

# CAPEL-LE-FERNE PARISH COUNCIL


Clerk to the Council - Maureen Leppard  
 Website: [www.capel-le-fernepc.kentparishes.gov.uk](http://www.capel-le-fernepc.kentparishes.gov.uk)  
 Email: [maureen.leppard@btinternet.com](mailto:maureen.leppard@btinternet.com)



39 Victoria Road, Capel-le-Ferne,  
 Folkestone, Kent. CT18 7LT  
 Tel: 01303 259564  
 Mobile: 07813704142

**A MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL WILL BE HELD ON**  
**TUESDAY, 21<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2017, AT 7.30PM,**  
**AT THE VILLAGE HALL, LANCASTER AVENUE, CAPEL-LE-FERNE**  
**AGENDA**

1	To RECEIVE Apologies for absence
2	To DECLARE any personal interests in items on Agenda
3	To RECEIVE any Public Address to Councillors & Surgery Feedback (10-15 minutes)(attached)
4	To APPROVE Minutes of the meeting held on 21 <sup>st</sup> February 2017 (attached)
5	To DISCUSS matters arising from minutes not covered elsewhere on agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Traffic Management               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Relocation 40mph signs on B2011 and 20mph signs on Old Dover Road</li> <li>ii. Accidents on B2011 – making a safer road</li> </ul> </li> <li>b) Commemorative Bench (attached)</li> <li>c) Waste Bins on New Dover Road (attached)</li> <li>d) Donations to Organisations (attached)</li> <li>e) Disabled access to Clifftop, Old Dover Road (attached)</li> <li>f) Use of Post Office Room (attached)</li> <li>g) Other</li> </ul>
6	To RECEIVE and DISCUSS Planning Applications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Proposed Development Land South of New Dover Road (B2011) – Jarvis Homes</li> <li>b) Proposed Development Land North of New Dover Road (B2011) – Quinn Estates</li> <li>c) Proposed Development 107 – 127 Capel Street</li> <li>d) Proposed Development Land junction Winehouse Lane and Capel Street</li> <li>e) Review of Dover District Council's Local Plan</li> <li>f) Other</li> </ul>
7	To RECEIVE Delegates and other sub-committee reports not covered elsewhere on agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Neighbourhood Watch (Cllr: Shaw/Community Warden/PCSO)</li> <li>b) Play Equipment Status (attached) (Cllr: Pilcher)</li> <li>c) Village Hall Management Committee (Cllr: Stone)</li> <li>d) Highways (Cllr: Tutt)</li> <li>e) Public Rights of Way</li> <li>f) Training/Workshops/Seminars</li> <li>g) District Councillor Scales and/or County Councillor Geoff Lymer</li> <li>h) Other</li> </ul>
8	To RECEIVE and DISCUSS Correspondence
9	To APPROVE and AUTHORISE - BACS payments and SIGN Cheques
10	To RECEIVE and DISCUSS Any Other Business concerning the Parish <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Councillors' comments</li> <li>b) Approve any resolutions for discussion as confidential items in agenda item 12</li> </ul>
11	To CONFIRM date of next meeting - (Tuesday, 18 <sup>th</sup> April 2017)
12	To RECEIVE and DISCUSS any confidential items from resolution approval item 10b

Signed .....  (Parish Clerk). 14<sup>th</sup> March 2017

## LIST OF ITEMS - (PENDING)

1. A20 Traffic Assessment Phase - (Waiting viable speed installation work)
2. 2017 Event Working Party
3. ER252 Bridleway surface to school. - (Deferred to a later date in relation to upgrading via development)
4. Stagecoach Bus Service Routes - (Cllr: Scales)
5. Planning: Sammar - (Waiting DDC Enforcement Officer input)
6. Replace some existing junior play equipment - (Cllr: Norris and Cllr: Pilcher)
7. Footpaths South and North New Dover Road - (April - Waiting Kent Highways new financial year)
8. Bus Shelter, Helena Road (April - Waiting KCC Bus Shelter Partnership new financial year funding)
9. Review of Resilience Plan – (Review May 2017)

### **PUBLIC ADDRESS TO COUNCILLORS**

- **Relocation of the 40 mph speed limit sign at the Dover end of New Road.**

It has been suggested moving the signs to a point in the region of the Royal Oak. May I respectfully make a suggestion? I feel it would be logical to place the signs at the exit from the Courtwood roundabout. Traffic travelling in the Dover to Folkestone direction will have already been forced to reduce speed considerably to negotiate the roundabout. What is to be gained by trying to build the speed up to 60 mph in the couple of hundred yards or so before meeting a 40 mph limit? If drivers obey the signage (wishful thinking) it could create a domino effect with following vehicles.

- **Waste bins – New Dover Road.**

Points where people are likely to congregate and drop litter are bus stops. Could litter bins be attached to bus stop posts, with permission from Stagecoach of course?

- **New development in Capel Street.**

I heard someone make an unofficial suggestion of having yellow lines painted on the highway to prevent on-road parking. I pointed out to the person in question that preventing on-road parking could cause an increase in the speed of traffic which is undesirable. It could also inconvenience residents who have nowhere else to park.

Would the existing 20 mph zone need to be extended to cover the entrance to the new estate?

As an ‘observer’ at the meeting I was not able to voice these points at the meeting. I would be grateful if you would pass my thoughts to the Chairman as I do not have an e-mail address for him. Thank you.

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Agenda item No: 4

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CAPEL-LE-FERNE PARISH COUNCIL**

#### **HELD ON 21<sup>st</sup> FEBRUARY 2017**

**Present:** Cllrs; Greening, Holliday, Leppard, Norris, Pilcher, Stone and Tutt. Together with County Councillor Geoff Lymer, District Councillor Frederick Scales and Andrew Hawkins (Community Warden). Approximately 15 members of public.

1. **APOLOGIES** – Cllr: Shaw.

2. **DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTERESTS** – Cllrs: Leppard and Stone on item 7c.

3. **PUBLIC ADDRESS TO COUNCILLORS, FEEDBACK FROM COUNCILLOR SURGERY and OTHER SOURCES**

- Thanks expressed with removing broken down tree on pathway in Clarence Road.
- Request for cats eyes to be installed on New Dover Road (B2011), especially in view of fog conditions experienced in the vicinity. *Action: Clerk to report to Kent Highways, including the cat's eyes from Courtwood Roundabout still requiring maintenance.*
- Request to consider disabled access on Old Dover Road (between Alexandra and Avondale Road) to bench area on clifftop. *Action: Clerk to make enquiries on land ownership.*

4. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2016**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2017 were approved and signed by the Chairman Cllr. Keith Pilcher, proposed by Cllr. Greening, seconded by Cllr. Tutt.

5. **MATTERS ARISING NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE ON AGENDA**

a) **Traffic Management** (Speed Watch Scheme, Speeding and traffic calming - B2011 and Capel Street)

i) **B2011 – making a safer road and relocation 40mph and Old Dover Road - 20mph signs.**

Issues still with Kent Highways departments not agreeing arrangements for a meeting to discuss how the £20k from Developers will be used. *Action: To request County Councillor Lymer to endeavour to arrange meeting at Highway Offices with Development Team, Cllrs: Scales, Pilcher and Tutt. Suggestion, if not forthcoming, to possibly contact MPs for Dover and Shepway, Police Chief Constable and Police Commissioner.*

Agenda item No: 4

- ii) Speed-Watch Scheme including Equipment Storage  
11 Volunteers registered and trained to date. More volunteers required. Cupboard purchased to house equipment in Old Post Office room. *Action: Insert to be placed in Grapevine.*  
Due to overpayment on Clever SID equipment, a credit note had been received from supplier, (C A Traffic Ltd) of £120.
- b) **Bus Shelter Helena Road**  
Kent County Council grant had been declined. *Action: To re-apply in new financial year, if funding made available. Application to partnership scheme is being reconstructed.*
- c) **Commemorative Bench**  
Grant from County Member's Fund agreed. *Action: Clerk will order bench when confirmation received from family on plaque inscription.*
- d) **Waste Bins on New Dover Road (B2011)**  
*Action: Cllr: Greening to establish sites for installation. Possible end of Alexandra Road and corner of Clarence Road. Confirmation to be agreed by Councillors.*
- e) **Donations to Organisations**  
Members were presented with details of organisations and amounts. Councillors requested more information and objectives before deciding. *Action: Clerk to contact applicants to ascertain further data.*
- f) **Other**  
Vacancy for Co-option. Closing date prior to April meeting, i.e. 10<sup>th</sup> April for inclusion on agenda.

## 6. **PLANNING**

- a) **Proposed Development Land South of New Dover Road (B2011)**
  - i) Receive response from; Jarvis Homes and Dover District Council.  
This was circulated with agenda and accepted. Councillors made enquiry on what % of Bridleway enhancement will be done to Development stages.
  - ii) Decide and Respond on Street Name etc.  
Councillors decided the name should be in keeping with the royalty theme of the village and would suggest to Jarvis Homes, for choice; 1) Charles Close, 2) William Close, or 3) George Close.
- b) **Quinn Estates - Land North of New Dover Road (B2011)**  
Working Party response notes (attached), received by Councillors and discussed regarding concerns raised on Public Comments made on Dover Council website. These were noted and commented on, that the Parish Council had made Dover District Council aware of concerns.
- c) **Proposed Development 107 – 127 Capel Street**  
Working Party Notes received on this development. Cllr: Pilcher made reference to the Land Allocation Local Plan and Neighbour Planning, then Clerk read out response (attached). This was proposed by Cllr: Leppard, seconded by Cllr: Greening and duly agreed by all. *Action: To be made public following meeting.*  
Members of Public present requested further address to the members.  
A resolution was put forward on this, proposed by Cllr: Holiday, seconded by Cllr: Leppard and duly agreed by all.  
Comments expressed by Public:  
Vivien Hale: Up-to-date Bat Protection Survey required. Cllr: Scales reported an Independent Assessor for an Ecological, in depth survey, may be commissioned before Outline Permission goes to decision. If Action Group required their own survey, this would be at discretion of a Planning Inspector.  
Aston Mannerings: Design and appearance indicative layout and design would be harder to change in future if agreed.  
Suzy Apps: Highway Agency and access to site – public comments must be taken into account and suggested an Independent Assessment.  
District Councillor Frederick Scales: As Chairman of Dover District Council Planning Committee, any “Pre-determined discussions”, may be more beneficial to the Ward from within the Committee. As yet, he had not made a judgement on this site.
- d) **Proposed Development Land junction Winehouse Lane and Capel Street**  
This development had been refused previously, but had now been redesigned and an application submitted. The Architects had taken pre-application advice from Dover District Council Case Officer. *Action: When amended plans are available, Councillors will make a decision and publish.*

e) **Other****Applications waiting decision by Parish Council**

18 Capel Street, Capel-le-Ferne, CT18 7LZ. Refs: 17/00090, Erection of a detached dwelling (existing annex to be demolished).

**Applications decided by Parish Council and waiting Dover District Council Decision**

Lower Standen Pumping Station, Lower Standen, Alkham Valley Road, Alkham, Dover, CT18 7EW

16/01439, Variation of Condition 2 of planning permission DOV/13/00606 to allow changes to approved plans (application under Section 73). *Action: Capel-le-Ferne Parish Council have no objection to this application and support the Variation of Condition 2 of the planning permission.*

**'The Longview' - Land to the South of Old Dover Road, Capel-Le-Ferne, CT18 7HN**

16/01431, Erection of a detached dwelling, creation of parking and associated landscaping. *Action: Capel-le-Ferne Parish Council oppose the building in its current format. The proposed build design is not sympathetic with the beauty of the surrounding landscape and there are concerns on the height, with its greatest visual impact on this sensitive landscape, being seen when viewed from East or West, making it out of keeping with the surrounding area. Although the proposed site is a parcel of land part derelict and the build is making use of redundant land, concerns are expressed on the special and sensitive nature of the site setting, as it is in the Heritage Coastal area. It is immediately above a SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) and construction work could cause a disturbance. There are no benefits to the village or neighbouring houses which would result from this development. The greatest potential effect will be on the visual amenity of walkers on the South Downs Way, which is a very popular tourist route. The 'private road' is in fact a public right of way ER245, which is regularly used by walkers and passes through the build, which may be a deterrent to some walkers.*

7. **DELEGATES REPORTS**a) **Neighbourhood Watch**

- Capel Cares has several volunteers, now waiting for DBS checks to be confirmed by Church.
- Flag pole concrete base outside St Radigund's Church constantly being disturbed prior to installation.

b) **Play equipment**

- Poles from broken and faded sign removed on playing field.
- Overgrown vegetation around MUGA court removed.
- Broken tree on BMX Trail removed.
- Suggested, lines on MUGA court need reinstating. *Action: Clerk to investigate quotes.*
- Waiting quote for refurbishment of football goal posts.

c) **Village Hall Management Committee**

- Report (attached) received. No questions.
- Work on extension to commence 25<sup>th</sup> July, when use of Old Post Office Room will not be available.
- Management Committee had suggested Councillors' consideration to "sole use" of Old Post Office Room. This was proposed by Cllr: Greening, seconded by Cllr: Norris and duly agreed by all, subject to terms and conditions. *Action: Clerk to contact Management Committee to confirm and ascertain terms.*
- Removal of safe in Post Office room, waiting visit from Locksmiths.
- Costs of installing WiFi via BT was circulated. Agreed a good idea in principle. *Action: Cllr: Greening to make further investigation of other suppliers and systems for comparison.*

d) **Highways** – Cllr: Tutt reported:

- Request made to Kent Highways to replace chevrons at Courtwood Roundabout.
- Work commenced on mains water pipe renewals by Affinity Water. Traffic Management and road closures inevitable. *Action: Letters from contractors will be posted through doors on when.*
- Cracks on New Dover Road (B2011) noted on how wider they were becoming, with a large one noted Old Dover Road/New Dover Road junction which could develop into a sink hole. *Action: Cllr: Tutt to report again to Kent Highways.*

e) **Public Rights of Way**

ER236 Footpath along the clifftop impassable in places and requires cut back. *Action: Reported to Kent Public Rights of Way.*

f) **Training/workshops/seminars**

All courses north of Kent.

Cllr: Pilcher attending KALC/KFAS Information Event – delivering effective partnership working in Kent's Communities on 28 February 2017.

g) **District Councillor Scales reported:**

- 2020 Open Golf at Sandwich.
- Lidl Store at Whitfield.
- Progression on St James's development in Dover Investment Zone.
- Devolution position, Councils moving forward. (Dover, Shepway, Canterbury and Thanet).
- Regarding comments on Quinn Estates proposed development, Planning Committee replies received noted.

**County Councillor Lymer reported:**

- HGV Parks – small sites around Kent now being considered. These could operate around the M25 corridor, with a possible system for lorries to book in and then called forward to ferry.
- Asylum seeking children has seen a massive drop in numbers. Hopefully, Government funding will be made to refund money spent in Kent. It has been noted, however, that there are further congregations in Calais. Unaccompanied minors of varying ages, due to Human Rights, Kent hands tied.
- Kent Highways blitz on potholes in areas. Dover Hill a cause for concern with numerous holes, that are filled and then wash away, due to experimental substance being used.

h) **Other** - None.**8. CORRESPONDENCE****Other items received:**

List of email items received attached and/or previously forwarded.

1. The Rural Kent Coffee and Information Project. *Action: Agreed in principle. Clerk to reply with details of contacts for Village Hall and St Radigund's Church, as car park will be required.*
2. Help Keep Kent Clean – Heroes Wanted Posters and Letter.
3. Kent, Surrey, Sussex, Air Ambulance seeking grant funding. *Action: To be added to Organisations requiring Donations item on Agenda.*
4. Idverde – Landscape Maintenance Services introduction letter and leaflet.
5. Royal British Legion Special Events Booklet 2017.
6. Broxap litter and recycling brochure.
7. Glasdon village furniture brochure.
8. Norris & Fisher Insurance Broker Ltd introduction letter and leaflet.
9. Furniture at Work catalogue.

**9. GROUND MAINTENANCE CONTRACT FOR 2017**

Quotations received:

<b>Countrywide Grounds Maintenance</b>	<b>£3,100.00 + VAT</b>
<b>G.D.B Landscaping and Groundworks</b>	<b>£29,859.20 + VAT</b>
<b>Harmer and Sons Ground Maintenance Limited</b>	<b>£3,240.00 + VAT</b>
<b>Landscape Services</b>	<b>£4,240.00 + VAT</b>

Proposed by Cllr: Stone, seconded by Cllr: Norris and duly agreed by all, to accept Harmers and Sons quotation.

**10. FINAL BUDGET 2017 - 2018**

Received (attached) and duly agreed by all present.



**11. CHEQUES and BACS PAYMENTS**

The following cheques and BACS payments were approved and authorised:

Proposed by Cllr. Stone seconded by Cllr. Tutt and signed by the Chairman, Cllr. Pilcher, having been confirmed by Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer.

To Whom	Particulars of Payment	TOTAL EXPENSE	TOTAL RECEIPT	Cheque BACS DD/SO	BANK A/C	Date	Statement No:	Reconciliation
<b>Brought Forward</b>			<b>13,114.18</b>					
History Book	6 x Books sold		30.00	CASH				
Tony Wells	Adverts		60.00	BACS				
Stephen Huxtable	Adverts		220.00	BACS				
Action for Rural Community	Reimbursed Expenses		205.35	BACS				
Jason Taylor	Adverts		40.00	BACS				
Nat West	Interest		0.12	DD				
C A Traffic Limited	Refund overcharged		120.00	Cheque				
Thomas & Partners	Advert		40.00	BACS				
Caroline Perry	Adverts		26.00	Cheque				
StreetZ2StreetZ	Advert		18.00	SO				
Village Hall	Rent for PO Room Jan-Jun	30.00		Cheque	Cash			23.28
Village Hall	Rent for meetings Jan-Jun	207.00		Cheque	Reserve	29.11.16	220	11,796.08
Information Commissioner	Data Protection Registration	35.00		Cheque				
Dover District Council	Grapevine Printing	382.92		BACS	Current	01.12.16	752	1,149.86
Viking	Cartridges and clipboards	77.80		BACS	Project	29.01.16	20	728.43
Furniture at Work	Cupboard Speedwatch	324.00		BACS				13,697.65
Harmer Landscapes	Remove tree and MUGA surround tidy	144.00				Less	Un-Reconciled	1,443.24
Mr D Reed	Litter Clearance	79.16		BACS				
Mrs M Leppard	Salary	317.16		BACS				
Mrs M Leppard	Tel/Broadband x 2	22.20		BACS				
		1619.24	13,873.65					
			<b>12,254.41</b>					<b>12,254.41</b>

**12. MATTERS CONCERNING THE PARISH****a) Councillors' comments**

- The useful document on flooding in Capel Street that was circulated was noted, which may be useful for future development responses.
- Thanks expressed to Chairman for managing the meeting this evening.
- Parking on grass verges a cause for concern, especially with daffodils now blooming. *Action: Insert to be placed in Grapevine Newsletter requesting no parking.*
- Concerns raised on amount of commercial advertising on fencing in layby on New Dover Road, B2011. *Action: Clerk to make further enquiries on Legislation with Dover District Council*


**b) Approve resolution to discuss any confidential issues in agenda item 14 – None.****13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> March 2017.**

(Apologies received from Cllrs: Greening and Stone).

**14. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS – None.**

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*Agenda item No: 5b***COMMEMORATIVE BENCH**

Please supply the following:	INSCRIPTION
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>In dedication of services to Capel-le-Ferne Parish Council As Councillor and Chairman CLIVE JOHN GOBLE 10<sup>th</sup> May 1935 - 9<sup>th</sup> September 2015</b></p>

<b>QUOTE REFERENCE No. JB/17/051 (amended email dated 27<sup>th</sup> February 2017 RE: COMMEMORATIVE CAST IRON SEAT FOR CAPEL-LE-FERNE PARISH COUNCIL WITH STEEL BOARDS</b>		
To supply <b>1no 1800 Victorian Standard Seat</b> - with no end plate as standard with steel boards finished in dark green 14C40 Acrylic Plus Coating @ £ 625.00 per seat	£ 625.00	
K2T M10 tamper resistant pin-in-socket cap head bolts, (set of 4)	£ 20.00	
To supply <b>1no Engraved Stainless Steel Plaque</b> - 63 x 152mm, flush mounted and fixed from the rear with tamper resistant bolts, length of inscription 5 lines or under with no more than 36 characters in any line @ £ 95.00 per plaque	£ 95.00	
Carriage and Packing (UK mainland except Scotland)	£ 74.00	
<b>GOODS TOTAL</b>	£814.00	+ VAT

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*Agenda item No: 5c***WASTE BINS ON NEW DOVER ROAD**

Identified the following potential 2 locations for bins to be sited on the B2011

- 1) Between Alexandra Road & Avondale Road towards Dover bound on the grass verge
- 2) Bus stop between Clarence Road & Albert Road Folkestone bound

Let me know if you require more sites or feel these are not spread out enough.

P.S still working on the broadband it is on my list. A dangle if you find the right one, I am just looking for wi-fi packages and line rental, will get back to you later. *Regards Gemma.*

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*Agenda item No: 5d***DONATIONS TO ORGANISATIONS - SEPARATE DOCUMENT ATTACHMENT**

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*Agenda item No: 5e***DISABLED ACCESS TO BENCHES ON CLIFFTOP, OLD DOVER ROAD**

- Our concerns are that the vulnerability of the cliff edge will not be compromised. The area in question includes the Saxon Shore Way and the North Downs Way. There are in fact 4 benches in this area. Will the proposed path include all of them? The grassed area is very uneven and the benches are close to the edge of the cliff. Care needs to be taken in designing the path in order that not too much disturbance is involved.
- Our main concern assumes that access to the area would be made by removing an area of embankment along Old Dover Road. This embankment serves the purpose of preventing cars from driving onto the grassed area. Believe me, they do try. It also channels the rainwater down Old Dover Road and into the gully, thus preventing the grassed area and cliff from becoming water logged. What will be in place to prevent vehicular access onto the grass?
- Who will maintain the path? At present, the 5 households between Avondale Road and Alexander Road have for many years voluntarily paid Harmer & Sons Ground Maintenance nearly £300 per year to cut the grass. If this area is to be formally adopted by the village as a resource for all, then the cost of this maintenance would we presume be paid by the village.

We obtained a map plan from the Land Registry in 2007 which shows that about half of the area in question is registered. But the land in front of our house and our neighbour is not registered and has therefore not changed ownership since 1959 when registration became compulsory in Kent. We are not aware of who owns this area.

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**USE OF POST OFFICE ROOM**

In response to your letter of the 25 February and following their meeting on the 7 March 2017, Capel le Ferne Village Hall Committee has asked me to answer your queries concerning sole use of the Post Office Room.

To take them in order

1. As neither the Treasurer nor the Lettings Secretary were at the Village Hall Committee meeting last week, it was impossible to arrive at an annual cost for having sole use of the old post office room. However, I hope to have this information for you before your meeting on the 21 March.
2. You would be welcome to furnish and decorate the room as you see fit.
3. You are welcome to install WIFI always presuming that installing it does not hinder/cause any issue with the running of the hall e.g. having to install phone lines. We would ask that you confer with us if installing WIFI would affect the fabric of the building in some way.
4. Subletting of the old PO room would not be allowed.
5. The lettings secretary will be asked to draw up a hiring agreement between the Parish Council and the Village Hall Committee – this will cover use of the room, the cost, keeping of the keys.

The Village Hall Committee intend to clear cupboards in the hall on the 18 April, allowing us to move all items currently in the PO room to other parts of the building and leaving the room clear for the Parish Council, subject to a final decision on your part.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any queries; you can reach me on 077304 75828. I will be in touch before the end of the week regarding the charge of hiring the room annually.

Yours sincerely, Sally Cook

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*Agenda item No: 7b*

**PLAY EQUIPMENT STATUS****Capel Recreational Area****Quote from Ashley Light Engineering****Football Goals**

To sand, prime and 2 coats of White Gloss Paint to existing posts	£ 700.00 +Vat
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**Junior and Toddler Swings**

To sand, prime and 2 coats of Red Gloss Paint	£1150.00+Vat
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**Roundabout**

To strip down, sand, prime, then 2 coats of 4 colours of Gloss Paint and rebuild	£1075.00+Vat
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<b>Total</b>	<b>£2925.00+Vat</b>
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**Alternative****Football Goals**

To manufacture, powder coat and install	£1350.00+Vat
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**Junior and Toddler Swings**

To sand, prime and 2 coats of Red Gloss Paint	£1150.00+Vat
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**Roundabout**

To strip down, remove for sand blasting, prime and powder coat in 4 colours then re-build	£1350+Vat
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<b>Total</b>	<b>£3850.00+Vat</b>
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**TRAINING/WORKSHOPS/SEMINARS****KALC/KFAS INFORMATION EVENT – Tuesday 28 February 2017****Delivering Effective Partnership Working in Kent's Communities 2017 at the  
Mercure Maidstone Great Danes Hotel, Ashford Road, Hollingbourne, Maidstone.**

The Localism Act 2011 has now passed its fifth anniversary and several of its key components including the devolution of services and greater community involvement have yet to be fully delivered. More recently, the Cities & Local Government Act 2016 enabled further powers and decision making to be devolved to principal authorities.

The event tended to focus on the forming of Unitary Councils in Kent.

Speakers included:

Cllr Paul Carter Leader of KCC

John Walker KFAS Chairman

Cllr Sarah Barker KALC Chairman

Cllr Chris Wells Leader of Thanet DC

Cllr Peter Fleming Leader of Sevenoaks DC

Cllr Andrew Bowles Leader of Swale BC

Ian Davidson KALC Solicitor

In Kent there are 4 Local Councils currently looking at merging into a Unitary.

These are Thanet, Dover, Shepway and Canterbury, Ashford has decided not to be involved.

**Some Key Points from the Event:-**

- At this point in time the current Secretary of State has yet to indicate his position on Unitary Councils
- KCC and a number of local MPs appear not to be in favour of the merger of Local Councils into a Unitary
- There was a rumour that Canterbury may pull out
- Canterbury uses a different decision making process to Thanet, Dover and Shepway
- 3 Local Councils are Conservative, the 4<sup>th</sup> is UKIP
- Band 'D' property Council Tax currently ranges from £197 to £233 across the 4 Councils, in unifying Council tax there would be winners and losers
- Unifying the 4 Councils would save £6.8m in the first 2 years by the reduction of senior posts
- There is a risk that a Unitary Authority would become disconnected from local communities
- In the next 3 – 4 years some services could be devolved to Town and Parish Councils, eg. Street cleaning, car parks, toilets, etc. It would be for the Town and Parish Councils to decide whether they accept. There was a question mark over whether funding would follow the devolution of services
- In the future it may be beneficial for Parish Councils to 'Cluster' activities to save money. For example, Capel and Alkham could combine when looking for a grass cutting contractor
- The Unitary Consultation period will commence on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2017 with a decision in July 2017
- A view was expressed that Local Councils in Kent had missed opportunities by concentrating on the LALP and not given sufficient support to Neighbourhood Planning
- In future there is likely to be financial penalties for Local Councils that turn down Planning Applications
- KALC are keen to provide more training for Town and Parish Councillors

Keith Pilcher 01/03/17

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