

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF GREAT MONGEHAM PARISH
COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 6th MAY 2021 AT 7.30pm. VIRTUAL MEETING**

Present: Councillors J Gatland (Chairman) C Saville R Solley K Solley
I Lawrence P Swales T Ridyard

J Jones Clerk to the Parish Council County Cllr S Manion Dist Cllrs Oliver Richardson & Martin Bates

1. APOLOGIES

None received.

2. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

These had been displayed on the website for the last two years.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Cllr John Gatland

Thank you to all of the Parish Councillors, the District Councillors and Steve for supporting us over the last year, it has been a lot more challenging due to working with machines that we are not accustomed too, thank you for everyone's support in attending the virtual meetings.

Over the past year coronavirus has caused all sorts of problems, we have got around this with Zoom meetings and I am totally indebted to Chis for organising these meetings, I couldn't have done it myself.

At the end of July last year we said goodbye to Sarah and Jo was dropped in at the deep end, I take my hat off to Jo for sticking with it. Apologies if I have missed anyone off the thank you list.

The village bus service is unfortunately not being used, we must use it or we will lose it, please contact the Parish Council for the schedule.

Grants have been made in the last year to the Air Ambulance, Deal Food Bank and Dover, Deal & District Citizens Advice.

Speedwatch has been halted because of coronavirus, with a lack of volunteers to help speeds have crept up when it hasn't been operating. The Parish Council are currently exploring a Highways Improvement Plan to try and reduce speeding and congestion within the village but legalities, technicalities or money often stop these things, the Parish Council are looking forward to feedback from the meetings with Highways.

The Parish Council have made many requests to maintain the footpaths and public rights of way, these seem to take six months to be completed which seems very slow, especially when walking is much more popular at the moment.

Unfortunately, the defibrillator at the village hall was damaged when a reversing car hit it, we are extremely grateful to Richard Solley for building a crash barrier and then erecting it to prevent the defibrillator being damaged again.

The Parish Council have continued to pay to have the green mowed outside the Village Hall and intend to refurbish the historical panel.

27 planning applications have been considered and the Parish Council have objected to 13 of them on behalf of the Parishioners.

5. REPORTS

a) Finance Report – Joanna Jones Clerk to the PC

INCOME	Actual to 31-03-20	Budget 2020/21	Actual to 2020/21	
Carried Forward	17,562.59	15,924.62	15,924.62	
Precept	8,800.00	9,155.00	9,155.00	
VAT	-	202.00	671.39	Note 1
Interest	32.02	40.00	10.00	
New Website Grant	-	-	859.00	
Other Income	1,020.00	-	-	
Total Income	27,414.61	25,321.62	26,620.01	
PAYMENT Essential/Regular Payments	Actual to 31-03-20	Budget 2020/21	Actual to 2020/21	
Salaries	4,526.89	4,310.00	4,398.75	Note 2
Councils Pension Contribution	875.68	1,050.00	1,055.56	Note 2
Admin Costs	201.00	300.00	287.10	
Bank Charges	72.00	72.00	72.00	
Postage, Stationery	23.96	190.00	89.16	
Insurance	218.00	230.00	218.00	
Hall Hire	87.00	150.00	26.00	
Membership	284.50	300.00	316.16	
Audit Fees	-	50.00	54.99	Note 3
Annual Meeting	10.00	50.00	-	Note 4
Training	-	300.00	50.00	
Cllrs Expenses	-	300.00	-	Note 5
Window Boxes	94.67	200.00	-	Note 6
Mowing Green	773.56	850.00	849.89	
Village Events	441.98	500.00	37.75	Note 7

New Website - set up and running costs	-	900.00	859.00	
Office Equipment	-	350.00	349.17	Note 8
VAT	247.51	-	348.25	Note 9
Grants	100.00	1,000.00	1,500.00	Note 10
Defib supplies	-	100.00	101.63	
Election Expenses (saving for 2023)	81.51	500.00	-	Note 11
Contingency	-	1,319.62	115.10	Note 12
Running cost & regular payments	8,038.26	13,021.62	10,728.51	
News letter	110.00	300.00	-	
Street Furniture	-	500.00	-	
Bus Pilot	3,345.67	-	-	
Other Projects	-	3,000.00	-	
Ringfenced - Village Hall Toilets	-	1,000.00	1,000.00	
Reserves	-	7,500.00		
Total	11,493.93	25,321.62	11,728.51	

Bank Reconciliation 31/03/2021

Unity Trust Bank - Savings Account	10,042.02		
Unity Trust Bank - Current Account	4,845.54	B/F	15,924.62
Petty cash in hand	3.94	Receipts	10,695.39
	14,891.50		26,620.01
Unpresented Cheques	0.00	Payments	-11,728.51
	14,891.50		14,891.50

Notes to the Accounts

Note 1 - VAT Returns for 2 years

Note 2 - Clerk given a pay rise

Note 3 - 2 years of audit fees paid in the same year

Note 4 - No annual meeting in 2020 due to Covid restrictions

Note 5 – Training Course virtual so no Councillor expenses

Note 6 – No window boxes planted up

Note 7 – Less village events due to Covid restrictions

Note 8 - Mobile phone purchased for Clerk for Parish Council Business

Note 9 – VAT reclaimed so not budgeted as an expense

Note 10 - £500 each to Air Ambulance, Deal Food Bank & Dover, Deal & District Citizens Advice

Note 11 – Parish Council Election due in 2023 – saving towards possible costs

Note 12 – Zoom Licence for Virtual Meetings due to Covid restrictions

b) County Councillor – Steve Manion

The last 12 months have been an exceptional year for the county council

In addition to the usual duties of the authority, we have had to contend with a Pandemic and also the Brexit transition. Either one or on their own would have made for challenging circumstances but with both together it really has been an exceptional year and I am pleased to say the county council has been up to the challenge.

The pandemic has seen a real change to the way we conduct our business with virtual meetings very much the norm. All aspects of county business have been able to migrate to these new ways of working. One area in which I get much experience is home to schools transport appeals and we have been doing these either as virtual hearings or with the appropriate PPE using a covid secure venue in Maidstone.

The officers have been kept busy with delivering our key services and again PPE has been very much in demand.

The council has been in regular contact with partners especially health partners to respond to the pandemic. The leader was sending out regularly updates and these were forwarded to the parish council to ensure that the local Community was kept informed. The county was very much at the forefront in delivering the symptomless testing programme and our director of Public health Mr Andrew Scott- Clark was a regular on local TV news casts.

As we move forward, I expect that KCC will again have a lead role in delivering services in our Community.

I also want to thank the parish council who have also been key stakeholders in the response to the pandemic.

c) District Councillors Oliver Richardson & Martin Bates

Cllr Richardson gave a report that included, the fact that it had been a hard year with the pandemic, everyone had to get used to it and hopefully we are now coming out of the other side. Great Mongeham does get a mention within Cabinet & is fairly represented due to Cllr Bates' role within Scrutiny. Cllr Bates reported that the District Councillors have dealt with various local issues on behalf of the Parish Council, including street lighting and the internal frontier control at Whitfield, he congratulated DDC officers for the positive way that they have reacted to the pandemic and the way that DDC continues to support businesses and balance the books and maintain some reserves. DDC can move forward with a degree of confidence that things should be better next year. Cllr Bates thanked everyone for their support in his first year and looks forward to working with the Parish Council next year.

Cllr Gatland thanked everyone for attending.

The meeting closed at 8.22pm