

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~~

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RIVER PARISH COUNCIL

Held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 8th February 2022 at River Methodist Church

PRESENT: Cllr. Taylor (in the Chair), Cllr. Dixon, Cllr. Beresford, Cllr. Buhlman, Cllr. Eyre-Jackson, Cllr. Gunzi, Cllr. Jones, Cllr. Underhill (joined the meeting after Item 15)

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

13. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr. Atkins and County Cllr. Collor

14. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

15. NOMINATION FOR CO-OPTION AS A PARISH COUNCILLOR

A nomination for co-option as Parish Councillor has been received for Tina Underhill. Details have previously been circulated to Councillors. Chairman proposed that Tina Underhill be co-opted as a member of the Parish Council. This was seconded by Cllr. Buhlman and all agreed. Cllr. Underhill then joined the meeting.

16. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) Parish Council Meeting 18.01.2022

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 18th January 2022 had previously been circulated. Cllr. Eyre-Jackson proposed that they represented a true record of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr. Dixon and all agreed.

b) Events Committee 26.01.2022

The minutes of the Events Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 26th January 2022 were circulated at the meeting and their contents were noted.

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

Item 95a (2021) - BT Phone Box adoption: Dave Penn will be assessing and securing the phone box not the handyman as recorded in the minutes.

Item 6 - Ash Close footpath: Cllr. Dixon said that he will walk the pathway to assess condition in the coming week.

Item 10b - Proposed Priority Traffic Sign, Crabble Corn Mill, Lower Road: This proposal will need to be added to the Highway Improvement Plan upon renewal.

Item 10c - Kearsney Railway Bridge: This concern is already being dealt with by Temple Ewell Parish Council.

Item 12i - Recreation Ground Coffee Shop: John Hill has now started works on the coffee shop. The lease is now in place and active. Rent payments will commence once the Café is open.

18. REPORTS

a) PCSO/Policing

PCSO reported on incidents in River over the past month: several calls received of a man reported as acting suspiciously on Badger's Rise and Lewisham Road; a motorbike has been reported as speeding regularly through River at 8am, 4pm and frequently during the day on Saturdays (a registration number is needed); criminal damage reports on London Road (this was a neighbour dispute); report from Kearsney Avenue; copper piping stolen in Chisnall Road; been problems with vehicles on Scotland Common again.

Cllr. Eyre-Jackson reported that the designated Police Officer had been present at the recent Speedwatch session. He stayed on after the session with his own cameras. Speedwatch schemes throughout the county had resulted in the issue of 300 tickets in the past three months. Cars have also been moved on after parking on zig zag lines at the new London Road pedestrian crossing.

PCSO McGuinness left the meeting at this point.

b) District and County Councillors

Dist. Cllr. Beaney reported that: work on the Dover High Street regeneration is now underway; District Council Chairman has sent a message of congratulations to the Queen; the Dover Fastrack Bus Service development is on schedule; the Border Force consultation is still open; Dover Transport Museum is back open on Sundays; the Dover Local Plan is close to starting its final public consultation; a fuel voucher scheme is available for Kent residents needing help with costs.

He also reported from Kent County Council (plus information received from County Cllr. Collor): the works in the Market Square may involve overnight road closures; all electric vehicle charging points are now fully signposted; the KCC budget for 2022/23 is almost complete, though £40million of savings have to be found; the Household Waste Recycling Centres will remain as a booked service; Kearsney Car Park is now being closed from 5.30pm to stop night-time parking and to prevent cars being parked all day as part of car sharing – the opening hours will be adjusted with changing daylight hours; KCC members may have some grant money available.

District Councillor Beaney left the meeting at this point.

c) Parish Councillors

i) Cllr. Buhlman said he received the report of a crowd of youths in the Recreation Ground with dogs and would be looking at the CCTV footage in due course.

ii) Cllr. Gunzi reported that he has contacted Dover Rotary about having a stall at the Village Fete.

iii) Cllr. Jones reported that the warning sign which had been attached to a vehicle for sale in the London Road layby had been scraped off.

iv) Cllr. Eyre-Jackson reported that she has put up Neighbourhood Watch posters with details of how residents can set up their own schemes. There has been an increase in reports of dog mess, which have been passed on to DDC. They have cleared up the mess and put up more warning posters. She had received a request for a banner to be put up on the Recreation Ground railings in April to promote recruitment to Snowdon Colliery Choir. This was accepted.

v) Cllr. Dixon reported that the holes in the DDC car park surfacing at the Recreation Ground have been patched following a complaint from a user.

19. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Clerk passed on copies of all correspondence with a resident, going back several months, regarding request for highway safety measures on Lewisham Road to Councillors for consideration. The item will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

20. PLANNING MATTERS

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

- i. DOV/22/00074 | Change of use of ground floor from offices to self-contained flat, erection of 1.8m fencing, alterations to windows and doors and installation of 2no. cycle racks | 7-9 Chilton Way, River, CT17 0QB – no comments. It was noted that the outline designating the extent of the property extends across the footpath. Cllr. Beresford will write to DDC regarding this.
- ii. DOV/22/00009 | Erection of a detached garage (existing two garages to be demolished) | 85 London Road, River, CT17 0SQ – no comments.
- iii. DOV/22/00127 | Erection of a detached annexe for dependent relative | River Minnis Farm, Minnis Lane, River, CT15 7DN – no comments.

b) To note any decisions made by Dover District Council

- i. DOV/21/01780 | Erection of a first floor side extension with rear Juliette balcony and glass balustrade, replacement pitched roofs to front/rear bays and conservatory | 10 Chisnall Road, River, CT17 0RH – permission granted
- ii. 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 0SF – permission granted

21. FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) Financial Reports for January 2022

The financial report for January 2022 had previously been circulated. Cllr. Beresford proposed that the report be accepted. This was seconded by Cllr. Dixon and agreed.

b) Tree Planting

No response yet received to enquiries made to Kent Highways regarding replacement tree planting in sites on Lewisham Road. Clerk explained the Queen's Green Canopy scheme and also the availability of saplings direct from The Woodland Trust. It was agreed to ask the Kent County Councillors if they would provide financial support once the costs are confirmed.

Notification of tree maintenance, and also some fells, have been received from Kent County Council. These were passed on to Cllr. Eyre-Jackson who will go through the details and link this information with what has been received from Kent Highways regarding the sites available and pass it back to the Clerk.

22. HIGHWAYS MATTERS

a) River School Parking Measures

Clerk has been in touch the River School headteacher who has said that the proposed length of the double yellow line would be counterproductive as areas higher up Common Lane were used by teachers for parking. Clerk is to contact Kent Highways.

b) KCC Lorry Watch Scheme

Chairman has been in touch with Kent Highways regarding the issue with lorries being stuck in Lower Road who suggested that the KCC Lorry Watch Scheme may be of use. Details have been received but Cllr. Gunzi said that the problems were mainly at night. Chairman said that the problem could be investigated further when we renew our Highway Improvement Plan in May. Cllr. Eyre-Jackson suggested that it would be helpful if the people affected could keep a record of the incidents.

It was agreed that a site visit be requested prior to the renewal of the Highway Improvement Scheme to examine the two issues in Lower Road

23. TO DISCUSS WORKS ON THE LOWER ROAD PHONE BOX

The phone box is still awaiting assessment. Information has been received from BT about where to source materials and paints from. Also, a poster which is to be put up in the phone box notifying change of ownership.

24. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

a) Application Form for Street Parties to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

An application form has been received from Kent County Council for any residents planning a Platinum Jubilee street party and who may need to apply for road closures. The information will be published online.

25. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Chairman said he may need a volunteer to lock/unlock the Recreation Ground toilets if Cllr. Atkins is unavailable at the weekend. Cllr. Buhlman offered to do this.

Cllr. Beresford asked if a roster was needed for the weekends.

Meeting closed at 8.55pm

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RIVER PARISH COUNCIL

Held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 8th 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 8th 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 23rd 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 18th 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 9th 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

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RIVER PARISH COUNCIL

Held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 12th April 2022 at River Methodist Church

PRESENT: Cllr. Taylor (in the Chair), Cllr. Dixon, Cllr. Atkins, Cllr. Gunzi, Cllr. Underhill

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. A. Denyer (Parish Clerk) and County Cllr. Richardson

38. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr. Beresford, Cllr. Jones and District Cllr. Beaney

39. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

40. NOTICES OF VACANCY

Notices of Vacancy have been posted following the resignations of Roger Buhlman and Mary Eyre-Jackson as members of the Parish Council.

41. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) Parish Council Meeting 8.03.2022

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 8th March 2022 had previously been circulated. Cllr. Underhill proposed that the minutes represented a true record of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr. Dixon and all agreed.

b) Events Committee 23.03.2022

Minutes of the Events Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 23rd March 2022 had previously been circulated and their contents were noted.

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

Item 23 - Lower Road Phone Box: No update.

Item 30a(i) - KCC Plan Tree: This KCC initiative has yet to be confirmed. County Cllr. Richardson confirmed that he has received details of the potential sites in River from Mrs Eyre-Jackson.

Item – Recreation Ground Outdoor Electrical Socket: This is going to be boxed in so that the wire does not need to be removed.

Item 32c - Gorse Hill: County Cllr. Richardson asked for the correspondence to be sent on to him.

Item 36b - PSPO: The new Public Space Protection Order will come into place in July. Cllr. Dixon said that clear signage is needed to indicate the change.

43. REPORTS

a) PCSO/Policing

No report

b) District and County Councillors

County Cllr. Richardson reported that:

- i) Children and school have been invited to take part in the Kent Big Writing Challenge
- ii) The Leaders of DDC and KCC have had a meeting with the Roads Minister to discuss the problems with congestion affecting Dover. All routes into town are controlled by central Government. Two farmers have offered land for lorry parks in the past week. Unfortunately, they were both in the wrong position.
- iii) The local scheduled resurfacing works had to be delayed due to a previous job overrun. They are now scheduled for the middle of June. There will be disruption to bus services. Cllr. Atkins asked that good notice be given as children will need to be at school on time for GCSE exams.

County Cllr. Richardson left the meeting at this point.

c) Parish Councillors

- i) Cllr. Atkins reported that she has been processing booking forms for the Platinum Jubilee Event.
- ii) Cllr. Dixon has received a request from District Cllr. Beaney to discuss astro turf football pitches with the Parish Council. He has been asked to find a site somewhere in the District and there is a shortage of this kind of pitch in this part of Kent. It is understood that any scheme would have no install cost for the Parish Council. It was agreed that the Parish Council will receive a presentation of the full details of the scheme at a later meeting.

44. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were none.

45. PLANNING MATTERS

a) Planning Applications

- i. DOV/22/00328 | Erection of single storey side and rear extension | 54 Cowper Road, River, CT17 0PL – No comments.
- ii. DOV/22/00313 | Erection of single storey rear extension, raise pitch of existing roof to facilitate loft conversion, installation of 3no. rooflights and conversion of garage to habitable accommodation | 21 Deanwood Road, River, CT17 0NT – No comments.
- iii. DOV/22/00345 | Sycamore (T1) reduce by approximately 40%; Ash (T2 and T3) pollard at 5-6 metres, all subject of Tree Preservation Order 1977/3 | 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.
- iv. DOV/22/00336 | Replacement Cladding to front and rear elevations | 2 Kingston Close, River, CT17 0NQ – No comments.
- v. 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 – No comments.
- vi. DOV/22/00417 | Erection of a single storey rear extension and rear dormer | 51 Valley Road, River, CT17 0QW – No comments.

b) Decisions made by Dover District Council

- i. DOV/22/00127 | Erection of a detached annexe for dependent relative | River Minnis Farm, Minnis Lane, River, CT15 7DN – permission granted
- ii. DOV/22/00074 | Change of use of ground floor from offices to self-contained flat, erection of 1.8m fencing, alterations to windows and doors and installation of 2no. cycle racks | 7-9 Chilton Way, River, CT17 0QB – permission granted

46. FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) Financial Reports

The Financial Report for March 2022 had previously been circulated and was considered.

b) Quotation for replacement Aerial Runway Cable (Lower Road Play Area)

A quotation of £465 has been received from Safeplay Playground Services for the replacement of the cable on the Aerial Runway. A second quote included a £150 charge to quote, which would be returned if the job was in excess of £500. A third company declined to quote. As the manufacturers are based in Cumbria, the Safeplay quotation would be best value. Cllr. Atkins proposed that the Safeplay quote be accepted. This was seconded by Cllr. Underhill and all agreed.

47. ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE AGM

The Annual General Meeting and Annual Parish Meeting will be held at the next meeting. It was decided that no additional speakers will be invited.

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

a) KALC Dover Area Committee AGM

Notice has been received of the AGM of the KALC Dover Committee to be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 27th April 2022 at Guston Village Hall.

b) Temporary Road Closure – Alkham Road/London Road

Notification has been received of temporary closure of Alkham Road, Temple Ewell and London Road, River has been received. The roads are scheduled to be closed overnight (1930 hours to 0500 hours) for three nights beginning on 10th May 2022. This is to enable carriageway resurfacing.

49. ANY ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Nothing further.

Meeting closed at 9.10pm

RIVER PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING/ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 10th May 2022 at River Methodist Church

PRESENT: Cllr. Taylor (in the Chair), Cllr. Dixon, Cllr. Atkins, Cllr. Beresford, Cllr. Gunzi, Cllr. Jones

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. A. Denyer (Parish Clerk)

50. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr. Underhill

51. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN & DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF THIS OFFICE

Cllr. Dixon nominated Cllr. Taylor as Chairman of the Parish Council for the year ahead. This was seconded by Cllr. Gunzi and, there being no other nominations, Cllr. Taylor was duly elected as Chairman.

52. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Cllr. Beresford nominated Cllr. Dixon as Vice Chairman of the Parish Council for the year ahead. This was seconded by Cllr. Jones and, there being no other nominations, Cllr. Dixon was duly elected for the year ahead.

53. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES

Chairman proposed that the present situation continue for the year ahead, whereby all Parish Councillors are invited to attend all Committee Meetings. Cllr. Dixon seconded this proposal and all agreed.

54. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Council Meeting held on 12th April 2022 had previously been circulated. Cllr. Beresford proposed that they represented a true record of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr. Gunzi and all agreed.

55. ANY REPORTS OR UPDATES: No updates.

56. FINANCIAL:

a) Lower Road 20mph Zone Traffic Regulation Order

Kent Highways have asked the Parish Council if they may submit an invoice for £2,500 being the cost of the Traffic Regulation Order to allow the Lower Road 20mph Zone to proceed. Chairman proposed that the payment be made. This was seconded by Cllr. Dixon and all agreed.

b) Insurance Renewal

Clerk reported that our broker is now focusing its Parish Council clients on one provider as some companies have left the market and they have informed us that this will provide a competitive price. The recommended policy from Hiscox Insurance is £5,205. Chairman proposed, Vice-Chairman and it was agreed that to go ahead with this company unless the Clerk is able to find a better offer before the renewal date.

FOLLOWED IMMEDIATELY BY THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

57. REPORT OF COUNCIL CHAIRMAN FOR 2021/22

Chairman gave a summary of his report for 2021/22. This is to be published in 'Rivall' Magazine and a copy will be appended to these minutes.

58. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS OF COUNCIL FOR 2021/22

The Parish Clerk gave a presentation of the draft accounts (subject to audit) for the 2021/22 Financial Year. A copy of the draft accounts is to be appended to these minutes.

59. ANY QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

There were none.

Meeting closed at 8.30pm

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 both 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

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RIVER PARISH COUNCIL

Held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 12th July 2022 at River Methodist Church

PRESENT: Cllr. Taylor (in the Chair), Cllr. Atkins, Cllr. Beresford, Cllr. Dixon, Cllr. Gunzi, Cllr. Underhill and Cllr. Innes

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. A. Denyer (Parish Clerk), County Cllr. Richardson

71. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr. Jones, District Cllr. Rose and District Cllr. Beaney

72. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none

73. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 14th June 2022 had previously been circulated. Cllr. Beresford proposed that they represented a true record of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr. Underhill and all agreed.

74. UPDATES FROM THE MINUTES

Item 65c(vi): Cllr. Dixon and the Clerk have had a meeting with Dover Rangers Colts Football Club. Christchurch Academy do not have all the facilities required by the Club and they wish to return to the Recreation Ground to make use of the adult pitch, junior pitch and have some small training pitches. They are currently looking at funding for new goals and are discussing the preparation of pitches with GW Landscaping. They are aware that there can be no additional cost to the Parish Council.

Item 65c(vii): Sport England cancelled the scheduled meeting due to Covid-19. The meeting has been rearranged for 19th July.

Item 65c(viii): The grass in the Churchyard has been cut but the groundwork maintenance team is currently five short.

Item 69b: Micro-surfacing works have been completed but the section around the corner next to Crabble Athletic Ground is still uneven. Five vehicles had to be towed away during the works. Cllr. Atkins said that vehicle coming off the Ridgeway were eventually allowed through after challenge.

75. REPORTS

a) PCSO/Policing

No report.

Clerk reported two general items received:

- i) New police powers are coming into force to deal with unauthorised encampments on private land.
- ii) DEFRA are concerned that certain items being charged for at Household Waste Recycling Centres (such as hardcore) may lead to increased incidences of flytipping.

b) District and County Councillors

County Cllr. Collor reported to the meeting:

- i. KCC are obliged by law to maintain a balanced budget. £62m has to be saved in the next budget year so tough decisions will need to be made.
- ii. The Port of Dover has reported that they are expecting very high tourist traffic over the next three weekends. Operation Brock only deals with freight traffic. No authority has any plan to deal with other traffic. Kent Resilience Forum may need to be involved.
- iii. Resurfacing works are currently taking place throughout the area.
- iv. KCC subsidises certain statutory bus services such as school buses. The budget to subsidise other services needs to be cut from £6m a year down to £4m. Local services affected are the 61 and 61a evening service (daytime service unaffected) and the 61, 61a and 90 Sunday evening service (last bus from Whitfield at 1820 hours).
- v. The development of the FastTrack bus service is progressing well.
- vi. The feasibility of dualling the A2 from Whitfield to Dover is being examined but no plans yet.
- vii. There has been a 43% rise in Covid-19 cases in the Southeast during the last week. KCC officers have been told to wear masks in the office.

County Cllr. Collor had to leave the meeting at this point.

District Cllr. Rose provided a written report which was read to the meeting:

- i. Please do check out the new Kearsney parks website from the DDC digital team...excellent updates on the facilities there
- ii. There is still ongoing research and discussions over the A2 roadworks and other pinch points in Kent, all backed and supported by Natalie Elphicke. Recent email updates from the department of transport show this is still an ongoing.
- iii. Crabble Hill has had a series of resident Complaints over parking issues...recently the double yellow lines were approved and repainted which has improved the situation, but this is being monitored along with other areas in Dover, especially London road car parking on pavements.
- iv. Residents complained about local households still throwing out raw food and soiled nappies into bin bags leaving overnight for seagulls to scavenge, rip sacks and redistribute all over the streets every 2 weeks. This has been actioned by DDC and households spoken to with seagull-proof sacks delivered as well.
- v. Avian influenza is circulating in wild and sea birds in Kent. If you see a sick or dead bird DO NOT touch it. Report it to your district/borough council. Keep a close eye on dogs in gardens and public spaces and stick to footpaths. www.kent.gov.uk/avianflu
- vi. Maison Dieu still hosting open days and community restoration and historic dig events
- vii. Market Square progress is good albeit very slow to complete.

County Cllr. Richardson added that the official opening of the new Market Square is scheduled for 20th August and that the project is on time and on budget. Also there is a current consultation on indoor sports facilities in the District. County Cllr. Richardson left the meeting at this point.

c) Parish Councillors

- i) Cllr. Atkins reported that Marsh Vintage Amusements had pulled out of the scheduled August visit due to family illness. She suggested a possible Events Meeting in September.
- ii) Cllr. Gunzi has been in touch with specialists regarding the renovation of the Lower Road phone box. He will also speak to a local decorator.
- iii) Cllr. Underhill queried whether the Parish Council was as visible or as accessible as it could be. Cllr. Gunzi asked whether a youth representative could be co-opted onto the Council. Cllr. Atkins said a possible youth section was previously investigated but there was no interest shown. Cllr. Gunzi will investigate opportunities.
- iv) Cllr. Innes circulated a draft document on the River Dour which should be complete by September. An item will be added to the agenda. Cllr. Dixon asked if the Parish Council would be able to influence policy. Cllr. Innes said no.

76. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

No questions.

77. PLANNING MATTERS

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

- i. DOV/22/00865 | Reduce by approximately 4-5metres one Ash the subject of tree Preservation Order No3 of 1977 | Land Between11 Hazeldown Close And Cowper Road, River, CT17 0NJ – No comments.

b) Decisions made by Dover District Council

- 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 – Grant Advertisement Consent
- 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 – Grant Advertisement Consent

78. FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) To approve the Annual Governance Statement

The annual governance statement was reviewed. Cllr. Beresford proposed that the statement be accepted. This was seconded by Cllr. Underhill and all agreed.

b) To approve the Annual Accounts 2021/2022

The annual accounts, in the form prepared for submission to annual audit, was reviewed. Cllr. Dixon proposed that the accounts be accepted. This was seconded by Cllr. Gunzi and all agreed.

c) To receive financial reports for June 2022 and Provisional Rive Fete Accounts

The financial reports for June 2022 had previously been circulated. The provisional accounts for the River Fete/Platinum Jubilee Celebration Event were presented by the Clerk. There are still some monies for the event to be received. Ultimately the event will realise a small surplus. Both reports were accepted.

d) To receive a proposal to repair/replace broken items in the Crabble Lane Play Area

Cllr. Dixon reported that the Double Hanging Swings were broken and in need of repair. This had previously been estimated at £1,100 and he has requested an updated price. He also proposed adding an additional item to the Lower Road Play Area. Cllr. Dixon proposed a budget of up to £1,500. This was seconded by Cllr. Atkins. The quotation is to be circulated when received.

Additionally, the asphalt path around the Recreation Ground is also in need of repair. John Hill will be asked to submit a price.

e) Update on banking arrangements

Clerk reported that, despite signed instructions, HSBC were refusing to close the deposit account and transfer to the new Unity Account because of the size of the balance. It was agreed that a new mandate be submitted adding the Clerk as a temporary signatory with the express purpose of allowing him to communicate with HSBC and get the accounts transferred.

f) Update on River Pre-School Grant

Clerk reported that River Pre-School had decided not to convert status from charity to CIO primarily because they would lose their OFSTED rating until the next inspection and this has been a major factor in attracting children to the school. The grant money is to be returned to the Parish Council.

79. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

a) Request to do metal detecting on the Recreation Ground

A request has been received to undertake metal detecting on the Recreation Ground. After discussion, it was agreed to refuse permission as it may lead to other non-sanctioned detectorists. Also, it may affect pitches if they are being prepared for football matches.

80. ANY ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Nothing Further Meeting Closed at 9.05pm

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RIVER PARISH COUNCIL

Held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 12th October 2022 at River Methodist Church

PRESENT: Cllr. Taylor (in the Chair), Cllr. Dixon, Cllr. Atkins, Cllr. Beresford, Cllr. Gunzi, Cllr. Innes, Cllr. Jones

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

*Before the meeting, a minute's silence was held
in memory of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II*

81. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr. Underhill, County Cllr. Collor

82. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none

83. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 12th July 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.

84. UPDATES FROM THE MINUTES

Item 75c(iii): Potential Youth Representation - Cllr. Gunzi is still to investigate potential youth representation on the Council as many existing youth meetings are currently curtailed. He will investigate as soon as it is possible to do so.

Item 78d: Recreation Ground Double Hanging Swing Repair/Replacement - Cllr. Dixon reported that the cost of repair had almost doubled since the first estimate. The repair at the new price had to go ahead. The new estimate had previously been circulated to all Councillors.

Item 78f: River Pre School Grant – Cllr. Dixon asked if the grant had now been returned. Clerk reported that a cheque was now expected. Delay had been caused due to a banking problem on the part of River Pre School.

85. REPORTS

a) PCSO

i) PCSO McGuinness reported that there have been several Facebook posts about a nuisance scooter and vehicles speeding along Lewisham Road. She is looking to deal with the scooter after returning from leave. Special Constables will be assisting. Also, reports of a couple of incidents of criminal damage to vehicles and a nuisance caller.

ii) Chairman asked about complaints he had received about fishing, particularly at the roadside. PCSO said she had been working with Dover District Council who are also looking into the problem. Fishing Licences are not normally given to anyone under 16 years of age. Cllr. Innes reported that, having spoken to the Environment Agency, there are only three enforcement officers in the catchment area and suggested a notice online about rights and riparian ownership. Also, publication of the hotline telephone number as their enforcement activities are mostly intelligence based. Many of the problems are related to youth under the age for a licence. The legal situation regarding notices is unclear. PCSO was asked to send the DDC contact information to the Clerk.

iii) Cllr. Beresford asked about a nuisance motorbike which is in the village once again.

The PCSO left the meeting at this point.

b) District and County Councillors

Councillor Beaney reported that: the Dover District Local Plan goes out to final public consultation shortly; the Market Square redevelopment is complete and has had mixed reviews, many initiatives are taking place with the Regeneration Group; there is no Christmas event at the Cruise Terminal this year but there will be a winter lights event along with other events in the town led by DDC.

He also reported from Kent County Council that: energy grants are available for residents; police cadets are volunteering for local activities if there is any need in the village; 4,000 Ukrainian refugees have now been housed in Kent; examination of the budget is now taking place.

District Cllr. Beaney left the meeting at this point.

c) Parish Councillors

i) Cllr. Beresford has reported the No Entry signs by the Co-op as they are facing in the wrong direction.

ii) Cllr. Jones reported that the London Road drains have been cleared.

iii) Cllr. Gunzi has received 7 queries about the implementation of the Lower Road 20mph zone. Chairman said that the scheme is moving forward but there is no idea as to the timescale. Cllr. Gunzi asked for an update when one is available

iv) Cllr. Innes reported that, following a request, the Environment Agency has cleared approximately 110m of channel in the River Dour from below Crabble Mill down to Kingston Close.

86. QUESTIONS RECEIVED FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Clerk has received a number of queries regarding bus services to The Ridgeway requesting that the Parish Council make strong representation to Stagecoach about the continuance of the service. It was noted that County Cllr. Collor reported on this matter at the July meeting stating the reduction in subsidy by KCC. It is understood that nothing is happening at the moment until a review by Stagecoach has taken place.

87. PLANNING MATTERS

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

- i. DOV/22/01042 | Erection of 1.8m high boundary fencing (retrospective) | 47 Coxhill Gardens, River, CT17 0PX – No comments.
- ii. DOV/22/01112 | Erection of two storey side and single storey rear extension, installation of solar panels and roof alterations including increase in height (garage and conservatory demolished) | 13 Deanwood Road, River, CT17 0NT – No comments.
- iii. DOV/22/01098 | Erection of a detached dwelling (existing garage to be demolished) | Land Rear Of 57 Valley Road And Fronting Beresford Road, River, CT17 0QW – No comments.
- iv. DOV/22/01212 | Erection of a single storey rear extension, front timber balcony and associated external alterations (existing conservatory demolished) | 138 Lower Road, River, CT17 0RW – No comments.
- v. DOV/22/01261 | Erection of detached annexe for ancillary use (existing garage to be demolished) | 8 Meadway, River, CT17 0PS – No comments.

b) To note any decisions made by Dover District Council

- i. DOV/22/00784 | Certificate of Lawfulness (proposed) for the erection of a rear dormer | 21 Deanwood Road, River, CT17 0NT – Certificate Proposed Granted

88. RIVER RECREATION GROUND

a) Proposal to provide storage for Dover Rangers Colts F.C. at the Recreation Ground

Dover Rangers Colts F.C. are returning to the grounds although no formal agreement has been entered into. They will fund the cost of pitch preparation and will line the pitches as required. Dover Rangers are seeking funding from the Kent F.A. to improve the pitches. 16-18 teams will now play at the Recreation Ground. Dover Ranger have asked for help to purchase a mobile container to store equipment as problems remain with Sport England giving permission to develop the Changing Rooms. Cllr. Dixon proposed that £2,000 be granted to purchase a mobile storage unit. This was seconded by Cllr. Beresford and all agreed.

b) Condition of the tarmac path

The tarmac path around the Recreation Ground is deteriorating and will need renewing in the short term. An estimate of £7,000 has been received to cover complete renewal. John Hill will examine the path when he returns with a view to intermediate maintenance. Cllr. Dixon will have a recommendation for the next meeting. The steps leading up to the middle pedestrian gate had to be renewed at short notice as collapse led to health and safety risks.

c) Update on the Play Areas, condition of equipment and any replacements needed

Items in the play area are in the need up repair. After inspection, items deemed to be of medium risk have been scheduled for repair. The alternative would have been to take the items out of action. After these repairs, the areas will be re-evaluated in three months. Cllr. Dixon proposed going ahead with the repair of the medium risk items at a cost of £3,000. This was seconded by Cllr. Atkins and all agreed. It will be a couple of months before the repairs can be completed. The Parish Handyman has been extremely helpful keeping items of play equipment in action.

89. LOWER ROAD PHONE BOX

Cllr. Gunzi reported a quote received for £600 to repaint the phone box. The contractor has been provided with details of the paint which he will order. A notice is to go into phone box saying that the phone box will be refurbished. Books will need to be removed during the works. Cllr. Gunzi will get a date for the works and Clerk will provide a notice. It is still not known who initiated the library but several people are involved maintaining it. There has been very little vandalism. Cllr. Gunzi proposed that the quote for repainting be accepted. This was seconded by Cllr. Innes and all agreed.

90. FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) Financial reports for July, August and September 2022

The financial reports for the last three months were previously circulated. Progress is being made, slowly, with the changing of bank accounts (subject to the co-operation of HSBC). There have been issues with approval of payments via the new online banking although the system is operational. Cllr. Beresford proposed that the accounts be accepted. This was seconded by Cllr. Atkins and all agreed.

b) Notification of completion of external audit

Interim notification has been received of the completion of external audit.

91. EVENTS

Cllr. Atkins suggested holding the summer fete at the previous usual time in July. Date to be advised so that it does not coincide with other local fetes. Cllr. Dixon suggested waiting to see what others are doing for the Coronation in May before deciding on what to do.

92. HIGHWAYS: SCHOOL PARKING SCHEME

Clerk circulated the responses received to a consultation on proposed changes to parking outside River School. Before the end of the summer term, River School sent details of the consultation out to children and also delivered copies to nearby residents. Nine responses have been received and this will now be passed on to Kent Highways.

93. RIVER DOUR

Cllr. Innes presented his Review of the River Dour and gave a summary of the present position giving particular consideration to the various agencies and stakeholders involved. Copies of the report will be available in print and digital form. Cllr. Innes will be inspecting the River with the Environment Agency and the White Cliffs Countryside Partnership on 4th November. He is hopeful that a project to improve the Dour may arise which the Parish Council can be a part of and hopes that the village can be proud of the river.

94. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

a) KALC Dover Area Committee

Notification has been received of the next Dover Area Committee Meeting at 7.30pm on Wednesday 26th October 2022 at Guston Village Hall. Clerk has details if anyone is interested in attending.

b) KALC Annual General Meeting

Notification has been received of the KALC Annual General Meeting on Saturday 19th November 2022. Papers for the meeting will be received closer to the date if anyone is interested in attending.

95. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

a) Cllr. Dixon reported receiving an email from an A-Level student with questions about living in River. He was unable to attend this meeting but Cllr. Dixon invited him to the November meeting so that his queries can be answered.

b) Cllr. Dixon enquired as to whether the resident who enquired about traffic issues in Lewisham Road had been invited to a meeting. Chairman said that it had been hoped to invite the resident to a meeting including the school and Kent Highways but it had not been possible to arrange.

Meeting closed at 9.25pm

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RIVER PARISH COUNCIL

held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 8th November 2022 at River Methodist Church

PRESENT: Cllr. Dixon (in the Chair), Cllr. Atkins, Cllr. Beresford, Cllr. Innes, Cllr. Jones, Cllr. Underhill

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

96. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Gunzi, Cllr Taylor, PCSO McGuiness

97. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Atkins declared an interest in Item 8ii.

98. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 11th October had previously been circulated. Cllr Beresford proposed that the minutes represented a true record of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr Innes and all agreed.

99. UPDATES FROM THE MINUTES

Item 78f – Grant to River Pre-School: Clerk reported that repayment of the unused grant of £1,000 has been received from River Pre-School.

Item 85a(ii) – PCSO Report: DDC contact information has been received from the PCSO.

Item 88c – Works on the Play Areas: Chairman reported that the repair works have been satisfactorily completed.

Item 95a – ‘A’Level Student Query: No further response received.

Item 91 – Events: Cllr. Atkins has been making enquiries about proposed events in the local area for the Coronation. No definite information at the moment.

100. REPORTS

a) PCSO

A written report received, was summarised for the meeting and is appended to these minutes.

b) County and District Councillors

i) County Cllr Collor reported that: free parking will be available on Saturdays in DDC Car Parks for the Christmas shopping period; consultation is taking place on the DDC Local Plan; work has already started on next year’s KCC budget – this year, there is already a £70 million deficit. KCC are seeking funding for improvement of the A2; KCC are building a solar farm at Kingshill.

ii) Changes to Bus Services: County Cllr. Collor pointed out that KCC do not operate bus services. The previous subsidy of £6million provided had to be reduced to £4million due to the budget deficit. Bus usage has not returned to pre-pandemic levels. There have also been problems recruiting drivers and engineers. As a result, Stagecoach have looked at usage levels on individual routes and have made cuts in services. This was a commercial decision. Chairman said that despite consultation with DDC and KCC, it has not been possible to change the mind of Stagecoach.

c) Parish Councillors

i) Cllr. Jones reported that drains on London Road are blocked again following recent heavy rains. Cllr Innes said that better management of run off was needed. Improvement projects where water could be tanked rather than allowed to run into the drainage system are the way forward

ii) Cllr. Innes circulated his report on the River Dour and gave an update. He has had a site meeting along the Dour with South East Rivers Trust and White Cliffs Countryside

Partnership. They have agreed to see if there any viable improvement projects which the Parish Council could be a part of. He will report in January on this potential project with WCCP. The Environment Agency have responded to Freedom of Information request regarding abstraction.

iii) Cllr. Underhill expressed concern about the state of local pavements. Also positioning of dropped kerbs and refuse bins left out on pavements etc. Cllr Beresford said that the pavement issues can be reported online in the same way as reporting road problems. Cllr Atkins suggested surveying.

101. CHANGES TO LOCAL BUS SERVICES

This was discussed in Item 100b.

102. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

a) Questions relating to changes in local bus services were raised and discussed during Item 100b. Particular matters raised were:

i) Loss of direct service to Whitfield. Particularly as the new Leisure Centre is there along with District Council Offices and retail outlets;

ii) Added journey time due to need to travel via Pencester Bus Station. Including the long wait between connecting buses and lack of enough suitable shelters;

iii) Particular problems faced by the elderly travelling by bus, including getting on and off with shopping, trolleys or walking aids etc.;

iv) Issues with travelling to Lydden Surgery.

b) Also, a complaint about the number of local potholes. Cllr. Atkins said she normally takes photographs and reports them online and will look into these complaints.

103. PLANNING MATTERS

a) Planning Applications with expiry dates before the next meeting

i. DOV/22/01259 | Erection of a front conservatory extension | 66 Deanwood Road, River, CT17 0NU – No comments.

ii. DOV/22/01348 | Pollard two Ash trees (T1 and T2) at approximately 3 meters in height, both subject of Tree Preservation Order No 3 of 1977 | Land Between Hazeldown Close And Cowper Road, River, CT17 0NJ – No comments.

b) Decisions made by Dover District Council

DOV/22/01112 | Erection of two storey side and single storey rear extension, installation of solar panels roof alterations increase in height (garage and conservatory demolished) | 13 Deanwood Road, River, CT17 0NT – permission granted

104. RIVER RECREATION GROUND

a) Condition of the Tarmac Footpath

Chairman reported that the tarmac pathways in the Grounds are a problem. Patching the path will be a short-term solution but this has been carried out several times in the past. But in the event of a hard winter, this work may be broken before next summer. A quotation of £7,500 has been received for complete renewal of the path. Cllr Beresford proposed that the tarmac path be renewed. This was seconded by Cllr. Jones and all agreed.

b) Maintenance

Repairs to play equipment have been completed. They will be back in 3 months to reassess. The steps have been repaired.

c) A letter has been received from a resident in River Meadow following a severe cut back to the boundary hedge. The Bowls Club will fill the gap left with fencing.

d) A water reading has been taken from the bowls club. Clerk will now invoice.

e) One rubbish bin has been vandalised in Recreation Ground. A replacement will be required. A leaf blower will also be purchased for the handyman.

- f) Dover Rangers Colts teams will be returning to the Ground this weekend. They are still waiting for delivery of their storage container.
- g) Meeting with Football Federation is to be scheduled in December.
- h) Cllr Dixon will be ordering an 11ft community Christmas tree for the Ground.
- i) Confirmation has been received from the DDC Dog Warden that, following the alteration to the regulations, dogs may enter the Recreation Ground from Lower Road up to the white vehicle barrier to access the car park.

105. FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) Renovation of the Lower Road Phone Box

Total cost of approx £1250 for refurbishment of the Phone Box has been received from Cllr. Gunzi and was circulated. Cllr Underhill proposed a budget of £1500. This was seconded by Cllr. Atkins and agreed that Cllr. Gunzi proceed with organising refurbishments.

b) Financial Reports

The financial report for October had previously been circulated and was received by the Council.

106. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

a) Bus Services

Letters were received from four residents regarding the changes in bus services. Issues raised were those discussed in Item 100b.

b) Dover Local Plan

A hard copy of the draft Local Plan has been received and is available.

107. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Cllr. Atkins asked if information could be collected about local First Aid Courses

Meeting closed at 8.50pm

Appendix to River Parish Council Minutes 08.11.2022

Report from PCSO McGuinness

River Parish Council Meeting Nov 2022

- 7th October Nuisance persons in the carpark at Temple side, believe to be taking drugs.
- 8th October RTC London Road all in order.
- 9th October Kearsney Abbey Person worried about a male with female, Patrols attended and all in order.
- 12th October Target Firs Assault
- 12th October Minnis Lane, many calls coming in about a males acting suspiciously in the area, Patrols have been attending the area and there have been less calls. No males have been seen or spoken to by Patrols.
- 13th October Kearsney Abbey RTC Coach and Car no injuries all in order.
- 17th October Concern call.. Ridgeway
- 18th October Lower Road, Baby Items and Buggys found in the Kearsney abbey. Patrols have attended and the items have gone.
- 20th October River Primary School. Parking issue.
- 20th October Minnis Lane Disturbance Patrols attended and dealt with.
- 25th October Alarm going off. Window left open London Rd. Property checked and all in order.
- 29th October Minnis Lane call to Police stating that there is lots of undesirables in the area. Patrols attended and there were no persons around.
- 30th October Lower Road Concern call... Male walking around in the early hours for a number of hours.
- 3rd November Lower Road Bad driving.