for local students
- A business centre, providing flexible, affordable facilities for start-ups and small, and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) to attract and retain skilled workers and provide new employment opportunities
- A riverside parklet, creating accessible green space for local people and visitors.

Separately, Kent County Council has been awarded £45m for the Dover Access Improvements project. This will improve the flow of traffic from the UK to the EU, with more border control points and a new exit route to help the Port of Dover operate more efficiently and reduce congestion on local roads in Dover.

VOTER ID

District and Parish elections are due to take place on Thursday 4 May 2023. The deadline to register to vote in these elections is Monday 17 April 2023. If you are not already registered, you can register to vote on-line at <https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote>

The UK Government has passed a law that requires individuals who wish to vote in person, including those acting as a proxy on behalf of another individual, to produce an accepted form of photographic ID to prove their identity before they will be issued with a ballot paper at the polling station.

Accepted forms of photographic ID include items such as:

- A passport issued by the UK, any of the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, a British Overseas Territory, an EEA state, or a Commonwealth country
- A driving licence issued by the UK, any of the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, or an EEA state.

There is a long list which can be obtained from the DDC website.

Expired photographic identification documents can still be used as accepted photographic ID at the polling station, as long as the photograph is still a good likeness of the elector and the name matches the details held on the Register of Electors.

Where an elector does not have or does not wish to use one of the accepted forms of photographic ID, they can apply for a Voter Authority Certificate (VAC). This is a document containing an elector's name and photograph which can be obtained free of charge from the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) at Dover District Council, following verification of the applicant's identity.

You can apply by either:

- Online at <https://voter-authority-certificate.service.gov.uk>
- By providing the necessary information in writing (eg on a paper application form)
- In person with the Electoral Services Team at the Council offices in Whitfield.

You will be receiving further information as we get closer to the election. The new DDC Community bus will also be touring the area and providing additional information and handouts.

UPDATE ON HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY

The deadline for responses has now been extended from 7th March until to 18th April.

DEAL JOBS AND SKILLS FAIR, 14 MARCH (12-4pm), TIDES LEISURE CENTRE

Deal is the venue for the latest Big Jobs & Skills Fair organised by Dover District Council and the Department for Work and Pensions. Supported by Your Leisure, the Tides Leisure Centre in Park Avenue, Deal throws open its doors to job seekers on Tuesday, 14 March between midday and 4pm.

A host of employers will be showcasing local jobs along with a wide range of information and opportunities on further education with East Kent College Group, training, and apprenticeships.

The event is free to attend, and Stagecoach are onboard too with a free shuttle bus operating to Tides Leisure Centre throughout the day. People will be able hop on the free bus at stops in Mill Hill (St Richard's Church Centre), Golf Road Community Centre, Deal train station, and Deal bus station.

Street Parties for the Coronation of King Charles III

Residents are being encouraged to join in the celebrations for the King's Coronation by holding street parties in their neighbourhood. The event notification form for residents to apply for a street party is available on the DDC website. For

all street parties that require a road closure, a separate application will also need to be submitted to Kent County Council. The deadline for road closure applications is Friday 3 March 2023.

Further guidance on how to organise a street party can also be found on the gov.uk website.

DOVER FAST TRACK

Attended the Drop In session last week and was told that the Dover Rd closure was still scheduled to end by 9th March and that they had received no complaints about it recently. Concerns over the ANPR process has been passed to the Project Team. Emma will arrange a meeting with the Project Lead for this workstream if you wish. He has provided an email outlining the KCC case for the decision to go with ANPR which I have forwarded to you.

4356 Dover Fastrack -update

Cllrs discussed their concerns regarding the new road and access to it. At no point during the negotiations and planning has anyone ever provided information that a 'bus gate' is not a physical barrier but road markings and management through a ANPR system. They are of the opinion that this has been deliberately withheld and the correct information not provided. The term 'bus gate' has never been fully explained. Can we be fully assured that the only vehicles using this road will be the Fastrack buses? The current signage says 'local buses only' can this be changed to 'Fastrack Bus only'? Any meeting with officers needs to include all Cllrs.

There is a high level of frustration regarding lack of transparency and consultation on many aspects of this project and Cllrs are proposing to raise official complaints into the manner in which information has been disseminated to both the PC and residents.

Questions have been raised by a resident concerning the initial route of the bus – will it use the existing exit from Dover Road onto Castle Hill? When is it anticipated that the new road through Connaught Barracks be started /completed? How will this be factored into any bus timetable since at peak traffic times the exit from Dover Road onto Castle Hill is unpredictable.

4357 Burgoyne Heights

Enquiry from resident regarding the possible installation of a defibrillator. Cllrs discussed where it would be possible to locate this. A resident who is a qualified paramedic has offered to have this attached to his property. Cllr. Surendoff will liaise with the resident.

Still a problem with the two lights to the school. UK PowerNet Works have been informed of the problem

4358 Feedback from Council Representatives and Matters arising from previously circulated material.

Clerk and Cllr Gowland attended the Town and Parish meeting at DDC offices on Feb 16th.

Presentations:

- Changes related to District and Urban/Rural Policing matters.
- Funding update and Dover Community Bus
- District Housing Needs survey (this has recently been extended)
- Elections update – connected to the introduction of voter ID.
- Guidance on completing DPI forms

Dover Area KALC meeting scheduled for 1st March.

Committee Reports – Cllr Gowland

- KALC Executive

KALC Executive Meeting Report from 28th. Jan. 2023

The three yearly Elections took place for Chairman and Vice Chairman and the yearly Elections for the Advisory Committees and Working Groups.

I was privileged to be elected as Vice Chairman of KALC and retain my positions on various of the above.

The Finances are in 'good shape' with healthy reserves.

The position with ARCK was discussed and suggested that the issues be taken to Area Committees as the effect of ARCK's demise affect Local Councils in different ways.

There are ongoing discussions between SLCC and DeMontford University of the future of Local Councils. It was suggested that Local Councils try to engage with their Local Authorities.
An update was given on current and Post Election Training and L&D.

- **Dover Joint Transportation Advisory Board**

Report of DJTAB Meeting on December 8th. 2022

The Highways Forward Works Programme for 2022/23 and 2023/24 was noted. Details available on request.

The remainder of the Meeting was dominated by Bus Service issues in Dover District.

This was a report from Kent Highways in response to a 1,200 signature petition regarding Bus Services in Dover District. A short presentation was given by Stagecoach with robust discussion following. There were comments from DDC Cllr. Linda Keen (Aylesham Ward), Cllr Malcolm Ledger, Eythorne PC. and Cllr. Jamie Pout, Aylesham PC. to give a local perspective. There were many reasons given for service withdrawals.

- **Dover Quality Bus Partnership**

This scheme is currently being reorganised.

4359 Planning

Nothing further has been notified.

4360 Financial Reports/Accounts/Payments

a) The Financial statement for January has been prepared and circulated to Cllrs.

b) Cllr. allowances for 2022/23. Cllr. Gowland proposed that these allowances should continue for the coming financial year 2023/24. Cllrs discussed and supported the proposal. These would be increased to £175 and £350.

Items for payment:

Cheque HSBC (No.102278) MSCAPE -Parish Maintenance February/March £1,326.84

Cheque HSBC (No.102279) G. Farthing (Feb £829.23/March £829.23+ Exp. £24) = £1,682.46

Cheque HSBC (No.102280) HMRC (PAYE) £737.35

Cheque HSBC (No.102281) Keith Gowland (travelling expenses) £21.60

Cheque HSBC (No.102282) Keith Gowland (Cllr allowance) £175.00

Cheque HSBC (No.102283) Tracey Creed (Chairman's Allowance) £350.00

Total: £4,293.25

Proposed for acceptance by Cllr. Gowland, seconded by Cllr. Sweetman

RESOLVED: (a) That the financial report for January be accepted and signed by the Chairman

RESOLVED: (b) To approve payments, cheques signed by Cllrs. Creed & Gowland

RESOLVED: (c) To pay Cllr allowances for the financial year 2023/24.

4361 Roads & Footpaths and other Parish Matters.

- Maintenance Tasks – deferred to the next meeting.

- Container (Village Hall) – Cllr Creed has been carrying out some further research and provided an update in regard of the refurbishment since it has deteriorated considerably. Trade Container Services Ltd based in Margate has provided an assessment, based on the photographs and information provided, however they have already indicated that much of the necessary work would require a 'hot works permit' for any operation that uses open flame or the local application of heat and friction.

Examples include: welding, soldering, torch cutting, grinding and hot riveting. A full risk assessment of the area where the work will take place would also be required. Cllr Creed has emailed photos of the container external and internal, the advice is that it would be more cost effective and efficient to replace it with a new container. A new foundation would be required – Cllr Creed will investigate the costs. Cllrs unanimously agreed that a new container would be the best option as it would come with a guarantee and be more aesthetically acceptable. Cllr Creed will contact the company to place the order and arrange for the disposal of the current container. Total costs of £4,500.

- Development of Highways Improvement Plan – Clerk has started on this and circulated to Cllrs for their input. Cllrs discussed the various suggestions and will return to this at the next meeting once they have considered any further areas that may need to be included and prioritised.
- Potholes – Cllr Creed has reported a number of potholes.
 - Highways and Transportation Enquiry - Enquiry 694091-multiple potholes Langdon Road
 - Highways and Transportation Enquiry - Enquiry 694086 – The Lane
- Car parking opposite the Swingate on the A258 is causing sightline difficulties for vehicles exiting The Lane.
- Litter on the embankment on the A2 – this is not being properly cleared, Cllr Bates will investigate. The litter is blowing into the village.
- Area on Prescott Close which is being used as a dumping ground – Cllr Bates reported on this and it has mostly been cleared after contact with the resident. A Housing Officer has visited the tenant and returned to the property two weeks later to find that about 90% of the waste had been removed. He left a calling card to request that the remainder be disposed of and will making another check on Thursday this week. Clerk will email the resident who made the initial report.
- The bus shelter on Castle Hill has been replaced.
- Cllrs discussed the need to have a PC representative on the Burgoyne Heights Residents Association.
- Coronation Bench- Cllrs discussed where these could be located. One in the village opposite the current bench and the other at Burgoyne Heights located on land owned by the Land Trust. Clerk will contact company and order two benches.

4362 Items for consultation and other correspondence received

KALC – Community Awards Scheme. Cllrs have considered any potential recipients but none has been identified as suitable.

Invitation: Fort Burgoyne West Wing opening 25 March. All Cllrs are invited to attend this event. Please book using the link provided.

All email correspondence and consultation documents forwarded to Cllrs.

All consultation items and news articles have been added to the parish website for information.

Various consultations can be completed either individually or as a PC.

KALC Membership survey.

4363 Training/Seminars etc.

All training information has been circulated to Cllrs and information regarding standing as a Councillor has been advertised on the parish website.

KALC Armed Forces Awareness training – Cllrs Sweetman and Surendoff will do this.

New Councillor training – as above.

4364 Dates and venues for future meetings

Parish Council Meeting: Tuesday 9th May and Annual Parish Meeting 7.30pm Guston Village Hall

This meeting closed at 22.03 pm

CHAIRMAN

DATE