

## MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RIVER PARISH COUNCIL

Held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at 7.30pm by video conference

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr. A. Denyer (Parish Clerk), Dist. Cllr. Beaney

### IN MEMORIAM

H.R.H. The Prince Philip Duke of Edinburgh  
Died 9<sup>th</sup> April 2021

### 38. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

District Councillors David Beaney, Mark Rose and County Cllr. Collor gave their apologies as they have another meeting but may attend if they are able to.

### 39. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

### 40. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2021 had previously been circulated. Cllr. Buhlman proposed that the minutes represented a true record of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr. Dixon and all agreed.

### 41. UPDATES FROM THE MINUTES

Item 9 – Highways Improvement Plan: The meeting with Kent Highways is being arranged. Clerk is to circulate the draft plan to all Councillors.

Item 17b(i) - Grit Bins: Plan still in progress

Dist. Cllr. Beaney joined the meeting at this point.

Item 20(vii) – Defibrillator: This has now been installed. Cllr. Atkins suggested that demonstrations be arranged for members of the public. Clerk is to contact St. John Ambulance to arrange.

Item 33 – BT Phone Box: Chairman has reviewed the draft contract.

Item 34b – Lower Road Waste Bin: The Co-op have said that they only have problems with the bin overflowing in the summer. Staff have been asked to keep the area tidy. The Store Manager will contact the Parish Council if he feels any further action is due.

Item 37 – Coxhill Gardens/Chilton Way Bench: This has been renovated by our handyman including replacement of the commemorative plaque.

### 42. REPORTS:

#### a) District and County Councillors

District Councillor Beaney joined the meeting for a short time but was restricted from reporting due to purdah.

County Cllr. Beresford reported that no meetings have taken place at KCC due to forthcoming elections. KCC have visited to check the 'No Entry' signs in Lower Road and they should be reinstated by the end of the week. Manston is now no longer in use as lorry holding park. Most drivers now seem to be getting tested and have the proper documentation prior to arriving at Dover Harbour.

Chairman asked about the proposed new Border facility at Guston. She responded that the facility has been delayed but is still scheduled to open in June 2022.

#### b) Parish Councillors

i) Cllr. Gunzi reported that two lorries became stuck in Lower Road last week. He believes that a short section of double yellow opposite the narrowest point would solve the problem. Chairman reported that an additional 'Unsuitable for HGVs' sign for the Alkham Road/Lower Road junction has been included in the draft HIP. With regard to Alkham Valley HGV signage, she confirmed that there are 13 signs along the full length of the road warning the drivers and also that any proposal for double yellow lines would have to go to public consultation. Chairman said he would raise this matter with KHS during the forthcoming virtual meeting about the HIP.

- ii) Cllr. Gunzi also queried whether the unused buildings at the rear of the Co-op could be removed to create more parking spaces. It was agreed that Cllr. Gunzi initially find out who owned the buildings.
- iii) Cllr. Beresford reported that not everyone locally has received the updated list of waste/recycling collection days. Cllr. Atkins said she would share her copy on the River facebook page.
- iv) Cllr. Eyre-Jackson reported that the June edition of 'Rivall' is going ahead.
- v) Cllr. Jones reported that local residents in London Road are looking forward to pothole repairs, now much needed. Also, that more information could have been found out about the damaged vehicle reported last month if there had been CCTV along the London Road.
- vi) Chairman reported on two works carried out with the involvement of the Parish Council: DDC had carried out remedial work on 'The Cuts' steps on behalf of KCC. This includes installing a handrail. Also, the work carried out by the handyman on the railings and bridge outside Crabble Corn Mill is now nearing completion.

**c) PCSO/Policing**

No report received.

**43. QUESTIONS RECEIVED BY EMAIL FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

No questions received.

**44. PLANNING MATTERS:**

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

- i) DOV/21/00217 | Erection of an outbuilding for child minding business | 45 Valley Road, CT17 0QP - *Notification of an amendment to this application was received late this afternoon so consideration of the application will be held over until the nature of the amendment is known.*
- ii) DOV/21/00392 | Erection of single storey rear extension and decking area, infill and raise rear boundary partition to form level garden | 4 Orchard Drive, River, CT17 0ND – *It would appear that the 45-degree line code relevant to the nearest window at the adjacent property, No.6, seems to be impinged to some extent. Apart from this, the Parish Council has no other comments.*

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

DOV/20/01529 | Change of use of land to garden, erection of a retaining wall, raise ground level and erection of a 1.8m high fence | 10 River Drive, River, CT17 0LT – *Permission granted.*

County Cllr. Collor joined the meeting for a short time at this point.

**45. RIVER RECREATION GROUND REPORT**

Cllr. Dixon reported on matters relating to the Recreation Ground:

- a) Coffee Shop: John Hill has been asked to submit a plan for going ahead to the next meeting. It is expected that concentration will initially be on a takeaway service.
- b) Rubber Matting: laying of matting under play equipment is to begin shortly.
- c) Courtyard: Clerk still to produce letter requested.
- d) Paving Slab Artwork: to begin work on Friday. Chairman asked all Councillors to consider when and how to have an official opening with regard to uncertainty over current restrictions. An announcement can be made when the work is completed with an official opening following at a later date.
- e) Electric Fencing RBC: a response to the Parish Council letter has been received. Also, the fence is due to be removed shortly as the bowling season starts.
- f) After discussion, it was agreed to open the Recreation Ground earlier at 7.30am to allow people to use the gym equipment now that Covid-19 regulations allow. Closing at dusk or 8pm as evenings become lighter.

**46. UPDATES ON THE BT PHONE BOX ON LOWER ROAD, RIVER**

Clerk has been in contact with local Parish Councils involved in adopting their local phone boxes. Several responses have been received. Some are still awaited. Details of companies providing spare parts and the correct paint are to hand. The item is to be carried forward. Clerk was asked to check with BT regarding the delay in confirming adoption and whether there is any cut off point.

#### **47. FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

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

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

##### **b) To discuss a financial contribution to the Dover Film Festival**

A request has been received from the Dover Film Festival to distribute information about support needed for the event. It was proposed that the Parish Council could itself be a sponsor. After discussion, it was agreed by majority to make a contribution of £250 to the Dover Film Festival.

#### **48. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE**

##### **a) KALC – Remote Meetings and UK Govt Call for Evidence**

Confirmation has been received that legislation allowing remote meetings of local councils is set to expire on 6<sup>th</sup> May and will not be extended. UK Govt has also called for evidence as to the benefits or otherwise of remote meetings. It was agreed to consider this further at a future meeting.

#### **49. DATE FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Clerk reported that KALC are advising Parish Councils to hold their Annual General Meetings earlier, if possible, so that they can still be held remotely. After 6<sup>th</sup> May, all meetings must return to face-to-face. After discussion, it was agreed that the AGM will be held remotely on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

Appropriate publicity will need to be given.

Discussions on arrangements and locations for future meetings, now that face-to-face meetings are to resume.

#### **50. ANY ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

a) The mill have asked if the Parish Council could assist in acquiring a small inflatable craft to enable work on the millpond. Cllr. Gunzi has contacts who may be able to assist. Cllrs Dixon and Gunzi will liaise.

b) Cllr. Atkins said that it is difficult to respond to questions posted on the live facebook feed and asked if any other Councillors on facebook might be able to answer some of the points raised.

Meeting closed at 9.55pm