

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RIVER PARISH COUNCIL

Held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 12th June 2018 in River Methodist Church

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

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

72. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Dist./County Cllr. Beresford

73. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: There were none.

74. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 8th May 2018 had previously been circulated. Cllr. Buhlman proposed that they represented a true record of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr. Cooper and all agreed.

75. MINUTES OF OTHER COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 10th May 2018 and the minutes of the Recreation Ground Management Committee Meeting 11th May 2018 had previously been circulated and their contents were noted.

76. UPDATES FROM THE MINUTES (NOT OTHERWISE LISTED ON THE AGENDA)

All items covered by the agenda.

77. PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCIES/CO-OPTION

Chairman reported that a consent to nomination had been received for the vacancy on the Parish Council caused by the resignation of Susan Bralee. Details of the candidate had been circulated prior to the meeting. Chairman proposed that Mr. Christopher Allen be co-opted as a member of River Parish Council. This was seconded by Cllr. Dixon and all agreed.

Chairman also reported that since the last meeting Mr. Robert Nicholas had resigned as a Parish Councillor and that this vacancy has now been advertised.

78. PRESENTATION FROM LONDON ROAD RESIDENTS REGARDING SPEEDING VEHICLES AND PARKING

A group formed by London Road residents attended the meeting and circulated photographs of lorries parked in laybys and across pavements. They explained that vehicles could, occasionally, be parked there for up to 5 days causing problems for residents accessing the London Road safely, damage to the pavements and hygiene problems. Speeding vehicles were also an ongoing problem.

Cllr. Allen said that damage to kerbs was the responsibility of Kent County Council. Also that DDC Environmental Health should be asked to investigate issues with hygiene.

County Cllr. Collor said that any lorry parked on a kerb could be issued with a penalty notice.

Cllr. Eyre-Jackson suggested asking Kent Speedwatch to visit to see if any suitable positions were available for speed monitoring. It was suggested that DDC Parking Services also make occasional visits to monitor for parking offences.

County Cllr. Collor will look into the availability of illuminated speeding signs some of which are available for loan to Parish Councils.

Chairman said that a letter of support from the Parish Council would be sent.

Cllr. Dixon said that the problem was a lack of capacity as both lorry parks in Dover were full by 5pm. Another area is currently being prepared by the Port of Dover and will be able to take an additional 200 lorries but this would not solve the problem.

Public Question Time

No questions

79. REPORTS:

a) District and County Councillors

Cllr. Dixon reported that he will attend a site meeting of the DDC Planning Committee at 105 Lewisham Road as Ward Councillor. Cllr. Beresford will be in attendance as a member of the DDC Planning Committee.

Cllr. Collor reported that some 1,800 potholes have been repaired so far this year in Dover District by KCC. A consultation into finding an alternative solution to Operation Stack is currently ongoing. A presentation is due to take place locally on the coming Thursday. This is also the time of year when changes in committee members take place.

Cllr. Collor had to leave the meeting at this point.

b) Parish Councillors

i) Cllr. Cooper said that it had been reported that £43,000 has been awarded to DDC by the Arts Council but no information was available as to what the funding was for. Cllr. Dixon said that he would look into this.

ii) Chairman asked for assistance from Councillors on the day of the Fete. Please let Chairman or the Clerk know any availability.

iii) Cllr. Eyre-Jackson reported that all stalls were booked for the Fete and a sponsor has been found for the programme.

iv) Cllr. Atkins reported that she had started a German Club with meetings at the Clubroom. She had spoken to the editor of Rivall and any clubs and classes held there could be notified in future Rivall editions.

80. PLANNING MATTERS:

a) Planning Applications

DOV/18/00520 | Erection of a rear dormer roof extension incorporating Juliette balcony, insertion of rooflight to front roofslope and new gable end | 44 Minnis Lane, River, CT17 0PR – No comments.

b) Dover District Council – Decisions and correspondence

DOV/18/00399 | Use of existing building for agricultural purposes along with external alterations to the building | Bellevue, Minnis Lane, River, CT15 7DN – permission refused.

Chairman asked Cllr. Dixon to contact the Planning Manager at DDC to ensure that enforcement action is taken immediately.

81. FINANCIAL MATTERS:

a) Financial reports for April and May 2018

Financial reports had been circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr. Dixon proposed that the reports be accepted. This was seconded by Cllr. Keningale and all agreed.

b) Approval of the Annual Governance Statement

A copy of the annual governance statement had previously been circulated. Clerk outlined some of the statements. Cllr. Dixon proposed that the annual governance statement be approved. This was seconded by Cllr. Eyre-Jackson and all agreed.

c) Approval of the annual accounts

A copy of the annual accounts (figures the same as presented at the annual parish meeting) had previously been circulated in the format required for the annual return. Cllr. Keningale proposed that the accounts be approved. This was seconded by Cllr. Dixon and all agreed.

d) Proposal to repair items in Crabble Lane play area

Cllr. Dixon proposed that the quotation from Fenland Leisure Products of £1,350.86 (exc. VAT) to repair 2 items in the Crabble Lane Play Area and install to replacement cradle swing seats be accepted. This was seconded by Cllr. Keningale and all agreed.

82. RECREATION GROUND GROUNDWORK CONTRACTS

Cllr. Dixon reported that Heber Horticultural Services, who have provided groundwork services for the past 10 years, have unexpectedly given notice. They were offered the opportunity to re-quote but declined. Many local companies have been approached. Most did not wish to quote and those that have are substantially higher in price than Heber. A comparison of the quotes received with the existing costs was circulated.

A great deal of work has been put in to find a solution for the future and also to allow the bowling club and tennis club to complete their fixtures for the 2018 season. As a result of discussions Cllr. Dixon proposed the following:

- i. That GW Landscaping be awarded a 1 year contract to undertake general groundwork maintenance (grass and hedge cutting) at a cost of £8,550 for the year. This was seconded by Cllr. Buhlman and all agreed.
- ii. That TM Horticulture be engaged to cut the bowling green, three times a week, from July to September at a total cost of £2,925. This was seconded by Cllr. Buhlman and all agreed.
- iii. That River Bowling Club be invited to take over 100% responsibility for maintaining the pavilion and bowling green from October 2018 onwards in return for an annual peppercorn rent. The pavilion lease and the bowling green licence to be re-written and brought to the Parish Council for approval. This was seconded by Cllr. Buhlman and agreed in principle.
- iv. That TN Horticulture be engaged to cut and line 2no. tennis courts for 13 weeks at a cost of £1,255 to complete the season. This was seconded by Cllr. Buhlman and all agreed.
- v. That River Originals Tennis Club be invited to take over full responsibility for maintaining either 2 or 4 tennis courts in return for a peppercorn rent. An agreement to be drawn up and brought to the Parish Council for approval. This was seconded by Cllr. Buhlman and agreed in principle.

Cllr. Dixon said that the cost of maintaining lawn tennis at the Recreation Ground had involved a subsidy from the parish council of £2,000. He proposed that the Parish Council continue with subsidy at this level for the time being. This was seconded by Cllr. Keningale and all agreed. Cllr. Allen suggested that perhaps this be on a reducing basis in the final agreement.

83. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

a) Local Government Boundary Commission – consultation on ward changes in Dover District

This item will be on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting.

b) Kent County Council ‘Big Conversation’ on Rural Transport

Information has been received about the KCC ‘Big Conversation’ to discuss a better way of providing transport to rural communities. A public meeting is to be held (relating to transport in Dover District) on 19th June at Dover Town Hall. A further parish seminar will follow on 3rd July at Ramada Hotel, Dover. Cllr. Dixon will attend the parish seminar if he is available.

c) Dover District Council Local Plan Stakeholder Workshop

An invitation has been received to attend a workshop to help DDC prepare the new Local Plan. This will be in Dover from 10am to 2.30pm on Tuesday 17th July. One representative per parish council is invited to attend.

84. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

No further items.

Meeting closed at 9.35pm