

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RIVER PARISH COUNCIL

Held on Tuesday 10th February 2015 at River Methodist Church

PRESENT: Cllr. Taylor (in the Chair), Cllr. Brand, Cllr. Buhlman, Cllr. Horobin, Cllr. Mrs. Horobin, Cllr. Leach, Cllr. Shirley and Cllr. Webb

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

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr. Dixon and Cllr. Reeves

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: There were none.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 13th January 2015 had previously been circulated. It was proposed by Cllr. Brand and seconded by Cllr. Buhlman that the minutes be accepted as a true record and were duly signed by the Chairman.

4. MINUTES OF THE RECREATION GROUND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Recreation Ground Management Committee meeting held on 5th February 2015 were circulated at the meeting and their contents were noted.

5. PCSO REPORT

PCSO White said that several incidents of garage break-ins and criminal damage to vehicles had been reported in the past month. No incidents relating to anti-social behaviour. PCSO has received several complaints about speeding vehicles and has requested that speed checks take place in the village.

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES (NOT OTHERWISE LISTED ON THE AGENDA)

Jon Winder, Project Manager for the Kearsney Parks project has confirmed that he is able to give a presentation on the latest news from the project at the annual parish meeting.

7. PLANNING MATTERS

Chairman reported that two planning applications have been received for comment which are to be dealt with at a meeting of the planning committee.

Decisions by Dover District Council:

- a) DOV/14/01007 | 27 Crabble Lane, River, CT17 0LS | Erection of two storey front and single storey rear extensions – granted permission
- b) DOV/14/01190 | 7 River Street, River, CT17 0LS | Erection of a single storey front extension – granted permission

8. REPORTS FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr. Beresford reported that a Lewisham Road resident has contacted her asking whether a tree could be planted outside number sixty-five to replace the one cut down last year. This will be looked into. Following complaints about dog fouling in the village, she confirmed that additional patrols from Community Enforcement Officers have been taking place and will continue. Also that the District Council is making additional litter and dog waste bins available free of charge to parishes. Cllr. Beresford suggested that Lewisham Road be a good location as no bins are currently available. Cllr. Mrs. Horobin said that residents have also spoken to her about the need for extra dog waste bins in the village. Chairman proposed that the parish council ask for three additional bins and this was agreed.

Cllr. Nicholas said that she has reported potholes on the junction of Lewisham Road and Minnis Lane. Blocked drains in Chilton Way are to be reported. She is still seeking a replacement lamppost for the one damaged by a lorry in Lewisham Road. Also that the planning decision for 27 Crabble Lane referred to under Item 7 was passed by the Chairman's casting vote.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

No significant correspondence to report

10. REPORT FROM THE EVENTS COMMITTEE

Cllr. Brand reported that only one application for a grant has so far been received. Requests for stalls at the country fayre are arriving more slowly than previously.

11. 'RIVER IN BLOOM' PROJECT

a) Project Update

Cllr. Shirley reported that a licence to cultivate is required from KCC for the project to proceed. Ten conditions need to be fulfilled, including public liability insurance to cover any claims arising from cultivation of the highway. Clerk is to check that cover is in place. Proof is also required that potential health and safety issues have been dealt with for persons actively involved. Objects to be used as planters have been offered to the project.

b) Proposal to plant trees within the Recreation Ground

Cllr. Mrs. Horobin has investigated the cost of planting flowering trees along the Lewisham Road boundary of the Recreation Ground and reported that Alkham Valley Garden Centre had offered the best price. The suggestion was that twelve trees be purchased at a cost of £491.20, with planting also provided. Chairman proposed that this scheme be accepted. This was seconded by Cllr. Brand and all agreed.

c) Update on Lewisham road tree planting

Clerk met KCC whilst they were surveying the road the previous week. The delay in moving the scheme forward has been caused by problems with scheduling the necessary pavement repairs, which will allow old stumps to be ground out. The suggestion was that the scheme be prepared to go ahead at the start of the next planting season in the autumn.

12. FINANCIAL REPORTS

a) Monthly report for January 2015

The financial report for January 2015 was circulated at the meeting. It was proposed by Cllr. Leach and seconded by Cllr. Brand that the report be accepted and all agreed.

b) Recreation Ground waste-water costs

Following a query at the previous meeting, Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council is still receiving a thirty two percent discount on the Recreation Ground waste-water bill to allow for irrigation water not being returned to the sewerage system. The reason for the comparatively small difference in the bills is that the unit cost per cubic metre for removing waste-water is higher than that of supplying fresh water.

13. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE RECREATION GROUND MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

Only one tender had been received. The tender from Heber Horticultural Services had been discussed at the previous Recreation Ground Management Committee meeting and it had been decided to recommend this tender for approval. Cllr. Leach proposed that the tender be accepted. This was seconded by Cllr. Brand and all agreed.

14. GRANT TO 'RIVALL' VILLAGE MAGAZINE

The grant usually given annually to assist with the publication of the 'Rivall' village magazine was discussed. Chairman proposed that a grant of two hundred pounds be made. This was seconded by Cllr. Buhlman and all agreed.

15. STREETLIGHTING WITHIN THE VILLAGE

Chairman thanked Councillors Buhlman and Webb for drafting the letter to Kent County Council regarding the switching off streetlights at night. A reply was received on the day before the meeting. Copies were circulated for all Councillors at the meeting. Chairman commented that the letter seems to have been written before the recent decision by KCC to switch to LED lighting.

16. PARISH NOTICE BOARDS

Dist. Cllr. Nicholas was invited to put forward her views on this matter. She suggested an additional notice board containing an illustrated map of the village as could be found in some other parishes. It could also contain space for parish agendas and notices. A site near the old Lewisham road bus terminus was suggested as a central location. Chairman suggested that ideas and prices be brought to the next meeting.

17. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Cllr. Shirley reported that a resident had spoken to her about the smell of gas at the junction of Crabble Lane and Lewisham Road. It was reported that this was a long-standing problem which had previously been investigated and no leak found.

Chairman raised a public query about the lack of a letterbox at the village hall. Village Hall committee chairman, Alison Dale, said that people are asked not to send post directly to the hall.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Caroline Fox-Betts thanked Cllr. Beresford for arranging a swift response to the report of a water leak.

Mrs Fox-Betts also raised the problems with trees growing out of the retaining wall on the River Dour.

Chairman reported on recent correspondence with the Environment Agency that maintenance work was scheduled to take place this winter.

Sue Nicholas said that benches around the village were generally in poor condition and asked if they could be maintained. Chairman asked if Cllr. Shirley could check the condition of benches whilst working on the River in Bloom project and report back to the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm