

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

Held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2022 at River Methodist Church

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr. A. Denyer (Parish Clerk), Dist. Cllr. Beaney and County Cllr. Richardson. No members of the public present (the meeting was recorded and uploaded later for viewing online)

### **26. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr. Buhlman and County Cllr. Collor

### **27. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

### **28. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

#### **a) Parish Council Meeting 8.02.2022**

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2022 had previously been circulated. Cllr. Dixon proposed that they represented a true record of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr. Beresford and all agreed.

#### **b) Events Committee 23.02.2022**

The minutes of the Events Committee meeting held on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2022 were circulated at the meeting and their contents were noted.

### **29. UPDATES FROM THE MINUTES (NOT OTHERWISE LISTED ON THE AGENDA)**

Item 95a (2021) – BT Phone Box Adoption: Dave Penn has assessed the phone box. The door will need to be removed and straightened.

Item 18b(iii) – Vehicle Advertised for Sale in Layby: For clarification, Cllr. Jones reported that the 'For Sale' sign on the vehicle in the London road layby has been removed. The vehicle is taxed and insured, and is, therefore, now legally parked.

20a(i) – DOV/22/00074 Chilton Way: Cllr. Beresford has received replies but not an answer to the query and the matter is being passed around between Council Officers.

21b – Tree Planting: The damaged tree by 39 Lewisham Road has been repaired. There is an empty tree cage opposite 88 Lewisham Road. Other sites where stumps have been ground down have been covered with tarmac.

22a River School Parking Measures: Pending.

### **30. REPORTS**

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

County Cllr. Richardson reported:

i) KCC will be planting 30,000 trees this year. This is to be called 'Plan Tree'. Each KCC Member is being given 350 trees to plant in their division. He will look into whether this can be co-ordinated with the Parish Council's desire to replant in available areas. Cllr. Eyre-Jackson was asked to send Cllr. Richardson all the information she was with regard to sites.

ii) There is currently a Speed Awareness Campaign following on from the KCC 'Vision Zero' proposals. Cllr. Eyre-Jackson commented that there was only one officer dedicated to Speedwatch in Kent and this could end in August.

iii) 95% of children got one of their four choices of secondary school place on the recent allocation day. Anyone who is unhappy with their choice should contact KCC. There is a current consultation on the supported bus service. There has been a budget cut from £6million to £4million. Please use the consultation to express views on the cuts. Cllr. Atkins commented that the school service from River into Dover is not free and has increased in cost this year.

iv) Discovery Centre is still going forward. The theatre is to go despite the many objections.

District Cllr. Beaney reported:

i) The budget has been agreed with a 2.5% increase for Band D. The budget has a £75million capital programme including the Fast Track Bus Service and the Town Centre and Maison Dieu projects.

ii) Parking charges have increased. The alternative would have been to have the increase put on to council tax.

iii) DDC have passed a motion supporting the government sanctions against Russia in support of Ukraine.

iv) DDC have been working with the Aspire Project to get young people into employment.

In response to a question from Cllr. Dixon, DDC does not have any plans currently for the old Leisure Centre site.

*County Cllr. Richardson left the meeting at this point.*

## **b) Parish Councillors**

ii) Cllr. Gunzi reported an accident last week in Lower Road involving a bicycle riding in the wrong direction.

iii) Cllr. Jones was also witness to an accident involving a speeding vehicle in London Road.

iv) Cllr. Atkins said that the cable for the Christmas Tree lights was still in place and asked for it to be removed. Also that more items seem to now be stored in the Recreation Ground Changing Rooms.

v) Cllr. Beresford reported several bikes being ridden along Lewisham Road without lights or reflectors.

vi) Cllr. Eyre-Jackson has received a request from Alkham Valley Pizza asking if they can put signs up at the Recreation Ground, similar to the 'fish and chip' van, as they will also be attending as vendors. She also asked about the budget for restoring the phone box. It was agreed that money will need to be spent.

vii) Chairman has been invited to the 'Wheels of Time' launch event at Crabble Corn Mill on 18<sup>th</sup> March

## **c) PCSO/Policing**

A report has been received from the PCSO which was read out to the meeting including a disturbance in Rivermead, shoplifting at the Co-op Store and a road traffic accident in London Road. There have also been reports on the River Facebook group about a stranger in Lewisham Road but no reports have been received by the police. PCSO believes this may be the same man spoken to a few weeks ago.

## **31. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

No questions.

## **32. PLANNING MATTERS**

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

- i. DOV/22/00202 | Extension to existing vehicular access and driveway (existing boundary wall to be demolished) | 112 Lewisham Road, River, CT17 0PB – No comments.
- ii. DOV/21/01226 | Erection of 2no. 3 storey blocks incorporating 12no. flats, play area, landscaping and associated parking (existing buildings to be demolished, trees to be removed) | Kearsney Railway Station, Kearsney Goods Yard, Alkham Road, Temple Ewell, CT17 0RN – after discussion, it was agreed that an objection be made including the issues referred to. Cllr. Beresford will draft the objection and forward it to the Clerk.

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

- i. DOV/22/00009 | Erection of a detached garage (existing two garages to be demolished) | 85 London Road, River, CT17 0SQ – permission granted
- ii. DOV/21/01833 | Erection of a detached building for use as a store/gym (existing garage to be demolished) | 4 Chisnall Road, River, CT17 0RH – permission granted
- iii. DOV/21/01651 | Erection of two storey rear extension, a first floor front extension and side steps (existing rear steps to be removed) | 53 Crabble Lane, River, CT17 0NY – permission granted

### **c) UPDATE ON THE PRESENT SITUATION WITH THE GORSE HILL SITE**

DDC Planning Enforcement have informed the Parish Council that their investigation into the site is ongoing and awaiting the result of an Environment Agency investigation. There is no tree preservation order at the site so the removal of trees is not unlawful. The Enforcement Officer has asked the DDC Tree Officer for a TPO to be considered.

## **33. FINANCIAL MATTERS**

### **a) Financial Reports for February 2022**

No printouts of the financial report were available due to printer problems. Clerk gave a verbal report on the financial transactions during February 2022.

### **b) Request from Crabble Corn Mill Trust for support for 2022 Beer Festival**

A request has been received from the Crabble Corn Mill Trust for sponsorship to assist with the 2022 Beer and Cider Festival. Chairman proposed that a grant of £250 be made towards the cost of event security and this was agreed.

### **34. HIGHWAYS MATTERS**

#### **a) Lewisham Road**

This was discussed following items of correspondence received from a local resident regarding speeding and the situation outside River School and handed over to Councillors at the last meeting. It was agreed that these are national not just local problems and exist outside many schools. There have been at least two previous attempts to have a pedestrian crossing installed but the location is not suitable. Cllr. Atkins said that the problem was exacerbated by the short period of time available for 400 children to get into school. Attendance at Breakfast Club is an additional cost. The attempt to have a 'Walking Bus' was not successful. It was agreed that the Parish Council speak to Kent Highways. It was agreed that:

Clerk set up a meeting with Kent Highways involving the Parish Council, the local resident and the school to confirm what can and cannot take place. Other issues leading up to the renewal of the Highway Improvement Plan can also then be discussed.

### **35. ASH CLOSE FOOTPATH**

Cllr. Dixon has been to the path but only 100 yards or so is accessible. To clear the whole length of the path would be a substantial ongoing job. Chairman has seen a solicitor's letter received by a Lewisham Road resident, prior to house purchase, confirming that the track is unregistered land and is not the responsibility of the householder. The area has previously been cleared on two previous occasions by the Community Payback Team. It was agreed that:

- i. The Parish Council will not commit resources to clearing the full length of the track but will enquire about the current availability of the Community Payback Team;
- ii. Dover District Council be asked to clear the dog mess;
- iii. Dover district Council be requested to reinstate the bin, as was previously available;
- iv. The Handyman be asked to clear the section between Luckhurst Road and the Ash Close steps.

### **36. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE**

#### **a) Government Consultation on Glover Landscapes Review (AONB's)**

Details received of a government consultation on the Glover Landscapes Review. Part of the consultation refers to problems associated with recreational motor vehicles driving on green lanes, particularly in Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Currently AONBs have no legal powers of their own stop or control 'off-roading'. Consultation closes on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

#### **b) Dover District Council - Public Space Protection Order Consultation**

A consultation is taking place into proposed changes to the Public Spaces Protection Order. Cllr. Dixon queried whether the PSPO for River Recreation Ground has been altered to formally exclude the roadway leading up to the car park. He was also concerned that the signage was not clear enough. County Cllr. Richardson offered to assist before leaving the meeting.

#### **c) NALC Online Event "Working Together to make Communities Safer"**

Details have been received of an online event examining local community policing. Clerk will circulate details to Councillors.

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

Cllr. Eyre-Jackson enquired when the memorial tree to Gary Waters was due to be planted. Cllr. Dixon will enquire.

Meeting closed at 9.05pm