

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RIVER PARISH COUNCIL

Held on Tuesday 10th July 2018 at 7.30pm in River Methodist Church

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

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

85. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr. Taylor, County Cllr. Collor

86. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: There were none.

87. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 12th June 2018 had previously been circulated. Cllr. Buhlman proposed that they represented a true record of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr. Eyre-Jackson and all agreed.

88. MINUTES OF PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 4th July 2018 had previously been circulated and their contents were noted.

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

Item 79b (i) Cllr. Dixon has found out more information about the arts funding. Clerk has yet to circulate to all councillors but will do so.

Item 80b DOV/18/00399: DDC Planning enforcement team are in contact with the landowner. The landowner must inform DDC by the end of the week if any appeal is planned.

Item 83b Chairman attended the KCC 'Big Conversation' seminar on behalf of the parish council. Dist. Cllr. Beresford will give a report on the outcome.

90. REPORTS:

a) District and County Councillors

Dist. Cllr. Beresford reported on the KCC 'Big Conversation' seminar on rural transport: Only 3% of buses (school and some evening services) are controlled by KCC. The rest are controlled by Stagecoach who are under no obligation to run any of the services. The current subsidy from KCC is around £7 million. There is no additional money available just possible re-distribution of existing funds in the light of the current consultation. Three ideas were put forward for discussion: having 'feeder' buses to link in with existing Stagecoach services; a 'click and ride' bookable service; or use of the school 'taxibus' services outside school hours. All options would have a cost for the user.

The Open Golf Championship is returning to Sandwich in 2020, and twice more before 2036, bringing a boost to the local economy. There is a current planning application for 200 lorry parking spaces at Whitfield. A funding bid is being made to refurbish parts of the Dover Maison Dieu (including the Mayor's Parlour) and provide a visitor centre.

Cllr. Cooper asked about the promised repairs to pavements in Dover town centre. Cllr. Beresford said that there is no date set as KCC have been concentrating on pothole repair. She will continue to press for an answer.

b) Parish Councillors

i) Cllrs Allen and Buhlman are to prepare a plan to upgrade the CCTV at the Recreation Ground to improve coverage. A plan will be brought to the next meeting for consideration.

ii) Cllr. Buhlman praised Pete McCue, Pete Thomas and friends, Jane Dixon, Carole King and others for their help during the fete.

iii) Cllr. Eyre-Jackson asked councillors to check the toilets in the Recreation Ground for any signs of antisocial behaviour during the school holidays.

iv) Cllr. Allen reported on a meeting attended (along with Cllr. Taylor) with Kent Highways, Kearsney Parks Project and Temple Ewell Parish Council about pedestrian crossing facilities between the parks. A report is appended to these minutes. Cllr. Dixon said he will continue to lobby for a crossing in his capacity as Ward District Councillor.

Public Question Time

The drain outside Meadowdene Residential Home needs unblocking as it overflows during heavy rain. Cllr. Beresford will report the matter.

91. PLANNING MATTERS:

a) Applications for consideration

DOV/18/00699 | Reduce back branches of one pine on patio by 2metres Reduce back branches of two beech trees on patio side by 2metres | 22 Kingston Close, River, CT17 0NQ – no comments.

b) Any decisions made by Dover District Council

There were none.

92. PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE DISTRICT COUNCIL

The recommendation by the Local Government Boundary Commission is that River be part of a two councillor District Council ward including Capel-Le-Ferne. Cllr. Beresford said that this is not what was recommended by Dover District Council. Any alternative suggestion would need to add up to the correct ratio of people per councillor. Chairman suggested that Councillors review the recommendations and pass their view to the Clerk by email so that any representation can be made before the deadline in August.

93. FINANCIAL MATTERS:

a) Financial Reports

The financial report for June 2018 had previously been circulated. Cllr. Eyre-Jackson proposed that the report be accepted. This was seconded by Cllr. Allen and all agreed

b) Proposal to replace toilet cisterns in the Recreation Ground toilets

Chairman said that he will have a report from John Hill by the next meeting on the cost of replacing flushing mechanisms/cisterns in the Recreation Ground toilets. The existing ones are not operating properly.

c) Proposal to purchase a noticeboard for the Clubhouse wall

Following the new play area/fitness equipment installation, the area by the Clubhouse is most heavily used part of the Recreation Ground. It is, therefore, suggested that a new notice board be purchased to be mounted on the wall opposite the Play Area. Following discussion, Cllr. Deal proposed that a 1000 x 700mm notice board be purchased. This was seconded by Cllr. Cooper and all agreed.

94. NEW RECREATION GROUND GROUNDWORK CONTRACT

A draft of the new one year contract with GW Landscaping had previously been circulated. Cllr. Eyre-Jackson proposed that the draft contract be approved. This was seconded by Cllr. Allen and all agreed.

95. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

a) Resignation of Cllr. Keningale

A letter of resignation has been received from David Keningale. Clerk has informed Dover District Council and the required notices of vacancy will be posted shortly.

b) Dover Local Plan Workshop

A reminder about a workshop on the proposed new Dover Local Plan for the district has been received. Cllr. Deal may attend if able to.

c) Mrs. Jones, Mannering Close

A local resident was hit on the head by a stone thrown over her garden wall. Chairman confirmed that bank in question has now been covered with soil and netted. It is currently too dry to be seeded.

d) Kent Highways - Treework along Crabble Road

Notification has been received that some trees on Crabble Road are to have crown lifts.

96. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Nothing further to add.

Meeting closed at 8.30pm

ITEM 90b(iv)

MEETING TO DISCUSS PEDESTRIAN CROSSING IN ALKHAM ROAD

TUESDAY 10th JULY 2018 at 10am

River Parish Council	Temple Ewell PC	DDC	KCC
Councillor Clive Taylor Councillor Christopher Allen	Two Councillors	Jenny Coller (Project Manager)	Kelly Garrett, Highways.

The meeting was called by KCC who wished to discuss the current position with regards to road alterations in Alkham Road connected with the Kearsney Parks Project.

It was recognised by all that a controlled pedestrian crossing is needed. The recent road alterations have not had the desired effect of slowing the traffic down.

DDC stated that they had always had the intention of installing a pedestrian crossing but the Heritage Lottery Fund did not cover this. The reason for this is that the HLF would not fund something that was not in the ownership of the bidder unless the land owner was part of the bid (i.e. DDC was bidding for a crossing on Kent Highways road but Kent Highways had not been involved). However, at the first public meeting of the East Kent Parks Forum, held in the Brave Room at DDC (June 2017?), the Project Manager stated categorically that a controlled pedestrian crossing would be installed. This statement was made in front of the Head of Service who did not contradict or correct him.

It was argued strongly by RPC and TEPC that a crossing was essential on safety grounds. It had been included in the project documents published on the DDC website and there was nothing else published since to indicate that no crossing would be installed or that funding for this had not been granted. It was also argued that in light of the need for it and as DDC are the project lead, then DDC should fund the necessary crossing.

KCC stated that they agreed that a controlled crossing was necessary but no current funding was available. However, they would arrange for a traffic survey to be undertaken and the findings of this would then dictate the type of crossing required (Belisha beacon or traffic light controlled). A funding bid would then be submitted but if approved would have to come from the 2019/2020 budget and so would not be installed until then.

A rough figure for a Belisha beacon crossing is £20,000.

Discussion then took place about the recently installed wooden bollards designed to prevent pavement parking; again, these have not been effective. KCC agreed to look into this further to see if improvements can be made relatively quickly. They will keep the two Parish Council's informed via the Parish Clerks.

The two Parish Council's agreed to approach their County Councillors (three in all) to see if they would be prepared to fund the crossing from their Members Fund (about £7,000 each). They would also approach their District Councillor's to see if they would lobby for DDC to fund the essential crossing, bearing in mind this is a DDC project, the crossing is in the original project brief, the aim of the project is to connect the three parks and a public reassurance was given by the Project Manager that a controlled crossing would be installed.