

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF GUSTON PARISH COUNCIL

held on Monday 1st March 2021

via Zoom -7pm

This meeting was held via Zoom in compliance with the current legislation on Covid 19

PRESENT: Parish Clerk: Mrs Glynis Farthing. Parish Councillors: Chair: Mrs Tracey Creed, Mr. Keith Gowland, Mrs Claire Gurraj, Mrs Julie Gray, Cllr. Martin Bates, Cllr. S. Manion, Cllr Richardson

ABSENT:

MEMBERS OF THE PRESS/PUBLIC:

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4074 Apologies for absence:

4075 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Gurraj (cleaning of the village hall) and her husbands' cleaning company for various cleaning contracts.
Cllr. Creed – her husband does work for the village hall and community.

4076 Minutes of the last meeting

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

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 11th January 2021 be accepted and signed by the Chairman.

Chairman closed the meeting for public participation.

4077 Public Participation

Any items raised maybe added for inclusion on the next agenda or for Cllrs to respond by email as appropriate.
Both residents were interested in the Inland Border Freight Site and the potential for building on The Lane, Guston. Both raised concerns. They intend to make comments on the Draft Local Plan but have found the document and system very confusing. All comments will be taken into consideration. This is the very early stages of consultation/engagement.

Chairman reopened the meeting

4078 Guston Green/Mini Meadow

The Annual Inspection will be due in May. Mini-Meadow gate has been repaired. The parks are being well used.

4079 Draft Local Plan

Dover District Local Plan Consultation -Have your say on the future of Dover District. The consultation on the Draft Local Plan is open from 20 January - 17 March 2021. This is your opportunity to help shape the future development of the district and have your say on the key issues of climate change, new homes, employment and local economy, retail and town centres, transport and infrastructure, design, natural and historic environment.

To view, comment and find out more about the consultation and our online events go to:
www.doverdistrictlocalplan.co.uk

There is one site identified in Guston Village – The Lane. This was discussed in Minute No 4077. Clerk explained the 'traffic light' system that had been used to identify potential areas for development. Cllr Gowland added that if a site was identified as 'green' it did not necessarily mean that it would be used.

4080 Proposed Inland Border Facility

Report/update from Cllr Bates:

Since the last meeting we attended a meeting on 12th January when the engagement process, due to start the next day, was explained to us. It had been agreed that the process would be extended until 2nd February and this was later extended to 9th February. Our last meeting with DfT took place on 8th February when we were

provided with an indicative site layout of the proposed IBF. This layout was different to an earlier plan which indicated that the Dover Fast Track link road would be used to provide separate access and exit points for the site. The access point being off the B&Q roundabout and the exit point being some distance further up. The new plan indicated that both access and exit points would be on the intersection with the roundabout. Both plans provided details of the buffer zone and other mitigations being put in place to accommodate environmental concerns expressed by the residents. It also showed the rerouting of the North Downs Way. On 9th February the engagement response to the proposals put by DfT were discussed at an extraordinary meeting of the DDC Council. The Planning Report indicated that they were fully aware of the environmental concerns and had stipulated several conditions to mitigate them. (Have them to hand). The proposal put to the Council Members was that the Council welcomed the additional employment that the IBF would bring to the site but insisted that the concerns listed in the report should be adequately addressed. The Leader of the Council stated a determination to request a meeting with the Secretary of State for Housing, Community and Local Government ahead of any decision he would make on the SDO submission and this request is still ongoing. The proposal was passed with a substantial majority.

Following on from this meeting I had some concerns in relation to the outcome of the meeting we had the previous day and wrote the following to the DfT on 16th February:

- 1). I asked them to confirm that the second option produced at the meeting would be the one taken forward or was it an alternative should construction be delayed to the DFT link due to the need to obtain planning permission. I asked that we now be permitted to share this option with you so that you could have the opportunity to comment upon it. I also asked that they provide you with a cross section of the proposed buffer zone so that you could see an illustration of the mitigations that they intended to put in place.
- 2). When attending the Council Meeting, I became somewhat confused as to what the capacity of the IFB will be. In the officer's report to the Council they confirmed a maximum capacity of 550 HGV vehicles but then broke it down to 96 HGV occupancy in the swim lanes and 200 additional parking bays for those awaiting processing by HMRC and DEFRA. That only provided a total onsite capacity of 296. I requested an explanation for this disparity.
- 3). With respect to the rerouted North Downs Way many residents were still raising concerns with me as to the likelihood of motorcyclists abusing the pathway that will run past their homes. I suggested that we change this section from a BOAT to a restricted byway for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders.
- 4). I requested a response to an email from a resident concerning the impact of the lighting on Guston village and attached the correspondence.
- 5). I asked whether we would be able to view the proposed package of documentation for the submission and have the opportunity to provide feedback before it was considered by the Secretary of State.
- 6). I requested details of the milestone dates for approval of the submission and commencement of construction?

On 25th February I received the following response:

- 1). With respect to the site layout, they cannot confirm whether the second layout will be taken forward at present. They do not wish to publicise differing options for fear of causing confusion amongst the residents and that a copy of the final layout will be uploaded on the IBF website in due course.
- 2). With respect to the site capacity, they said that the figure of 550 was given as a worse case scenario. The figure could now be lower than initially anticipated. They will endeavour to inform us of the final capacity number at the earliest opportunity.
- 3). They say that they have not made a final decision on the North Downs Way and are exploring all options. They are planning to have a separate engagement period which will be dedicated to it. The proposal remains to use the existing exit on the Dover Rd but that would be a temporary measure while the site is in use.
- 4). Details of the lighting plan will be addressed once their plans have been finalised. They will ensure it complies with SDO and Health and Safety guidance.
- 5). They will not provide documents to be submitted during the engagement period as the engagement period is necessarily pre-submission.

- 6). They aim to submit their proposal to the SoS in late March with a view to obtaining ministerial approval in early April. Construction is due to commence in mid-April.
- 7). The next step will be the IBF catch up meeting which is due to take place this coming Wednesday.

Cllr Creed and Clerk had attended an additional 80 minute meeting with the DfT ON Friday 5th February. Looked at a couple of draft site plans but under strict agreement that these could not be shared publicly. Cllr Creed has been in regular communication with the DfT and received the same information as Cllr Bates has reported.

4081 Kent County Council

Cllr Manion- report

KCC Budget has been agreed. 2% rise plus 3% for Adult Social Care.

Vision Zero – a road safety plan.

Crowd Funding for Community Projects across Kent.

Census 2021

4082 Dover District Council – Cllrs Bates/Richardson

Covid Update

ROAD MAP UPDATE

From 8 March, some of the rules on what you can and cannot do will be changing:

- You will be allowed to spend time in outdoor public spaces for recreation on your own, with one other person, or with your household or support bubble. This means you can sit down for a drink or picnic. You must continue to maintain social distance from those outside your household. This is in addition to outdoor exercise, which is already permitted
- Pupils and students in all schools and Further Education settings will be able to return to face-to-face education
- Wraparound childcare can reopen, and other children's activities can restart for all children where it is needed to enable parents to work, attend education, seek medical care or attend a support group. Vulnerable children can attend childcare and other children's activities in all circumstances
- Students on practical Higher Education courses at English universities who have not already returned and would be unable to complete their courses if they did not return to take part in practical teaching, access specialist facilities or complete assessments will be able to return.
- There will continue to be restrictions on international travel. Holidays will not be a permitted reason to travel.
- Those seeking to leave the UK must complete an outbound declaration of travel form ahead of departure.
- The rules on visiting care homes will change to allow regular indoor visits for a single named visitor.

VACCINATIONS UPDATE

The NHS is now offering Covid19 vaccine appointments to people in 'cohorts' five and six.

Cohort five is people aged 65 to 69. If you are in this group, you will receive a letter from the national booking service and you can book an appointment at one of the large vaccination sites or community pharmacy services.

People in cohort six, those aged 16 to 64 with underlying health conditions (considered clinically vulnerable), will be invited by their GP surgery for a vaccination appointment. Carers will be invited either by the national booking system or by their GP for a vaccination appointment. To be invited for a vaccination as a carer of someone who is clinically vulnerable, you will need to be registered as a carer with your local authority (council) or on your GP record.

Local Plan Invitation

Just a reminder that the current period of consultation will end on or around 20th March.

Street Lights

Following on from my report at the previous meeting I forwarded an email to KCC requesting that they repair those items which I have been advised are their assets. I received a response stating that they believed these assets were the responsibility of DDC. Since then I have written to Natalie Elphicke requesting that she provide some assistance in resolving this matter and Ollie has been liaising with DDC as part of his profile. There is some movement in that DDC, UKPN and KCC have agreed to co-operate in resolving all outstanding lighting issues within the District – Burgoyne Heights being one of them.

There followed a lengthy discussion about this issue

Litter on Dover Road

On 08/01 I wrote an email to waste department at DDC asking how often the verges were being cleared and requesting that one be undertaken as soon as possible. I did not receive a reply. There have been issues within the waste department because of the imposition of the lockdown and the sad untimely death of Mandy Pile. A new waste manager has now been appointed and they are beginning to prioritise outstanding issues. I have again written to DDC requesting an update. They replied today and will arrange for the area to be looked at by the cleaning teams. (See also Minute 4086)

Information on the 'Road Map ' has been provided on the Parish website as has information related to the Draft Local Plan and links for comments.

4083 Feedback/Matters arising from Council Representative(s)

KALC Dover Area Committee Meeting Report

Via Zoom on Wednesday February 24th 2021.

I had a Remote Meeting with the DDC Leader, Cllr. Trevor Bartlett which was a 'get to know' you exercise. He said the right things and I think we as a sector will be able to work with him. We are planning for the next Meeting around May/ June time when it might be able to be 'face to face'!!.

It was 'a catch up ' sort of exercise where attendees gave reports of Covid 19 activities within their areas including leafleting with safety advice, keeping an eye on older residents, methods of being able to keep playgrounds etc. open. St. Margarets P.C. was able through their involvement of the local community to recruit three Councillors to fill their vacancies. Interesting!!

Items of Mutual Interest included discussion on the Local Plan and associated issues with it being agreed that the Chairman would write to the Chief Executive, the Chairman and the Leader of DDC to get some clarification as to why KALC as the representation of the 'grass roots' was removed from the DPPAG.

The I.B.F. was also discussed with no support for it!! Also the PCSO move round fell on 'stoney' ground something which I will taking up with the Area Commander.

Train Horns were also mentioned although this does not seem an issue in Dover Area.

The Dover Joint Transportation Board and Dover Quality Bus Partnership Minutes will be available to read online as I was unable to access Microsoft Teams.

KALC Executive Meeting in January Minutes will also be available on line. No major issues and healthy finances.

I was re- elected for a further 3 year term on F & GP. and onto the Transport Advisory and Planning Advisory Groups.

Cllrs. thanked Cllr Gowland for his report.

4084 Financial Reports/Accounts/Payments

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

Items for payment:

Cheque HSBC (No.102026) Temple Bright (Solicitors) £1,200.00

Cheque HSBC (No.102027) Mscape (Parish Maintenance Jan/Feb) £1,166.84

Cheque HSBC (No.102028) G. Farthing (Jan salary £693.17/Feb salary £692.97+£24exp+Zoom sub £14.39+ stamps £9.12+Village Hall elec. £151.09 = £1,584.74

Cheque HSBC (No.102024) HMRC (PAYE) £519.80

Cheque HSBC (No.102029) Claire Gurraj (Home Heroes) Mini-meadow £283.18

Total : £4,754.56

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

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 & Gurraj

Clerk has submitted a claim for VAT for £1000.

4085 Planning

Dover Fastrack: Dover Fastrack - Land to the north of Dover and to the south of Whitfield, Kent – DOV/20/01048 (KCC/DO/0178/2020)

Update from Cllr Bates:

Following on from an email you circulated to several individuals on 13th January. I requested a meeting with Emma Allen which took place on 20th January. The bulk of our discussion formed the basis of a letter I forwarded to interested residents during the course of the remainder of that month. The position was that there was a meeting on 14th September when the residents in Dover Road were asked whether they would be prepared to sell a portion of their land at the front of their homes to enable KCC to widen the road for the bus traffic that would be generated by the Dover Fast Track Project. However, there was an earlier meeting with Emma held at the village hall on 13th July wherein she provided a presentation on the Dover Fastrack proposals and provided us with a brochure which contained details and an indicative plan on the proposal.

The brochure clearly indicated that the actual restricted section at White Cliffs Business Park did not go the full length to the B&Q roundabout but went about half way along. The section closest to Dover District Leisure Centre was to be for all vehicles, providing access to the land allocated for development by the Core Strategy and would be opened to traffic as this area was developed for commercial use. At that time there was no indication that this site was likely to be used for the construction of a Border Control Zone but it was purely a proactive measure on the part of the planners to enable development to take place at the allocated business park.

That situation remained the same until the meeting with the residents in September. Then on 21st October the government announced that it would be constructing an Inland Border Facility at Whitfield, which meant that development of the allocated area would be brought forward more quickly than had been expected.

It is also important to point out that the Dover Fast Track link is a Highways Project and is not being run either by DDC nor does it form any part of the IBF project which is government sponsored. It is in fact managed by KCC and the link road is currently seeking planning permission from them to proceed. The proposal is scheduled to go before the KCC Planning Committee on 17th March.

On the other hand, issues around the management of the flow of traffic on to the link road from traffic emerging on to it from the commercially designated zone will be the responsibility of the enterprises that will operate from it. Including the IBF. There have been concerns from the residents about the possibility of HGVs turning left when exiting on to the link road. Much of this will depend upon what the final layout of the IFB will be. In the meantime, DDC have recommended “that a bus gate, controlled by Automatic Number Plate Recognition cameras, is installed on the new access roadway to control and limit the Dover Road access to authorised and emergency vehicles only.”

Finally, we attended another update meeting with Emma on 25th February when we were advised that they were looking into alternative plans to widen the Dover Rd in various parts in order to allow buses using the new DFT to pass safely. These remain at present commercially sensitive as they are currently in negotiation with other third parties but they do intend to share them with you as soon as the plans are finalised. Any changes of this nature will be handled through “permitted development” provisions as they concern alterations to an existing highway.

Cllr Creed responded:

The Parish Council remains opposed to this application. There appears to be a great deal more detail about this project since the PC has made their concerns known. All Cllrs who attended the meeting on July 13 in the Village Hall confirmed that there was no ‘presentation’ as described and no detail whatsoever of the unrestricted section of road from the B&Q roundabout. Neither was this made clear at the meeting with the residents in September. The PC continue to feel that this should be put out for public consultation again as details were not clear enough. A full discussion followed but the PC do not feel that anyone is really listening to legitimate concerns.

Solar Park - Greentech Services Limited are currently at the Pre-Planning stage with Dover District Council and welcome any questions or enquiries to explain their project approach. This is the same company that operate the existing solar park at Guston.

Letters have been delivered to residents in East Langdon and The Lane, Guston regarding the proposal. This information has been added to the parish website. This is very early consultation. There is currently no further information on this proposal.

4086 Roads & Footpaths and other Parish Matters.

- Website – this has now gone ‘live’ and Clerk is adding gradually new information. The Clerk will email as many contacts as possible with the link to the new address. Residents can ‘subscribe’ to the website and it will send alerts when new information has been added.
- Two lights out on The Street, one outside The White House and one beside the church. Cllr Gray will report.

- Lights at Burgoyne Heights – covered in previous Minute No. 4082
- Litter – report of collection from local resident. Also included photographs. Cllrs thanked the resident for the continued work on behalf of the community.

I have been busy litter picking Dover Road to the coach park and back, The Lane to the Dover Deal Road and back and, finally, Pineham Road from Archers Court Road to the junction by the church of St Martin of Tours. This was my first litter pick of these roads this year and the harvest of cans and bottles etc was huge. I managed to clear at least ten full sized sacks of rubbish from the verges of the village's roads. The worst sites were the usual places – the entrance to the farm field near to Archers Court Road and Fort Burgoyne layby area on Dover Road although I discovered a large quantity of cans etc behind the two green service or utility boxes at Burgoyne Heights near the crest of the rise going towards the castle. I have reported this latter site to DDC as there was material here too big for litter picking in the usual sense.

I have written to Chris Valdus of The Land Trust and he is going to try and remove deposited items inside the fenced area at the layby as he, apparently, has extended litter picker tools which is something I do not have.

- Litter on A2 – email from Roger Walton 1st March in response to enquiry from Cllr Manion

The litter along both the A2 and A256 is as bad as it's been for some years, which is all very frustrating.

This is all for DDC to clear as we're designated as the principal litter authority under the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

The main obstacle as always is getting permission for the lane closures on the A2 that we need to allow safe working for the contractor.

As they're still using Manston to process HGVs, DfT have been unwilling to grant consent as they want to keep the route to the port clear. As for the A256, this has been cleaned once this year already and here we do have consent from KCC to close lanes at £6k/ day cost to the local taxpayers!!

- New PCSO – River Jarvis. Cllrs voiced their concerns at the frequency that these change.
- Illegally parked vehicle outside The Chance. Same vehicle as had been reported previously. This has also been referred to the PCSO for action.
- Noticeboards – deferred until things are back to normal.

4087 Items for consultation and other correspondence received

All email correspondence and consultation documents forwarded to Cllrs.

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

4088 Training/Seminars etc.

All training is currently via a virtual platform. Bite-sized training modules available.

4089 Dates and venues for future meetings

Parish Council Meeting: Monday 19th April 2021 7.00pm.

Annual Parish Meeting & Annual Parish Council Meeting: Monday 31st May 2021 7.00pm

This meeting closed at 20.40 pm

CHAIRMAN

DATE