

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

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

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr. A. Denyer (Parish Clerk), Dist. Cllr. Rose, County Cllr. Collor

### **25. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Dist. Cllr. Beaney

### **26. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

### **27. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

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

### **28. UPDATES FROM THE MINUTES**

- a) Item 9 - Highway Improvement Plan: Clerk has submitted the draft plan to Kent Highways. A virtual meeting with KHS to discuss the plan will follow.
- b) Item 17b(i) - Grit Bins: Clerk is plotting locations on a plan (both KCC and Parish council) so that they can be checked and any gaps in coverage can be located. Cllr. Atkins has offered to check the locations when the plan is completed.
- c) Item 20(vii) - Defibrillator Installation: The defibrillator is to be installed on 17<sup>th</sup> March.
- d) Item 72b - Community Wardens: Clerk is still to share the information about voluntary community wardens on our media.

### **29. REPORTS:**

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

- i) County Cllr. Collor reported: The KCC budget was agreed last week. Unfortunately, Council Tax is set to rise by just under 5%; Covid-19 infections locally (River, Kearsney & Whitfield) – six new cases in the past seven days so the virus is still active; DDC Community Safety Partnership initiative on nuisance vehicles with some vehicle seizures; 3 new mobile CCTV cameras are also now available for use; Manston is to be discontinued as a lorry holding park from next week (although it will be available in an emergency); Cllr. Collor will be attending a meeting next week about the future of traffic through Dover.
- ii) County Cllr. Beresford reported: there are 55 vaccine sites currently in Kent (with 5 more to come); also 24 Covid-19 testing sites; The Kent Together initiative is still available via the KCC website for anyone needing help; hospital planning for next winter is already in progress; A new bus timetable started on Monday so school buses should be operating.
- iii) District Cllr. Rose reported: enforcement operations have been carried out on Scotland Common to control nuisance motorbikes – this is an ongoing process; over 40,000 Covid-19 vaccinations have been done in the district; Progress is being made with the Department of Transport with regard to the new Inland Border facility at Guston. This will create many new local jobs.

County Cllr. Collor left the meeting at this point.

## **b) Parish Councillors**

- i) Cllr. Buhlman reported that he is continuing to monitor CCTV as necessary.
- ii) Cllr. Eyre-Jackson thanked all involved with the operation at Scotland Common. There has been no word from the PCSO who, unfortunately, is still covering 12 villages.
- iii) Cllr. Jones reported an incident of attempted break-in/vandalism near the Whitfield Hill. Traffic along London Road appears to be less. Unlicensed car sales in the lay-by have been reported.

## **c) PCSO/Policing**

No report.

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

A request has been received for an additional bin, particularly to deal with the dogs mess, somewhere near the top of Crabble Lane. It was suggested that this can be reviewed at the same time as the grit bins.

## **31. PLANNING MATTERS:**

### **a) Planning Applications**

DOV/21/00308 | Replacement pitched roof with 1no. rooflight to existing single storey garage, garage conversion to habitable accommodation and installation of window to front of garage | 169 Lewisham Road, River, CT17 0PP – No comments.

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

DOV/20/01457 | Erection of pergola (retrospective) | Delphi, Dove Lea Gardens, River, CT17 0QH – permission granted

## **32. RIVER RECREATION GROUND REPORT**

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

- i) The work on the Coffee Shop is on hold at the moment.
- ii) New signage reminding users of current rules has been put up on access gates.
- iii) Installation of new rubber matting under the play equipment is held up waiting for dry weather.
- iv) Clerk has been asked to draft a letter to the occupier in Crabble Court regarding ownership of the Courtyard.
- v) A letter has been sent to a local resident in response to the request for trees to be cut back.
- vi) A date for the installation of the defibrillator has been agreed.
- vii) The order of display for the paving slab artwork will be agreed once an installation date has been received.
- viii) A letter has been sent to the Bowling Club outlining the requirements of the Parish Council with regard to the installation of the electric fence around the green.
- ix) The Christmas Tree Site / Event Electrical Point is still to be installed.

## **33. COST OF RENOVATION OF THE BT PHONE BOX ON LOWER ROAD, RIVER**

Cllr. Dixon has investigated the cost of a full renovation of the Lower Road phone box. The premier company dealing with restorations for museums and galleries have a waiting list of a year and the cost is expensive. Clerk has identified a supplier of spare parts and the correct type of paint which could then be applied by a local contractor. After discussion, it was agreed that Clerk follow up the information received so far. Chairman will check the draft contract with BT to see what is possible under the agreement.

Dist. Cllr. Rose left the meeting at this point.

### **34. FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

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

The financial statement for February 2021 had previously been circulated. Cllr. Buhlman proposed that the statement be accepted. This was seconded by Cllr. Dixon and all agreed. Clerk was asked to check that the water supply/drainage invoice received was correct and to invoice the bowling club for their water used.

#### **b) Proposal to purchase an additional waste bin by the Co-op on Lower Road**

After discussion, it was agreed that Cllr. Eyre-Jackson informally speak to the Co-op Community Representative about whether the store would provide an additional bin as the rubbish largely comes from items bought in the store.

### **35. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE**

No further correspondence to report.

### **36. DATE FOR THE EVENTS COMMITTEE**

Prior to the start of the meeting, a date of Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm was agreed for a remote meeting of the Events Committee.

### **37. ANY ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

Following online comments from parishioners, Cllr. Dixon will look at bench at the Junction of Coxhill Gardens/Chilton Way with a view to adding it on to the Handyman's schedule of work for renovation.

Meeting closed at 9.10pm