

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

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

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

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

### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr. Underhill, County Cllr. Collor

### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

### **3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

#### **a) Parish Council Meeting 08.11.22**

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 8th November 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) Planning Committee Meeting 16.12.22**

The minutes of the meeting held on Friday 16th December 2022 had previously been circulated and their contents were noted.

### **4. UPDATES FROM THE MINUTES**

Item 91 - Events: Cllr. Atkins has noted other local event dates but no other news. Further discussion at the next Events Meeting.

Item 105a - Renovation of the Lower Road Phone Box: Cllr Gunzi reported that phone box works are scheduled to begin 1st March 2023.

### **5. REPORTS**

#### **a) PCSO/Policing**

No report.

#### **b) District and County Councillors**

No report.

#### **c) Parish Councillors**

i) Cllr. Jones reported on blocked drains on London Road.

ii) Cllr. Gunzi asked for information about the 20mph limit. Clerk had requested an update but no information received.

iii) Cllr. Innes has received a response to his Freedom of Information request from Affinity Water. Current levels of abstraction are 30 million litres on an average day. Question as to whether this is a sustainable amount. During periods of low-flow, abstraction is reduced by around 7%. The River Darent has higher levels of abstraction. So the situation on the Dour is, perhaps, better than we thought. Affinity Water are currently working on a habitat restoration project.

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

No questions.

### **7. PLANNING MATTERS**

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

There were none.

#### **b) Decisions made by Dover District Council**

i) DOV/22/01459 | Garage conversion to habitable accommodation, alterations to rear door and windows (part demolition of existing garage) | 34 Minnis Lane, River, CT17 0PR - permission granted

ii) DOV/22/01437 | Erection of first floor extension and conversion of garage to create ancillary annexe and single storey rear extension (existing conservatory to be demolished) | 28 River Street, River, CT17 0RB - permission granted

iii) DOV/22/01426 | Erection of a single storey rear extension, rear/side patio, steps and 2no. gullies (retrospective) | Waterfall Cottage, Alkham Road, Temple Ewell, CT16 3EE - permission granted

## **8. FINANCIAL MATTERS**

### **a) Financial Reports for November and December 2022**

Cllr. Beresford proposed that the accounts be accepted. This was seconded by Cllr. Dixon and all agreed.

### **b) Recommendations and Agreement of the Precept for 2023/24**

After consideration, Cllr. Dixon proposed that the Precept be set at £65,216 for 2023/24 to maintain the same level of council tax as 2022/23.

## **9. RECREATION GROUND MATTERS**

Cllr. Dixon reported on current matters in the Recreation Ground:

a) Renewal of the tarmac path - wet weather is currently against work starting.

b) Cottage Cafe - work is proceeding. A complaint has been received from the owner of one of the Crabble Court properties particularly about the rear windows and extraction fan. The resident moved into the property after planning permission had been granted. John Hill is liaising with the residents. He is also submitting plans to DDC with the specifications of the windows and investigating a party wall agreement. It was agreed to resolve ownership of the yard to the side of the cottage. Cllr. Beresford will investigate.

c) Football Foundation Meeting - the meeting in December was held in the Changing Rooms so the representatives of the Football Foundation and the Kent F.A. could see the current condition of the building. Issues relating to their objections to the Parish Council's planning applications and use of the grounds by Dover Rangers Colts F.C. (their tenure and the additional facilities required) were discussed. It is now up to the Football Foundation to respond. It was agreed to review the position at the next meeting.

d) Play Area Signage - new safety signage is being put up for the Play Area and Outdoor Gym.

e) Dover Rangers Storage Container - it has not been possible to move the storage container onto the site due to soft ground conditions.

## **10. PROPOSAL FOR A RIVER DOUR IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

Cllr. Innes reported on the meeting he had with White Cliffs Partnership and the Southeast Rivers Trust. One problem identified was that the river is very fragmented, particularly due to the weirs. A proposal was discussed to replace the lost water weed (due to reasons unknown) by translocating weed from further downstream. The issue of cost is not known at this time. Cllr. Innes has a further meeting and so may be able to raise possibility of funding at this time. In any case, there would need to be a volunteer workforce to complete the project. It was agreed that the item be on the agenda for the next meeting.

## **11. NOMINATIONS FOR THE KALC COMMUNITY AWARDS SCHEME**

One nomination has been received from a member of the public. As the deadline is 28th February, it was agreed that the item will be on the agenda for the next meeting for confirmation.

## **12. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE**

### **a) DDC Town and Parish Meeting 16.02.2023**

Notification has been received that the next Dover District Council Town and Parish Council Meeting will be held in the Council Offices at 6pm on Thursday 16th February 2023. The Parish Council are invited to send two representatives. Cllr. Jones said he would like to attend.

### **b) KALC 'Becoming a Local Councillor' Events**

A series of three free one hour events, beginning on Tuesday 17th January 2023, are being held to assist people thinking of standing to be a Parish Councillor.

## **13. MEETING DATES 2023**

### **a) Events Committee Meeting**

The next Events Committee will be held on Friday 13th January at 2pm in River Methodist Church.

### **b) AGM Date**

Alternative dates for the Annual General Meeting were discussed due to clashes with the date of the King's Coronation and the additional Bank Holiday Monday. It was agreed that the Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 18th May 2023. It was agreed to discuss ideas for a speaker at the AGM at the February meeting.

## **14. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

Cllr. Beresford reported that loud motorbikes are once again speeding around local streets.

Meeting closed at 8.45pm