

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RIVER PARISH COUNCIL

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

PRESENT: Cllr. Taylor (in the Chair), Cllr. Atkins, Cllr. Beresford, Cllr. Dixon, Cllr. Eyre-Jackson, Cllr. Jones

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. A. Denyer (Parish Clerk), Dist. Cllr. Beaney and 1 member of the public

105. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr. Buhlman, Cllr. Deal and County Cllr. Collor

106. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: There were none.

107. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 8th October 2019 had previously been circulated. Cllr. Eyre-Jackson proposed that the minutes represented a true record of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr. Beresford and all agreed.

108. UPDATES FROM THE MINUTES

Item 78/99b: the spare play area 'horse head' will be handed over to the school so that a template for the Art Competition can be prepared.

Item 88a(iv): GW Landscaping are to visit the Recreation Ground tomorrow to prepare their report on condition of the trees on the Lewisham Road boundary.

Item 88c: Chairman reported that the meeting of parish councils in the Dover Downs ward had been well attended and was worthwhile.

Item 90d: Cllr. Eyre-Jackson had been in touch with the River Dour Partnership. Work cannot be carried out in the river between 1st November and 1st April.

Item PQT b) Pavement Line adjacent to Dublin Man o'War Development: no response yet received.

Item 103b: the Parish Council are pleased to note that construction of the pedestrian crossing has been completed.

109. REPORTS:

a) PCSO / Policing

A report has been received from PCSO Megan Keehner. Crimes of note during October were: a theft in Lower Road, tree obstruction in Minnis Lane, two incidents of obstruction and a nuisance vehicle in London Road.

b) Parish Councillors

i) Recreation Ground: Cllr. Dixon reported that a skip has been ordered to remove the remains of the tree roots. Also the new bench area will be completed shortly.

ii) Cllr. Jones said there had been fly tipping over the weekend in the layby on London Road. He had reported the incident online and the waste had been cleared on Monday. Officers at DDC had suggested that the Parish Council could request a parking ban for vehicles over 7.5tonnes due to the litter and mess caused. Chairman asked Cllr. Beresford to make the request through KCC.

iii) Cllr. Atkins had received reports of problems with speeding vehicles. The Methodist Church Youth Club had a successful night-time event in the Recreation Ground. The PTA have asked to use the Clubroom to wrap Christmas presents. Also, River Pre-School are in need of Committee Members.

iv) Cllr. Eyre-Jackson reported that Kent Highways have cut down the section of fallen tree across Lower Road. It was agreed to contact the Environment Agency regarding repairs to the fence.

c) County Councillors

i) County Cllr. Beresford reported that a KCC group meeting had taken place regarding lack of co-operation received from Highways. Some items reported (drains etc.) were not being cleared properly. Only drains reported as blocked were being cleared without consideration given to possible problems at any nearby drains. The system was reactive rather proactive.

ii) If Operation Brock is put into place to manage the flow of lorries into the docks, there will be fines for any vehicles attempting to jump the queue.

iii) Further to an email received from a resident of Deanwood Road, Cllr. Beresford will enquire about the possibility of having a 'No HGV's Except for Access' sign at the Crabble Lane / Lewisham Road junction.

iv) Due to forthcoming general election, purdah was affecting the decision making process.

d) District Councillors

- i) Dist. Cllr. Beaney circulated a list of items discussed at the meeting of Parish Councils. A further meeting will be arranged next year. Information from DDC was also handed to the Clerk.
- ii) Dist. Cllr. Trevor Bartlett has now taken over as Leader of Dover District Council.
- iii) The Kearsney Abbey project should be finalised in summer 2020. Cllr. Beaney reported that the Café will be self-service and be run by DDC. Cllr. Beresford confirmed that this had not been the original intention. After discussion, Chairman said that this is a disappointing outcome after all the investment in the project. It was felt that the proposed service will be poorer than that offered by the previous franchise holder. Chairman asked Cllr. Beaney to take the views expressed by the Parish Council back to DDC. The matter is currently with the Scrutiny Committee.
- iv) DDC has declared a climate emergency. It is hoped that DDC can be carbon neutral by 2030.
- v) The new Local Plan will be published early next year.
- vi) Cllr. Beaney circulated information from the DDC Community Safety Unit. Cllr. Eyre-Jackson is to register the Parish Council on the mailing list to receive any future information directly.

Public Question Time

There were none.

110. PLANNING MATTERS:

a) Planning Applications

- i) DOV/19/011898 | Conversion of garage to habitable room with replacement roof to front porch and existing garage | 13 Lower Road, River, CT17 0LN – No comments.
- ii) DOV/19/01306 |Erection of first floor extension, roof extension with front and rear dormers, incorporating a front balcony and insertion of 4no. rooflights, Landscaping, terracing and the construction of external steps | 27 Cowper Road, River, CT17 0PQ – No comments.

b) Decisions by Dover District Council

DOV/19/01041 | Erection of two storey side extension and single storey rear extension | 6 Coxhill Gardens, River, CT17 0PY – permission granted

111. FINANCIAL MATTERS:

a) Financial Reports

The financial report for October had previously been circulated. Cllr. Dixon proposed that the report be accepted. This was seconded by Cllr. Beresford and all agreed.

Cllr. Eyre-Jackson queried whether all payments for used of the Recreation Ground Clubroom had been received. All information will be passed on to Cllr. Eyre-Jackson so that she can check.

b) To discuss purchase of a Christmas Tree for the Recreation Ground

Cllr. Dixon proposed that the Parish Council purchase a large Christmas Tree for display in the Recreation Ground. This was seconded by Cllr. Atkins and all agreed.

c) Proposal to have a lease agreement drawn up for the Recreation Ground cottage

In view of the commitments required on both sides, it was agreed that a formal lease be drawn up rather than a simple agreement. Cllr. Dixon has received estimates. Cllr. Dixon proposed that a lease be drawn up, at an estimated cost of £1,000, between the Parish Council and John Hill for use of the Recreation Ground cottage as a Café. This was seconded by Cllr. Eyre-Jackson and all agreed.

d) To invite Councillors to participate in the Finance Committee

After discussion, it was agreed that Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Cllr. Deal meet with the Clerk to agree budget proposals for the forthcoming financial year and that these will be brought to the Parish Council for approval at the meeting in January.

112. PARKING AND LOCKING ARRANGEMENTS AT THE RECREATION GROUND

After discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council will lock the gates as usual. Crabble Corn Mill can then reopen for events/functions as required. Cllr. Beresford has enquired to the legal department at DDC regarding their view on access to the public car park and is awaiting a response. The item will be discussed further at the next meeting when a response from DDC has been received.

113. PUBLIC SECTOR WEBSITE ACCESSIBILITY REGULATIONS

Clerk reported that new regulations applying to public sector websites and mobile applications will come into force in September 2020. These apply to the accessibility of resources by people with disabilities including impaired vision, hearing or learning difficulties. The regulations will affect the design and content of resources. The current site has many accessibility features already in place such as a high contrast and increased font-size option and an option for all content to be spoken. Clerk will make further changes as required to make the site compliant and have the accessibility statement by the deadline.

114. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

a) Notification of KALC Annual General Meeting 30.11.2019

Notification of the KALC Annual General Meeting has been received. Details will be passed on to Cllr. Deal.

b) Kent Highways – response to pedestrian crossing enquiry

Chairman reported that, following an enquiry from a local resident, he has been in correspondence with Kent Highways about the feasibility of traffic signals/pedestrian crossing in the vicinity of the London Road junction with Alkham Road. Kent Highways have responded that traffic data would need to be collected to assess the need for a crossing. This would cost in the region of £1,100 and would need to be funded by the Parish Council. Also that, despite any data, physical constraints may ultimately prevent signalisation being possible. Cllr. Beresford confirmed that schemes have been turned down on three previous occasions. It was noted that Temple Ewell Parish Council are currently investigating the possibility of a crossing in the vicinity of the London Road/High Street Temple Ewell junction. It was agreed that no further action will be taken until a decision on the scheme proposed by Temple Ewell Parish Council is made.

c) 2020 KALC Community Award Scheme

Notification has been received of the 2020 KALC Community Award Scheme. It was confirmed that only one certificate may be applied for. After discussion, it was agreed to apply for a certificate for Jean Hoynes and that Judith Betts will be put forward for the 2021 Scheme.

115. ANY ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

a) Forthcoming Meetings: Events Committee – Tuesday 3rd December 2019

Meeting closed at 9.20pm