

## **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RIVER PARISH COUNCIL**

Held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2021 by video conference

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr. A. Denyer (Parish Clerk), County Cllr. Collor (joined the meeting at Item 20)

**13. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllr. Gunzi, Dist. Cllr. Beaney, District Cllr. Rose

**14. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** There were none.

### **15. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2021 had previously been circulated. Cllr. Beresford proposed that they represented a true record of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr. Buhlman and all agreed.

### **16. UPDATES FROM THE MINUTES**

Item 101(iv) 2020 Additional Waste Bin at Co-op:

Cllr. Eyre-Jackson provided the cost of additional waste bins at £230 per bin plus £90 installation and £95 per annum for the bin to be emptied daily. It was agreed to assess the adequacy of the current bin during the next month and have a proposal for the next agenda.

Item 6 Trees on Valley Road/Coxhill Roundabout: no action yet.

Item 9 Highway Improvement Plan: still in draft.

### **17. REPORTS:**

#### **a) District and County Councillors**

County Cllr. Beresford reported:

- i) gritters had been out day and night, but a certain amount of traffic is required for the grit to be activated and make it effective. In answer to a query, Cllr. Beresford explained that KCC do not grit footpaths – this is what roadside bins are for. The only pavements to be gritted are essential ones such as outside the Health Centre. A reminder has also been received from Kent Highways that the grit in roadside bins is for public highways and not for use on private properties.
- ii) The refuse collection lorries have been out today. People should leave bins on the kerbside as they will be collected even if not on the correct day.
- iii) KCC will have a meeting this week to discuss the budget.
- iv) People over the age of 70 yet to receive their COVID-19 vaccination should phone the NHS number to book an appointment.
- v) KCC Helping Hands Scheme has been set up supported by a £95million grant from central government. This is mainly aimed at people not eligible for benefits but still struggling to cope.
- vi) A meeting is taking place tonight at DDC about the proposed Border Force site at Whitfield.

#### **b) Parish Councillors**

i) Cllr. Atkins reported that several residents had contacted her about the possibility of having additional grit bins. It was agreed that the provision and locations of kerbside salt bins should be reviewed with recommendations. Clerk is to find details of current locations and Cllr. Atkins will consider additional locations.

Cllr. Atkins also suggested having an Events Meeting to discuss possible ideas for events that could be possible this year. A meeting was suggested in the week commencing 22<sup>nd</sup> February following the scheduled government announcement on future restrictions.

ii) Cllr. Jones reported that the London Road had been well gritted. There are signs of car sales once again taking place in the laybys.

ii) Cllr. Eyre-Jackson reported that there will not be a March edition of Rivall magazine. The possibility of publishing some material online was discussed.

#### **c) PCSO/Policing**

There is a new PCSO for the area but contact is yet to be made.

## **18. QUESTIONS RECEIVED BY EMAIL FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

Chairman has received correspondence asking for any progress in efforts to have a pedestrian crossing on London Road. He replied that, following consultations with the Project Managers at Kent Highways, they have funding to undertake the necessary surveys and are investigating what it would be possible to achieve. As this funding is available, they do not think that the Parish Council should go ahead with proposals to self-fund surveys.

## **19. PLANNING MATTERS:**

### **a) Planning Applications**

i) DOV/21/00021 | Erection of a dormer roof extension, front and rear gable extensions and creation of decking | 9 Meadway, River, CT17 0PS – No comments.

### **b) To note any decisions made by Dover District Council**

i) DOV/20/01372 | Erection of single storey rear extensions and roof and rear dormer. Erection of single storey flat roofed outbuilding | 88 Minnis Lane, River, CT17 0PT – permission granted

ii) DOV/20/01296 | Extension to an existing vehicular access | 134 Lewisham Road, River, CT17 0PB – permission granted

iii) DOV/20/01374 | Certificate of Lawfulness (proposed) for a replacement flat roof and window lantern to rear single storey extension | 117 Lewisham Road, River, CT17 0PA – Certificate Proposed Granted

County Cllr. Collor joined the meeting at this point.

## **20. RIVER RECREATION GROUND REPORT**

Cllr. Dixon reported that:

i) Outstanding Tasks in the Recreation Ground such as installation of paving slab artwork, horse head springers reinstallation and coffee shop development are all held up partly because of current restrictions.

ii) Padlocks have been freezing with extremely cold weather. So, as a temporary measure, the gates have been closed at night but not locked.

iii) New signage is to be put on each gate to cover the fact that existing signs (and warning tape) on the gym equipment is being removed.

iv) Rubber matting under play equipment cannot be fitted until dry weather.

v) Details of the owner of the Crabble Court property is still awaited before progress can be made on clearing up the Courtyard.

vi) A letter querying maintenance of particular trees has been received. We are taking advice from our arboriculture advisor before responding.

vii) The installation of the defibrillator is pending awaiting a date for fitting from electrical contractors.

viii) Correspondence with the Bowling Club regarding their electric fence surrounding the green is in hand.

## **21. TO CONFIRM THE ADOPTION OF THE BT PHONE BOX ON LOWER ROAD, RIVER**

The Clerk had previously circulated the final contract from BT following resolution of minor issues. Once the contract is signed, the telephone box would be the property of the Parish Council within a week or so. The electrical installation would then need to be checked to make sure it complies with current legislation.

Cllr. Dixon will investigate the practicality of a lock for the phone box. He said that a plan for the renovation will be also be needed. Clerk was asked to organise a visit from the electrical contractors to assess the electrical installation. It was agreed that the contract could be signed at the next meeting following any reports on renovation.

## **22. FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

### **a) To receive the Financial Statement for January 2021**

The financial report for January 2021 had previously been circulated. Cllr. Dixon proposed that the report be accepted. This was seconded by Cllr. Atkins and all agreed.

### **b) Cost to install base and electrical point for the 2021 Christmas Tree / Outdoor Events**

Cllr. Dixon proposed that an outdoor electrical point be installed in the Recreation Ground along with a concrete base to provide a more suitable (and visible) location for the community Christmas Tree. The electrical point would also provide better access to electricity for future events. Cllr. Buhlman said that the electrical installation would be much safer and he also requested that a data cable be laid in the trench at the same time. Cllr. Dixon proposed the installation at a cost of £2,122 (construction of concrete base, trench across the roadway and installation of electrics). This was seconded by Cllr. Buhlman and all agreed.

## **23. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE**

### **a) KALC Community Awards Scheme**

Clerk reported that the nominee for this annual award was made at the same time as the nomination for the 2020 award. It was, therefore, agreed to uphold that nomination for Judith Betts to receive the 2021 award.

### **b) KCC Community Wardens / Community Safety Wardens / Volunteer Support Wardens**

Following an enquiry, KCC confirmed that they are unable to appoint any more Community Wardens at this time due to lack of funding. However, there are two voluntary roles available to people who wish to support the community in a voluntary capacity. The roles include training support from KCC. It was agreed to share the link to the information on our media.

### **c) KALC re. Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Meetings) Regulations 2020**

KALC have informed the Parish Council that NALC are lobbying the government for the extension of this legislation which would otherwise run out in May.

### **d) Vision Zero – Road Safety Strategy for Kent**

KCC consultation has begun on the strategy for the next 6 years.

## **24. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

County Cllr. Collor said that police are looking into ways to limit visitor numbers to Kearsney Abbey as the high number of people in the area when the weather is good are providing problems with social distancing.

Meeting closed at 8.55pm