

## **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RIVER PARISH COUNCIL**

Held on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2016 at 7.30pm in River Methodist Church

**PRESENT:** Cllr. Taylor (in the Chair), Cllr. Brand, Cllr. Buhlman, Cllr. Eyre-Jackson, Cllr. Horobin, Cllr. Mrs. Horobin

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

**125. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllr. Keningale, Cllr. Nicholas

**126. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** There were none

### **127. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2016 had previously been circulated. Cllr. Brand proposed that the minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr. Buhlman and all agreed.

### **128. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES / UPDATES ON ONGOING ITEMS:**

#### **a) Recreation Ground Improvement Project**

Clerk reported that a very positive had been held with Laura Corby, Principal Leisure Officer from Dover District Council. Notes from the meeting have been circulated to all Councillors.

#### **b) Recreation Ground cleaning and locking**

The new contract for cleaning and locking has begun with a 'blitz' on the facilities to bring them back up to standard.

#### **c) Village 'Handyperson'**

Clerk is to liaise with Cllr. Dixon about interviewing the candidates.

#### **d) Item 123i**

Chairman has been in touch with the Environment Agency regarding vegetation growing from the banks of the River Dour. They had helped last year but are not able to offer further help. Chairman is considering other areas.

#### **e) Item 123ii**

Chairman will liaise with the tree consultant for advice on the timescale for any future work.

### **129. PLANNING MATTERS:**

#### **a) Planning Applications**

- i. DOV/16/01023 | Erection of a storage shelter | Co-op Food Store, Lower Road, River, CT17 0RD - no comments.
- ii. DOV/16/01083 | Erection of a rear extension, front porch extension, raising of the roof to facilitate loft conversion, erection of dormer roof extensions and a detached garage/store (existing porch and garage to be demolished) | Sunshine Bungalow, Minnis Lane, River, CT17 7DN - no comments.
- iii. DOV/16/00136 | Erection of 133 dwellings including 40 affordable homes, new vehicular access and pedestrian access, internal access roads, car parking, landscaping, provision of open space (4.17 ha) and a locally equipped childrens' play area (LEAP) (amended details and description) | Land on the South Side, Singledge Lane, Whitfield, CT16 3ER - River Parish Council is of the opinion that concerns regarding traffic management on roads leading to Alkham Valley and the A20, expressed in comments to the original application, are still valid.

#### **b) Planning applications received by the date of the meeting**

Two further planning applications have been received. It was agreed that a meeting of the Planning Committee be arranged to discuss these in due course.

#### **c) Decisions made by Dover District Council**

- i. DOV/16/00726 | Dover Athletic Football Club, Crabble Road, River, CT17 0QE | Variation of condition 2 of permission DOV/15/00300 (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) to allow changes to approved drawings (application under section 73) – permission granted

- ii. DOV/16/00925 | 103 Lewisham Road, River, CT17 0PA | Construction of a vehicular access – permission granted
- iii. DOV/16/00940 | 15 Pavilion 'Meadow, River, CT17 0RJ | Erection of a detached garage – permission granted

### **130. REPORTS:**

#### **a) District and County Councillors**

County Cllr. Lymer reported that Kent Speedwatch was promoting new fixed digital 'Slow Down' signs but he advised caution as the system costs around £3,000 and some reliability issues have been reported. Also that they provide a temptation for some motorists to try and register a maximum speed on the display. KCC are raising awareness of problems with suicide amongst males, especially teenagers and men over forty years old. In response to a question regarding Whitfield Hill lights, he said he will look into the date for conversion to LED and switch-on. He asked that anyone report if they were having problems with high-speed broadband connections in River.

District Cllr. Beresford reported that a heavy load carrying a transformer will be passing overnight through Dover on the way to Sellindge on 24<sup>th</sup> October. This could lead to traffic delays. The utilities are currently being installed on the Dover Town Investment Zone construction site and the piling work is due to commence shortly. Kent Police have had a purge on alcohol consumption in the street around Dover. There will shortly be a dedicated police officer on patrol in Dover.

#### **b) Parish Councillors**

There has been a large increase in the population of badgers locally. Councillors have been speaking to some households about cutting back hedges that overhang the pavement. A faulty streetlight outside No.39 Lewisham Road has been reported to Kent Highways.

#### **c) PCSO**

PCSO Lisa White has now been deployed elsewhere and River has been added to the area covered by PCSO Gretel May. However, she also has to cover Capel, Alkham and Temple Ewell. PCSOs have been told that they should no longer attend any parish council meetings.

### **131. REPORT FROM THE EVENTS COMMITTEE**

Cllr. Brand reported that the scarecrow trail had been a great success with £1,050 being raised and donated to Kelly Turner Fundraising. The recent wine and wisdom quiz evening had raised £400 towards future events. Cllr. Brand said that new members from the local community would be welcome to help with the organisation of future events.

### **132. FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

#### **a) Financial reports for September 2016**

Financial reports from September 2016 had previously been circulated. Cllr. Brand proposed that the report be accepted. This was seconded by Cllr. Eyre-Jackson and all agreed.

#### **b) Quotation for the re-siting of the bench from the bus terminus into the Recreation Ground**

A quote for £275 has been received from John Hill Building Services to install the memorial bench at the bus terminus and move the existing bench into the Recreation Ground (to include construction of a new concrete base). Cllr. Buhlman proposed that the quote be accepted. This was seconded by Cllr. Eyre-Jackson and all agreed.

### **133. CORRESPONDENCE**

#### **a) Parish Town and Council Seminar**

The annual seminar with Kent Highways will be held on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2016. Clerk will circulate the agenda when it is received.

#### **b) KALC Annual General Meeting**

The Kent Association of Local Councils AGM will be held on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2016 at Ditton Community Centre.

#### **c) KALC Training Courses**

Chairman has received details of two courses from KALC, a 'Dynamic Councillor' workshop and an emergency planning event. Clerk is to circulate details.

### **134. COUNCILLOR CO-OPTION**

Nominations have been received for two candidates for the vacancy on the council. Resumes provided by the two candidates had previously been circulated to all Councillors. Mr. Cooper was asked to leave the room whilst these were discussed. After discussion, ballot slips were circulated to councillors for a vote. Chairman abstained from the vote. The ballot papers were counted by the Clerk and verified by the Chairman. Mr. David Cooper was duly co-opted as a member of River Parish Council and signed a declaration of office in the presence of the Clerk.

### **135. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

- Cllr. Eyre-Jackson said that she is trying to get a column for River in the community section of local papers to publicise parish council activities.
- The Kent Speedwatch scheme is progressing in River and a machine is on offer for us.
- There had been reports of a recent incident on the Ridgeway where a driver had fallen asleep at the wheel and hit two parked cars.

#### *Public question time*

Reports were received of overhanging trees and vegetation in Valley Road and vegetation overhanging the pavement on Crabble Road by the rugby ground. Chairman will look into both these reports.

Meeting closed at 9pm