

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RIVER PARISH COUNCIL

Held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 10th November 2020 by video conference

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

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

97. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr. Buhlman

98. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

99. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 13th October 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.

100. MATTERS ARISING/UPDATES FROM THE MINUTES

Item 93 – Lower Road, BT Phone box: awaiting confirmation from DDC.

101. REPORTS:

a) PCSO / Policing

No report.

b) Parish Councillors

- i) Cllr. Dixon congratulated Sharon Keningale on the recent Scarecrow Trail and also the Poppy Remembrance displays around River. He suggested that the Parish Council assist and develop the idea for next year. Clerk was asked to write to Mrs Keningale thanking her and offering help for future years.
- ii) Cllr. Atkins reported that she is running a Virtual Christmas Market on facebook from 27th to 28th November for local craftspeople to sell their goods and also to raise funds for Crabble Corn Mill.
- iii) Cllr. Jones said there is anecdotal evidence of an increased number of large vans travelling along London Road into town.
- iv) Cllr. Eyre-Jackson is liaising with Dover District Council about the provision of a second bin at the Co-op as the existing one is constantly overflowing.
- v) Cllr. Gunzi asked about the possibility of decreasing the speed limit in Lower Road. Chairman reported that the Parish Council are currently liaising with Kent Highways on a Highways Improvement Plan for River and following the publication of traffic data, the recommendation is that a 20mph speed limit could be implemented.

c) District and County Councillors

Dist. Cllr. Rose reported that the digital rollout of DDC services is currently around 90% and nearing completion.

He is concerned about the construction of a customs and excise lorry park at Whitfield by government order, the lack of infrastructure to cope with it and the effect on local villages and is encouraging local people to object.

The last Parish Council in the ward to go online with meetings is occurring tonight. All Parish Councils are now meeting remotely and this is the way forward for the time being.

Dist. Cllr. Beaney reported that vandals had damaged the new Café building in Kearsney Abbey with catapults and ball bearings. Public housing stock is now back under the direct control of the District Council and is no longer run by East Kent Housing. Also reported that: finances at DDC are expected to be down by £4.5m because of the covid pandemic and despite a grant from central government there is still a shortfall of approx. £1.3m; a grant of £4.27m has been received to refurbish the Maison Dieu; consultation on the draft Local Plan is due out soon; there are an additional 5 police officers and 2 PCSOs in the district; Veolia has won the waste collection contract for the next 5 years; there is a campaign against small laughing gas canisters.

Both District Councillors are concerned about the size of the area that new PCSO in this area will have to cover.

County Cllr. Collor reported on the KCC budget deficit, still being fully assessed. All committees are now meeting virtually via Microsoft Teams. The traffic study in Lower Road is now complete. Police have issued 21 section 59 warnings across the District to nuisance vehicles. A security guard has now been employed at Kearsney Abbey due to recent problems with vandals.

Cllr. Collor reported on arrangements to deal with HGV delays after Brexit: there is additional space for outgoing traffic now within the Port; when this is full, TAP20 will be activated; then Operation Brock on the M20, followed by use of facilities at Sevington and finally at Manston Airport. A second logistical trial is due to be held from Manston down to the Port. The arrangements at Manston are only available until the end of June. Traffic from Manston will feed down onto TAP256 near Whitfield. However, arrangements have so far all focused on HGVs. Any vehicles under 7.5tonnes are classed as 'tourism vehicles' and these are the ones that may try to bypass the control measures and come down through the town into the Port. Work is going on to deal with this problem under the slogan 'Keep Dover Clear. The Dover MP is involved. Highways England have been told to look at this problem.

County Cllr. Beresford reported on the Selected Operations Rooms at Kent and Canterbury Hospital to make sure that routine operations do not get cancelled during the pandemic.

Dist. Councillors Beaney and Rose left the meeting at this point to attend another online meeting.

102. QUESTIONS RECEIVED BY EMAIL FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

A question was received asking if the early closure of the Recreation Ground toilets due to vandalism problems had mitigated the problems. Cllr. Dixon replied that they had.

103. PLANNING MATTERS:

a) Any Planning Applications with expiry dates before the next meeting:

None.

b) To note any decisions made by Dover District Council:

None.

104. RIVER RECREATION GROUND REPORT

a) Cllr. Dixon reported that the Community Christmas Tree is due to be put up once again this year. Assistance has been offered from local people. Cllr. Atkins also offered to assist.

b) The paving artwork slabs have been refurbished as required, the protective coatings are being acquired and fitting will then begin soon afterwards. Chairman suggested a dedication event when the works are complete.

c) It was suggested that the cardboard bin at the Recreation Ground be exchanged for a second general waste bin.

d) Tree maintenance works are now in hand.

e) The horse head springers will be refitted soon.

f) There is a query over the ownership of the small courtyard next to the Recreation Ground cottage. The area is an eyeshore and Cllr. Dixon suggested that the Parish Council adopts the area, cleans it up and has gates fitted. Further legal advice may be required.

g) The groundwork contractors are adding soil underneath play equipment where it has been eroded.

h) After discussion about the installation of the defibrillator in the Grounds, Councillors Gunzi and Jones were asked to take on the project. Clerk is to hand over any documentation.

i) The new CCTV is now remotely accessible via an app and is a much-improved system.

j) A new set of wheels needs to be added to the 'Kick-About' goals as the existing ones have collapsed under the weight.

k) Cllr. Atkins queried whether there were any new instructions about closure of equipment during the current 'lockdown'. Cllr. Dixon responded that nothing had been received.

Cllr. Dixon thanked Mary and Robin Eyre-Jackson for the amount of time that they devote to the Recreation Ground.

105. FINANCIAL MATTERS:

a) To receive Financial Statement for October 2020

The financial statement for October has been delayed.

b) To arrange a Finance Meeting to discuss the 2021 Precept

It was agreed that a finance meeting be arranged to discuss the precept when information is received from Dover District Council.

Cllr. Gunzi asked whether it may be possible to fund a greater PCSO presence in the village. Clerk reported on the previous arrangements with Kent Police and that it was doubtful any options were available. However, KCC does operate a Warden Scheme and he will find the latest details.

106. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE:

a) KCC Parish and Town Council Seminar 20.11.2020

The annual Kent Highways Parish Seminar will be held remotely from 1pm on 23rd November.

b) KALC Annual General Meeting 28.11.2020

The KALC AGM is due to be held remotely on Saturday 28th November.

c) Lower Road Double Yellow Lines

Confirmation has been received of the Proposed Parking Prohibition (Double Yellow Lines) in Alkham Road, Lower Road (River) and Chilton Way, which came into effect on 2nd November.

d) Letter from Mrs Horobin

A letter has been received from Mrs Horobin reporting that all 6 of the winter bedding plants have been removed from the two village planters that they maintain.

107. ANY ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Nothing further.

Meeting closed at 9.01pm