

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RIVER PARISH COUNCIL

Held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 9th January 2024 at River Methodist Church

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. A. Denyer (Parish Clerk) and one member of the public

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr. Dixon, Dist. Cllr. Beaney and County Cllr. Collor

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 14th November 2023 had previously been circulated. Cllr. Taylor proposed that the minutes represented a true record of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr. Wright and all agreed.

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

a) Item 101b – Beresford Road Junction with Common Lane

No update.

b) Item 103a – River Gardeners

Emails sent but no meeting as yet.

c) Item 108b(iii) – Village Advent Trail

Good comments received from people who had followed the Trail.

d) Item 122 – Overhanging Bushes

It is not known if Cllr. Dixon was able to get a note into Rivall Magazine reminding local people to cut hedges etc back from the highway.

d) Item 124(c) – Crabble Corn Mill Request for Funding

The request has been withdrawn as other funding has been found.

e) Item 125(b) – Community Use Agreement

Kent F.A. have a copy of the agreement. No response as yet.

f) Item 125(g) – ‘Royal’ slabs

No progress with installation, possibly weather-related.

g) Item 125(h) – Recreation Ground Tree Work

Outstanding work completed.

h) Item 125(i) – CCTV

Still pending. Clerk is also now having problems with remote access.

5. REPORTS

a) **District and County Councillors**

None

b) **Parish Councillors**

i) Cllr. Taylor noted that there is a new beat officer for the area P.C. Chris Bates and also asked if he has been invited to attend one of our meetings. Clerk said that he has.

Cllr. Taylor also asked if there has been any update on Ridgeway Parking Issues. Nothing received. This will be followed up.

ii) Cllr. Innes has not yet managed to meet the new Environment Agency Catchment Officer responsible for the River Dour. However, he expected to see her at a meeting of the East Kent River Improvement Group next week. The ‘Our Finest Dour’ initiative is ending as the funding is almost spent. The remaining £6,500 is being spent on a public angling centre at the millpond in Alfred Road, Dover. This hopes to educate members of the public and mitigate illegal fishing. But it was emphasised that incidents of illegal fishing should be reported as any ‘hotspot’ is more likely to attract enforcement. WCCP is setting up a workshop on Riparian ownership on 26th January at Kearsney Tea Rooms. The information was passed to the Clerk for publication. Cllr. Innes would like to know why the Environment Agency are no longer taking water samples in the River Dour and the level of responsibility for tree maintenance along the river.

Cllr. Innes enquired about the meeting of Parishes in Dover Downs and River Ward as he is interested in attending. This was delayed from December and Dist. Cllr. Beaney is hoping to re-arrange.

iii) Cllr. Jones reported that the stolen bin from London Road has been replaced with a lockable one. Also concerns about future drain clearance to prevent flooding after heavy rainfall as there have been problems at the Whitfield Hill roundabout.

iv) Cllr. Wright has reported to KCC incidents of cars not stopping for pedestrians on the zebra crossing. Also, the 30mph repeater sign has been knocked over in an accident and not been replaced. Cllr. Beresford reported that enforcement has taken place recently on vehicles parking on the zig-zag lines.

6. ANY QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

It was reported that bamboo has been growing up through the tarmac surface from a property leading down from the Methodist Church to Common Lane. Also, a road sign has been knocked down at Sanctuary Close. These matters will be reported.

7. PLANNING MATTERS

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

i) DOV/23/00266 | Fell to leave 1 metre high stumps of approximately eight Ash trees the subject of Tree Preservation Order No3 of 1977 | 14 Hazeldown Close, River, Dover, CT17 0NJ – no comments.

ii) DOV/23/00286 | Overall crown reduction by approximately 4 metres of one Beech (T1) the subject of Tree Preservation Order No1 of 1969 | 2 Kingston Close, River, CT17 0NQ – no comments.

b) Any decisions by Dover District Council

DOV/23/01214 | Formation of vehicular access and erection of fencing (retrospective) | Waterfall Cottage, Alkham Road, Temple Ewell, CT16 3EE – permission granted

8. FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) Financial Reports

A digital financial report for November and December, including bank statements, had previously been circulated. Copies of income and expenditure transactions were also circulated at the meeting. The new deposit account is now open and active.

b) To consider recommendations and agree the 2024/25 Precept

The recommendations for the 2024/25 budget had previously been circulated. After discussion, it was agreed to set a precept of £65,429 which represents a budget that maintains the amount of council tax paid for the Parish Council at the same level as this year.

9. NOMINATIONS FOR THE KALC COMMUNITY AWARDS SCHEME

Chairman reported that there are two nominations for the 2024 Community Award and proposed to discuss this at the forthcoming meeting of the Events Committee.

10. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

a) Kent Resilience Forum – free training sessions

Details of a series of workshops for community volunteers looking to develop their skills and create community resilience plans. Clerk to circulate to Councillors.

b) Kent Police – Cyber Security training

Kent Police information on how to request a presentation from their cyber security officers. Clerk to enquire about a presentation for the annual general meeting.

11. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

a) Events Committee to be held at 2pm Friday 19th January at ‘The Rec’ Café (subject to confirmation of availability and time).

b) Chairman has had reports of people walking dogs around the Recreation Ground and being abusive when challenged.

c) White Cliffs Countryside Partnership have been clearing vegetation and putting in gates to provide access to the area at the top of Minnis Terrace.

Meeting closed at 8.17pm

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RIVER PARISH COUNCIL

Held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 13th February 2024 at River Methodist Church

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

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

12. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr. Innes, Cllr. Jones, District Cllr. Beaney and County Cllr. Collor

13. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none

14. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) Parish Council Meeting 09.01.2024

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 9th January 2024 had previously been circulated. Cllr. Taylor proposed that they represented a true record of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr. Beresford and all agreed.

b) Events Committee Meeting 19.01.2024

The minutes of the Events Committee held on Friday 19th January 2024 had previously been circulated and their contents were noted.

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

a) Item 101b - Beresford Road Junction with Common Lane: Pending.

b) Item 103a - River Gardeners: Two members of the club are interested in helping with planting in River and the Chairman will meet with them on Saturday.

c) Item 122 Overhanging Bushes: Reminder did not go into the last edition of 'The Rivall'.

d) Item 125b - Community Use Agreement: Proceeding with all parties.

e) Item 125g - 'Royal' Slabs: are now in place.

f) Item 125i - CCTV: Still having problems with remote access.

16. REPORTS

a) District and County Councillors

County Cllr. Richardson reported that the KCC budget is to be set on Monday. A balanced budget has been agreed but it will need a 4.99% increase in their precept. 82% of the budget goes to adult and child social services. The other 18% covers everything else. There is no threat to Dover Library or Dover HWRC in the next budget year. There has been a rise in the number of cases of measles. He reminded that measles vaccination are available up to age 19 and suggested that anyone unvaccinated should consider it.

b) Parish Councillors

Cllr. Beresford reported that the work on the land above Minnis Terrace is continuing.

17. ANY QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

The following queries were raised:

a) Speeding along Lewisham Road especially early morning and late at night. County Cllr. Richardson said that any measures are data driven and suggested that the Parish Council ask for 'strips' to be installed to collect data. Cllr. Richardson will check costs and get information. Cllr. Atkins will contact Mary Eyre-Jackson for an update about 'Speedwatch' sessions.

b) Parking outside River School during 'drop off' and collection. This is a problem at all schools. Cllr. Atkins said that children are not allowed to walk to school alone until Year 6. There is also a very short 10 minute period from doors opening for all children to get through the gates. It was agreed to write to River School to ask about the time that school gates were opened and also if the school would consider advertising once more for a 'lollipop person'. Also to ask for parking enforcement from Dover District Council at least once a month.

c) Dogs in the Recreation Ground. It was reported that the police have been seen exercising police dogs in the Grounds. It was agreed to write to DDC enforcement.

d) Place for older children to use such as a skate park or bike park. The problem is availability of land and the budget to build these facilities. DDC/KCC do not have funds to do it. Private funding is needed. There are people in Dover looking to build a skate/bike park away from the centre of town.

18. PLANNING MATTERS

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

There were none.

b) Any decisions by Dover District Council

DOV/23/00266 | 14 Hazeldown Close, River, Dover, CT17 0NJ | Cut down to leave 1 metre high stumps of eight Ash trees the subject of Tree Preservation Order No. 3 of 1977 – consent granted.

19. FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) Financial Reports

A digital financial report for January, including bank statements, had previously been circulated. Copies of income and expenditure transactions were also circulated and discussed at the meeting.

b) Dover & District Beekeepers Association Application for Funding

DDBKA have requested £100 funding towards their measures to stop the spread of Asian hornets. The appeal (including constitution and accounts) were previously circulated to Councillors. The organisation does have active members in River. This was agreed.

20. HIGHWAYS TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER - WAITING RESTRICTIONS ORDER ON VARIOUS ROADS IN RIVER

The documents detailing the plan submitted by Dover District Council to Kent Highways to install double yellow lines around the corners of roads going up Crabble Lane from Lewisham Road, The Ridgeway and roads leading off had previously been circulated. A plan summarising the plan was circulated at the meeting and the proposals discussed. Clerk has received two objections, but it was pointed out that any objections should be sent to Kent Highways in order to be considered.

21. REPORTS CONNECTED TO THE RECREATION GROUND

Chairman reported that:

- a) 'The Rec' Café is now open three days a week. They are liaising with Dover Rangers regarding opening during their use of the grounds.
- b) The contents of the old changing rooms are now in the container.
- c) 'The Rec' Café Yard is still awaiting work. This is delayed due to a flooding incident.
- d) The groundwork contractors are unexpectedly closing down the business. The Parish Council will be going out to tender.
- e) Dover Rangers now have funding from the F.A. for pitch improvement measures at the Recreation Ground.

22. DRAFT DOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL / PARISH CHARTER

The draft of the charter had previously been circulated. It was discussed and the Parish Council has no comments.

County Cllr. Richardson left the meeting at this point.

23. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

a) River School Letter re. Litter Bins

A letter has been received from a pupil at River School, following a trip around River, asking for a bin to be put outside the Village Hall. It is believed that a bin used to be there. Chairman will check.

b) Draft Kent Minerals and Waste Plan

A copy of the draft Kent Mineral and Waste Plan has been received for comment. It is not believed that there is any direct affect on River.

c) Kent Police Cyber Security AGM Presentation - response

A response has been received from Kent Police offering a presentation on cyber security and fraud at the Annual General Meeting. The event will need to be promoted to get an audience.

d) KALC Area Committee Meeting

The minutes of the recent meeting of the KALC Area Committee has been received and circulated.

24. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Nothing further.

The meeting closed at 8.42pm

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RIVER PARISH COUNCIL

Held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 12th March 2024 at River Methodist Church

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. A. Denyer (Parish Clerk), District Cllr. Beaney, County Cllr. Collor, County Cllr. Richardson and 4 members of the public

Prior to the start of the meeting, Cllr. Dixon presented the KALC Community Award for 2023 to Mr. David and Mrs. Dee Horobin, former Parish Councillors, awarded for long standing services to the community.

25. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr. Innes

26. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

27. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) Parish Council Meeting 13.02.2024

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 13th February 2024 had previously been circulated. Cllr. Beresford proposed that they represented a true record of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr. Taylor and all agreed.

b) Events Committee Meeting

To follow.

28. UPDATES FROM THE MINUTES

Item 101b (2023) - Beresford Road Junction with Common Lane: The Parish Council has obtained copies of the title deeds for properties on either side of the narrow lane and neither property has ownership of it. Cllr. Beresford is waiting for additional information from the land registry.

Item 125i (2023) CCTV: The system is operating but there is still no remote access.

Item 17a – Speedwatch Update: pending.

Item 17b - River School gates opening times / lollipop person: Clerk read a response from the Headteacher. The school has not advertised for a 'lollipop' person for many years and he is unsure if the budget is available. He confirmed gate opening times are 8.35am to 8.45am and that most parents were already on the playground waiting for the school doors to open. By 8.50am there are less and less children coming into school. Clerk was requested to contact the school again to enquire if the school doors could be open for a longer period. Clerk has also been in contact with DDC Parking who have offered twice monthly parking enforcement visits. Visits will also be listed on the DDC website as they previously were.

Item 17c – DDC Enforcement Visits to Recreation Ground: pending.

Item 23a – Letter from River School regarding Village Hall waste bin provision: After investigation, Clerk reported that there previously was a bin outside the Village Hall. It was removed and relocated to the Recreation Ground by request of the Village Hall committee due to smells and the bin being used for household waste. They have confirmed that they do not wish to see any replacement bin outside the hall. Clerk will write a final response to the original letter.

29. REPORTS

a) District and County Councillors

County Cllr. Collor reported: there is a current consultation on future school term dates up to 2028; KCC budget has been passed; additional funding has been received from central government to deal with highway potholes; a spring vaccination campaign is in progress due to rise in cases of measles, rubella etc.; there is pressure from Kent businesses for the Eurostar stop in Kent to resume; the Port of Dover is not ready for the implementation of E.E.S. biometric passport checks. This may lead to queues and Cllr. Collor has a set of nine particular dates this year where they may be significant delays as a result. Chairman said that, from his experience, the problem is the large number of coaches passing through the Port with all passengers requiring checks. He suggested that the Port of Dover should restrict the number of coaches per sailing. It was noted that Eurotunnel have stopped taking coaches. Cllr. Taylor said that that the police should stop lorries at the key points of Lydden Hill and Whitfield Hill where lorries attempt to come through the town. County Cllr. Richardson added that that Wednesday will be 'No Smoking' day.

County Cllr. Collor left the meeting at this point.

District Cllr. Beaney reported: he has been following progress with the planning applications for change of use for Flint House at the Recreation Ground which are now looking positive; the DDC budget has been agreed with a 2.98% increase in Council Tax but no major reductions in services; the Reach Awards are now open for nominations by 6th May; DDC are supporting the Great British Spring Clean; Dover Sport Spectacular for local clubs to be held at the Duke of York's School, 11th April; there is a 'Dover at Night' trail event on Friday 22nd March in the town. Also, Cllr. Beaney is dealing with the green waste collection problems at Cowper Road.

District Cllr. Beaney left the meeting at this point.

b) Parish Councillors

Nothing further.

30. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

An email has been received from a neighbour of the Recreation Ground asking if the Parish Council would consider locking the grounds at night as it was previously. He has experienced antisocial behavior at night. Chairman said that previous locking had been very expensive and was no longer affordable. Clerk was asked to respond requesting that incidents are reported. Cllr. Richardson added that all antisocial reports are logged and if the area is a 'hot spot' then there will be a response.

County Cllr. Richardson left the meeting at this point.

31. PLANNING MATTERS

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

DOV/24/00108 | Crown reduce by up to 2 metres in height and 3 metres laterally and crown lift to approximately 3 metres of one Weeping Beech the subject of Tree Preservation Order No1 of 1969 | 10 Crabble Mill, Lower Road, River, Dover, CT17 0UY – No comments.

b) Any decisions by Dover District Council: None

32. FINANCIAL REPORT

The financial report for February 2024 had previously been circulated. Clerk reported on the transactions during the last month.

33. RECREATION GROUND REPORT

Chairman reported that the weather has been against any work taking place in the grounds. It is up to Dover Rangers to decide if the pitches are playable for matches. It was noted that some other pitches in the district have had to close during the previous month.

With regard to the two planning applications for Flint House. Sport England have been reconsulted on the plans for a meeting room on the lower floor and will be removing their objections. DDC have advised that the Parish Council seek a pre-application advice meeting prior to resubmitting the application for the Upper Floor change of use to an office.

34. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

a) Crime Prevention Webinars

The Neighbourhood Watch Network are organising a series of webinars on various crime prevention topics.

35. DATE FOR THE NEXT MEETING OF THE EVENTS COMMITTEE

It was agreed that a meeting of the Events Committee take place at 10am on 19th April in The Rec Café if available.

36. ANY OTHER INFORMATION

a) This year is the 150th Anniversary of River School. Events are being planned and the Headteacher has said that Parish Councillors will be invited to some of these events.

b) It is hoped that the designated Police Constable for River will be able to attend the April meeting.

37. MOTION TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC FROM THE FOLLOWING ITEM ON THE GROUNDS THAT IT CONTAINS TIME-SENSITIVE COMMERCIAL INFORMATION

Chairman proposed that the press and public be excluded from the following item as it contains time-sensitive commercial information. This was seconded by Cllr. Wright and all agreed. Item 38 was, therefore, discussed in closed session.

38. TENDERS FOR THE GROUNDWORK MAINTENANCE CONTRACT AT RIVER RECREATION GROUND

Eight tenders have been received for an initial one-year contract for the groundwork maintenance at River Recreation Ground. After discussion and comparison of quotes, it was agreed that Burr Landscaping be awarded a one year contract for the groundwork maintenance at River Recreation Ground.

Meeting closed at 8.45pm