

## MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RIVER PARISH COUNCIL

Held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> 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 14<sup>th</sup> 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The request has been withdrawn as other funding has been found.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 26<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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, 11<sup>th</sup> April; there is a 'Dover at Night' trail event on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> April in The Rec Café if available.

### **36. ANY OTHER INFORMATION**

a) This year is the 150<sup>th</sup> 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

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

Held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at River Methodist Church

**PRESENT:** Cllr. Dixon (in the Chair), Cllr. Beresford, Cllr. Atkins, Cllr. Innes and Cllr. Taylor  
**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr. A. Denyer (Parish Clerk), P.C. Chris Bates & 9 members of the public

### **39. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr. Jones, Cllr. Wright, County Cllr. Collor and County Cllr. Richardson

### **40. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

### **41. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March had previously been circulated. Cllr. Taylor proposed that they represented a true record of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr. Innes and all agreed.

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

#### **a) Item 101b (2023) - Beresford Road Junction with Common Lane**

All enquiries completed. The lane does not belong to any agency or property. Matter concluded.

#### **b) Item 125(i) (2023) – CCTV**

Clerk confirmed it is now fully working.

#### **c) Item 17a Speedwatch Update**

Sessions will resume as soon as weather allows.

#### **d) Item 17b River School gate opening times**

Response received from Mr. Brinicombe stating that opening the doors earlier has a significant impact on cost of staff and supervision and believes that it would just shift the same issue to an earlier time.

#### **e) Item 23a - Letter from River School regarding Village Hall waste bin**

Clerk confirmed response sent.

#### **f) Item 30 - Locking of Recreation Ground**

Clerk confirmed response sent to parishioner.

### **43. REPORTS**

#### **a) District and County Councillors**

Clerk has received a written report from County Cllr. Collor which will be circulated to Parish Councillors.

#### **b) Policing**

P.C. Chris Bates introduced himself. He is the designated Police Officer for Dover Downs and River, Tower Hamlets, Elms Vale and Maxton. Currently works a lot of day shifts but is talking with supervisors about having more evening shifts to be available when problems are more likely to occur. Statistics on local crime are available on the Kent Police website but are meaningless without context. He stressed the importance of reporting. All reports are recorded and becomes intelligence. Even if they do not receive an immediate response, resources can then be used according to the volume of intelligence received. The best way to report Antisocial Behaviour is online. But still call 999 if there is immediate risk. As well as assigned beat officers, there are also officers on the Neighbourhood Task Force who are not assigned to any particular ward but can be used at any location as required. He is aware of reports of ASB in the Recreation Ground. To a question about getting CCTV or images to police P.C. Bates responded that online reporting has an option to submit images or he suggested joining 'My Community Voice' which is a two way communication with the police. Generic email address is [csu.dover@kent.police.uk](mailto:csu.dover@kent.police.uk)

*P.C. Bates left the meeting at this point.*

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

Nothing to report.



#### 44. ANY QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

All questions related to residents objecting to Item 45a(v) Planning Application DOV/24/00230.

Two representatives from the attending residents were offered chance to speak for 5 minutes or less to outline their objections. The objections raised included: the style of the development, the fact that they are flats, the proximity to listed buildings, vehicular movements on or off the property, parking facilities, the communal space requirements not being met in the design, the height and form of building and the view over nearby properties due to height. It was suggested that the number of comments, currently 75, show that this type of development is not wanted in the community.

Chairman pointed out that this was an Application for Permission in Principle and not an application either for outline or full planning permissions.

In response to a question about Kent Highways involvement, Cllr. Beresford said that KHS are given the opportunity to comment but may not in this case as this was not a full application for planning permission.

#### 45. PLANNING MATTERS

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

- i. DOV/24/00313 | Remove 2 branches from one Ash (T1); cut back any branches 5.2 metres overhanging highway of a group of trees (G2) all the subject of Tree Preservation Order No3 of 1977 | 3 Hazeldown Close, River, CT17 0NJ – No comments.
- ii. DOV/24/00302 | Fell to ground level two pines the subject of Tree Preservation Order No.1 of 1969 | 2 Kingston Close, River, CT17 0NQ – No comments.
- iii. DOV/24/00317 | Creation of new access with retaining walls | 60 Crabble Lane, River, CT17 0NY – No comments.
- iv. DOV/24/00310 | Garage conversion including erection of side and rear extensions and insertion of a roof lantern, for ancillary accommodation | 14 Chilton Way, River, CT17 0QA – No comments.
- v. DOV/24/00230 | Application for permission in principle for up to 6 dwellings | River Garage, River Street, River, CT17 0RB – following discussion, it was resolved that Councillor Beresford draft a response based on the items discussed. Comment submitted was:

*River Parish Council is opposed to the above application to potentially build 6 flats on the site of River Garage. There are many reasons listed below.*

- 1. Suitability of residential properties on this site could be an asset but on the principle of scale of the suggested building these are unacceptable and are overpowering in this setting. The proposed example of the building shown doesn't fit with the street scene, especially with expanding both height and width.*
- 2. It is currently only listed as suitable for an Art Studio so an application for change of use would need to be submitted, subject to approval.*
- 3. There are concerns about the emergency exit from the River Village Hall, which currently opens onto the side alleyway. In the proposed plans this shows that a locked gate will be in place, cutting off their exit to safety.*
- 4. Concerns have been raised regarding the amount of traffic, not only during construction, but in general. River Street is a very busy road especially during events at the Village Hall and during term time. The entrance to the road is narrow and the turn into the proposed parking would be very tight.*
- 5. There are some concerns by neighbours that there could be overlooking into gardens and rooms because of the closeness of the structure. The proposed plans will need a sight line evaluation plan if taken for full planning permission.*
- 6. Consideration must be taken into account, that there might be contamination from its previous use as a garage.*

*Although the application is for consideration of "Permission in Principle" and is only for consideration of the land use, location and amount of development, River Parish Council feel that the example presented is not the right type of building for this space. A slightly smaller version or two houses would be more appropriate and would fit the street scene more appropriately.*

## **b) ANY DECISIONS BY DOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL**

- i. DOV/24/00116 | Certificate of Lawfulness (proposed) for the conversion of garage to habitable accommodation and insertion of window | 22 The Ridgeway, River, CT17 0NW – Certificate Proposed Refused

### **46. TO RECEIVE THE FINANCIAL REPORT**

A complete digital financial report, including bank statements and reconciliation, had previously been circulated. The income and expenditure transactions were circulated and reported on by the Clerk at the meeting. The direct debit payment for electricity has increased. Clerk is assessing the use of electricity in the Recreation Ground.

### **47. TO RECEIVE AND DISCUSS THE UPDATED HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

Clerk has had an online meeting with the Kent Highways Community Engagement Officer regarding the update to the Highway Improvement Plan. County Cllr. Collor was also in the meeting.

One item is left over from last year's plan, namely the 'Unsuitable for HGVs' sign at the junction with Lower Road and Alkham Road. This is being addressed.

With regard to the Lower Road 20mph zone, Highways are not prepared to install additional signage as we have the correct amount for the scheme according to regulations. Clerk has received a promotional pack for the 20mph zone, including bin stickers and a banner, which may help to inform drivers.

The new items added are those previously discussed at meetings. KHS will look at two or three items each year so there is a need to confirm priorities. It was resolved that the two prioritised schemes are Lower Road (by Crabble Corn Mill) proposed priority travel from one direction and Lewisham Road measures. ATC Traffic Surveys will take place in Lewisham Road in the week commencing 24<sup>th</sup> April. Following the survey, options can be considered. There are currently no available options to improve pedestrian access through the Alkham Road Railway Bridge but KHS suggested leaving it on the plan in case circumstances change. Temple Ewell Parish Council are also concerned about the situation. Clerk is awaiting feedback from Kent Highways.

### **48. TO RECEIVE A PROPOSAL FOR ADDITIONAL PLANTERS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS**

Chairman submitted a proposal to instal planters and also decorative gates on entering the village in Crabble Road and Lower Road. The three planter locations are: close to former Meadowdene Nursing Home; at the former bus terminus, Lewisham Road; and next to the bus shelter location on Lewisham Road by the Recreation Ground. Chairman will pursue possible manufacture of gates by a local company. There was a suggestion from the floor that a local college might take this on as a project if materials were provided.

### **49. RIVER RECREATION GROUND**

Chairman reported that the Fence across the area to the side of the Café has now been installed to separate the area owned by the Parish Council from the area owned by Crabble Court. Gates will be installed this week. He has also spoken to John Hill regarding comments received from members of the public about the opening hours of the Café and asked that they be increased.

### **50. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE**

#### **a) Visit of the Dover Mayor to Kearsney Abbey**

The Mayor of Dover is to visit Kearsney Café on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April at 10am. Parish Councillors are welcome to attend.

#### **b) Community Resilience Planning Workshop**

An all-day training event on resilience planning is due to take place on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2024 on behalf of the Kent Resilience Forum at Ashford Borough Council's Committee Rooms.

### **51. ANY OTHER INFORMATION**

- a) Rivall magazine is looking for people to help with the publication.
- b) Cllr. Atkins will sort through the books in the Phone Box in the next few weeks.
- c) Cllr. Beresford reported that the tree cutting at Crabble Athletci Ground has now been completed.

Meeting closed at 9.10pm

## **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF RIVER PARISH COUNCIL**

Held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024 in River Methodist Church

**PRESENT:** Cllr. Dixon (in the Chair), Cllr. Jones and Cllr. Wright

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr. A. Denyer (Parish Clerk), Police Officers Arran Ostridge and Stephen Kelly

### **52. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr. Atkins, Cllr. Innes, Cllr. Taylor and Cllr. Beresford

*As the meeting is not quorate, business is held over until the next meeting*

### **53. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN AND DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF THIS OFFICE**

Held over.

### **54. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

Held over.

### **55. APPROVAL OF THE PARISH COUNCILS CHARTER WITH DOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Held over.

Chairman closed the meeting and moved on to the Annual Parish Meeting

## **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

### **55. REPORT OF COUNCIL CHAIRMAN FOR 2023/2024**

Held over.

### **56. PRESENTATION ON CYBER SECURITY BY KENT POLICE**

*Followed by questions from the floor*

Police Officers Ostridge and Kelly gave a presentation to the Parish Councillors on online fraud and cyber security.

### **57. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS OF COUNCIL FOR 2023/24**

*Followed by questions from the floor*

Held over.

### **58. ANY OTHER QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR**

None.

Meeting closed at 9pm

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

Held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2024 in River Methodist Church

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

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

### **59. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr. Beresford, Cllr. Innes, Cllr. Wright and County Cllr. Collor

### **60. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none

### **61. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN & DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF THIS OFFICE**

Cllr. Taylor nominated Cllr. Dixon to be appointed Chairman for the coming year. This was seconded by Cllr. Jones. There being no other nominations, Cllr. Dixon was duly elected.

### **62. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

Cllr. Taylor nominated Cllr. Beresford to be appointed Vice-Chairman. There being no other nominations, Cllr. Beresford was duly elected as Vice Chairman for the coming year.

### **63. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

#### **a) Parish Council Meeting 09.04.2024**

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2024 had previously been circulated. Cllr. Atkins proposed that they represent a true record of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr. Taylor and all agreed.

#### **b) Parish Council AGM 18.05.2024**

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting had previously been circulated. Cllr. Jones proposed that they represented a true record of the meeting and all agreed.

#### **c) Planning Committee 10.05.24**

The minutes of the Planning Committee held on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2024 had previously been circulated and their contents were noted.

#### **c) Events Committee Meeting 23.05.2024**

The minutes of the Events Committee held on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2024 were circulated at the meeting and their contents were noted.

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

Items covered in the agenda.

### **65. REPORTS**

#### **a) District and County Councillors**

County Cllr. Richardson said that he had little to report as they were in purdah leading up to the forthcoming general election.

District Cllr. Beaney reported that the Dover Local Plan consultation had ended and a decision from the Planning Inspectorate is hoped for by December this year.

#### **b) Parish Councillors**

Cllr. Atkins reported that some roads had been missed out when double yellow lines were marked on junctions leading off The Ridgeway. Clerk was asked to contact Kent Highways for an explanation. Cllr. Atkins will confirm which junctions have been missed.

#### **c) Policing**

Clerk reported that CCTV footage from the damage outside the coffee shop at the Recreation Ground has been passed to the police. The images of the youths have been circulated through the police network and schools. It was agreed that the Parish Council would support a prosecution.

## **66. ANY QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

- a) There was an incident had on Sunday where the goals at the Recreation Ground were unlocked and moved to a location where footballs were going over into an adjacent garden. Chairman reported that Dover Rangers had responded within 30 minutes to move and re-lock the goals and also spoke to a group of youths nearby. Youths are also climbing through gaps into the tennis enclosure. Chairman has, therefore, arranged for the tennis club to reinforce the fence with extra wire.
- b) A resident has requested a dog mess bin be installed on the path between Ash Close and Luckhurst Road due to the amount of mess. Cllr. Atkins confirmed that there had previously been a bin at the location. Clerk was asked to contact Dover District Council to ask if they will replace the bin and, if not, the Parish Council will consider whether to have a bin installed.

## **67. PLANNING MATTERS**

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

- i. DOV/24/00496 | Erection of two storey rear extension (existing conservatory to be demolished) | 10 Mannering Close, River, CT17 0UD – No comments.
- ii. DOV/24/00537 | Ash (T1) pollard to approximately 7 metres from ground level; Ash (T2) remove one lateral limb at approximately 12 metres from ground level, both the subject of Tree Preservation Order No1 of 1988 | 8 Badgers Rise, River, CT17 0TL – Defer to the DDC Tree Officer for a decision.
- iii. DOV/24/00577 | New pitched roof over existing two storey side extension | 65 Lewisham Road, River, CT17 0QG – No comments.

### **b) Any decisions made by Dover District Council**

- i. DOV/24/00310 | Erection of a detached outbuilding to provide ancillary accommodation | 14 Chilton Way, River, CT17 0QA – Permission Granted
- ii. DOV/24/00302 | Fell to ground level two Pines the subject of Tree Preservation Order No1 of 1969 | 2 Kingston Close, River, CT17 0NQ – Refuse Consent
- iii. DOV/24/00317 | Creation of new access with retaining walls | 60 Crabble Lane, River, CT17 0NY – Permission Granted
- iv. DOV/24/00397 | Conversion of garage to habitable room | 22 The Ridgeway, River, CT17 0NW – Permission Granted
- v. DOV/24/00313 | Remove 2 branches from one Ash (T1); cut back any branches below 5.2 metres overhanging highway of a group of trees (G2) all the subject of Tree Preservation Order No3 of 1977 – Grant Advertisement Consent
- vi. DOV/24/00414 | Erection of single storey rear extension (existing conservatory to be demolished) | 4 Valley Road, River, CT17 0QN – granted
- vii. DOV/2400298 | Erection of a dormer window above existing garage | 96A London Road, River, CT16 3AB – permission granted
- viii. DOV/24/00342 | Extension to an existing vehicular access and dropped kerb | 109 Lewisham Road, River, CT170PA – permission granted
- ix. DOV/24/00442 | Extension to an existing dropped kerb | 113 Lewisham Road, River, CT17 0PA – permission granted
- x. DOV/24/00415 | Erection of a two storey side extension and front porch | 55 Lyndhurst Road – permission granted

## **68. FINANCIAL MATTERS**

### **a) To receive and approve the Annual Governance Statement 2023/24**

A copy of the Annual Governance Statement had previously been circulated along with justification for the confirmation of statements on financial controls. The statement was reviewed, agreed and duly signed by the Chairman.

### **b) To receive and approve the Accounting Statement 2023/24**

A copy of the Accounting Statement had previously been circulated. Clerk confirmed that the annual internal audit had been completed and the auditor agreed with the figures as submitted. The statement was reviewed, agreed and duly signed by the Chairman. Clerk will now submit the Annual Return for external audit.

### **c) Financial Report for April/May 2024**

The financial report for April and May 2024 was circulated at the meeting. A full digital version, including bank statements, will be circulated in due course.

Clerk has been discussing electricity costs with utility advisers. A new follow on contract has been negotiated, with a change of supplier, which will see a significant reduction in the unit costs.

**d) Confirmation of Insurance Renewal**

Clerk confirmed that the insurance policy has been renewed as the second year of a long term agreement with an index linked increase. A report was circulated with the revaluation of the cottage since its restoration and conversion into a coffee shop.

**e) To receive quotation for 2 additional outdoor sockets at River Recreation Ground**

A quotation of £505 plus VAT has been received for the installation of two additional RCD sockets next to the existing outdoor sockets in the Recreation Ground. This will be needed for the fete and would be installed before that date. It was agreed to accept the quotation.

**f) To consider the annual contribution to the publication costs of 'Rivall' Village Magazine**

It is customary to provide an annual contribution to the publication cost of the 'Rivall'. Clerk was asked to check when the last contribution was made and this will be considered at the next meeting.

**69. HIGHWAYS MATTERS (HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN)**

**a) Lewisham Road Traffic Survey Results**

The results of the traffic survey on Lewisham Road were circulated at the meeting. Two location were surveyed during the week of 24<sup>th</sup> April. The results showed that in excess of ninety percent of traffic complied with the posted speed limit and that speeding was in the minority.

**b) Updates to the Highway Improvement Plan**

Clerk reported that Kent Highways have surveyed the section of Lower Road by Crabble Corn Mill and found that not enough width is available for the implementation of any traffic priority scheme. Clerk will speak to Highways about any options for Lewisham Road and Lower Road.

Cllr. Jones proposed that London Road have a traffic survey. It was agreed that Clerk request a survey at this location.

**70. RECREATION GROUND MATTERS**

**a) To discuss a proposal received for a Community Orchard**

A proposal has been received via Brighton Permaculture Trust to plant a small community orchard, totalling twelve small fruit trees, at a location in the Recreation Ground. It was agreed that as the meeting is only just quorate, the item will be carried over to the next meeting for all Councillors to consider.

b) A response has been received from Dover District Council regarding the draft Community Use Agreement relating to the proposed Meeting Room in the Lower Floor of Flint House. They are considering the agreement and, on initial viewing, have suggested that amendments will be needed.

c) John Hill still has a list of jobs to be done but he is very busy at the moment.

d) Dover Rangers have received funding for pitch cutting and lining and currently have the F.A.

Groundworks Team at the Recreation Ground working on improving the pitches. A water meter has been installed as pitches will need to be watered and the Parish Council will be reimbursed for the cost.

e) Cutting of the hedges will take place shortly.

f) Maintenance: One of the pieces of gym equipment is in need of rewelding, one swing has been damaged and the zip wire also requires attention due to usage.

**71. PROPOSAL TO INSTAL PLANTERS AND VILLAGE GATEWAYS**

Clerk provided an update on the proposals. The two locations for gateway treatments suggested near the two Village signs do not fit the criteria for width also may mask the existing signs. A selection of potential types of both wooden and steel planters were circulated. Clerk was asked to find out if different shapes of steel planters were available also the possibility of having a logo added.

**72. EVENTS COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Cllr. Atkins is currently working on the arena performances. Stallholders bookings are continuing to come in. There is an ongoing problem with the events email account. Clerk has had notification that the raffle tickets will arrive the next day.

**73. TO APPROVE THE DRAFT PARISH COUNCIL / DISTRICT COUNCIL CHARTER**

Clerk has compared the draft version of the Charter, considered at a previous meeting, with the final draft. There are no differences. It was agreed that the Charter be approved.

**74. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED BY THE DATE OF THE MEETING**

Nothing Further.

**75. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

Nothing further.

Meeting closed at 9.35pm