

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RIVER PARISH COUNCIL

Held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 14th January 2025 at River Methodist Church

PRESENT: Cllr. Dixon (in the Chair), Cllr. Beresford, Cllr. Atkins, Cllr. Innes, Cllr. Jones, Cllr. Shariff, Cllr. Styles-Martin and Cllr. Taylor

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

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

County Cllr. Collor

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none

3. RESIGNATION OF COUNCILLOR WRIGHT

Clerk reported that Lynne Wright has resigned as a Councillor. Dover District Council Democratic Services were informed. Subsequently the vacancy was advertised. The notice period has now ended and the Parish Council are free to co-opt another member.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 12th November 2024 had previously been circulated. Cllr. Beresford proposed that they represented a true record of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr. Shariff and all agreed.

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

Item 95b (2024) - Speedwatch: Chairman reported that the equipment can be collected from Mrs Eyre-Jackson. Cllr. Atkins said that, as Mrs Eyre-Jackson is the administrator registered with Kent Speedwatch, her help is still needed. It was decided that Chairman would speak to Mrs Eyre-Jackson to see if she is still interested in carrying on. If not he will collect the equipment.

Item 95b(i) (2024) – London Road Traffic survey: Clerk has, belatedly, asked Kent Highways for a traffic survey on London Road, River and is awaiting a date.

Item 96 – Memorial Bench: Chairman reported that someone has cut back the branches from the bench, resolving the problem so the bench no longer needs to be moved.

Item 114 - Parish Emergency Plan: Clerk has not re-circulated the existing plan but will do so.

Item 107b(ii) (2024) Light out on ‘The Cut’ Steps: Cllr. Jones reported that the light at the top of the steps is still out. He has reported it and will remind them.

6. REPORTS

a) District and County Councillors

A verbal report has been received from County Cllr. Collor: the KCC draft budget will be out soon. There is nothing to report on devolution further to that already published in the media.

b) Parish Councillors

i) Cllr. Innes reported that his meeting with White Cliffs Countryside Partnership regarding a funding application to the Environment Agency has been postponed until February 18th. He will circulate information following that meeting.

He asked for some contacts for Alkham and Temple Ewell Parish Councils so that he may seek to involve them in issues relating to the Upper Dour as most attention and funding relates to the Lower Dour.

ii) Cllr. Jones reiterated problems with speeding on the London Road. Also, the road resurfacing carried out a couple of years ago is showing signs of wear possibly due to the number of HGV vehicles still using the road.

iii) Cllr. Shariff reported on attending the KALC Parish Councillors Training Course and asked when the last public consultation was carried out as this was something that was discussed on the course. Clerk responded that a Community Day was held at the Village Hall in 2016. Chairman said that he would like to see more contact with parishioners. Cllr. Shariff is happy to explore future engagement along with other Councillors.

A lamp post at the top of Cowper Road was knocked down over a month ago leaving the top end in darkness. It has been reported but nothing has happened. Cllr. Atkins checked KCC online and it only states that there is a problem.

iv) Cllr. Styles-Martin reported the local publicity about a fixed speed camera in Alkham. Many people had been complaining about the accuracy of the readings. It is not known who was responsible for the camera. Query whether this would this be a solution to problems in River bearing in mind with difficulties in getting community volunteers with Speedwatch. Clerk was asked to contact Alkham Parish Council to see if this was their initiative.

Cllr. Styles-Martin queried progress with the new planters. Clerk reported that permission from Kent Highways was finally received this week. He is still waiting for confirmation of the KCC Members Grant and will put the order in once this has been received.

v) Cllr. Atkins asked if anything can be done about the tree leaning over in Lewisham Road. This would be the responsibility of Kent Highways. Chairman said he would ask the Recreation Ground groundwork contractor to take a look at it.

c) Policing

Clerk has received the latest newsletter from the local P.C. including an article on e-scooters. This has been circulated to all Parish Councillors.

7. UPDATE ON LOCAL BUS SERVICE CHANGES

Clerk reported that latest online comments have many complaints about buses leaving earlier than they are timetabled.

Cllr. Styles-Martin also mentioned the problem with buses only serving The Ridgeway on the way into River and not outbound. Some drivers will service the route in both directions, but Stagecoach have said that this should not happen and drivers doing this may be disciplined. He has also reported the missing bus stop on The Ridgeway close to Wingrove Hill. Clerk will write to Stagecoach about these three issues.

It has been reported that the No. 67 service will be discontinued when the FastTrack bus service is extended to North Whitfield.

Clerk reported that he has asked for updated information on the replacement Lewisham Road bus shelter but has not had a response.

8. ANY QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

A question was asked about the situation with the former Meadowdene Nursing Home which has been empty for some time and is deteriorating. It was agreed to find out who owns the building and get updated information as to its future.

9. PLANNING MATTERS

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

i) DOV/24/01213 | Creation of a new access, driveway and erection of retaining walls, 64 Valley Road, River, CT17 0QW – No comments.

ii) DOV/24/01265 | Formation of a vehicular access and parking | 95 Lewisham Road, River, CT17 0PA – No comments.

b) Any decisions made by Dover District Council

i) DOV/24/01154 | Display of illuminated fascia sign and vinyl window stickers | 3 Chilton Way, River, CT17 0QB – permission granted

ii) DOV/24/00882 | Various pruning works to two Pines (T1 and T2) the subject of Tree Preservation Order No1 if 1969 – permission granted

iii) DOV/24/00962 | Erection of first floor with 6 dormer windows of off-street parking (existing conservatory to be demolished) – permission granted.

10. FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) Financial Report for November and December 2024

A digital version of the financial report, including bank statements, has previously been circulated. Clerk apologised for not providing a printed summary at the meeting. He provided a report on the income and expenditure for the two months.

b) Report on DDC Kearsney Parks Play Project Meeting and possible partnership

Clerk reported on the meeting between Councillors Beresford, Taylor and the Clerk with DDC regarding the Kearsney Abbey Play Area refurbishment, prior to them going out to public consultation. There are options for the Parish Council to be involved as a project partner both with funding or without which may enable DDC to access additional forms of external funding. A summary of the discussions had also previously been circulated. DDC representatives have offered to attend a future meeting to answer questions. It was agreed to ask them to attend.

With regard to any possible financial contribution from the Parish Council, no figure was discussed. Clerk has asked if someone from DDC Open Spaces would be prepared to be a signatory of the Community Use Agreement relating to the proposed Community Meeting Room on the Ground Floor of Flint House in the Recreation Ground.

c) To discuss and agree the precept for 2025

A draft budget with estimate of current year outcome and potential precept for 2025 had previously been circulated. After discussion of the options available. It was agreed to increase the precept by 2.67%. This will raise the Council Tax by £1.17 to £45 for a Band D property. It was noted that this is the first increase for five years and is necessary to cover increasing costs. The increase and the reasons for it should be published.

11. RECREATION GROUND MATTERS

- i) 'The Rec' Café has reopened with new people running the business.
- ii) The fencing between the Lower Road Play Area and the bowls club is in need of maintenance.
- iii) The fencing around the tennis enclosure is also in need of review. Chairman will speak with the tennis club.

12. NOMINATIONS FOR THE KALC COMMUNITY AWARDS SCHEME

Nominations are needed for this year's KALC Community Award. It was agreed to discuss online and agree a nomination by vote. The deadline is before the next Parish Council meeting.

13. 2025 EVENTS AND FUTURE MEETINGS

Cllr. Atkins has spoken to 'The Rec' Café about an event in the Recreation Ground at Easter. The big event of the year will be the Summer Fete. Cllr. Atkins proposed that the Summer Fete will be held on Sunday 13th July 2025 and this was agreed. An Events Committee meeting will be held at 5pm on Friday 24th January at the Methodist Church.

14. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

a) Martin Marsden - parking outside River School

An email has been received from Mr. Marsden regarding the ongoing problems with parking outside River School. Clerk has replied and the correspondence has been circulated to Councillors. Clerk has been in contact with DDC Parking Services and received confirmation that River School is on the rota for visits by Enforcement Officers. They pointed out that all schools in the District also received visits. In their response, DDC said that they were receiving fewer complaints since the recent changes to parking regulations near the school.

b) Parking outside the Chilton Way convenience store

A complaint has been received about a delivery van fully parked on the pavement outside the convenience store. This was while a delivery was in progress. DDC Parking Services have confirmed that there are no parking regulations to enforce in this instance.

15. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

The February meeting of the Parish Council will start at 7pm.

Meeting closed at 9.20pm

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RIVER PARISH COUNCIL

Held at 7pm on Tuesday 11th February 2025 in River Methodist Church

PRESENT: Cllr. Dixon (in the chair), Cllr. Beresford, Cllr. Atkins, Cllr. Innes, Cllr. Jones, Cllr. Shariff, Cllr. Styles-Martin and Cllr. Taylor

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. A. Denyer (Parish Clerk), Dist. Cllr. Beaney, County Cllr. Richardson, Peter Jull (Conservative candidate for KCC Dover Town ward) and one member of the public.

Presentation by DDC on the Kearsney Parks Play Area refurbishment

Before the meeting, the Parish Council received a presentation from Emma-Jane Allen, Head of Parks, Open Spaces and Countryside and Grace Dennis, Principal Open Spaces Officer on the Kearsney Parks play area refurbishment project and the possible involvement of the Parish Council.

16. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

County Cllr. Collor

17. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

18. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) Parish Council Meeting 14.01.2025

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 14th January 2025 had previously been circulated. Cllr. Beresford proposed that they represented a true record of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr. Atkins and all agreed.

b) Events Committee Meeting 24.01.2025

Meeting of the Events Committee meeting were circulated at the meeting.

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

Item 95b(i) (2024) – London Road Traffic Survey: Clerk reported that the London Road traffic survey is due to take place in March.

Item 5 – Speedwatch: Mary Eyre-Jackson has offered to continue with Speedwatch and can also speak to Cllr. Atkins about the administration.

Item 6(i) Contacts for Alkham and Temple Ewell Parish Councils: Clerk has received one response and is awaiting the second and will pass details on to Cllr. Innes.

Item 6(iii) Lamp post top of Cowper Road: no change. Clerk to contact local Highway Steward

Item 6(iv) Alkham Speed Camera: Clerk is awaiting a response.

Item 6(iv) Village Planters: permission and funding confirmed

Item 8 – Meadowdene ownership: Cllr. Beresford has spoken to DDC who found that Meadowdene ownership was marked as private in the Land Registry.

Item 12 – KALC Community Award: nomination has been submitted.

20. REPORTS

a) PCSO/Policing

Latest Police and Crime Commissioner Newsletter has been received.

Invitation to join the Police Independent Advisory Group. Clerk can circulate to anyone interested.

b) District and County Councillors

County Cllr. Richardson reported that:

LOCAL GOVERNMENT DEVOLUTION

On 5th February the Secretary of State for MHCLG made a statement to the House of Commons which announced which local authorities had been selected for the first tranche of mayoralities, which would be introduced in May 2026. Kent was not amongst them so elections for the County Council have not been suspended and will take place in May this year.

BUDGET

The budget is to be announced on Thursday. The cost of adult social care is still a problem. Precepts are rising by 5% overall (KCC 2.99% plus adult social care levy).

District Cllr. Beaney reported that:

Dover District Council now in overall control.

The new Dover FastTrack Bus Service currently being used by around 400 people a day.

Dover TAP has been introduced on several occasions during 2025. Chairman explained that this is due to 6 ferries from different companies being away for refit during January leading to delays.

DOVER TRAINING DAY

The council has brought together educational providers for a day of free workshops and taster sessions. Attendees will be able to try a range of introductory courses from food safety and creative writing, to childcare, hair and beauty, vehicle maintenance and plumbing.

DDC BUDGET FOR 2025/26

DDC Cabinet has agreed to a proposed increase in the district council part of the Council Tax bill for a Band D property for 2025/26 of 2.98% (or £6.39 per year). The budget will be considered by Overview and Scrutiny Committee and will return to Cabinet before going to the full Council Meeting for confirmation.

IMPACT FEST

A free, fun-packed festival designed especially for young people aged 11-18 is taking place at Pencester Gardens in Dover Saturday, 29 March, from 12pm-6pm.

Chairman asked that a letter be sent to Nigel Collor before he retires from Kent County Council in May thanking him for his services to the Parish.

Councillors Beaney and Richardson left the meeting at this point.

c) Parish Councillors

i) Cllr. Shariff reported that a large pothole has appeared under the Railway Bridge at Kearsney.

21. ANY QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Complaint received about parking on double yellow lines on each side of the road Lewisham Road junction with Common Lane blocking any line of sight for emerging traffic. DDC have said that Parking Enforcement Officers should visit the school area on average twice a month. Clerk to contact DDC parking to register the complaint.

22. PLANNING MATTERS

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

i) DOV/25/00090 | External cladding to care home | 105B - 107 Lower Road, River, CT17 0QY – No comments.

b) Any decisions by Dover District Council

i) DOV/24/01265 | Formation of a vehicular access and parking | 95 Lewisham Road, River, CT17 0PA – permission granted

ii) DOV/24/01213 | Creation of a new access, driveway and erection of retaining walls | 64 Valley Road, River, Dover, CT17 0QW – permission granted.

23. RECREATION GROUND MATTERS

i) There has been difficulty finding a contractor able to repair the chainlink fencing around the tennis courts. Wet weather has delayed repairs to the fencing around the Play Area.

ii) Cllr. Shariff reported on initial investigations into funding for the Flint House Community Room Project. She suggested a consultation during the fete to provide data on usage, footfall etc. to help justify the needs of the community to potential funders. Also to seek partners to work with and possible match funding.

24. FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) Financial Statements

A full digital version of the monthly financial statement, including bank statements, had previously been circulated. Clerk reported on the income and expenditure for the previous month.

b) Kearsney Abbey Play Area refurbishment project

It was agreed to consider the presentation given by Dover District Council and discuss fully at the next meeting.

25. UPDATE ON RIVER DOUR INITIATIVES

After providing a background for the new members, Cllr. Innes outlined the initiatives he believed could be taken this year with regard to conservation. He is hoping that cross partnerships with other Parish Councils would provide a greater voice for the conservation and restoration of the upper Dour. He will shortly be engaging with the Trout Wildlife Trust to provide an advisory site visit to give recommendations for habitat improvement. He is also attending a meeting with White Cliffs Countryside Partnership to discuss possible funding opportunities. Temple Ewell and Alkham Parish Councils are to be approached for discussions. The mission for 2025 is to achieve wider recognition of the ecological value of the the Dour among the local community.

26. NALC Civility and Respect Project

Information on the NALC Civility and Respect Project was previously circulated. After discussion, Cllr. Shariff proposed that the Parish Council adopt the NALC Civility and Respect pledge. This was seconded by Cllr. Jones and all agreed.

27. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE (RECEIVED BY THE DATE OF THE MEETING)

a) DDC - Lewisham Road Bus Shelter

Dover District Council owns 71 bus shelters around the District and there is no specific budget for replacement. Any costs would have to come out of the budget for maintenance. DDC currently has two other shelters in need of replacement. There is no update as to when a new shelter at Lewisham Road will be installed.

Clerk is to forward the letter to Dist. Cllr. Beaney for him to investigate further and find out the costs of a shelter.

b) Draft Kent and Medway Local Nature Recovery Strategy consultation

The draft local nature recovery strategy is currently open for to the public for consultation.

28. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

a) Highway Improvement Plan - timetable for update

The renewal of the plan is due shortly. Clerk has an online meeting with Kent Highways at the beginning of April when any additions to the plan can be discussed. This will be an item on the agenda for next month.

Meeting closed at 9.10pm

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RIVER PARISH COUNCIL

Held at 7pm on Tuesday 11th March 2025 at River Methodist Church

PRESENT: Cllr. Beresford (in the Chair), Cllr. Atkins, Cllr. Innes, Cllr. Jones, Cllr. Shariff, Cllr. Styles-Martin, Cllr. Taylor

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

29. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr. Dixon, County Cllr. Collor

30. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none

31. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th February 2025 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.

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

Item 6(iii) Cowper Road Lamp Post: still no repair.

Item 23(i) Recreation Ground chainlink fencing repair: no update

Item 27(a) Lewisham Road Bus Shelter: waiting for an update from Dist. Cllr. Beaney

33. REPORTS

a) PCSO/Policing

Clerk has received the latest newsletter from the local P.C. which has been circulated to Councillors.

b) District and County Councillors

County Cllr. Richardson reported from local authorities.

County Council: Elections coming in May; £14.5million additional funding has been received from central government for a further 'pothole blitz'; £80million has been allocated to road repair in general for the forthcoming year. Cllr. Taylor said that two potholes previously repaired have now returned. Cllr. Richardson asked that they be reported and said that this was a problem around the county and that new machines now being used will improve the quality of repairs; it is the 20th Anniversary of the 'No Use Empty' scheme which has brought 8,500 private houses, previously empty for 6 months or more, back into use.

District Council: Deal Leisure Centre project going ahead; Council Tax for the DDC part of the bill is rising by 2.9%; Free sports sessions for young people are being held around the District; the restored Maison Dieu will soon reopen to the public. Cllr. Richardson confirmed that the building and facilities will be operated by Dover District Council.

c) Parish Councillors

i) Cllr. Taylor has reported double yellow lines at the bottom of Minnis Lane which have become indistinct presenting a hazard. County Cllr. Richardson asked for details to be sent to him.

ii) Cllr. Jones raised the issue of the surface of the London Road also broken wall on the nursing home.

iii) Cllr. Styles-Martin is in contact with Stagecoach about the missing bus stop 'flag' on The Ridgeway and the problem with bus drivers missing out the stop. Also The Ridgeway 'loop' for the bus service.

iv) Cllr. Shariff surprised that police newsletter did not include recent thefts from the Co-op. Also following a recent accident on Lewisham Road was concerned about speeding on the road and queried whether it may be possible to have Speedwatch sessions on Lewisham road. It was noted that locations have to be approved by Kent Speedwatch.

34 ANY QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

i) Query about the bench outside the Village Hall which the Parish Council previously agreed to maintain.

ii) Query about time taken to deal with broken streetlights. A recent report took 6 weeks to fix. Chairman reported that repairs only happen when work is going on in the local area. Cllr. Richardson said it also depends on who owns the streetlight, KCC or DDC.

iii) Query about the planning application for Meadowdene particularly relating to affects of the development with regard to on-street parking.

35. PLANNING MATTERS

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

i) DOV/25/00114 | Conversion of existing care home to 9 residential flats | Meadow Dean Residential Home, 35 Lower Road, River, CT17 0QT -

Whilst the Parish Council welcomes the renovation of the building and the creation of more housing in the village there are concerns about resident parking. Notwithstanding the findings of the Parking Stress Survey, two nearby areas could be of concern: the stretch of Lower Road from Crabble Corn Mill to the River Dour bridge, which is only passable with care by traffic in both directions and if vehicles are parked along this stretch this will bring additional dangers not just to traffic but to the many pedestrians who often stop on the millpond side to view the wildlife; the other area is outside the meadow dene building, opposite Dourside, where Lower Road leads into Valley Road. Any vehicles parked on both sides would narrow the road enough to cause a hazard. Also block sightlines for vehicles emerging across the River bridge. There are vehicles potentially meeting from three directions at this location and this is also the signed route for any HGV vehicles which have turned into River to avoid the low railway bridge at Kearsney. The two areas currently have no parking restrictions.

Therefore, the Parish Council would respectfully request that the applicant gives consideration to using the conservatory area at the rear of the site for some on-site parking and then resubmit the application.

ii) DOV/25/00137 | Erection of a rear extension (Existing conservatory to be demolished) | 1 Hazeldown Close, River, CT17 0NJ - No comments.

iii) DOV/25/00208 | Erection of two storey side and single storey side extensions, outbuilding, two bay carport, wall/gate, widening of driveway and alterations to door/window (outbuilding, garage, and single storey side extension to be demolished) | St.Radigund's Abbey Farm, Abbey Road, Dover, CT15 7DL

iv) DOV/25/00209 | Erection of 2 storey extension with attached garden wall & single storey building to west elevation. Erection of single storey extension to east elevation. Internal works to include: demolition of existing & erection of new partition walls to all floors; introduction of sun tunnels to roof; installation of staircase from ground to 1st floor; installation of staircase from ground to basement; insulated lining of external walls; introduction of glazed doors to porch & replacement door & window to south elevation. | St.Radigund's Abbey Farm, Abbey Road, Dover, CT15 7DL

The St.Radigund's Abbey Farm applications will be carried over due to the weight of documentation.

b) Any decisions by Dover District Council

None

36. TO REVIEW THE HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Clerk had previously circulated the 2024 Highway Improvement Plan which is now due to be updated. All outstanding items have been dealt with. Clerk has received suggestions from members of the public: lack of pedestrian crossing facility at the Crabble Hill junction to allow safe access to the Dover-bound bus stop; request for an extension of the double yellow lines on the section of the London Road beyond the Crabble Hill traffic lights; query about the location of the new pedestrian signs before the Kearsney Railway Bridge.

It was agreed to ask Kent Highways to consider options to convert the existing traffic lights to provide pedestrian crossing facility also to ask if the Kearsney Railway Bridge signage is correctly positioned. Any further matters should be passed on to the Clerk prior to his meeting with Kent Highways.

37. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON RIVER DOUR INITIATIVES

Cllr. Innes has had meeting with White Cliffs Countryside Partnership to discuss possible funding and also to look at areas of the river which could be improved. WCCP have already applied for Environment Agency funding and have agreed to add habitat improvement in River if funds allow. It was agreed to go ahead with an Advisory Visit from the Wild Trout Trust on 4th April at a cost of £106. This will provide a written report on where modest habitat improvement could take place. Cllr. Innes asked for the visit to be publicised online.

Temple Ewell are interested in collaborating and have invited Cllr. Innes to do a presentation on potential projects on 29th April.

38. TO DISCUSS ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Cllr. Innes questioned whether there could be greater publicity and a possible different venue. Options include Crabble Corn Mill or the River School Hall. The Village Hall is fully booked on Tuesday evenings. After discussion, it was agreed that Councillors give the matter some thought and the item will be on the agenda for next month. Cllr. Innes will check the availability of Crabble Corn Mill.

39. ISSUES RAISED REGARDING ASSETS AND SERVICES IN ANY FUTURE DEVOLUTION

Following Kent County Council's recent rejection from the government's fast-track devolution scheme, the possibilities of what may happen in the event of future devolution were discussed.

40. FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) To receive a Financial Report

A full digital report for the last month had previously been circulated to Councillors. Clerk provided a report on income and expenditure at the meeting. Also an updated annual income and expenditure and outcome for the 2024/25 financial year.

b) To discuss possible participation in the Kearsney Abbey play area refurbishment project

Further to the presentation by District Council officers at last month's meeting, two possible methods of support for the refurbishment project were discussed: a partnership with financial contribution allowing the Parish Council to have an input to some project decisions; or a partnership without financial support and a reduced level of involvement.

It was agreed, by majority of five to one, that: other surrounding parish councils and the town council should be asked if they would also support the project; also that assistance be provided to resolve the delay in the planning application for change of use for the ground floor of Flint House in the Recreation Ground to a community meeting room. Clerk was asked to draft a letter to DDC Parks and Open Spaces.

c) Appeal from the Kent and Sussex Air Ambulance

An appeal has been received from the Kent Air Ambulance charity. After discussion, Cllr. Taylor proposed that £500 be granted to Kent Air Ambulance. This was agreed by majority of four to three.

41. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED BY THE DATE OF THE MEETING

a) Parking Strategy Engagement Meeting

Dover District Council have invited a Councillor to attend an engagement session on 26th March with consultants on the upcoming parking strategy. Chair said she is happy to attend.

42. ANY ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

As the date of the Dover Regatta has now been announced and this clashes with the date of the River Fete, a possible change in date was discussed. Cllr. Atkins has sought the views of some attendees. She is not available the previous week and the following week is the first weekend of the school summer holidays. In the light of this, it was agreed to keep the existing date of Sunday 13th July.

Cllr. Taylor said he was pleased see an increased attendance by members of the public this month.

Meeting closed at 9.05pm