

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RIVER PARISH COUNCIL

Held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 14th July 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 members of the public via live streaming

60. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: There were none.

61. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

62. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) Parish Council Meeting 09.06.2020

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 9th June 2020 had previously been circulated. Cllr. Dixon proposed that they represented a true record of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr. Eyre-Jackson and all agreed.

b) Planning Committee Meeting 09.07.2020

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting had previously been circulated and their contents were noted.

63. UPDATES FROM THE MINUTES

Item 39b – Inconsiderate Matchdays Parking: Nothing further to report.

Item 42 – No Dogs Stencils: additional metal signs have been put up in the Recreation Ground, but the stencilled signs have yet to be repainted.

Item 52b(iii) – Art Competition: Prizes for the Art Competition have now been presented.

64. REPORTS:

a) PCSO / Policing

Megan Keehner is now back as PCSO. There was no report this month.

b) Parish Councillors

i) Cllr. Beresford reported that the CSU have been out in the area re. issue of nuisance bikes.

ii) Cllr. Eyre-Jackson suggested taking over the other bed at the bottom of Crabble Lane to improve it. Clerk was asked to enquire about adding the area to our existing Licence to Cultivate.

iii) Cllr. Buhlman asked for a set of doors to be added to the CCTV enclosure to protect it. Cllr. Dixon will arrange for this to be done.

iv) Cllr. Jones reiterated the problems with littering in the London Road. DDC have been clearing the area but the problems remain. The layby by the bus stop is the worst and has no litter bin. County Cllr. Collor said that McDonalds had previously installed a bin in Pencester Gardens. It was agreed that Clerk contact Whitfield Parish Council, as they have problems in Archers Court Road, with regard to a joint approach to McDonalds to have bins placed in the two parishes.

c) District and County Councillors

Dist. Cllr. Rose said that despite several emails, Police have not come up with a proposal to improve the problems with reporting of crime via 101. PS Drew, from the Community Safety Unit, has now suggested a remote meeting involving both District Councillors and two Parish Councillors to discuss the problems with communications.

DDC are reviewing the processes with regard to environmental reporting. A review has been agreed to improve communication and action.

Cllr. Collor very few KCC committee meetings have been taking place but they are starting again via MS Teams. There has been a substantial investment in PPE. There will be an overspend on budget due to the coronavirus crisis and KCC will need to have a balanced budget. Concerns about the timing of return to school in September and also the need for additional buses to avoid overcrowding.

65. QUESTIONS RECEIVED BY EMAIL FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

i) Query about the reopening of River Post Office

Cllr. Beresford has spoken to the Post Office. They will review the situation in August. There are limits to the number of people in the shop. Difficulties because of the size of the premises and running two operations.

ii) Query about parking along Lower Road by Kearsney Abbey.

This enquiry was received before the announcement of the proposed double yellow line scheme to be discussed at Item 68.

66. PLANNING MATTERS:

a) Planning Applications for consideration

Two Planning applications received. It was agreed to hold a Planning Committee later in the month.

b) To note any decisions made by Dover District Council

There were none.

67. RIVER RECREATION GROUND REPORT

a) John Hill is now planning to start exterior work on the new Café in August to be ready for the Spring of 2021.

b) The 'Kick-About' goals have now gone for renovation works. The area is due to be filled with topsoil and re-seeded this week.

c) The additional bin has arrived and is due to be installed in the Play Area.

d) The damage to equipment due to machine strimming is being looked at.

e) No reports of any incidents.

f) The catering vendors have now returned.

g) The electricity company padlock has been replaced with one that we have access to.

68. PROPOSED YELLOW LINES IN ALKHAM ROAD, LOWER ROAD AND CHILTON WAY

Dist Cllr. Rose said that there have been some complaints, but comments from social media have overall been positive. County Cllr. Collor said there has been one substantial objection.

The problems with enforcement were discussed. Also, the new car park in Kearsney Abbey being used by contractors during the week but not available to the public at weekends. Cllr. Collor said that the car park has not yet been handed over from the contractors.

After discussion, it was agreed (by majority) that River Parish Council supports the installation of double yellow lines as proposed but hopes that enforcement will take place as necessary.

69. HGV SIGNAGE IN RIVER

a) To discuss current problems with HGVs in River

Following the recent problems with HGVs missing the turning into Crabble Avenue, a scheme has been proposed to install two additional 'Unsuitable for HGVs' signs on Lewisham Road next to the junction with Crabble Avenue. Cllr. Eyre-Jackson suggested moving the sign from opposite Meadowdene to the junction at Alkham Valley Road and Lower Road. Chairman suggested that the matter would be more easily dealt with as a request for an additional sign.

b) Proposal to fund an upgrade to signage near the junction with Crabble Avenue

Chairman proposed that the Parish Council will fund the additional signage at a cost of £533. This was seconded by Cllr. Buhlman and agreed. Clerk is to liaise with Kent Highways.

70. FINANCIAL MATTERS:

a) Financial Statement for June 2020

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

b) To discuss grants available for electric vehicle charging points

Grants are available to apply for assistance with the installation of electric vehicle charging points. These would need to be available to the public 24 hours a day. After discussion, it was agreed that no suitable locations are available at the moment.

c) To receive a quotation for Recreation Ground tree maintenance

A quotation for £1375 has been received to undertake the tree work as recommended in February 2020 tree report. Cllr. Dixon proposed that the quotation be accepted. This was seconded by Cllr. Buhlman and agreed.

d) To discuss the cost of installing broadband in the Clubroom

Cllr. Buhlman has been investigating possible broadband connection. The best price was from PlusNet for a 24-month contract at £18.50 per month. Subject to usage, this could then be upgraded to a fibre connection for £22 per month. This would enable far more efficient access to the CCTV system and would be another feature for groups hiring the Clubroom. It was agreed to go ahead.

e) Financial support for local organisations

No update.

71. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

a) Keep Britain Tidy – Great British September Clean 11-27 September 2020

Keep Britain Tidy are suggesting either private groups of family and friends or individuals support the campaign with their own clean-up. This is to replace the event cancelled from the Spring due to the coronavirus crisis. It was agreed that the Parish Council will promote the event locally.

72. ANY ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Query online about deterioration of the former Meadowdene Nursing Home building. Information to hand is that the building is on the market.

Cllr. Dixon offered to enquire about the latest situation with the Post Office.

Situation with the Lower Road Telephone Box. Clerk was asked to seek information with a view to possible future adoption.

Meeting closed at 9.15pm