

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RIVER PARISH COUNCIL

Held on Tuesday 8th November 2016 at 7.30pm in River Methodist Church

PRESENT: Cllr. Dixon (in the Chair), Cllr. Brand, Cllr. Buhlman, Cllr. Cooper, Cllr. Eyre-Jackson, Cllr. Horobin, Cllr. Mrs. Horobin, Cllr. Keningale, Cllr. Nicholas

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. A. Denyer (Parish Clerk)

136. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr. Taylor, Dist. Cllr. Beresford

137. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Cllr. Eyre-Jackson declared an interest in Item 147 and did not vote in the matter.

138. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 11th October 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. Eyre-Jackson and all agreed.

139. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

The minutes of the last Planning Committee Meeting had previously been circulated and their contents were noted.

140. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES / UPDATES ON ONGOING ITEMS:

Item 128b

Chairman reported that the new contractors at the Recreation Ground had made a significant improvement in the standards of cleanliness in the buildings and facilities. Favourable comments have been received from users.

Item 130a

Cllr. Eyre-Jackson asked if the parish council could have clarification on whether the new police officer for the Dover town centre is full or part-time.

141. REPORTS:

a) District and County Councillors

Cllr. Dixon reported that the 40mph TAP on the A20 will become a variable speed limit early next year. The standard speed limit will be set at 70mph and will reduce to 40mph if Operation Stack or TAP is in place. Discussions over a proposed lorry park at Stanford are ongoing.

b) Parish Councillors

Cllr. Eyre-Jackson reported that there are Kent Speedwatch Action Days being held on 24th-26th November and that 21st to 26th November will be Road Safety Week. (BRAKE). Cllr. Eyre-Jackson suggested that, although an offer of a reduced price SID has been made to the council, no purchase of a machine currently take place as the machine is substantially different from the original one offered. This was agreed.

c) PCSO/Policing

There has been no report of any outstanding issues from the PCSO. Clerk reported on two items received from Kent Police: there is currently a two-week firearm amnesty taking place giving people the opportunity to hand in any unwanted or unlicensed weapons without fear of prosecution; also there is a burglary awareness campaign during the winter months reminding people of household security.

142. REPORT FROM THE EVENTS COMMITTEE

Cllr. Horobin reported that forms have gone out for the 2017 County Fayre. Nothing else to report.

143. FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR OCTOBER 2016

Financial reports for October 2016 were circulated at the meeting. Clerk apologised as the expenditure figures from the parish and Recreation Ground are transposed.

144. CORRESPONDENCE

a) Consultation on BT proposal to remove telephone boxes

Feedback has been requested on British Telecom's proposal to remove underused telephone boxes in the District. One of those proposed to be removed is at Lower Road near the Co-op Store. In the light of the fact that 58 calls have been made from the telephone in the last 12 months, compared to some others which have had single figure or no calls. It was agreed to object to the proposal on the criteria specified. Namely, that: there is no other telephone box within 800 metres; that there are more than 500 households within one kilometer; that there have been more than 12 calls made in the last year; and that this constitutes 'reasonable need' for the telephone.

b) World War One Commemoration events, November 2018

Details have been received from Bruno Peek, Queen's Pageantmaster, of proposals for events being planned to commemorate the centenary of the end of the First World War on 11th November 2018. It was agreed that the parish council will indicate an interest in taking part.

c) Police and Crime Commissioner – Autumn Survey

The Kent PCC is asking for responses to a survey on policing in the county. Clerk will circulate the link for the survey.

d) Letter from Mrs. B. Dutton

A letter of thanks has been received from Mrs. B. Dutton thanking the parish council for its work arranging the installation of a memorial bench for her late brother Des Barwick, who was a former parish councillor. A donation of £50 was also included.

e) Letter from Mrs. Philpott

A letter has been received from Mrs Philpott of Mannering Close regarding the hedge from the Recreation Ground pressing against a wooden fence. Cllr. Dixon had, on this occasion, agreed to ask the groundwork contractors to cut back the rear of the hedge. As the fence was put up after the hedge was fully established, the parish council agreed that no future cutting back of the hedge on the Mannering Close side take place.

145. ADOPTION OF AND NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2017 KALC COMMUNITY AWARDS SCHEME

It was agreed that River Parish Council adopt the 2017 KALC Community Awards Scheme and that the council will nominate Shirley Blackman for the award. This was previously agreed under Item 14 of the parish council meeting held on 10th November 2016.

146. APPOINTMENT OF THE BUDGET SUB-COMMITTEE AND DATE OF THE MEETING

It was agreed that the Budget Sub-Committee consist of the Chair of each committee along with Cllr. Nicholas. Chairman asked if any other councillors wished to be involved. There were no others. A meeting was set for Tuesday 13th December 2016 at 7.30pm.

147. APPOINTMENT OF A VILLAGE 'HANDYPERSON'

After discussions, it was proposed that River Parish Council retain the services of John Hill and Robin Jackson for one day of seven hours each per week at a total cost of £8,372. The motion was proposed by Cllr. Nicholas and seconded by Cllr. Buhlman and all agreed.

148. PROPOSAL TO PRODUCE A VILLAGE CALENDAR

Cllr. Eyre-Jackson suggested that the parish council produce a calendar for distribution to each household around the village. After discussion, it was felt that the time scale was too short but that the idea could be re-visited next summer with a view considering a calendar for 2018.

149. UPDATED REPORT FROM THE TREE CONSULTANT / FURTHER WORKS REQUIRED ON RECREATION GROUND TREES

Cllr. Taylor has met with the parish council's tree consultant who has updated his advice on trees in the Recreation Ground. He has recommended the removal of one cherry tree due to the spread of a fungal infection and its proximity to a neighbouring property. Also recommended is to reduce the overall length of one limb of the lime tree opposite No.35 Lewisham Road. This is to reduce the amount of weight being supported. With regard to the other lime trees, it is his professional opinion that there is no justification for any further pruning as there is no threat to users of the highway. Further unnecessary pruning could be harmful to the trees. Cllr. Taylor will apply for the necessary permissions for tree works within a conservation area.

150. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- The annual Service of Remembrance is due to be held at 10am on Sunday 13th November 2016 in River Church followed by the Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial.
- A Christmas Market, with a skating rink, will be open at the Dover Cruise Terminal this December.

Public Question Time

There were none.

Meeting closed at 9pm