

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RIVER PARISH COUNCIL

Held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 14th February 2023 at River Methodist Church

PRESENT: Cllr. Taylor (in the Chair), Cllr. Dixon, Cllr. Atkins, Cllr. Beresford, Cllr. Wright (after Item 19)

IN ATTENDANCE: County Cllr. Collor

15. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr. Innes, Cllr. Underhill, Cllr. Jones and Cllr. Gunzi, Dist. Cllr. Beaney and County Cllr. Richardson

16. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none

17. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) Parish Council Meeting 11.01.23

The minutes from the January meeting of the Parish Council had previously been circulated. Cllr. Dixon proposed that the minutes were a true record of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr. Beresford and all agreed.

b) Events Committee Meeting 13.01.23

The minutes from the Events Committee had previously been circulated and their contents were noted.

18. UPDATES FROM THE MINUTES

Item 91 - Local Events: In response to a query, Cllr. Atkins reported that there was no update on local events clashing with proposed events by the Parish Council.

19. NOMINATION FOR CO-OPTION AS A PARISH COUNCILLOR

A nomination as Parish Councillor has been received from Lynne Wright. Cllr. Dixon proposed that Lynne Wright be co-opted as a Parish Councillor. This was seconded by Cllr. Beresford and all agreed.

Cllr. Wright joined the meeting at this point.

20. REPORTS

a) PCSO/Policing

No report.

b) District and County Councillors

County Councillor Collor reported: The KCC budget meeting was held last week. Education (including home to school transport), Adult Social Care, Highways are the essentials. Other areas can be subject to reductions. Regrettably, Council Tax will go up by 5% (3% general and 2% social care). Adult Social Care costs have increased significantly in the past year. There are more SEN children in Kent than any other county. £62 million in reductions have had to be found. Details of new electoral procedures, requiring Photo I.D., are being circulated. Anyone wanting a road closure for a coronation event must apply for it but there is no charge. A written report has been received from Cllr. Beaney, which was read to the meeting and will be appended to these minutes.

c) Parish Councillors

Cllr. Atkins updated on the evening Coronation event.

21. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

a) Parking on Double Yellow Lines along Lower Road

An email has been received regarding cars being parked for long periods on the double yellow lines on Lower Road (between the Co-op and The Royal Oak) following communication sent to Dover District Council. This includes vehicles without blue badge and parked in excess of three hours. A request was made to circulate letters to residents in Lower Road. County Cllr. Collor suggested that any incidents should be reported at the time to Dover District Council Parking Services. This was the agreed response.

Cllr. Wright commented that there is also a problem with vehicles parking on the zig-zag lines at the London Road pedestrian crossing, hindering visibility for people using the crossing.

b) Alleged Breach of Planning Permission

Email has been received from a number of Deanwood Road residents regarding works to 21 Deanwood Road which they allege are not being carried out according to the planning permission granted. This has already been reported to DDC Planning Enforcement and has an enforcement number.

22. PLANNING MATTERS

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

There were none.

b) To note any decisions made by Dover District Council

- i) DOV/22/01078 | Reconfigure rear roofslope with a pitched roof and insertion of rooflights to rear | 27 Deanwood Road, River, CT17 0NT – permission granted
- ii) DOV/22/01620 | Erection of detached dwelling (existing dwelling and part boundary wall to be demolished) | 6A Minnis Terrace, Crabble Avenue, Dover, CT17 0JF – permission granted

County Cllr. Collor left the meeting at this point.

23. FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) Financial Reports for January 2023

Financial reports for January were circulated at the meeting. Digital copies will be circulated including the bank statements. Clerk suggested that an additional deposit account will be needed after the receipt of the 2023/24 Precept. Clerk reported receipt of the conclusion of external audit. Cllr. Beresford proposed that the report be accepted. This was seconded by Cllr. Dixon and agreed.

b) Request for Support towards the Crabble Corn Mill Beer Festival

A request has been received from the Crabble Corn Mill Trust to support the Annual Beer Festival. Cllr. Taylor proposed that £250 be granted to help with the cost of security at the event. This was agreed.

24. RECREATION GROUND MATTERS

Cllr. Dixon updated on the Recreation Ground:

- a) Tarmac paths due to be renewed next month.
- b) Progress is being made with the conversion of the coffee shop. Both with the interior and with the exterior seating area which is now to be finished with sandstone paving. John Hill estimated that it will be completed by the King's Coronation. There has been a complaint from a resident of Crabble Court which is ongoing.
- c) Cllr. Beresford has been asked to investigate ownership of the courtyard to the side of the cottage building. She has made progress with the Land Registry. The status of the courtyard has not changed since 2002 but she has to contact another office for confirmation of ownership.
- d) The arrangement with Dover Rangers Colts F.C. has been working well. They are having a problem with disposing of grass cuttings. Cllr. Beaney has offered to provide a skip and arrange removal of cuttings.
- e) Cllr. Beaney has written to the Football Foundation requesting an update on progress with a decision on the Parish Council's planning applications
- f) Updated Health and Safety Signage (to cover age usage and supervision) is being installed to cover the play areas and gym equipment.
- g) Cllr. Dixon is speaking to the DDC Dog Warden to clarify the signage to allow access for dogs at the Lower Road gate up to the white vehicle barrier.

25. RIVER DOUR IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

A copy of the article by Cllr. Innes to be published in the next edition of the Rivall Village Magazine was circulated. Cllr. Dixon reported on a conversation with Cllr. Gunzi that he, and his immediate neighbours, are not happy with the proposed work and wish to see more input from expert opinion. Cllr. Beresford said that the police cadets would help with volunteer work on the River with notice.

26. POTENTIAL SPEAKERS FOR THE 2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Chairman said that local support for the meeting was necessary and suggested this item be held over to the March meeting. Cllr. Atkins suggested that Cllr. Innes could do a presentation on the River Dour.

27. NOMINATIONS FOR THE KALC COMMUNITY AWARD

Following discussion at the January meeting and the circulation of information prior to the meeting, it was agreed that David and Dee Horobin be nominated to receive the KALC Community Award for 2023.

28. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

a) Kent County Council Community Services Consultation

A consultation is currently taking place on making the most of KCC Community Services.

29. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- a) Cllr. Dixon reported that the Handyman has cleared the Luckhurst Road to Ash Close
- b) Next Events Committee Meeting – 2.15pm Friday 10th March

Meeting closed at 8.48pm

Appendices

Item 20b: Update to Councillors from District Councillor David Beaney

I've emailed Sports England to chase them on a decision for the River P.C application.

DDC has recently purchased the building at the end of Bench Street, which now that they are under our ownership we can finally improve the gateway to our town. I've been placed on a committee to help with ideas and to push forward on decisions which is great to be involved with.

Not only that, we have now been awarded a staggering 18 million pounds to spend in this area, this could not of come at a better time and is brilliant for Dover.

DDC launched there community roots bus today. This bus was paid for by KCC and is aimed for the hard to reach residents. It will travel around our district stopping off at villages. This bus is fitted with up to date computers for residents who haven't got access to the internet and is assisted by a great team who's role is to help all residents in our district to become better connected and receive help where needed from possible grants and funding streams to a friendly face.

On Demand bus services: as you are all aware due to recent cuts on commercial bus services, we have found some villages without the use of a bus so this is a 16 seater mini bus that has been put in place to keep the community connected. It will run from Aylesham to Canterbury and Aylesham to Dover picking up at Shepherdswell, Eythorne etc. This gets launched at the end of the month and can be booked either by ringing stagecoach or using the App.

This is just a few good things happening in Dover, however I'm really excited with how much great work is being done at the moment in our town.