

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RIVER PARISH COUNCIL

Held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 9th June 2020 by video conference

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. A. Denyer (Parish Clerk), County Cllr. Collor, Dist. Cllr. Rose and 44 members of the public via live streaming

48. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Dist. Cllr. Beaney

49. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

50. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 28th May 2020 had previously been circulated. Cllr. Buhlman proposed that they represent a true record of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr. Beresford and all agreed.

51. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES/UPDATES

Item 30b – Purchase of Additional Bin: The bins are not currently in stock with our supplier and delivery should be in three to four weeks.

Item 39b – Internet Access at the Clubroom: Cllr. Buhlman reported that the 4G dongle loaned to him did not provide a reliable enough connection and the only viable solution was a broadband connection. The estimated cost would be £18-£30 per month. It was suggested that using the Clubroom for meetings could offset the cost of broadband. Cllr. Buhlman was asked to investigate prices for the next meeting. Clerk was asked to investigate whether live streaming would be an acceptable alternative for accessibility as Clubroom access was via a flight of stairs. It was agreed that this item be on the agenda for the next meeting.

Item 39b – Inconsiderate Matchday Parking near Crabble Stadium: Clerk has contacted Cllr. Beaney for an update but only in the last few days.

Item 42 – Stencilled ‘No Dog’ Signs in the Recreation Ground: Cllr Eyre-Jackson is awaiting a date for DDC to re-instate faded dog warning signs. She felt that additional printed signs were probably more effective.

52. REPORTS:

a) PCSO / Policing

PCSO Keehner is not around at the moment. The current PCSO is Richard Bradley. There is no report available this month and no surgeries are planned at the moment. Dist. Cllr. Rose suggested that all current issues be passed on to him.

b) Parish Councillors

i) Cllr. Eyre-Jackson reported that catering vendors would be returning to the Recreation Ground: pizza would be available on Thursday 11th June (and visit monthly); fish and chips will be at the ground on Tuesday 7th July (and visit weekly); the chicken and chips vendor was having their van refurbished and then will also visit monthly on a Thursday.

ii) Cllr. Eyre-Jackson reported that Speedwatch sessions can resume on 15th June but in only one of the agreed locations. She highlighted the speed of traffic on London Road. Chairman queried whether some of the KCC funding received from central government for schemes to reduce speeding might be available. Cllr. Beresford said that a business case could be submitted but the deadline is very short. Cllrs Collor and Beresford were asked to look into a possible future application for the next round of funding.

iii) Cllr. Atkins reported that Year R and Year 1 were now back at River School. Year 6 had started back on Monday. She has passed on details of the Art Competition winners. Cllr. Dixon reminded the meeting that he had offered to provide prizes for the winners. Cllr. Atkins will liaise with Cllr. Dixon about getting prizes to the winners.

iv) Cllr. Jones reported on misuse of the laybys on London Road and substantial amounts of litter. Dist. Cllr. Rose will report this to Environmental Health at Dover District Council.

c) District and County Councillors

County Cllr. Collor reported that KCC staff are mostly working from home. PPE has been distributed to staff and care homes as required. The existing problem with funding child migrants has been exacerbated by the current crisis. A government announcement is expected. Road repairs have been carrying on during lockdown.

Cllr. Beresford reported that KCC remote meetings have been getting a full turnout and they are also trialling the streaming of meetings. The budget will have to be redrawn in the light of expenditure during the Covid-19 crisis.

Dist. Cllr. Rose reported that Dover District Council is also having to redraw budgets because of the Covid-19 crisis. Action has been taken on the antisocial behaviour issues reported at the last meeting.

53. QUESTIONS RECEIVED BY EMAIL FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

No questions received via email. Two questions were received during the meeting from people viewing the live facebook stream:

- a) Complaint about amount of litter at Kearsney Abbey – unfortunate laziness on part of some visitors to the Abbey. It is believed that there are enough bins for people to use.
- b) Request for ‘dog bone’ lines to be repainted as many had faded – more information needed.

54. PAVING SLAB PROJECT

Cllr. Dixon reported that 35 slabs had currently been chosen for the project. There is plenty of room available at the Recreation Ground and we are still awaiting for permission from DDC for a possible display at the former Lewisham Road bus terminus. The Parish Council will take possession of the slabs as ‘lockdown’ is lifted. It was suggested that the Parish Council donate £20 per slab to a charity chosen by Vicky Thomas. Chairman said a ceremony could be arranged when the display is opened.

55. RIVER RECREATION GROUND REPORT:

a) ‘Kick-About’ Goals Renovation Project

Forms for the KCC County Members Grant have been received by the Clerk who will submit them shortly. Cllr. Beresford said that it seemed likely that the grant application will be successful. Cllr. Dixon outlined the scope of the project. Work will begin when funding is confirmed and should take two to four weeks.

b) To discuss any incidents at the Grounds since re-opening

A few incidents of hazard tape being removed from Play and Gym Equipment were reported in the first few days after reopening but none since then. It was felt that the earlier closing time of 7.30pm has been helpful.

c) Play Area Safety Inspection Reports

Clerk reported that the annual safety inspection reports were completed during the closure period. All faults were minor and of low risk. Some items need monitoring. The Crabble Lane Play Area was in good condition despite its age. The safety surfacing in the Crabble Lane Play Area was noted as needing some attention. Clerk suggested that the handyman could be asked to deal with some of the minor jobs. Cllr. Dixon asked for a copy of the section relating to the ‘Kick-About’ goals so that any faults can be dealt with during the renovation. He will also look into solutions to a problem with to the wooden posts in the Lower Road Play Area caused by strimming.

d) Clubhouse Fire Safety Inspection

Clerk reported that the annual Clubhouse Fire Safety Inspection, completed last week, had found some faults with the emergency lighting when the power is off. Clerk will arrange for repairs.

e) Any other matters relating to the Recreation Ground

- i) Chairman said that Dover District Council were reopening toilets and proposed that the Recreation Ground toilets also reopen as soon as the correct notices can be obtained and put up. This was agreed. Cllr. Dixon confirmed that the toilets will be cleaned thoroughly once a day.
- ii) Cllr. Dixon has spoken to John Hill who is proposing to start work on the outside of the Café shortly.
- iii) Also, that a request has been made to cut the Lower Road boundary hedge as soon as possible.

56. PLANNING MATTERS:

a) Planning Applications for consideration

DOV/20/00523 | Replace first floor rear dormer window to comply as an escape window | Royal Oak, 36 Lower Road, River, CT17 0QU – No comments.

b) To note any decisions made by Dover District Council

There were none.

57. FINANCIAL MATTERS:

a) Financial Statement for May 2020

The financial report for May 2020 had previously been circulated. Cllr. Buhlman proposed that the report be accepted. This was seconded by Cllr. Beresford and all agreed.

b) Financial support

Item to be retained on the agenda for discussion at future meetings.

58. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

a) Parking on The Ridgeway

A letter has been received about number of vehicles parked on The Ridgeway along with inconsiderate parking. It was confirmed that this would be a matter for KCC and was a common problem everywhere.

b) Letter about building works carried out without Planning Permission

The complainant is taking the matter up with DDC Planning Department (which is the correct action), so it was felt that no further action was required from the Parish Council.

59. ITEM FOR INFORMATION

No further items.

Meeting closed at 9.10pm