

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RIVER PARISH COUNCIL

Held on Tuesday 10th November 2015 at 7.30pm in River Methodist Church

Present: Cllr. Taylor (in the Chair), Cllr. Brand, Cllr. Buhlman, Cllr. Dixon, Cllr. Eyre-Jackson, Cllr. Horobin, Cllr. Mrs. Horobin and Cllr. Keningale.

In attendance: Mr. A. Denyer (Parish Clerk) and Dist. Cllr. Beresford

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: There were none.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: There were none.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 13th October had previously been circulated. Cllr. Brand proposed that the minutes be accepted as a true record. This was seconded by Cllr. Buhlman and all agreed.

4. PCSO REPORT: No report.

5. PARISH COUNCIL VACANCIES

Cllr. Webb has resigned as a member of River Parish Council. He has moved away from the area and is, therefore, no longer qualified. Dover District Council have been notified of the vacancy which has been formally advertised as of 16th November 2015.

Cllr. Dixon introduced Robert Nicholas who has consented to be nominated as Parish Councillor to fill the one vacancy remaining from the May 2015 elections. Cllr. Dixon proposed that Mr. Nicholas be co-opted as a member of River Parish Council and all agreed. Chairman invited Mr. Nicholas to join the meeting.

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

Item 11f – The Environment Agency have now completed works on the tree roots in the riverbank on Lower Road, opposite Crabble Lane. In addition, the section on Lower Road opposite Riverdale has been cut back by contractors under instruction from Dover District Council. This will now be maintained twice a year.

Item 12 – In response to Cllr. Brands query about the number of staff governors on the new River and Lydden Primary Schools federation, the Headteacher has responded that only one staff member is allowed on the governing body.

7. PLANNING MATTERS

a) Planning Applications

DOV1501024 Raise the roof of property and erection of a side dormer roof extension 27 Woodland Close, River, CT17 0NR – no comments. However, Parish Councillors expressed concern that properties situated at the rear in Deanwood Road may have loss of privacy in their back gardens.

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

There were none

c) Decisions by Dover District Council

i) DOV/15/00300 | Site of Dover Athletic Football Club, Crabble Road, River, Dover, CT17 0QE | Erection of a replacement stand (existing stand to be demolished) and alterations to changing block including insertion of new door, window and creation of steps, together with the siting of a wc block and snack bar, widening of the access to the rear of the north eastern stand, a retaining wall to parking area, and the provision of new turnstiles, (part retrospective) – permission granted

- ii) DOV/15/00746 | Erection of a detached games building | Linden, 11 Chilton Avenue, River, CT16 3EF – permission granted
- iii) DOV/15/00944 | 91 London Road, River, CT16 3AA | Erection of a fence on front boundary, an external staircase to garage and a rear dormer garage roof extension – permission granted
- iv) DOV/15/00822 | 25 Valley Road, River, CT17 0QN | Erection of two storey and single storey rear extensions (existing conservatory to be demolished) – permission granted.
- iv) Belle Vue, Minnis Lane, River, CT15 7DN

An enforcement notice has now been served on all parties that have an interest in the land at the above site. The notice requires the demolition of the new dwelling to ground level and to remove all resulting materials from the land.

8. REPORTS FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr. Beresford reported that the fourth new waste bin requested by the Parish Council could not be located in Lower Road and that an alternative site was required. She will chase up the repair of the bus shelter in Lewisham Road. A public consultation into the future of the Dover Leisure Centre will be opening shortly. Cllr. Eyre-Jackson said that a lot of litter had been left after the removal of the gas shelter from Lewisham Road. Cllr. Beresford confirmed that the gas shelter will need to return in January when further local works will commence. Options for possible alternative locations were discussed. Dover District Council is hoping to put in a bid for lottery funding for work on Dover Town Hall. Complaints have been received about a van parking near the junction of Crabble Road and Lower Road. Problems with the drain in Crabble Avenue have been reported and the drain examined. There have also been complaints about dog mess in Deanwood Road.

Cllr. Dixon reported that the new signage has been put up at the Recreation Ground in accordance with the new Public Space Protection Orders. Cllr. Keningale asked about dog fouling enforcement. Cllr. Beresford responded that two fixed penalty notices have been issued in the past month. However, dogs and owners have to be witnessed in the act in order to issue a notice.

9. REPORT FROM THE EVENTS COMMITTEE

One stallholder is already booked for the 2016 Country Fayre. The information on grants made available to local groups will be published in the ‘Rivall’.

10. FINANCIAL REPORTS

The financial report for October 2015 had previously been circulated. Clerk will re-issue the report as the expenses for Recreation Ground and Parish were listed on the wrong pages. Subject to this amendment, Cllr. Brand proposed that the report be accepted. This was seconded by Cllr. Horobin and all agreed.

11. CORRESPONDENCE

a) Community Engagement Day

Correspondence had been received from Mrs Nicholas suggesting a community engagement day to raise the profile of local groups. It was agreed look for a suitable date for the event to be held in early spring.

b) Relocation of salt bin

A request has been made by residents of Wingrove Hill that one of the two small salt bins at the bottom of the hill be relocated to the top. Two residents have sent a letter giving their consent for the bin to be located outside their properties. As the bin is currently full, It was agreed that it be moved in the spring when it is next empty.

c) Streetlighting on Whitfield Hill

Correspondence has been received regarding requests for streetlighting to be switched back on in the evening for reasons of safety. It was agreed that the Chairman write a letter of support to the proposal and that the conversion to LED lighting be brought forward to enable this to take place.

12. RESPONSES TO KENT COUNTY COUNCIL CONSULTATIONS

a) Streetlighting Survey

After discussion, it was agreed to respond to this survey in favour of all night street lighting, dimmed between the hours of midnight to 5am. This being a balance between cost savings and security (especially for the elderly) as well as lighting up increasingly uneven road and footpath surfacing.

b) Highways and Transportation Survey

After lengthy discussion, a joint response was agreed for submission from the Parish Council.

13. HANDYPERSON

Cllr. Dixon asked that consideration be given to the employment of a part-time village handy person. There are a number of Parish jobs that need to be undertaken and also work in the village. Chairman asked Cllr. Dixon to look into possible terms of reference for discussion at the meeting in January.

14. 2016 KALC COMMUNITY AWARDS SCHEME

Clerk reported that the KALC Community Awards Scheme is once more open for nominations. These must be passed on to KALC direct from the Parish Council. One award can be issued each year. A certificate will be awarded but there is no other prize. Any potential nominees should be passed on to the Clerk for discussion at the meeting in January

15. BUDGET COMMITTEE

It was agreed that the annual budget sub-committee meeting be held on Monday 7th December 2015 at 7.30pm. The sub-committee will comprise the Committee Chairmen, Cllr. Taylor, Cllr. Dixon and Cllr. Brand. Chairman asked Cllr. Nicholas to also attend and this was agreed.

16. DISPLAY AND PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

This is to be held over to the January meeting

17. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Chairman reported that he would like to update the areas of Councillor responsibility in the Parish and that this will be put forward at the next meeting in January.

The Parish Emergency Plan will also need to be updated.

Chairman expressed his appreciation to Cllr. Nicholas for organising the online donation account to raise money to replace plants for the River in Bloom initiative which were stolen in the summer. A total of £247 was raised,

Chairman also announced the passing on 27th October of Cynthia Terry who was a founding member of River Parish Council and had acted as clerk prior to the appointment of the first Parish Clerk. She had also served as a District Councillor and had a long history of service to the local community.

Public Question Time

No contributions

Meeting closed at 10.20pm