

## **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RIVER PARISH COUNCIL**

Held on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2014 at River Methodist Church

**PRESENT:** Cllr. Taylor (in the chair), Cllr. Brand, Cllr. Buhlman, Cllr. Dixon, Cllr. Horobin, Cllr. Mrs. Horobin, Cllr. Leach, Cllr. Shirley

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr. A. Denyer (Parish Clerk), Dist. Cllr. Beresford, Dist. Cllr. Nicholas

Prior to the meeting, the Chairman announced the sad passing of Gordon Killip, a former Parish Councillor, and invited Parish Councillors and all those in attendance to stand for a moment in his memory.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllr. Reeves and PCSO White

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** There were none

### **3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> October had previously been circulated. It was proposed by Cllr. Leach and seconded by Cllr. Brand that the minutes be accepted as a true record and were duly signed by the Chairman.

### **4. PCSO REPORT**

PCSO White had provided a written report, which was read out by the Chairman. Since the last meeting there have been reports of: two burglaries (one to a dwelling and one to a shed); three thefts from vehicles, coinciding with reports of suspicious persons knocking on doors; and one report of criminal damage. A multi-agency road safety day is to be held in Dover district on Friday 21<sup>st</sup>. River will be receiving a visit, as complaints have been received about speeding on Lewisham Road. PCSO has also asked for patrols to carry out speed enforcement in the area.

### **5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES (NOT LISTED ON THE AGENDA)**

Clerk reported that the budget attachment referred to under Item 4 had now been circulated to all councillors.

### **6. PLANNING MATTERS**

- a) DOV/14/01007 | Erection of a single storey rear extension, lift to front elevation and summerhouse | 27 Crabble Lane, River, Dover, CT17 0LS

After discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council had no objection to the application but had concerns about the potential for residential use of the summerhouse.

- b) Decisions by Dover District Council

There were none.

### **7. REPORTS FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

Cllr. Nicholas said that the planning application relating to 27 Crabble Lane, discussed in Item 6, was of concern to other residents in Crabble Lane.

Cllr. Beresford reported that, following recent heavy rain, KCC had been clearing out drains around River. Also that roadsweepers are continuing to sweep along the pavements.

### **8. CORRESPONDENCE**

- a) **Mr. T. Vallance regarding planning application DOV/14/00584 – Cardrona, Minnis Lane**

This letter and attachments regarding the planning application for a dwelling to the rear of Cardrona, Minnis Lane, had been circulated to all Councillors. Since then the planning application has been withdrawn.

- b) **Citizens Advice Bureau Annual Parochial Appeal**

A letter has been received from the CAB as part of their annual appeal to Parish Councils for funding. After discussion, it was agreed that this does not meet with the Parish Council's established policy of providing project funding only and to organisations directly associated with the Parish. Cllr. Webb proposed that the appeal not go forward for consideration at the next meeting but that CAB be offered a stall at the 2015 Country Fair to assist with their promotion. This was seconded by Cllr. Buhlman and all agreed. It was agreed Clerk is to respond to the letter stating that the Parish Council would be prepared to consider future appeals if they are of a critical nature.

- c) **Kent Association of Local Councils**

Clerk reported receiving notice and documentation for the forthcoming KALC Annual General Meeting. It was decided not to send a representative.

Also, KALC are seeking nominations for NALC's Smaller Councils Committee. It was decided not to make any nomination.

## **9. REPORT FROM THE EVENTS COMMITTEE**

Cllr. Brand reported that, following all 2014 events, £3,742 was in the Events Committee bank account. £2,000 would be made available for the 2015 Grants Fund with the remainder available to support future events. Cllr. Webb asked if funds could be made available for tree planting if the full sum were not claimed by grant applications.

## **10. FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Financial reports for October 2014 had previously been circulated. It was proposed by Cllr. Brand and seconded by Cllr. Shirley that the accounts be accepted and all agreed.

## **11. APPLICATION FROM CRABBLE CORN MILL TRUST FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

Mill Trustee, Caroline Fox Betts was asked to update the Parish Council on the present situation. She said that items requiring financial support were on the agenda for the Crabble Corn Mill Trust meeting on the following Wednesday. A full survey of required works is being undertaken. The Chairman said that the Parish Council would consider an application at a future meeting.

## **12. VILLAGE IN BLOOM 2015 INITIATIVE**

Cllr. Shirley reported on a meeting with Caroline Fox Betts. These items were discussed: the need for advertising in the local community; creation of a group of volunteers (for planting and ongoing watering); the involvement of local businesses (shops, pubs etc.) and potentially the school; the need to get grassed areas around the village mown regularly; potential local 'best of' competitions; also any possible fundraising events to cover core costs. Chairman asked for costings to be provided for the next meeting so that the Parish Council could consider financial support.

## **13. KENT COUNTY COUNCIL BUDGET CONSULTATION**

Clerk reported that KCC were holding a public consultation on draft budget plans for the next three years. Individuals were invited to put their views in an online survey by answering three specific questions. The consultation was aimed at individuals rather than specifically seeking the views of Parish Councils. No action required by the Council.

## **14. APPOINTMENT OF THE BUDGET COMMITTEE**

It was agreed that the budget committee comprise the Parish Chairman, Recreation Ground Management Committee Chairman, Events Committee Chairman and Cllr. Leach. This sub-committee will meet on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December to discuss the 2015/2016 budget and setting of the Parish precept, and to agree recommendations to be put to the Parish Council meeting in January.

## **15. KALC COMMUNITY AWARDS SCHEME**

Clerk outlined the details of the Kent Association of Local Councils Award Scheme designed to acknowledge and give recognition to those individuals that have made a significant contribution to their local community. It was proposed by Cllr. Webb and seconded by Cllr. Brand that River Parish Council adopt the scheme and all agreed. The deadline for nominations for consideration is Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2015.

## **16. RETIREMENT OF MR. J. BRANNIGAN FROM RIVER POST OFFICE**

Following the letter sent to Mr. Brannigan, it was discussed whether any further steps be taken to mark the retirement of Mr. Brannigan. Whilst acknowledging the long tenure of Mr. Brannigan at River Post Office, it was agreed that no further action was necessary.

## **17. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

Cllr. Dixon reported on the meeting of representatives of Recreation Ground user groups attended by River Bowling Club, River Originals Tennis Club, Dover Rangers Football Club and Heber Horticultural Services. Topics discussed included improvements to the bowling green, installation of permanent storage fixings for the new portable adult goalposts and concerns over the amount of rubbish in the ground.

Following a query from Cllr. Webb about school patrols by DDC Civil Enforcement Officers, Chairman reported that records of attendance were appearing on the Dover District Council website. Chairman will write to DDC acknowledging the efforts of all concerned.

Cllr. Shirley reported that she had received complaints about parking outside the Co-op Store.

Clerk reported that:

Fasial Sheikh from River Pharmacy asked that his thanks be passed on to all Councillors who were able to attend the official opening of the pharmacy on 5<sup>th</sup> November;

Dover District Council is launching a public consultation into plans to introduce a single dog control order relating to dogs in the district;

The Kent Police and Crime Commissioner is consulting with members of the public on next year's new Police and Crime Plan;

Kent Police are also launching a new crime prevention campaign focusing on burglary prevention.

### **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Cllr. Nicholas suggested looking at the notice boards at Whitfield and Alkham with a view to installing a second board for River.

Suggestions for commemorating World War 1 within the village were discussed.

The grit bin at the junction of Lewisham Road and Crabble Lane had been vandalised.

The passage of heavy goods vehicles was an ongoing problem in the Village, especially as Coombe Valley Road was currently closed for maintenance.

Meeting closed at 8.20pm