

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RIVER PARISH COUNCIL

Held on Tuesday 8th September 2015 at 7.30pm in River Methodist Church

PRESENT: Cllr. Taylor (in the Chair), Cllr. Buhlman, Cllr. Dixon, Cllr. Horobin, Cllr. Mrs. Horobin

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. A. Denyer (Parish Clerk), Dist. Cllr. Beresford, County Cllr. Lymer

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr. Brand and PCSO White

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: There were none.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 21st July 2015 had previously been circulated. Cllr. Buhlman proposed that they be accepted as a true record of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr. Horobin and all agreed.

4. PCSO REPORT

A written report was read to the meeting:

There has been one burglary in River in the last two months in which jewellery was taken. The victim is not sure when the crime occurred but access was probably gained via an insecure door. We have had 4 incidents of criminal damage which have included three damages to cars and one where graffiti was sprayed on signs outside one of the village pubs. Only this and one of the damages happened on the same night, the others were on different nights and not believed to be linked. There have been several shopliftings at the Co-Op. And finally, a caravan has been broken into although nothing was taken. I know speeding is a concern in the Village and I have requested that enforcement is carried out. However due to my colleagues being extremely busy I don't have any feedback for the council. I have been told that there is a good possibility of this happening this week and will update the Council with the results.

Chairman said that he had been contacted by residents concerned about vehicles speeding along Lower Road. Kent Highways and the PCSO have been informed.

5. COUNCILLOR CO-OPTION

Mrs Mary Eyre-Jackson has consented to be nominated as a member of River Parish Council. Chairman proposed that Mrs Eyre-Jackson be co-opted as a member of the council and all agreed.

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Item 9a: Cllr. Dixon has spoken to Dover District Council Environmental Crime Team about signage in the Recreation Ground. The wording is to be agreed as the existing temporary signage is ambiguous – signs must specify no dogs at all in the grounds. It was suggested that three signs, along with three as spares, be ordered. DDC will attend and enforce the new orders.

7. PLANNING MATTERS

a) Planning applications

- i) DOV/15/00776 | Erection of a two storey and single storey side extension (existing garage to be demolished) | 1 Briar Close, River, Dover, CT17 0LZ – no comments
- ii) DOV/15/00822 | Erection of two storey and single storey rear extensions (existing conservatory to be demolished) | 25 Valley Road, river, CT17 0QN - the Parish Council cannot support this application in the form that it is presented. The drawing provided does not show the effect of the 45 degree line code on the proposed single storey extension. We, therefore, believe that the proposed extension would result in significant loss of direct sunlight to the neighbouring property.

b) Any other planning applications received by the date of the meeting

There were none.

c) To note decisions by Dover District Council

- i) DOV/15/00496 | Retrospective application for the erection of a dwelling | Bellevue, Minnis Lane, River, CT15 7DN - planning permission refused
- ii) DOV/15/00147 | Erection of a verandah/balcony (retrospective application) | 22 Lyndhurst Road, River, Dover, CT17 0LY – permission granted

8. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

County Cllr. Lymer reported that a scheme was now in place to move lorries to Manston during Operation Stack. Vehicles would be taken off at M20 Junction 7 to go Manston and return to Dover via the A256/A2. However, he did not believe the capacity was enough to accommodate vehicles if Operation Stack was fully implemented. It is hoped that River won't be affected. However, Cllr. Lymer was concerned that lorry drivers with local knowledge may try to circumvent the diversion by trying to get to Dover Harbour via River.

Chairman invited questions for Cllr. Lymer:

It was reported that the new double yellow lines/single yellow line are causing parking problems in the area of the Co-op store and the village hall. Cllr. Lymer replied that dropping off, picking up and unloading are all allowed on double yellow lines. Also that blue badge holders may park on the lines for up to three hours as long as the time is set on the badge. Cllr. Dixon is investigating the possibility of providing a disabled parking bay for one resident affected by the new parking restrictions although he has been told that the bay cannot be outside the resident's house. Cllr. Lymer will look into this.

It was reported that parents from school are still parking on the new double yellow lines. Cllr. Lymer accepted that there are still parking problems within the village and said that he is looking into the possibility of providing staff car parking at the school to free up space on the street.

Cllr. Beresford reported that DDC planning have served an enforcement notice on 27 Crabble Lane as the retrospective planning application requested for works already undertaken had not been received. The former Manston Airport site would not be used for lorries until Phase Three of Operation Stack. No-one at DDC is in favour of the scheme. There is a noticeable increase in traffic through the Alkham Valley as a result of the speed restrictions between Roundhill tunnels and Aycliffe. It is hoped that Burlington House will be demolished by the end of the year. The work cage on Lewisham Road (storing materials for gas works in other roads) will be in situ until December.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

a) Briefing on Operation Stack and Manston for Town and Parish Councils

A meeting has been arranged on Operation Stack and Manston and the implications for Dover District for Monday 28th September at the Council offices. Cllr. Dixon and Cllr. Buhlman will attend. The meeting will be discussed at next month's meeting.

10. REPORT FROM THE EVENTS COMMITTEE

Cllr. Mrs. Horobin reported that the Country Fayre had been successful with attendance very good. The Events Committee will meet on the following Thursday to discuss the event. Next year's event will be on Sunday 10th July. Some stallholders had already booked for next year. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped make the event a success.

11. RIVER IN BLOOM PROJECT

Cllr. Mrs. Horobin reported that, despite problems with vandalism on the first two beds planted opposite Meadowdene, it was decided to carry on with the project following support shown by the local community. Cllr. Dixon said he hoped that more of the local community will offer practical support to this type of project. Chairman added that many more practical projects to improve the area would be possible if more people would help. The Parish Council are in a position to purchase materials to enable projects to take place. Cllr. Mrs. Horobin said that twenty four new trees have now been planted along the Lewisham Road boundary of the Recreation Ground and that beds on

either side of the Crabble Lane junction had been planted. The next bed would be on the corner of Crabble Avenue.

12. FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial statements for July and August 2015 were circulated. Cllr. Dixon proposed that the reports be accepted. This was seconded by Cllr. Buhlman and all agreed.

13. PARISH CLERK SALARY REVIEW

After discussion it was agreed that the Clerk move from Salary Spinal Column Point 19 to 21 in the next calendar month as agreed in his contract. Also that his salary move to SCP 22 in April 2016. A back payment is due which will be paid along with the next salary payment.

14. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Cllr. Dixon reported that two potential sites for new outdoor gym and play equipment had been discussed at a meeting of the Recreation Ground Management Committee on Monday. Three contractors will be invited to visit and discuss the options. Once agreed, it was suggested that an open morning be held for local residents to view the plans and to get feedback on what local people want. Definite feedback is needed to show support and assist with funding applications.

Cllr. Dixon asked that consideration be given to employing a part-time village handyman to assist with jobs in the area. It was suggested that this be on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

- It was reported that sites for dog walkers have been reduced now that the area at the back of Crabble Athletic Ground had been fenced off. It was asked if a section of the Recreation Ground could be set aside for dog walkers. Chairman said there will be no change in the current position but asked that the suggestion be put in writing and that it would be discussed. Cllr. Beresford said that, in the light of the new Public Spaces Protection Orders, any change in use would need to go through DDC for approval.
- Cllr. Mrs. Horobin queried the ownership of the area behind Crabble Lane (a former dairy site) and whether it could be developed as an area for dog walkers. Cllr. Beresford will look into the ownership of the land and whether it can be legitimately used.
- It was reported that men had been seen in the river by the Village Hall pulling out watercress. Chairman said he will report the incident to the Environment Agency.
- It was suggested that there should be a stall at the Country Fayre, the village market or at other events to inform people of the need for voluntary help needed for village projects.

Meeting closed at 8.25pm