

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RIVER PARISH COUNCIL

Held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 11th June 2019 at River Methodist Church

PRESENT: Cllr. Taylor (in the Chair), Cllr. Buhlman, Cllr. Deal, Cllr. Eyre-Jackson, Cllr. Jones (joined)

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. A. Denyer (Parish Clerk), Dist. Cllr. Beaney and 6 members of the public

58. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr. Dixon, Cllr. Atkins, Cllr. Beresford, Dist. Cllr. Rose

59. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: There were none.

60. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 14th May 2019 (Annual General Meeting) had previously been circulated. Cllr. Eyre-Jackson proposed that the minutes represented a true record of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr. Deal and all agreed.

61. MATTERS ARISING/UPDATES FROM THE MINUTES (NOT OTHERWISE ON THE AGENDA)

All items covered on the agenda.

62. TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF:

a) Recreation Ground Management Meeting 29.05.2019

b) Events Committee Meeting 04.06.2019

The minutes of the Recreation Ground Management Meeting and the Events Committee Meeting had previously been circulated to all Councillors and their contents were noted.

63. PARISH COUNCIL VACANCIES / CO-OPTION

A resume from Mr. Christopher Jones had been circulated and Chairman thanked all Councillors for their response, which had been all been in favour of his nomination. Therefore, Cllr. Buhlman proposed that Mr. Jones be co-opted as a member of the Parish Council. This was seconded by the Chairman and all agreed. Cllr. Jones joined the meeting at this point.

64. REPORTS:

a) Parish Councillors

i) Cllr. Buhlman reported that the new CCTV was operating satisfactorily and that he has been in contract with a representative from River Bowling Club about receiving the old system. They were happy with the agreed proviso that one camera from the system be available for use by the Parish Council.

ii) Cllr. Jones introduced himself and explained his long links with River. He hoped that, as a resident of London Road, he could represent the views of this area of the Parish.

He had a query about the camera sited on the London Road monitoring the volume of traffic and asked if the Parish Council could get access to the data. Cllr Eyre-Jackson said that she believed that data was only collected in cases where the TAP or Operation Stack was active.

iii) Cllr. Eyre-Jackson reported that she had received a complaint about the overgrown condition of 'The Cut'. She has ascertained that, although owned by Kent County Council, it is maintained by Dover District Council. She has spoken with the relevant department and they will organise a clean-up.

iv) Chairman reported that he has received some feedback (as requested in 'Rivall' magazine) regarding support for the reintroduction of the 15b bus service. If there is enough support, then he will contact Stagecoach Bus Company to discuss the matter further.

b) District and County Councillors

Dist. Cllr. Beaney reported that, since the election, activities at DDC had mostly involved training for the new Council session. He is aiming to organise a networking meeting in mid-July for all Parish Councillors in the Dover Downs and River Ward to build relationships for future co-operation and partnership working.

Public Question Time

i) Query from the Village Hall about receiving the latest copy of the Emergency Plan. Chairman asked Cllr. Buhlman to review the plan and check to see if any updates were required. Following this, it will be circulated to everyone needing a copy (including the Village Hall Trust).

ii) The Chairman of the River Village Hall Trust explained to the meeting that when double yellow lines were installed near the Hall, assurances were given at the time that they would not be extended. She asked if it would be possible for some of the double yellow line to be converted to single yellow lines to allow parking at some times. Chairman asked to see copies of the correspondence relating to the matter.

iii) In the light of the proposed pedestrian crossing across the Alkham Road, a request was received for a similar crossing across the A2 by the Railway Bell Pub to allow easier access to the bus stop. Chairman reported that, to his knowledge, this proposal had previously been put to Kent County Council on three occasions and rejected each time. He felt that KCC would need new evidence before they would consider the matter again. Chairman will liaise with Dist. Cllr. Beaney about whether an approach to KCC was possible.

iv) A request was received that the number of members of the public be recorded on the minutes. This was agreed.

v) A request was received for microphones to be used at the Annual General Meeting for the benefit of the hard of hearing.

vi) a request was received for double yellow lines to be installed on the bend in Lower Road next to the pedestrian gate into Kearsney Abbey. Chairman reported on unsuccessful efforts in 2018 to have the gate closed off for safety reasons. It is unlikely that double yellow lines would be approved but Chairman outlined some of the possible mitigating measures discussed with DDC including possible use of parking bays which could be closed off days of peak-use at Kearsney Abbey.

65. PLANNING MATTERS:

a) Planning Applications

i) DOV/19/00509 | Replacement conservatory roof | 116 Lewisham Road, River, CT17 0PB –
No comments.

ii) DOV/19/00562 | Erection of a first-floor extension (over existing garage) | 87A London Road, River, CT17 0SQ –
No comments.

iii) DOV/19/00596 | Variation of Condition 2 (approved plans) to allow design changes of planning – permission DOV/19/00278 (application under Section 73) | 53 Cowper Road, River, CT17 0PL –
No comments

iv) DOV/19/00612 | Erection of a single storey rear extension | 14 Beresford Road, River, CT17 0QR -
River Parish Council have concerns over loss of amenity to the neighbouring property (No. 12). With reference to the 45-degree line code – a line drawn from the Dining Room window of No.12 will overlap with the new proposed extension.

v) DOV/19/00473 | Erection of a front porch, single storey rear extension and parking area | 26 Crabble Lane, River, CT17 0LS –
No comments.

vi) DOV/19/00275 | Erection of a porch, first floor extension, two storey rear extension and installation of flue (existing rear extension, conservatory and porch to be demolished) (amended plans) | 11 Deanwood Road, River, CT17 0NT –
No comments.

b) Any decisions by Dover District Council

i) DOV/1900354 | Fell one beech and one pine tree | 15 Riverdale, River, Dover, Kent CT17 0QX –
permission granted

66. FINANCIAL MATTERS:

a) Financial Reports

Clerk circulated an interim financial report, showing income and expenditure for April and May 2019. The spreadsheet is still being recalculated from the previous financial year. Cllr. Eyre-Jackson proposed that the report be accepted. This was seconded by Cllr. Deal and all agreed.

b) To discuss possible financial support for repairs to River Church

Another theft of lead from the Church roof has been reported. Chairman has asked Rev. Bawtree to let the Parish Council know the full cost of repairs when available. A local crowdfunding campaign has begun. Chairman asked for the views of Councillors on possible financial support from the Parish Council. It was agreed that the Parish Council consider contributing when the full cost is known.

c) First River Rainbows – application for grant

Clerk reported that an application had previously been received from First River Rainbows for a community grant. Due to an on his part error, this had not previously considered by the Parish Council. After discussion, Cllr. Buhlman proposed that a grant of £200 be made to First River Rainbows from the main grant budget to purchase resources in support of the new guiding programme. This was seconded by Chairman and all agreed.

67. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED BY THE DATE OF THE MEETING:

a) Kearsney Abbey Pedestrian crossing

Plans for the proposed new Puffin Pedestrian Crossing across Alkham Road were circulated and discussed. Chairman explained the background to the Parish Council's efforts to have this facility was re-introduced into the Project (having previously been dropped). This included meetings with all stakeholders in July 2018 and a further meeting at DDC two weeks ago. The consultation period for this proposal runs until the 24th June. The Parish Council will be making representations in support of the proposal.

Cllr. Eyre-Jackson noted that the existing vehicle activated sign is due to be removed and asked if the Parish Council can find out what will happen to it.

68. TO DISCUSS AN INCREASE IN THE CLERK'S WORKING HOURS TO 18 PER WEEK

This item was held over to the next meeting.

69. ANY ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Cllr. Eyre-Jackson said that she had been approached about a nuisance bonfire. She reported that members of the public can complain online and will pass on the link to the Clerk.

Meeting closed at 8.50pm