

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RIVER PARISH COUNCIL

Held on Tuesday 11th April 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

41. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: There were none.

42. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: There were none.

43. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 14th March 2017 had previously been circulated. Cllr. Brand proposed that they represented a true record of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr. Eyre-Jackson and all agreed.

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

Item 144a (2016): BT telephone box – Lower Road

Clerk has received confirmation from DDC that, following the objection made by the parish council, the BT Telephone Box in Lower Road is to remain in use as a payphone.

Item 20b: Lower Road 20mph zone – preparations for consultation

Clerk circulated a draft for the petition. This was discussed and amended. The area to be considered is from the Dublin Man O War through to the Crabble Road junction. This initial consultation will now proceed.

Item 36: Historic Village Panel replacement

Clerk has received a copy of the existing text on the Historic Village Panel. The replacement of the panel can now proceed.

Public Questions (Mar. 2017): Further to the query about dogs' mess, it was agreed to mark out the mess with biodegradable chalk paint as a first step. This will hopefully stop people stepping into it and may shame the perpetrators into clearing up their dogs' mess in future.

45. REPORTS:

a) County / District Councillors

County Cllr. Lymer reported that KCC are to carry out another 'pothole blitz' but he is not happy with the materials being used. Refreshing of white lines should also be taking place. Two million pounds will be coming to KCC to help fund adult social care. There are to be new laws on flytipping which will involve culprits having responsibility for clearing up the mess.

Chairman asked Cllr. Lymer to speak to Kent Highways about the chaos caused by parking around Kearsney Abbey on the previous weekend. He is to look into a scheme involving a double yellow line on the Kearsney Abbey side and also parking that gives priority to residents. Parking on corners can be considered obstruction. This or parking in a dangerous location should be dealt with by the police and the penalty is a licence endorsement. Cllr. Beresford commented that she called the police on Sunday only to be told that it was not important enough for them to attend. Cllr. Nicholas raised the problems with parking around the Crabble Lane junctions when matches are taking place at Crabble Athletic Ground. Cllr. Lymer said that we must also consider the Guildford Regulations which limit the total amount of signage in any one place. He also recommended petitioning the Police and Crime Commissioner about police attendance for obstructive or dangerous parking.

Cllrs. Beresford and Dixon reported that just three district councils were now interested in a possible merger. The viability of such a proposal is now being examined. The TAP on the A20 is to end in July. There is little happening currently as elections are approaching.

b) Parish Councillors

Cllr. Eyre-Jackson reported that 83 speeding vehicles have been reported to the police since October 2016. She has also now received the forms for reporting problems with fire hydrants to Kent Fire and Rescue Service.

Cllr. Horobin said there have been recent reports of people lighting bonfires during the day. It was confirmed that there are no legal measures to deal with this and that people can only be encouraged to show courtesy to their neighbours.

Cllr. Dixon reported that there had been a number of incidents of groups of youths coming into the fenced area during works on the new play area. A resident of Crabble Court also received abuse when speaking to the youths. Cllr. Nicholas is to explore the costs and scope of a CCTV system to cover the new play area. It was agreed that the costs involved were within the amount that could be approved by the Chairman and Clerk outside of the meeting, if it was felt appropriate to go ahead.

c) PCSO / Policing: Nothing to report.

46. PLANNING MATTERS:

a) Planning Applications

DOV/17/00375 | 25% crown reduction to one Yew Tree | 22 Riverdale, River, CT17 0QX – no comments.

b) Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting

The minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 7th April 2017 were circulated and their contents were noted.

c) Decisions by Dover District Council

DOV/17/00209 | Certificate of Lawfulness (proposed) for the conversion of garage into a habitable room including raising garage roof | 42 Lyndhurst Road, River, CT17 0NF – permission refused

47. REPORT FROM THE EVENTS COMMITTEE

Cllr. Brand reported that they are receiving plenty of applications for stalls.

48. FINANCE:

a) Financial reports for March 2017

Financial reports for March 2017 had previously been circulated. Cllr. Brand proposed that the report be accepted. This was seconded by Cllr. Dixon and all agreed.

b) Statement of Accounts 2016/17

Clerk circulated a Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2017, which was discussed. This statement will form the basis of the Annual Return and a presentation will be provided at the Annual Parish Meeting. Cllr. Brand proposed that the Statement of Accounts be accepted. This was seconded by Cllr. Nicholas and all agreed.

c) Annual Governance Statement

Clerk reported that the annual governance statement will be on the agenda for approval at the Annual General Meeting next month.

d) Renewal of membership to KALC/NALC

The annual subscription to the Kent Association of Local Councils is due for renewal at a cost of £976.98 plus VAT. Chairman proposed that the subscription be renewed. This was seconded by Cllr. Buhlman and all agreed.

49. FIRST WORLD WAR COMMEMORATION EVENTS FOR 2018

Cllrs. Buhlman and Eyre-Jackson have produced a discussion paper on possible activities to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War in 2018. They will produce a further document with a proposed way forward with the ideas.

50. PROPOSAL TO INSTALL FENCING AROUND THE NEW RECREATION GROUND PLAY AREA

A proposal was made to install 1metre high fencing around the new toddler play area when completed. Three estimates have already been received but require changes to reflect what is now required. After discussion, Chairman proposed that a budget of £5,000 be allowed to install three sides of bow-top coloured fencing around the play area. This was seconded by Cllr. Dixon and all agreed.

51. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

a) Arrangements for the AGM and Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will include an update on the Kearsney Parks Project.

b) Nominations for 2017/18 officers and committee members

Nominations were made for Cllr. Cooper to join the Planning Committee and for Cllr. Eyre-Jackson to join the Recreation Ground Management Committee. These will be confirmed at the Annual General Meeting.

52. CORRESPONDENCE

a) Traffic Problems in Lower Road, near Kearsney Abbey

Clerk reported that three written complaints from local residents have been received about parking near Kearsney Abbey on the previous weekend.

b) Events at Kearsney Abbey

The Kearsney Abbey Project has announced a programme of events for the summer including outdoor cinema and a Shakespeare production.

53. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Fitness evenings will be starting at the Recreation Ground from 24th April. These will take place from 6.30pm to 7.30pm and be suitable for anyone of 12 years and upwards.

Meeting closed at 9.55pm