

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

Held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2018 at 7.30pm in River Methodist Church

**PRESENT:** Cllr. Taylor (in the Chair), Cllr. Atkins, Cllr. Bralee, Cllr. Buhlman, Cllr. Cooper, Cllr. Dixon, Cllr. Eyre-Jackson

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

**18. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllr. Deal, Cllr. Keningale, Cllr. Nicholas

### **19. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

Cllr. Taylor declared an interest in Item 25iv and did not vote on the application. Cllr. Eyre-Jackson declared an interest in Item 27 and did not vote on the proposal.

### **20. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

#### **a) Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

The minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2018 had previously been circulated. Cllr. Eyre-Jackson proposed that they represented a true record of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr. Dixon and all agreed.

#### **b) Extraordinary Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

The minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2018 had previously been circulated. Cllr. Bralee proposed that they represented a true record of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr. Atkins and all agreed.

### **21. MINUTES OF THE RECREATION GROUND MANAGEMENT MEETING**

The minutes of the Recreation Ground Management Meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2018 had previously been circulated and their contents were noted.

### **22. MATTERS ARISING/UPDATES FROM THE MINUTES**

**Item 8d:** The LED lighting has now been installed outside the Clubhouse.

### **23. REPORTS:**

#### **a) Parish Councillors**

- i) Cllr. Dixon reported that the line of fencing for the new Junior Play Area has been altered to allow easier access to the fitness equipment. The estimate has been updated to £5,200 which will allow for additional benches to be installed (as agreed and included in the budget for the project). Installation of the new Junior Play Area is scheduled to commence in the week commencing Monday 5<sup>th</sup> March.
- ii) Cllr. Dixon requested that promotion of the new facilities be discussed at the next meeting.
- iii) Cllr. Dixon reported that the village handyman will take over grass cutting by the bus terminus. There will be a proposal at the next meeting to purchase a lawn mower and accessories.
- iv) Cllr. Dixon asked for any views as to where the adult goalposts should be positioned for casual use. It was agreed that two positions be used along the Lewisham Road boundary. It was noted that there will need to be works to improve the 'kick-about' goal areas.
- v) Cllr. Buhlman has received an offer of cycle/skateboard ramps (at no cost) from Hougham Parish Council. It was felt that use would create too much noise for them to be installed at the Recreation ground. Cllr. Dixon suggested accepting the offer and storing the ramps in case an area of land can be located where they could be used. This was agreed.

vi) Cllr. Cooper has received reports of reckless driving late at night around local roads. He has been having difficulty contacting the PCSO. Chairman will write a letter to the Police Area Commander.

vii) Cllr. Atkins has been approached by parents saying that the school bus service was not reliable and there is a lack of information provided. Cllr. Beresford said she has also received emails.

viii) Cllr. Bralee and Cllr. Deal are now undertaking Neighbourhood Watch for Lower Road. She said that there are not many people in river involved. Cllr. Eyre-Jackson suggested an appeal for volunteers.

ix) Cllr. Bralee and Cllr. Deal reported on attending the recent meeting of the KALC Dover Area Committee. The organiser of the Thanet Community Transport Association gave a presentation and is prepared to attend a parish council meeting

x) Cllr. Eyre-Jackson has a contact interested in providing refreshments from the area of hardstanding next to the clubhouse buildings in the Recreation Ground. Cllr. Beresford confirmed that no licence was required from DDC as the grounds are owned by the parish council though they would need food hygiene certification. Cllr. Dixon suggested a three-month trial licence.

### **b) District and County Councillors**

Cllr. Collor reported that KCC will agree the 2018/19 budget next week. They will need to reduce the budget by £52 million per year. The district council will agree a budget in two weeks time. The St.James' development project has been delayed due to power connections not being installed. DDC have been awarded £15.8 million towards a new Rapid Bus Transit System to connect Whitfield with Dover Priory Station. This will also involve alterations to roads and infrastructure.

Cllr. Cooper asked about improvements to pavements in Dover town centre. Cllr. Collor said that these would take place after town events to commemorate the centenary of the Zeebrugge Raid.

Cllr. Dixon reported that the Western Docks project is on schedule.

## **24. LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION CONSULTATION**

### **Electoral Review of Dover District Council**

Cllr. Beresford provided an overview of the plans. It is proposed that the number of district councillors reduce from 45 to 32. This will also require a change to ward boundaries. It is intended that each councillor will represent approximately 3,000 members of the electorate. If River were to continue to be represented by two councillors then the ward would have to increase in size. Dover District Council and the Boundary Commission will each put forward proposals. There will be two opportunities for the parish council (and individual members of the public) to express opinions. The first consultation is currently open and there will be a second public consultation when the final plan is put forward in June.

Public Question Time: There were none

## **25. PLANNING MATTERS:**

### **a) Planning Applications**

- i. DOV/17/01498 | Erection of a detached dwelling with associated parking (amended plans) | Land to the rear of 48 Valley Road and fronting Beresford Road, River, CT17 0QW – no additional comments to the amended plans – *no comments*.
- ii. DOV/17/01393 | Erection of a single and two storey rear extension | 58 Valley Road, River, CT17 0QW – *no comments*.

- iii. DOV/18/00086 | Erection of a single storey rear extension and new roof to the single storey at the front | 43 Coxhill Gardens, River, CT17 0PX – *no comments*.
- iv. DOV/17/00897 | Erection of a detached dwelling, formation of driveway and parking | Access &, 105 Lewisham Road, River, CT17 0PA - *River Parish Council cannot support this application. There is a lack of proper access to the proposed property and the development would lead to additional traffic movements along a narrow and unsurfaced lane. There is a question over whether adequate parking provision or vehicle turning space is included. We would also ask that the legality of the application is confirmed.*

**b) Decisions by Dover District Council:**

- i. DOV/17/01408 | Erection of a single storey side extension | 25 Crabble Lane, River, CT17 0LS – *permission granted*.
- ii. DOV/17/01469 | Conversion of garage into habitable room | 136 Lewisham Road, River, CT17 0PB – *permission granted*.
- iii. DOV/17/00591 | Variation of Condition 2 of DOV/15/01273 to vary approved plans under Section 73 for the erection of a single storey extension to Billiards Room/Café for improved facilities new pedestrian bridge over weir and associated works | Kearsney Abbey Team Rooms, Alkham Road, River, CT16 3DZ – *permission granted*.
- iv. DOV/17/00612 | Listed Building Consent for repairs to building and roof, single storey extension to Billiards Room/Café for improved facilities, new pedestrian bridge over weir and associated works | Kearsney Abbey Team Rooms, Alkham Road, River, CT16 3DZ – *permission granted*.

**c) Planning Correspondence:**

Notification of appeal for Erection of detached dwelling at Derwent, Common Lane, River has been received.

**26. FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

**a) Financial Report**

The financial report for January 2018 had been previously circulated. Cllr. Dixon proposed that the report be accepted. This was seconded by Cllr. Bralee and all agreed.

**b) To review the grants budget**

Clerk has received several enquiries about grant assistance for local organisations. As the Events Committee is not in a financial position to provide any community grants this year, it was agreed that the organisations be asked to provide details of their request which can be considered at the next meeting when there will be clear idea as to any funds available from the main budget.

**27. RENEWAL OF THE HANDYMAN CONTRACT**

A draft of the Handyman contract had previously been circulated. Cllr. Dixon has amended the new contract and suggested that the new contract be a 12-month rolling contract (with notice periods) and that the hourly rate be linked to inflation. Cllr. Buhlman proposed that the amended contract be accepted. This was seconded by Cllr. Cooper and all agreed.

**28. PROPOSAL TO PROVIDE A DEFIBRILLATOR IN THE RECREATION GROUND CLUBHOUSE**

Following on from the request from River Bowling Club for support towards provision of a defibrillator at the Recreation Ground (Item 11b 09/01/2018), Clerk provided details of different types of machine available for around £950 plus VAT. Cllr. Bralee will continue to investigate possible sources of funding with a view to a proposal being put to the next meeting.

## **29. UPDATE ON INVESTIGATIONS INTO A POSSIBLE LOWER ROAD 20MPH ZONE**

Cllr. Dixon and Cllr. Bralee have met with a company who can provide a traffic survey for £240 per location. Clerk reported that Kent Highways are currently unable to quote for the traffic survey as their contractor is at the end of their contract period. They will not be able to commission any work until a contractor is appointed in the new budget year. Clerk has received a list of approved contractors for design of any scheme. It was thought that one of them may also be able to undertake traffic surveys. It was agreed to carry on investigations to clarify costs.

## **30. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE**

### **a) Parking in River Meadow**

Clerk has received a letter complaining of the entrance to River Meadow being made inaccessible by parked vehicles during football matches at Crabble. Cllr. Atkins said that Parking Enforcement Officers from DDC had been seen in River on recent Saturdays.

## **31. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

No further items.

Meeting closed at 9.55pm