

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RIVER PARISH COUNCIL

Held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 18th January 2022 in River Methodist Church

PRESENT: Cllr. Taylor (in the Chair), Cllr. Dixon, Cllr. Buhlman, Cllr. Eyre-Jackson, Cllr. Gunzi, Cllr. Jones

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. A. Denyer (Parish Clerk), (meeting was live-streamed on social media)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr. Atkins, Cllr. Beresford and County Cllr. Collor

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) Parish Council Meeting 09.11.2021

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

b) Parish Council Meeting 24.11.2021

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 24th November 2021 had previously been circulated. Cllr. Buhlman proposed that they represented a true record of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr. Jones and all agreed.

c) Planning Committee Meeting 15.12.2021

The minutes of the Planning Committee held on Wednesday 15th December 2021 had previously been circulated and their contents were noted.

4. UPDATES FROM THE MINUTES (NOT OTHERWISE LISTED ON THE AGENDA)

Item 95a BT Phone Box Adoption: The Parish Handyman will check the phone box and secure the door if necessary.

Item 111b(iii): There is now just one volunteer for Speedwatch rather than two.

Item 114b Speedwatch Indicator Device: Clerk reported that delivery of the new Speed Indicator Device is due by the end of the week. Cllr. Eyre-Jackson will now look into the disposal of the old unit.

Item 121a River Pre-School Funding Request: The Chair of the River Pre-School Committee has had to step down for personal reasons. The change in the status of the organisation is now on hold until a new Chair is appointed. They will keep us informed of developments.

Item 121c Highway Improvement Plan: Clerk has emailed the Headteacher. The consultation is due to start in January at the suggestion of Kent Highways.

Item 122 Flint House: The determination date for the two planning applications relating to Flint House (formerly known as the Clubhouse) is 25th January 2022.

5. REPORTS:

a) District and County Councillors

No reports.

b) Parish Councillors

i) Cllr. Eyre-Jackson circulated details of the ASPIRE Project, a partner programme with DDC, which aims to help people with their health, wellbeing and job prospects.

ii) Cllr. Jones has reported illegal car sales taking place on London Road to Dover District Council.

iii) Cllr. Gunzi said that lorries regularly get stuck in Lower Road and he felt that the problem could be solved by four metres of double yellow lines.

Chairman said that an advisory sign is due to be fixed at the junction between Alkham Road and Lower Road (River) and pointed out that the turning onto Lower Road is the only turn off along the Alkham road not to have 'Unsuitable for HGVs' signage. Chairman will contact Kent Highways to point out this fact and ask about progress with the sign requested and also about the problem with lorries in Lower Road.

iv) Cllr. Dixon thanked Cllr. Atkins for her work decorating the Recreation Ground Christmas Tree. There were no problems with vandalism this year.

v) He also said that a review of signage is required in the Recreation Ground as there are too many signs. It was noted that the Public Space Protection Order in the Recreation Ground will be renewed this year to formally allow dogs access to the car park from the Lower Road entrance, as it is a public car park.

vi) Cllr. Buhlman reported that the Recreation Ground CCTV was down for a short period but was now fully operational again.

c) PCSO/Policing

A report for December 2021 has been received from the PCSO which was read to the meeting and will be appended to these minutes.

Cllr. Gunzi said that he had attended a presentation by the Police and Crime Commissioner and felt that the priorities of the police were all urban ones. Cllr. Eyre-Jackson said she gets reports from the Rural Taskforce detailing operations they are carrying out in the countryside.

6. TO DISCUSS ANY QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Clerk reported that two items had been received following up on questions made at previous meetings: one regarding the pathway to the rear of Ash Close and the other regarding traffic on Lewisham Road. Both have been responded to.

7. PLANNING MATTERS:

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

- i. DOV/21/01839 | Erection of a single storey rear extension, construction of steps, retaining wall and terrace with canopy (existing rear wall and steps to be removed) | 11 London Road, River, CT17 OSF – No comments.
- ii. DOV/21/01879 | Erection of a single storey extension | 12 Hawthorne Close, River, CT17 ONG – No comments.

b) To note any decisions made by Dover District Council

- i. DOV/21/01521 | Erection of a single storey rear extension (existing conservatory to be demolished) | 26 River Street, River, CT17 ORB – permission granted
- ii. DOV/21/01676 | Fell two Ash (B12 and B13) both subject of Tree Preservation Order No. 1969/1 | Amenity Land Fronting 1 to 15 Kingston Close, River, CT17 ONQ – grant advertisement consent
- iii. DOV/21/01681 | Formation of a recessed amenity deck to second floor, conversion of existing garage into ancilliart accommodation and erection of a new detached double garage | Minnis Mount, Minnis Lane, River, CT17 OPT – permission granted
- iv. DOV/21/01703 | Erection of a two bay garage | 16 Mannering Close, River, CT17 OUD – permission granted
- v. DOV/21/01636 | Erection of side garage extension and external steps to rear (existing garage to be demolished) (part-retrospective) | 9 Meadway, River, CT17 OPS – permission granted
- vi. DOV/21/01751 | Erection of single storey and first floor rear extensions | 60 Valley Road, River, CT17 0QW – permission granted

8. FINANCIAL MATTERS:

a) Financial Reports for November and December 2021

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

b) To receive and consider a proposal to change banking arrangements

Clerk has reviewed alternative banking providers as a result of the current provider imposing charges on the account. He presented the availability costs and advantages/disadvantages of other banking providers and concluded with a recommendation that Unity Bank offered best option with an online service that meets the standards of financial management published by the National Association of Local Councils.

Cllr. Dixon proposed that the Parish Council open an account with Unity Bank. This was seconded by Cllr. Buhlman and all agreed.

c) To consider recommendations for the 2022/23 Precept

The Clerk presented a proposed budget for 2022/23 of £65,425 which represented no increase in council tax for local householders. Cllr. Eyre-Jackson proposed that the recommendation be accepted. This was seconded by Cllr. Gunzi and all agreed.

d) Request for Support

A request has been received to support a party for elderly residents to be held in the Village Hall sometime in March or April this year. It was agreed to provide £50 to support the event.

9. NOMINATIONS FOR THE KALC COMMUNITY AWARDS SCHEME

After discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council nominate Vicky Thomas to receive the 2022 Kent Association of Local Councils Community Award for River.

10. HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

a) River School Proposal - Design

The drawing of the proposed double yellow line and alteration to the 'No Stopping' time was received from Kent Highway Service and circulated at the meeting. As the length of the double yellow line was longer than expected, Clerk was asked to check with River School whether a shorter line length would still meet their needs and also to liaise with Kent Highways.

b) Priority traffic sign opposite Crabble Corn Mill

A local resident has asked Cllr. Dixon about the possibility of a traffic priority sign near Crabble Corn Mill on Lower Road because of the volume of traffic passing in both directions at this narrow point.

c) Kearsney Railway Bridge

Another query has been received about whether anything can be done about the narrow pathway under the Kearsney Railway Bridge. Chairman suggested that an inspection visit by Kent Highways may be necessary. Clerk reminded the meeting the Parish Council's Highway Improvement Plan is due to be updated in May and that discussions regarding new inclusions will need to take place before that time.

11. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED BY THE DATE OF THE MEETING

a) KALC Dover Area Committee Meeting

Details of the next KALC Dover Area Committee meeting on 26th January 2022 were provided. The meeting includes a presentation on local community policing.

b) DDC Tree and Horticultural Officer

A letter of introduction has been received from the new DDC Tree and Horticultural Officer which also gave details of correspondence with two householders in Mannering Close regarding permission to cut back trees overhanging their gardens from the Recreation Ground.

c) Kent Understanding Plastics Project

Details of the Kent Understanding Plastics Project were provided.

11. TO SET A DATE FOR A MEETING OF THE EVENTS COMMITTEE

It was agreed to hold a meeting of the Events Committee at 1pm on Wednesday 26th January 2022 at River Methodist Church.

12. ANY ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- i. John Hill has a meeting with Dover District Council on 24th January and will be starting work on the Recreation Ground Coffee Shop shortly afterwards.
- ii. Kent Highways have agreed to remove the four stumps in Lewisham Road and have indicated that new trees can be planted at a cost of £321.45 per tree. Clerk was asked to contact KCC for full details at the next meeting.
- iii. Chairman reported that an enquiry has been received from someone to become a Parish Councillor. Clerk will provide the appropriate and the item will be on the agenda for next month.

Meeting closed at 9pm

River Parish meeting January 2022

- 10th December Neighbour Dispute Mill House
 - 10th December Drink driver London rd..
 - 14th December Concern call all in order
 - 19th December 999 Abandoned call Lewisham Rd patrols attended all in order
 - 21st December Malicious call London rd
 - 23rd December Concern call attended all in order
 - 28th December Lyndhurst Road fraud spoken to the IP they never gave away any bank details
 - 28th December Lower Rd Quartine breach
 - 29th December Valley Road Vehicles blocking the highway for Gas works to be carried out.
 - 05TH January Lewisham road nuisance youths in the area
 - 06th January. Chilton way neighbour dispute
 - 8TH January 999 abandoned call
 - Door knocking still going on in the Crabble lane area.. still only one property having issues the area is on the Dover ASB list to visit and take details of any youths in the area.
- 17 Dec group of 8 in Rec
loud music, drinking,
breaking
glass*
- Crime reports
 - Numerous crime reports came in about damage to vehicles wing mirrors and residents walls being damaged.
 - Shoplifting at the Co-op

~~Rural Crime~~