

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RIVER PARISH COUNCIL

Held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 14th June 2022 at River Methodist Church

PRESENT: Cllr. Dixon (in the Chair), Cllr. Atkins, Cllr. Gunzi, Cllr. Jones, Cllr. Underhill, Cllr. Innes (joined the meeting after Item 62)

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. A. Denyer (Parish Clerk), County Cllr. Richardson and 2 members of the public

60. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr. Taylor, Cllr. Beresford, County Cllr. Collor, District Cllr. Beaney

61. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none

62. NOMINATION FOR CO-OPTION AS A PARISH COUNCILLOR

A nomination for co-option as a Parish Councillor has been received for Mr. Michael Innes. All agreed with the co-option and Cllr. Innes joined the meeting.

63. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 10th May 2022 had previously been circulated. Cllr. Atkins proposed that the minutes represented a true record of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr. Gunzi and all agreed.

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

Item 56a – Lower Road 20mph zone TRO: Invoice from Kent Highways is still awaited.

Item 56b – Insurance: The insurance policy has been renewed with Hiscox Insurance.

65. REPORTS

a) PCSO/Policing

No report

b) District and County Councillors

County Cllr. Richardson reported from KCC:

i) 6th-12th June was Carers Week. This was for both adult and young carers. There are 10,000 known young carers in the county, and possibly 30,000 more. Any young carers (up to 18 years of age) not receiving any assistance should contact KCC as there is help available.

ii) Operation CeCe has been carried out by KCC Standards concentrated in the Dover Area, over two days, dealing with the trade in illegal cigarette or vaping products. 4 premises have been raided in the Dover area with 15,000 cigarettes and 10kg of tobacco seized.

iii) Everyday Active Kent Campaign to encourage outdoor activity. Details available online at <https://www.everydayactivekent.org.uk/>

From Dover District Council:

iv) £200,000 is available through the Community Grants Scheme with grants of £100 to £4,000 available to apply for. This will probably be the last year for the scheme. Information available from Elliot Allen at DDC.

v) £1million funding has been received from the government's Levelling Up scheme. This will be received over three years.

A written report has been received from County Cllr. Collor, which was read to the meeting:

There are a couple of issues that I will raise for you to advise the meeting of;

The Dover District Local Plan is nearing the date when it will be published for consultation that is anticipated later this year between October and December.

We are keeping a close eye on the 'modifications' for the Whitfield roundabout and I have been guaranteed by the District Council's Planning Policy and Projects Manager that these measures will not affect the work being done for getting the A2 improved - dualled. Turning to the major A2 dualling I am currently working with Natalie Elphicke, senior officers and members from bot KCC & DOC and representatives from National Highways on working up a scheme that has, in principle been listed in the Government's RIS3 (Road Infrastructure Schemes). It is the start of a long journey but Natalie is now engaging with the Government at Ministerial level.

Another Government project, namely the IBF (Inland Border Facility) That is also now being discussed at Ministerial level but, to date, there is no firm information.

As has been widely reported in the media KCC need to reduce the subsidy given to a number of bus services. While we have no services directly listed we do have it stated that some of the late night and weekend services for the 90 and 61 services are likely to have their subsidies removed. It now falls on the commercial bus operators to investigate whether they can still cover by possibly amalgamating services or working together in some way.

c) Parish Councillors

i) Cllr. Gunzi enquired about levels of water in the River Dour which have dropped recently, reportedly due to increased extraction. Is there anywhere that this can be queried. Cllr. Innes said he has been investigating but it has been difficult to get information from the Water Companies. County Cllr. Richardson suggested speaking initially to Richard Haynes and Darran Solley at DDC/White Cliffs Country Partnership. Cllr. Innes was tasked with investigating and reporting back to a future meeting.

ii) Cllr. Gunzi also said there has been fishing from the bridge in Lower Road, which is illegal as riparian rights apply. This is also hazardous to traffic on Lower Road. County Cllr. Richardson said he will also raise this with Richard Haynes and Darran Solley.

iii) Cllr. Gunzi also queried about what was happening with the Lower Road telephone box. This was previously being dealt with by Mary Eyre-Jackson. Chairman asked Cllr. Gunzi to take on co-ordination of the project. Cllr. Atkins said she can get contact details for the local man who had offered to work on it from Mrs. Eyre-Jackson and pass them on to Cllr. Gunzi. Cllr. Underhill asked if it was possible to find out who has been putting books in the phone box.

iv) Cllr. Jones reported on improvements made by resurfacing on London Road. However, some white lining has still to be done and there is a problem with blocked drains, which has been reported online to KCC. County Cllr. Richardson said he will investigate if the reporting reference number is passed on to him.

v) Cllr. Atkins reported that the Fete went very well. She thanked all the volunteers who manned stalls but noted that there is a lack of volunteers to help. All the raffle prizes have either been collected or sent to the winners. Chairman thanked Cllr. Atkins for her work bringing the event together along with Robin and Mary Eyre-Jackson.

vi) Chairman reported that a meeting is due to be held this week with Dover Rangers Colts F.C. regarding use of the Recreation Ground for future football training sessions and matches.

vii) A meeting with Sport England has also been arranged the following week to discuss their objections to the Parish Council's plans for future use of the building particularly with regard to the Changing Rooms.

viii) Chairman has received correspondence complaining about the length of the grass in the Churchyard. County Cllr. Richardson offered to investigate as this comes within his portfolio at Dover District Council.

66. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

i) Regarding the double yellow lines installed several years ago outside the Village Hall in Common Lane. A situation has developed where cars are now parking on the opposite side of the road causing a problem for Co-op delivery lorries and cars.

Cllr. Gunzi queried about the proposed visit from Kent Highways to discuss parking. Clerk reported that KHS want the Highway Improvement Plan renewed before the visit.

ii) Vehicles are driving at speed down the middle of the road by the mill in Lower Road and not stopping at the T junction. This is causing potential danger. County Cllr. Richardson suggested that it will be down to the Parish to collect the data needed. It is difficult to get Highways to undertake work unless the data is there to prove that it works are required.

67. PLANNING MATTERS

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

- i. DOV/22/00456 | Fell 5 x Ash trees and reduce 5 x Sycamore trees by approximately 5-6 metres, all subject of Tree Preservation Order 1 of 1988 | 5 Badgers Rise, River, CT17 0TL - As Tree Preservation Orders are involved with this application, it should be subject to the approval of the District Council's Tree and Horticultural Officer and the recommendations of a qualified tree surgeon.
- ii. DOV/22/00511 | Reduce back to previous reduction points of one Ash the subject of Tree Preservation order No.3 of 1977 | Land Between Hazeldown Close And Cowper Road, River - As Tree Preservation Orders are involved with this application, it should be subject to the approval of the District Council's Tree and Horticultural Officer and the recommendations of a qualified tree surgeon.
- iii. DOV/22/00638 | Conversion of garage, insertion of rooflight and alterations to rear | Wingate, 12 Chilton Avenue, River, CT16 3EF – No comment so long as Dover District council are happy that there is sufficient parking despite loss of the garage.

b) To note any decisions made by Dover District Council

- i. DOV/22/00196 | Erection of an outbuilding under existing car port for use as a dog grooming business (retrospective) | 30 Minnis Lane, River, CT17 0PR – permission granted
- 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 Goods Yard, Alkham Road, Temple Ewell, CT17 0RN – permission refused
- iii. DOV/22/00404 | Prune back two lower branches of one Sycamore (located at No. 8 Riverdale) and crown lift lower limbs of one Ash, both subject of Tree Preservation Order No. 69/200001 | 7 And 8 Riverdale, River, Dover, CT17 0QX – Grant Consent

68. FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) Financial Reports

Financial reports for April and May 2022 were circulated at the meeting.

b) River Village Hall – Request for contribution towards 'Rivall' magazine

A request has been received for a contribution towards the cost of printing 'Rivall' magazine. No grant has been made since before the pandemic. This was previously an annual contribution of £250. Chairman proposed that a 'catch up' grant of £750 be made. This was agreed by majority of four in favour and two against.

69. ANY GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED BY THE DATE OF THE MEETING

a) Vicky Thomas

A letter of thanks has been received from Vicky Thomas thanking the Parish Council for the Community Award presented to her at the Fete.

b) Micro-Surfacing, Lewisham Road

Details of the micro-surfacing works due to take place in Lewisham Road and Crabble Road have been received.

c) Noise complaints – Platinum Jubilee Fireworks display

Three letters of complaint have been received regarding the Platinum Jubilee fireworks display, which were read to the meeting. Two complaining about the noise and one about both noise and orange coloured debris left in a garden. Several Councillors also expressed their surprise at the loudness of some of the fireworks despite noise reduced fireworks being ordered. The Clerk was asked to respond with apologies, and it was agreed that John Hill visit the property to clear any debris.

70. ANY ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

It was noted that Cllr. Gunzi will be returning to country on the day of the meeting and will be at the July meeting, transport permitting.

Meeting closed at 8.50pm