

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RIVER PARISH COUNCIL

Held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 11th February 2020 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), PCSO Keehner and 1 member of the public

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

13. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

14. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14th January 2020 had previously been circulated. Cllr. Dixon proposed that the minutes represented a true record of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr. Eyre-Jackson and all agreed.

b) The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 6th February 2020 had previously been circulated and their contents were noted.

15. UPDATES FROM THE MINUTES

Item 88a(iv) (2019) Tree Survey: The tree survey has now taken place and the report pending.

Item 109b(iv) (2019) Lower Road River Dour Railings: The damaged railings issue has all been amicably resolved. The railing has been kindly repaired by a local firm (at no cost) and the handyman will re-paint.

Item 111c (2019) Courtyard adjacent to Recreation Ground Cottage: Clerk reported that the sale of the courtyard had previously been agreed but is yet to find proof that the sale went ahead. Clerk is to do a Land Registry search to establish ownership.

16. REPORTS:

a) PCSO / Policing

i) PCSO Keehner has received reports of thefts from vans in other villages but no reports from River.

ii) Also a number of 'scam' telephone calls posing as Amazon representatives, again, not in River.

iii) The dog incident at the Recreation Ground (Item 21c) was discussed with the PCSO.

iv) Cllr. Atkins said that the three motorbikes that regularly race along Lewisham Road had now done so at school leaving time endangering children and parents walking home. PCSO said that she has not received formal reports of these incidents and emphasised the importance of reporting through telephone number 101 so that incidents can be properly recorded and followed up.

v) Cllr. Jones queried the possibility of additional signage and speed restrictions on London Road following a recent accident. Also, that cars are once more being left for sale in laybys.

vi) The next PCSO surgery will be held on Monday 23rd March. Exact time and venue to be confirmed as the Village Hall has several other bookings that day. The Clubroom could be made available if it is not possible to find a vacant spot at the Village Hall.

b) Parish Councillors

i) Cllr. Jones said that blocked drains were not being cleared after being reported. Cllr. Beresford said that the work could take several weeks after the date of reporting but to report again if nothing occurs. Also, new LED lights have now been installed in 'The Cut' and this has improved the overall lighting. However, one that previously did not work is still not working and Cllr. Jones will report this.

ii) Cllr. Atkins reported that information about the 'Horse Springer' Art Competition had been circulated to all children at River School the previous week. The closing date for entries is 2nd March 2020. It was agreed that a small committee will be needed to choose the winners. Cllr. Dixon offered to provide prizes for the winning entries.

iii) Cllr. Eyre-Jackson suggested that table tennis bats and balls could be made available to borrow to encourage use of the Recreation Ground table tennis table. It was agreed to ask if the Cottage Café could make these available. The table also needs repainting to make it more appealing. She has approached the catering vendors about returning to the Recreation Ground in the Spring.

iv) Cllr. Dixon reported that an additional water meter has now been installed in the Bowling Club. It is now possible to check how much water the Club is using and how much goes through the sprinkler system. It was confirmed that the Cottage will also have its own meters. The works on the cottage are due to start shortly.

The additional waste bin has been installed in the Recreation Ground. Due to a misunderstanding, a spare base is now available. It was agreed that purchase of an extra bin be on the agenda next month.

c) County Councillors

Cllr. Beresford reported that the KCC Budget Meeting will be held shortly. No drastic cuts are needed this year. KCC has received additional funding from central government this year to help with the cost of blocked drains and pothole repairs. Repairs to potholes have been carried out on the M20 today. The additional money means that pothole repairs will now continue throughout the year.

d) District Councillors: No report.

Public Question Time: No questions.

17. PLANNING MATTERS:

a) Planning Applications: There were none.

b) Decisions by Dover District Council

i) DOV/19/01527 | Conversion of garage to habitable accommodation and link extension | 67 Minnis Lane, River, CT17 0PR – permission granted.

18. FINANCIAL REPORT FOR JANUARY 2020

The financial reports for January 2020 had previously been circulated. Cllr. Dixon proposed that the report be accepted. This was seconded by Cllr. Beresford and agreed.

19. GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN 2020 (20TH MARCH TO 13TH APRIL)

Possible participation in the Great British Spring Clean (organised by the Keep Britain Tidy Campaign) was discussed. Several potential locations were identified. Another possibility is to ask local residents to clean their own street sign. It was agreed that the item be on the agenda for the next meeting. Clerk is to confirm that equipment is still available to borrow from DDC.

20. FIELDS IN TRUST 'HAVE A FIELD DAY' EVENT, SATURDAY 4TH JULY 2020

Possible participation in the 'Have a Field Day' event was discussed. It was noted that this is only two weeks before the Summer Fete. Some form of entertainment or activity would be needed to encourage people to participate. It was agreed that the item be on the agenda for next month.

21. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

a) Kearsney Parks Café correspondence

Following news at the November meeting that services at the new Kearsney Abbey Café would be less than previously available, Chairman has written to DDC Council Leader and Dist. Cllr. Richardson but no satisfactory responses have been received.

b) Stagecoach

The new Divisional Manager of Stagecoach will attend a future meeting to discuss local bus services and the future of the service as they see it. He was not available to attend this meeting but future dates have been passed on to him. It was agreed that he be asked if he can attend the AGM to provide a presentation and take questions from a wider audience.

c) Recreation Ground Dog Incident

A local resident has complained to DDC following an incident at the Recreation Ground where a dog jumped up at her children. The complaint was copied to the Parish Council with a request that any relevant CCTV footage be passed on to DDC Enforcement. Cllr. Buhlman is checking the CCTV footage. Cllr. Beresford was asked to speak to DDC Enforcement about having 'No Dogs' stencilled on the ground near the entrances to remind people about the Public Space Protection Order in a similar way to the signs in Crabble Athletic Ground. It was noted that any stencil near the Lower Road gate would need to be at the vehicle barrier to allow people with dogs access to the DDC public car park.

d) Lord Lieutenant's Civic Service

The Lord Lieutenant's Civic Service is to be held on 17th March at Canterbury Cathedral. Cllr. Atkins may be available to accept the invitation on behalf of the Parish Council.

22. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- a) Kearsney Parks Group Meeting – 6-7.30pm Tuesday 18th February 2020 at DDC
- b) Community Led-Housing and Self Build Mini Conference – 1-5.30pm Friday 20th March 2020 at DDC
- c) River Garage Safari – 14th June 2020

Meeting closed at 9.10am