

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RIVER PARISH COUNCIL

Held on Tuesday 10th March 2015 at River Methodist Church

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

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

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr. Leach

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: There were none

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 16th February 2015 had previously been circulated. It was proposed by Cllr. Buhlman and seconded by Cllr. Shirley that the minutes be accepted as a true record. All agreed and the minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.

4. MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

The minutes of the planning committee meeting had previously been circulated and their contents were noted. Chairman drew Councillors' attention to two previous applications where further applications were expected.

5. REPORT FROM THE PCSO

PCSO presented her report on the last month: one burglary had been reported where workmen had left doors open; one incident of damage to a vehicle; one report of antisocial behaviour; and also incidents of shoplifting from the Co-op store.

6. MATTERS ARISING: All matters are dealt with on the agenda

7. REPORTS FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr. Beresford reported that drains at the Valley Road and Common Lane junction had now been cleared. The drain in Lower Road leading into Crabble Road had been reported for attention. Several potholes in the Alkham Valley Road had also been reported to Kent Highways. Council Tax was due to rise by 1.9% overall, but the District Council element remained the same. Compulsory Purchase Orders required by the Dover Town Investment Zone had now been approved with the former multi-storey car park probably being the first building to be demolished. Electrical works are being installed in Minnis Lane resulting in road closure. Chairman asked about progress with the new road signage at Crabble Road and Crabble Avenue directing traffic to the Coombe Valley Road Industrial Estate. It was reported that this is going through the process. The new parking restrictions at the junction of Valley Road and Common Lane are also pending. Chairman asked Cllr. Beresford to check on progress with these two issues.

8. PLANNING MATTERS

a) Planning applications:

DOV/15/00147 | Erection of a verandah/balcony (retrospective application) | 22 Lyndhurst Road, River, CT17 0LY – after discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council had no objection but wished to express concern over possible overlooking, and resulting loss of privacy, of adjacent properties in Ash Close.

b) Planning applications received by the date of the meeting: none received

c) To note any decisions taken by Dover District Council: none to note

9. CORRESPONDENCE

No significant correspondence to report

10. REPORTS FROM THE EVENTS COMMITTEE

Cllr. Brand reported that applications received for Community Grant Awards had been discussed at the previous meeting of the Events Committee and the following recommendations were made:

- i. River Bowling Club - £200 towards new storage shed facilities
- ii. Crabble Corn Mill Trust - £500 towards refurbishment of toilets at Crabble Corn Mill
- iii. River Scouts - £173 towards replacement of damaged windows at the scout hut
- iv. River Originals Tennis Club - £300 towards 'short tennis' equipment for young people

Cllr. Reeves proposed that these recommendations be accepted. This was seconded by Cllr. Webb and all agreed.

Cllr. Brand reported on progress with the Country Fayre. Bookings for stalls were still arriving slowly. Displays from Newfoundland dogs and owls are now confirmed.

11. 'RIVER IN BLOOM' PROJECT

Insurance requirements have been checked and confirmed. Clerk has submitted the application to Kent Highways for a licence to cultivate. Clerk was requested to check on progress. Cllr. Shirley has checked the condition of all village benches known of with the following results:

- i. Bench opposite River Church – requires rubbing down and varnishing
- ii. Two benches at the former Lewisham Road bus terminus – rotten wood needs replacement
- iii. Bench at bus stop – requires varnishing
- iv. Bench in Valley Road – requires varnishing

It was agreed to renovate three benches and look into replacement of the other two.

Chairman queried ownership of the benches. It was agreed to check if they were owned by the Parish Council.

Cllr. Beresford has provided contact details for the 'Walmer in Bloom' group, who may be able to provide advice as to possible pitfalls for our project.

Clerk was requested to get quotes for new benches including the type in the Recreation Ground, manufactured from recycled materials and not requiring maintenance. This item to be on next month's agenda.

The new flowering trees agreed for the Recreation Ground have been purchased and will be planted in March.

It was noted that the council should be aware of possible theft when planters were purchased for the 'River in Bloom' project.

12. SITES FOR NEW REFUSE/DOG WASTE BINS

Chairman had previously circulated potential locations for new combined refuse and dog waste bins. After discussion, the following locations were agreed:

- i. By the entrance gate to Kearsney Abbey on Lower Road
- ii. By the entrance to Kearsney Abbey on Chilton Way
- iii. A location beyond the Royal Oak Pub. on Lower Road

Following a query about the dog waste bin removed from Lyndhurst Road, it was confirmed that this has been replaced by a combined bin further along the road. Dist. Cllr. Beresford will enquire about the possibility of having a fourth bin.

13. FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR FEBRUARY 2015

The financial reports from February 2015 were circulated. It was proposed by Cllr. Dixon and seconded by Cllr. Brand that the reports be accepted and all agreed.

14. ADDITIONAL PARISH NOTICE BOARDS

Clerk circulated possible designs for a notice board and after discussion it was agreed that Clerk is to seek quotes for a dual purpose board to include glazed notice section and a streetmap. Quotations should include the option of purchasing two. A location on the grass verge at the former bus terminus on Lewisham Road should be checked for suitability.

15. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- i. Chairman brought to the attention of the meeting a new emergency planning document produced by Kent County Council.
- ii. Cllr. Reeves reported vegetation growing on to the roadway through the Kearsney Abbey fence. Cllr. Beresford will contact Kent Highways.
- iii. Cllr. Brand had received reports of children playing football on the Recreation Ground tennis courts. Cllr. Dixon will check for any break in the fences.
- iv. Cllr. Shirley reported that many people were walking dogs on the Recreation Ground early in the morning. She has contacted Dover District Council and enforcement officers have visited and spoken to dog owners. New signs are due to be installed during April and anyone discovered after this date will receive a penalty notice. New lighting is due to be installed in the dog walking area behind Crabble Athletic Ground.
- v. Cllr. Mrs Horobin reported problems with vehicles parking on the corner of the Ridgeway and Crabble Lane blocking line of sight for vehicles. Chairman will speak to PCSO about the possibility of a change in priority requiring vehicles coming down Crabble Lane to give way to vehicles emerging from the Ridgeway to avoid the potential for accidents.
- vi. Also that the stinging nettles on the path at the bottom of Ash Close needed spraying once again.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

- i. Mrs Flood from Kingston Close raised the issue of trees along the River Dour growing out onto Lower Road. Chairman responded that this is the responsibility of the Environment Agency. Proposals have been received to deal with the problem. The Parish Council have been in contact with the Environment Agency and have had a site visit with Kent Highways. The Council will continue to pursue the matter.
- ii. Also, it was suggested that parking restrictions around the corner of Crabble Lane next to the Recreation Ground might help with parking problems during football matches at Crabble Athletic Ground. Chairman will speak to County Cllr. Lymer about the matter.
- iii. Caroline Fox-Betts said that the postbox and telephone box on Lower Road look very shabby. Dist. Cllr. Beresford said that Alkham Parish Council pay towards the cost of maintaining their telephone box. Clerk is to look into possible options.

Meeting closed at 8.50pm