

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RIVER PARISH COUNCIL

Held on Tuesday 10th January 2017 at 7.30pm in River Methodist Church

PRESENT: Cllr. Taylor (in the Chair), Cllr. Dixon, 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), Dist. Cllr. Beresford

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: County Cllr. Lymer

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: There were none

3. TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 8th November 2016 had previously been circulated. Cllr. Dixon proposed that they represented a true record of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr. Buhlman and all agreed.

4. TO NOTE MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

The minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 12th December 2016 had previously been circulated and their contents were noted. Chairman reported that a public enquiry into the planning application for Bell Vue was due to be held at the District Council offices on 21st/22nd February 2017. The next meeting of the Planning Committee will be held on 24th January at 2.30pm.

5. MATTERS ARISING / UPDATES ON ONGOING ITEMS FROM THE MINUTES

Item 147 The two 'handymen' are already at work and Cllr. Nicholas was thanked for his work on the contracts.

Item 149 Following receipt of permission for work in a conservation area, the Cherry Tree in the Recreation Ground has been felled. The other work due is still to be completed.

6. TO RECEIVE REPORTS:

a) District Councillors

Cllr. Dixon reported that all works on the two Townwall Street roundabouts were due to be completed in the next three weeks. A date for change over to variable speed limits on the A20 TAP was still awaited.

Cllr. Beresford reported that construction work on some of the buildings in the DTiZ development had already begun. A contract for the new Leisure Centre had been awarded. The joining together of the five local authorities should be taking place by 2020.

b) Parish Councillors

Cllr. Cooper had received complaints about traffic and parking problems when the Hawthorne Close Christmas lights were on. Safety issues had been caused by some visitors who assumed that the area was pedestrianised. The bus service had been unable to get past on two occasions. The Christmas light display has become very popular over the years and raises monies for charity. All complainants wanted to see it continue but with some sort of traffic management. Meetings with the bus company and the emergency services were suggested and discussed. Cllr. Dixon said he would speak informally to the organisers to see if anything can be done and report back to the next meeting.

c) PCSO / Policing

The new PCSO now covers a much wider area and is no longer supposed to attend parish council meetings as part of her duties.

7. REPORT FROM THE EVENTS COMMITTEE

Cllr. Brand reported that a meeting of the committee is due to be arranged shortly. A thirteen piece steel band has been booked to perform at the 2017 Country Fayre.

8. FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2016

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

9. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE BUDGET SUB-COMMITTEE

a) Minutes from the Budget Sub-Committee Meeting

The minutes from the Budget Sub-Committee Meeting had previously been circulated and their contents were noted.

b) To receive recommendations on Recreation Ground Hire Charges for 2017/18

The recommendation of the Budget Sub-Committee is that the Hire Charges for the Recreation Ground remain the same as in 2016/17. Cllr. Brand Proposed that the recommendation be accepted. This was seconded by Cllr. Eyre-Jackson and all agreed.

c) To receive precept recommendations for 2017/18

A draft of the proposed budget and precept recommendation for 2017/18 had previously been circulated. Clerk presented an explanation of the figures. It was felt that the parish council would be able to demonstrate that the increase required to fund the 'handyman team' would result in a noticeable improvement in the appearance of the locality. It was noted that, following decreases in 2014 and 2015, the level of council tax requested for 2017 is still lower than that requested in 2012.

Cllr. Dixon proposed that the recommendation of the Budget Sub-Committee be accepted. This was seconded by Cllr. Eyre-Jackson and all agreed.

10. RIVER DOUR PARTNERSHIP: RIVER DOUR REVITALISATION PROJECT

A letter from Martina White regarding the proposed River Dour Revitalisation Project had previously been circulated. Input from the Parish Council is being sought prior to a bid for funding. Cllr. Keningale will liaise with Martina White on behalf of the parish council.

11. UPDATED EMERGENCY PLAN

Cllr. Keningale has reviewed the Emergency Plan. Responsibilities and roles are to be updated and the plan will be adopted at the next meeting.

12. CORRESPONDENCE:

a) KALC – Notification of Communications and Media Conference

Notification of the forthcoming conference on Communications and Media had been received. Cllr. Eyre-Jackson may attend on behalf of the Parish Council

b) Lord Lieutenant of Kent's Annual Civic Service

An invitation has been received to attend the Lord Lieutenant of Kent's Annual Service at Rochester Cathedral on Tuesday 14th March. No members are available to attend on this occasion.

c) KALC Dover Area Committee Meeting

The next meeting of the KALC Dover Area Committee is due to be held on Wednesday 25th January in Sandwich. Topics include the KCC Volunteer Warden Scheme and 20mph Traffic Schemes. Cllr, Eyre-Jackson will attend on behalf of the parish council.

d) Volunteer Warden Scheme

Details of the KCC Volunteer Warden Scheme were circulated and discussed. It was agreed not to take part at this time.

e) 2018 'Battle's Over' Event Update

An update has been received on events due to be held in commemoration of the end of the 1st World War. More than 330 councils have confirmed the lighting of a beacon on 11th November 2018. It was agreed to maintain contact with the organisers but not to confirm participation yet.

f) Tree works

Notification has been received of works to be carried out by KCC contractors on the Chilton Way trees. This is to be maintenance only and no trees are to be removed.

g) Lower Road Speeding

A letter has been received from Jo Allaway regarding speeding vehicles and an incident in Lower Road with a car mounting the pavement close to pedestrians. Cllr. Beresford will contact County Cllr. Lymer regarding the matter.

h) Kent Fire Brigade Hydrant Initiative

A series of review meetings is to be held on the Kent Fire Brigade Hydrant Initiative. Cllr. Eyre-Jackson is to attend on behalf of the parish council.

13. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

A booklet has been produced by DDC on the Kearsney Parks Project. These will be distributed locally.

Public question time: A complaint was received regarding footballs being kicked from the Recreation Ground across Lewisham Road and into a garden causing damage.