

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RIVER PARISH COUNCIL

Held on Tuesday 12th March 2019 at 7.30pm in River Methodist Church

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

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

Prior to the meeting, David Beeney introduced himself as one of the candidates in the forthcoming District Council elections on 2nd May.

23. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr. Buhlman

24. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: There were none.

25. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 18th February 2019 had previously been circulated. Cllr. Cooper proposed that the minutes were a true record of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr. Eyre-Jackson and all agreed.

26. MATTERS ARISING/UPDATES FROM THE MINUTES

Item 54 (2018): Recreation Ground Public Defibrillator: to be fully discussed at the next Recreation Ground Management Meeting.

Item 22a Fields in Trust 'Have a Field Day' Summer Picnic: Cllr. Atkins has had some positive feedback from community groups. Cllr. Jackson will send off for the information pack from Fields in Trust. The item will be on the agenda for the April meeting when a final decision whether to go ahead can be made.

Item 22b Scarecrow Trail: Following positive feedback, it has been decided that the Scarecrow Trail will go ahead this year. The provisional date is the weekend of 14th and 15th September.

27. REPORTS:

a) Parish Councillors

- i) Cllr. Eyre-Jackson reported that the Co-op Store have asked for nominations for beneficiaries from monies raised at the 'Fun Run'. It was agreed that this item be on the agenda for the next meeting. Cllr. Eyre-Jackson also thanked the Clerk for sourcing an additional Palm Vx PDA to run software needed for Speedwatch sessions.
- ii) Cllr. Deal reported on attending the Lord Lieutenant's Civic Service on behalf of the Parish Council.
- iii) Cllr. Cooper had received queries from members of the public regarding a dog warden and also whether the village has a PCSO. Chairman confirmed that the DDC Environmental Crime Unit deal with issues relating to dog mess etc. and that the Parish Council liaise with them over incidents. Cllr. Eyre-Jackson said that following recent reports made, Environmental Crime Officers had undertaken a three-week long period of increased visits to River to attempt to catch any culprits but they are limited to the resources available. It was confirmed that PCSO Tom Daley is responsible for the River area. Direct contact information is not published as Kent Police want initial reports made via the 101 telephone number to ensure that details of crimes are fully recorded.

b) District and County Councillors

Cllr. Beresford reported that the District Council proportion of Council Tax will be increasing by 4.99%. The new Leisure Centre had a successful opening with 1,000 new members joining. £10,000 Start-up grants to new businesses are still available in the District. Also, the opening hours for Dover Library will be reduced in the next financial year but there will not be any library closures in the county.

Cllr. Collor reported on the arrangements being put in place in the event of a 'No Deal' Brexit. A backlog of HGV vehicles will be dealt with in the following order: first TAP20 (on the A20); followed by Operation Brock (using the hard shoulder and outside lane of the M20 for HGVs, starting at Junction 10, leaving two lanes for other traffic); finally, Brock Manston (with the former Manston Airport used for holding HGVs and lorries then being released to travel to the Port of Dover at set intervals). Dover TAP256 will allow HGVs to re-group around Richmond Way and the new Eastry roundabout and travel together down to the Port. Signage at the Whitfield roundabout will provide an alternative route for tourist traffic, down Whitfield Hill and through the town to the Port of Dover.

Chairman said that Cllr. Collor's concerns about the flaws in these plans are shared by the Parish Council. Cllr. Allen commented that the access needs for members of the public and residents are being ignored.

Public Question Time

There were none.

28. PLANNING MATTERS:

a) Planning Applications

i) DOV/19/00035 | Installation of a permanent sculpture | Kearsney Abbey, Alkham Road, Temple Ewell, CT17 0RG – The Parish Council had expressed concerns previously about insufficient publicity for a previous application connected to Art in the park. It appears that just one notice has been posted for the current application. Concerns were expressed about the validity of the current application due to the stated name of the site owner and address of the site being inaccurate. The Parish Council overall felt that the proposed location of the sculpture was incongruous and not in keeping with its surroundings.

Chairman asked that Dist. Cllr. Beresford to investigate concerns over inaccuracy on the application, to confirm whether the conditions placed on the previous application have been met and also to check where the cost of maintenance is coming from (i.e. is it part of the funding received).

b) Any decisions by Dover District Council

There were none.

c) Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting

The minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 6th March 2019 had previously been circulated and their contents were noted.

29. FINANCIAL MATTERS:

a) Financial reports for February 2019

The financial report for February was circulated at the meeting. Clerk reported that a bank reconciliation was not achieved this month, but the error will be rectified at the end of the financial year in March. Cllr. Dixon proposed that the report be accepted. This was seconded by Cllr. Deal and all agreed.

b) Interim meeting of the Finance Committee

It is proposed to hold an additional meeting of the Finance Committee to consider the situation at the beginning of the financial year. The meeting will be held at 4pm on Wednesday 17th April in the Clubroom.

c) Recommendations from the Events Committee for Community Grants

Chairman reported that the Events Committee had received four applications for Community Grants funded by the profits of events. The following grants were agreed:

- i) River Village Hall Trust £300 (towards a CCTV camera to provide security for the defibrillator);
- ii) Crabble Corn Mill Trust £280 (towards aesthetic improvements to the mill cottages);
- iii) River Primary School £250 (towards the cost of a childrens' gardening project);
- iv) River Bowling Club £170 (towards the cost of a chemical store safe).

30. PROPOSAL TO INSTALL RAILINGS BY THE RECREATION GROUND TOILETS & CAR PARK ENTRANCE

A proposal to install a short railing by the Recreation Ground toilets as a safety barrier and a line of railings along the edge of the car park entrance to prevent unauthorised vehicle access was discussed. After discussion, Chairman proposed that a budget of £750 be set, to include installation, and that the project go ahead. This was seconded by Cllr. Dixon and all agreed. Cllr. Eyre-Jackson has been liaising with Steelway Ltd. and will place the order for the materials.

31. PROPOSAL TO INSTALL FIRE DETECTION SYSTEMS IN THE GROUND FLOOR OF THE CLUBHOUSE

Following advice given for improvements to the fire safety precautions in the Clubhouse, Kent Fire and Rescue Service had clarified that their suggestions were not mandatory. They have agreed that the installation of smoke and heat detectors in the ground floor changing rooms are an acceptable alternative to the addition of fireline board to the ceiling. This alternative will be at a far lower cost. Unfortunately, the quotation has not yet been received. This item will be carried forward to the forthcoming Recreation Ground Management Meeting.

32. DRAFT OF THE AGREEMENT WITH RIVER BOWLING CLUB FOR FUTURE MAINTENANCE

A draft agreement to supersede the current lease and licence with River Bowling Club had previously been circulated. This agreement will provide free access to the green and bowling pavilion in return for the club taking over full responsibility for maintenance of the green and pavilion. After discussion and minor amendment, it was agreed that the draft be passed on to River Bowling Club for consideration.

33. RECREATION GROUND VENDORS

Cllr. Eyre-Jackson reported that approved food vendors would be returning to the Recreation Ground at the end of March. To date, the following have been agreed: 'Totally Toasted' beginning Thursday 28th March with weekly visits for a one-month trial; 'Dough Dough Pizza' beginning Monday 1st April for monthly visits; 'Streetz2Streetz' Fish and Chips beginning Tuesday 2nd April for weekly visits. The payments are to be discussed and finalised at the forthcoming Recreation Ground Management Meeting.

34. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE:

a) Parish Council Elections 2019

The Clerk reported on correspondence received regarding the forthcoming Parish Council elections on 2nd May. An email has been sent to all Councillors with details of the nomination procedure and dates, if outgoing Councillors wish to stand again.

35. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

There will be a further training session on how to use the new Village Hall public defibrillator at the Village Hall on 27th April.

Meeting closed at 9.10pm