

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RIVER PARISH COUNCIL

Held at 12pm on Thursday 28th May 2020 by video conference

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. A. Denyer (Parish Clerk), Dist. Cllr. Rose and 22 members of the public via live streaming

34. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr. Jones, Dist. Cllr. Beaney and County Cllr. Collor

35. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

36. MINUTES OF MEETINGS HELD SINCE 10.03.2020

a) Previous meeting 10.03.2020

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 10th March 2020 had previously been circulated. Cllr. Beresford proposed that they represented a true record of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr. Atkins and all agreed.

b) Planning Committee 04.05.2020

The minutes of the Planning Committee held on Monday 4th May 2020 had previously been circulated and their comments were noted.

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

Item 114c (2019) - KALC Community Awards Scheme: As the KALC office is currently closed, any Parish Council that has not yet received a requested award certificate, will now not receive certificates until the office reopens. Cllr. Dixon suggested that Vicky Thomas be nominated for a future award for her creative work for the community during the lockdown. It was agreed that this be activated at the appropriate time.

Item 30b – Purchase of Additional Bin: No delivery date as yet.

38. RESIGNATION OF SUE DEAL AS A MEMBER OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman reported, with regret, receiving the resignation of Sue Deal as a member of the Parish Council. Clerk confirmed that, following the period of advertisement, Dover District Council has confirmed that the Parish Council are free to fill the position by co-option. As the number of members is now down to seven, Chairman asked Councillors to consider possible candidates. Cllr. Eyre-Jackson said that she has spoken to three individuals and will circulate the names by email to other Councillors.

39. REPORTS

a) PCSO / Policing

PCSO Keehner is now sending out a new style monthly newsletter to each of the villages in her area. Last month a warning was issued to a driver in River. Complaints have been received about speeding bikes in River, also in Temple Ewell. Cllr. Atkins suggested an online surgery as face to face meetings are not currently possible.

Dist. Cllr. Rose reported on constant complaints received from Lydden and Temple Ewell with regard to nuisance bikers and the problem with enforcement. He and Dist. Cllr. Beaney are dealing with the matter.

b) Parish Councillors

Cllr. Buhlman is investigating the practicality and cost of remote access to the Recreation Ground CCTV system. He is being loaned a 4G dongle to test. This would make it easier and quicker to review CCTV footage as the work could be done without visiting the Recreation Ground. Dist. Cllr. Rose queried the signage. One broken sign is to be replaced.

Cllr. Eyre-Jackson queried progress with double yellow line signage to deal with the problem of inconsiderate parking during matches at Crabble Athletic. Cllr. Beresford said that the Joint Transportation committee was not meeting at the moment. Clerk was asked to raise the matter again with Dist. Cllr. Beaney who had offered to look into this.

c) District and County Councillors

Dist. Cllr. Rose reported that all services provided by DDC were available online and that any matters were being dealt with quickly. Roll out of digital services has happened more quickly because of the COVID-19 crisis. Both District Councillors are dealing with enforcement issues relating to noise abuse. DDC have now updated their CCTV across Dover and Deal with around sixty 360degree HD cameras. County Cllr. Beresford reported that pothole repair continued while the roads were quieter and drain clearance is now in progress. There are new Government regulations applying to nursing homes which will affect KCC. The County Council has a good supplier for PPE and is able to supply any nursing homes unable to source their own. Numbers of people contacting the volunteer services (Kent Together) have now diminished. A lot of small gas bottles have had to be cleared from Scotland Common. Average waiting times for the reopened Waste Recycling Centre are down and the system is running smoothly.

Cllr. Eyre-Jackson asked about the possibility of a permanent speed camera on London Road. Cllr. Beresford will put in an enquiry, but it will take some time.

40. ANY QUESTIONS RECEIVED BY EMAIL FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were none.

41. PAVING SLAB PROJECT

Chairman showed his plan for the possible display of paving slab artworks at the old Lewisham Road bus terminus. This plan has been put to Dover District Council for their views. It was suggested that some sort of screen or covering would be needed. Cllr. Dixon will continue to liaise with Vicky Thomas over slab sizes and numbers. Cllr. Buhlman asked whether some will go on display in the Recreation Ground as well. It was thought that there will be enough for both areas

42. RECREATION GROUND REPORT

Cllr. Dixon reported that he has been discussing the Recreation Ground Café project with John Hill. He is currently not in a position to start works.

Comments that very little litter in the Recreation Ground since reopening.

The Bowls Club had a small open day on Sunday but with only six people allowed on the Green or in the Clubhouse. Work on the green has continued throughout lockdown. Going forward, there will be matches between members only with no outside matches or competitions in line with Bowls England regulations.

The tennis club have also cut the grass and are intending to start playing soon but within the regulations laid down by the Lawn Tennis Association.

A plan to renovate the 'Kick-About' goals has been held up because the engineering firm had closed during lockdown. Clerk was asked to speak to our County Councillors about possible funding through their Members fund.

Cllr. Dixon commended the Parish Council 'Handyman' for the number of repairs and repainting tasks carried out during the closure of the Recreation Ground.

Cllr. Eyre-Jackson has been liaising the catering vendors and some are due to return shortly.

Cllr. Dixon said that footfall has been low since reopening but there has been one incident of faeces being left by the Yew Tree. Any repairs made to safety notices or hazard tape are being noted in a daily diary. The daily cleaning schedule is working well.

Cllr. Atkins observed that the 'No Dogs' had rubbed off. Cllr. Dixon is liaising with DDC about re-instatement.

43. PLANNING MATTERS

a) Planning Applications for consideration:

i) DOV/20/00438 | Erection of single storey front and side extensions, pitched roof over existing side, raised patio with balustrade, new pedestrian access with steps, retaining wall, new vehicular access and parking area (existing front conservatory to be demolished) | Rivington, Common Lane, River, CT17 0PN – No comments.

ii) DOV/20/00256 | Installation of kitchen extraction and ventilation system to roof and the erection of screening | Kearsney Abbey Tea Rooms, Kearsney Abbey, Alkham Road, Temple Ewell – No comments.

b) To note any decisions made by Dover District Council

DOV/20/00345 | Certificate of Lawfulness (proposed) for the erection of a rear dormer window to facilitate a loft conversion | 17 Hawthorne Close, River, CT17 0NG – Certificate Proposed Granted

44. FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) Draft accounts for 2019/20

The draft accounts for 2019/20 had previously been circulated. A year-end balance has been achieved but no analysis has been done as yet. Clerk provided a brief explanation. He will bring a full explanation to the Parish Council when available. The audit timetable has been changed this year because of lockdown regulations. An internal audit needs to take place before the accounts can be completed and sent for external audit. Clerk confirmed that as the usual presentation at the Annual Parish Meeting had not been possible, details of the accounts will be published online.

b) Financial Statements for March and April 2020

Financial statements for March and April had previously been circulated. Cllr. Buhlman proposed that the report be accepted. This was seconded by Cllr. Dixon and agreed.

Cllr. Dixon confirmed that the situation with water supply has been resolved and that the bowls club will now provide a reading from their meter and will receive an invoice for the water they use.

c) Insurance Policy Renewal

Clerk explained that the Parish Council were entering into the final year of a three-year long-term agreement with our insurers. This has kept annual cost increases low. Renewal cost this year is £3,339. We will be in a position to receive quotes from other companies next year.

d) Financial Support

Chairman proposed that the option to provide support for organisations be kept open and can be revisited at future meetings. Also, that this be specifically (but not necessarily exclusively) for local organisations.

45. SITUATION WITH THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Clerk outlined the provisions of the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) regulations 2020. Regulation 4 states that Parish Councils are not required to hold annual meetings in 2020 and that appointments usually made at these meetings can be carried forward to the following year. It is up to the Parish Council if it wishes to hold an annual meeting.

Chairman proposed that the Parish Council not hold an annual meeting this year and carry forward appointments to next year. This was agreed. Chairman reminded the Parish Council that he intended to step down as Chairman at the next annual meeting in 2021.

46. ANY GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED BY THE DATE OF THE MEETING

Nothing Further.

47. ANY ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Dist. Cllr. Rose suggested that future meetings could be streamed online, as this one has been, to give greater access local residents. There may also be options to alternate between live and online meetings or to stream the traditional meetings. It was agreed that this be discussed as a future agenda item.

It was agreed to revert to meeting at the usual time on the second Tuesday for next month.

Meeting closed at 1.40pm