

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RIVER PARISH COUNCIL
Held on Tuesday January 2016 at 7.30pm in River Methodist Church

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

PCSO White

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

3. PCSO REPORT

A written report has been received from the PCSO which was read out to the meeting.

Crime: attempted burglary other than dwelling at Crabble Corn Mill. CCTV has been seized to try to identify offenders. Nothing was taken but over £800 worth of damage was caused.

Chairman reported that an online giving fund had been set up for Crabble Corn Mill.

Criminal damage: A wall was pushed over in Minnis Lane. A bin was also found burnt on the recreation ground – unknown if this was done on purpose or not. There has also been a theft of tools from a van on Lower Road

Anti-social behaviour: I have had complaints about vehicles at the top of Minnis Lane/ Abbey Road area wheel spinning and causing a general nuisance- I am paying attention to the area and asked for it to be placed on taskings for the antisocial behaviour car. There has been one noise complaint about noise from Crabble athletic ground. People shouting loudly!

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 10th November 2015 had previously been circulated. Cllr. Brand proposed that they were a true record of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr. Horobin and all agreed.

5. MINUTES OF THE BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of the Budget sub-committee held on 7th December 2015 had previously been circulated and their contents were noted.

6. MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 17th December 2015 had previously been circulated and their contents were noted.

7. MATTERS ARISING/UPDATES FROM THE MINUTES

Item 11a – Chairman asked Cllrs. Eyre-Jackson and Keningale to contact local groups with a view to attending a proposed community engagement event in the Spring.

Item 11c – Chairman has replied to correspondence regarding lighting on Whitfield Hill. He has received acknowledgement from Cllr. Back.

Item 17 – Cllr. Buhlman has agreed to look into a review of the emergency plan.

8. PLANNING MATTERS:

a) Planning Applications

i) DOV/15/01244 | Erection of a single storey extension | 65 Valley Road, River, CT17 0QW – It is the understanding of this council that the general principle of the 45 degree line code defines and contains the extent to which an extension will be allowed. Therefore, River Parish Council is unable to support this application.

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

Two further applications have been received. It was decided to hold a planning committee meeting on Tuesday 19th January 2016 at 6pm to examine these applications.

c) Decisions by Dover District Council

There were none.

9. REPORTS FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

- Dist. Cllr. Beresford reported that no applications have been received for neighbourhood forum funding from the Dover West area. It was agreed to consider an application from the parish council.
- If the proposed lorry park at Stanford goes ahead, KCC and Highways England want the Traffic Access Protocol (TAP) removed entirely. This would mean there is no local control over lorry movements. Cllr. Nicholas said that traffic on the A2 seems to have increased the TAP was introduced on the A20.
- The latest estimate for repairs on the Dover to Folkestone railway line to be completed is six to nine months.
- There have been reports of flooding in three properties in Alkham but as far as we know River is unaffected.
- Cllr. Eyre-Jackson asked if Community Enforcement Officers could attend on football match days at Crabble Athletic Ground to enforce parking regulations. Cllr. Beresford will look into this.

10. REPORT FROM THE EVENTS COMMITTEE

Cllr. Brand reported on the dates for this year's events:

- Sunday 10th July – Country Fayre
- Saturday 24th & Sunday 25th September – Scarecrow Trail
- Saturday 8th October – Wine & Wisdom Evening

The next meeting of the Events Committee will be on 15th February. Some applications for grants have been received. The meeting to review the grant applications will take place on Tuesday 1st March.

11. FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2015

Financial reports for November and December were circulated at the meeting. Cllr. Dixon proposed that the report be accepted. This was seconded by Cllr. Brand and all agreed.

12. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE BUDGET COMMITTEE:

a) Recreation Ground Users' Charges 2016/17

Proposals from the Budget Committee recommending a one percent rise in hire charges at the Recreation Ground had previously been circulated. It was agreed to accept this recommendation. It was noted that the five yearly review of the bowling pavilion lease was still taking place.

b) 2016/17 Budget and Precept

The draft budget recommendations had previously been circulated. The recommendation is for an increase in the resource requirement to £59,839. With a diminishing parish council tax grant, this will require an increase of three percent on council tax. Clerk presented the reasoning behind this recommendation: Improvements to play equipment and new adult fitness equipment (to be paid for by accumulated reserves and grant funding) will, inevitably, lead to increased maintenance and possible insurance costs; the parish council must also safeguard against possible future ground maintenance costs; it is not possible to significantly increase fees to Recreation Ground users without loss of paid users and no other ways of revenue generation are available at the moment; a modest budget increase will allow for a new village improvement budget to address concerns, raised by many local people, over the appearance of the parish. The parish council must take into consideration that the grant received via Dover District Council from central government is diminishing year on year and may reach a point where it is no longer provided. Looking to the future, with diminishing central government funding and reduced reserves (once improvements to the play facilities have been completed), River Parish Council must maintain enough income to meet its obligations. It was noted that this increase follows three years of council tax reductions and that the level of council tax in 2016/17 will still be lower than it was in 2013/14.

13. CORRESPONDENCE:

a) Lord Lieutenant of Kent Annual Civic Service

The Parish Council has received an invitation to this year's Annual Civic Service. No one is available to attend.

b) Parish Council Vacancy

Notification has been received from Dover District Council that the date for electors to request an election has passed and that the council may now fill the vacancy, created by Mike Webb's resignation, by co-option. There are no nominations currently to hand.

c) Annual Town and Parish Meeting

The Annual Town and Parish Meeting is due to be held at Dover District Council offices at 6pm on Monday 18th January. Cllr. Buhlman will attend on behalf of the parish council.

d) Queen's 90th Birthday Celebrations

Correspondence has been received outlining some of the events taking place on Thursday 21st April 2016 to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday including a nationwide network of beacons. It was agreed to look into arranging an event at the Recreation Ground. Costs will need to be assessed and a decision made at the next meeting.

14. PROPOSAL TO EMPLOY A PART-TIME 'HANDYPERSON'

Cllr. Dixon said that until the situation with current tenders at the Recreation Ground had been resolved, he did not feel it was appropriate to progress this idea.

15. ADOPTION OF & NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2016 KALC COMMUNITY AWARDS SCHEME

It was agreed to adopt the 2016 KALC Community Awards Scheme. After discussion of several possible candidates, it was agreed to nominate Sue Nicholas for the award this year. As only one nomination is allowed per year, it was agreed that the other outstanding candidate be nominated next year.

16. PROPOSALS FOR DISPLAY AND PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

Clerk circulated proposals for promotional materials. The recommendations were for a two-metre pull up roller banner and accompanying display materials at a cost of £200. Cllr. Buhlman proposed that the parish council go ahead with production of these materials. This was seconded by Cllr. Eyre-Jackson and all agreed.

17. AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR PARISH COUNCILLORS

Chairman outlined the updated areas of Councillor Responsibilities with regard to the reporting of highway, footpath or street lighting problems. The areas were discussed and agreed. There will now be an item on the agenda at each meeting for the reporting of any problems.

18. KENT POLICE 'SPEEDWATCH' SCHEME

Cllr. Eyre-Jackson outlined the facilities provided by the Kent Speedwatch Scheme. A short training course is available for volunteers who can then carry out speed checks in their local community. Forms are provided for volunteers conducting the scheme to register details of offending vehicles who would then receive an advisory notice from Kent Police. There are currently seventy active schemes in Kent. It was noted that Lewisham Road and Lower Road have ongoing problems with vehicles speeding. Cllr. Eyre-Jackson was asked to speak to other local parish councils whether they are interested in a joint project and report back to the next meeting.

19. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- Cllr. Mrs. Horobin reported a pothole at the bottom of Crabble Lane. Cllr. Beresford will follow up.
- Cllr. Dixon reported that a complaint had been received from two residents of Mannering Close regarding a boundary hedge in the Recreation Ground. This matter is in hand.
- Cllr. Brand reported that works on the gas mains had resumed in River. Cllr. Beresford will look into where equipment is going to be stored.
- Cllr. Buhlman was pleased to report that he had seen the outdoor table tennis table in use.

Public question time

Two residents of Common Lane reported on problems with cars parked in Common Lane and Guthrie Gardens at school times. Obstructions meant that a bus had been unable to collect a child attending a special school. Cllr. Beresford said that an obstruction on the highway had to be dealt with by the police and that Community Enforcement Officers could only issue fixed penalty notices to vehicles parked on yellow lines etc. Cllr. Nicholas suggested that if children could have earlier access to the playground, it may spread out arrival times in the morning. Chairman asked the residents to put their concerns in writing and that the parish council would then take the matter up with local authorities.

Meeting closed at 9.50pm