

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RIVER PARISH COUNCIL

Held on Tuesday 13th March 2018 at 7.30pm in River Methodist Church

PRESENT: Cllr. Taylor (in the Chair), Cllr. Atkins, Cllr. Bralee, Cllr. Cooper, Cllr. Deal Cllr. Dixon, Cllr. Eyre-Jackson, Cllr. Keningale, Cllr. Nicholas

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

32. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr. Buhlman

33. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: There were none.

34. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 13th February 2018 had previously been circulated. Cllr. Dixon proposed that they represented a true record of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr. Eyre-Jackson and all agreed.

35. MATTERS ARISING/UPDATES FROM THE MINUTES

Item 23a(vi) Chairman has written to the Area Commander regarding incidents of reckless driving around the streets. Cllr. Nicholas has been copied into an email from a resident reporting the make and model of one of the cars in question to the police.

36. REPORTS:

a) Parish Councillors

- i) Cllr. Eyre-Jackson reported that the Events Committee are making good progress on the preparations for the Summer Fete.
- ii) Cllr. Bralee has received complaints from residents about faded white road markings and has reported several local potholes.
- iii) Cllr. Atkins suggested having a grit bin on Lewisham Road as, despite being level, the area was treacherous during recent icy weather. She is speaking to Dover Navigators about possible use of the Clubroom. Cllr. Atkins suggested approaching the school and local groups about what they would like to see in River and the Recreation Ground and get them involved in fundraising.
- iv) Cllr. Dixon reported that the new play area will be complete on Wednesday or Thursday of the following week. The fencing will take three days to install and is scheduled to begin on 26th March. He reported that only one of the fire hydrants in his area had yellow paint on it.

b) District and County Councillors

Cllr. Beresford reported that the St.James development was now opening piecemeal. Cllr. Nicholas asked about the car park time limit. Cllr. Collor responded that the car park was managed by Legal and General (not the District Council) and that they were responsible for charges and regulations.

Cllr. Beresford said that the new Leisure Centre at Whitfield is progressing and due to open in January 2019.

Consultation on the renewal of Public Space Protection Orders will be open soon. Some changes are proposed including extension to parts of Dover seafront.

The KCC budget has now been passed. Savings of £48 million have had to be made this year. There is a new portfolio holder for highways and transport. Lorry parking is one of the major issues for him to deal with. Cllr. Beresford was asked to investigate signage for resurfacing works in the Alkham Valley as some signs report closure for four days and some four weeks.

37. UPDATE ON THE ELECTORAL REVIEW OF DOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL

Cllr. Beresford reported that the council meeting on 1st March to discuss the electoral proposals had been postponed. An extraordinary meeting has been arranged for 28th March. The proposals to be discussed have changed since first publication. The new proposals are not yet available

Public Question Time:

- i. Cars were witnessed pulling up at grit bins during the recent bad weather, filling bags with grit and driving away. It was confirmed that the contents of the grit bins are for keeping roads and public pavements clear and not for private paths or driveways.
- ii. Jean Thomas informed the meeting of the passing of Anne Bertelson, who was a founding member of the Events Committee and had given many years of service assisting with organisation and running of events in River.
- iii. In relation to Item 35, Mr. C. Allen suggested that the Community Safety Unit at Dover District Council may be able to assist with gathering evidence of dangerous driving with their mobile CCTV systems. Chairman will follow-up this suggestion.

38. PLANNING MATTERS:

a) Planning Applications:

- i. DOV/18/00219 | Erection of 2 storey side and single storey side and rear extension | 43 Lewisham Road, River, CT17 0QG - *River Parish Council suggests that a link pitched roof would be a more acceptable design and more in keeping with the street scene. Numbers 29, 35 and 39 Lewisham Road already have side extensions with a link pitch style of roof. The parish council also note that there will be loss of garage space and, therefore, off-road parking*
- ii. DOV/18/00209 | Erection of two storey and single storey side extensions. | 63 Lewisham Road, River, CT17 0QG – *no comments.*
- iii. DOV/18/00187 | Erection of first floor extension to create two storey dwelling | Linden, 11 Chilton Avenue, River, CT16 3EF – *no comments.*

b) Decisions by Dover District Council:

- i. DOV/17/01383 | Erection of a single and two storey rear extension | 58 Valley Road, River, CT17 0QW – permission granted.

39. FINANCIAL MATTERS:

a) Financial Report

The financial report for February 2018 had been previously circulated. Cllr. Dixon proposed that the report be accepted. This was seconded by Cllr. Nicholas and all approved.

b) To review the grants budget

To be reviewed at the next meeting after further information is received.

40. PROPOSAL TO PURCHASE A LAWN MOWER

The village handyman is to take over maintenance of the grass area at the Lewisham Road Bus Terminus from outside contractors. To this end, Cllr. Dixon proposed that a budget of £350 be provided to purchase a lawn mower and accessories for the Parish Council. This was seconded by Cllr. Bralee and all agreed.

41. RENEWAL OF CLEANING AND LOCKING CONTRACTS

The contracts for cleaning and locking had been updated to be rolling 12 month contracts with notice periods on both sides and with remuneration linked to inflation. Cleaning of the play and fitness equipment has been added to the schedule of works with the agreement of the contractors as the changing rooms are no longer in need of regular cleaning. Cllr, Dixon proposed the renewal of the cleaning and locking contracts on these terms. This was seconded by Cllr. Jackson and all agreed.

Cllr. Atkins queried the opening times for the Recreation Ground toilets. They are currently weekends, school holidays and special events only. After discussion, it was agreed that the toilets be opened on completion of the new junior play area and remain open daily thereafter. This will remain under review and if any problems occur they will be closed and opening hours revert to weekends, school holidays and events.

42. PROPOSAL TO PROVIDE A DEFIBRILLATOR IN THE RECREATION GROUND CLUBHOUSE

Clerk provided three quotes for a public defibrillator and casing to be installed outside the Clubroom in the Recreation Ground. Cllr. Bralee reported that St.John's Ambulance and the Co-Op Community Fund were unable to provide any funding. Cllr. Dixon will speak to River Bowling Club and River Originals tennis club about contributions towards the cost. Proposal to be reviewed at the next meeting.

43. PROMOTION OF FACILITIES

Cllr. Dixon said that facilities at the Recreation Ground needed promoting especially since the loss of organised football matches in August 2017. There is potential for local businesses to sponsor part of this village amenity. He asked for councillors to bring their thoughts to the next meeting. Cllr. Nicholas suggested a joint approach. It was agreed that Cllr. Nicholas will liaise with Cllr. Dixon and work with Councillors Atkins and Cooper to produce a framework to work within.

44. WORLD WAR ONE CENTENARY COMMEMORATIVE BENCH

After discussion, Chairman proposed the purchase of a bench with plaque at a cost of £333 to be installed in the garden area opposite Meadowdene in commemoration of the centenary of the end of World War One. This was seconded by Cllr. Eyre-Jackson and all agreed.

45. GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS

Clerk reported that the new General Data Protection Regulations will apply from the 25th May and will affect Parish Councils. We will be expected to appoint a Data Protection Officer. Clerk is liaising with Alkham Parish Council who have suggested that several councils work together and appoint a joint Data Protection Officer. Clerk is working through advice provided by NALC and will keep the parish council informed. Cllr. Nicholas will provide information on the matter as being discussed at River School.

46. CORRESPONDENCE

Nothing to report.

47. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

No further items.

Meeting closed at 9.30pm