

RIVER PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING/ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Held at 7pm on Tuesday 13th May 2025 at River Methodist Church

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. A. Denyer (Parish Clerk) and 6 members of the public

Meeting started at 7.25pm due to technical issues.

53. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr. Styles-Martin

54. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN & DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF THIS OFFICE

Cllr. Taylor nominated Cllr. Dixon as Chairman of the Parish Council for the year ahead. This was seconded by Cllr. Atkins and, there being no other nominations, Cllr. Dixon was duly elected as Chairman by unanimous vote and signed the Declaration of Office.

55. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Cllr. Dixon nominated Cllr. Beresford as Vice Chairman of the Parish Council for the year ahead. This was seconded by Cllr. Jones and, there being no other nominations, Cllr. Beresford was duly elected for the year ahead.

56. SIGNING OF THE CIVILITY AND RESPECT PLEDGE

Chairman formally signed the NALC Civility and Respect Pledge as previously agreed at the Parish Council meeting in February 2025 and recorded in the minutes as item 26.

Annual General Meeting closed at 7.30pm and was immediately followed by the Annual Parish Meeting.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

57. REPORT ON THE PREVIOUS YEAR 2024/2025

Chairman

The Parish Council has moved forward quickly in the last couple of years. The Council is financially secure, the cost of the Recreation Ground is much less than it once was. The Recreation Ground is in very good condition, the play areas are well used, football is thriving with Dover Rangers F.C., as is the bowling club who now have full responsibility for maintaining their own facilities. Unfortunately, the tennis club are not doing as well. The Grounds continues to remain unlocked and any damage resulting remains minimal. The project to re-purpose the building in the Recreation Ground has been delayed and, as a result, will be more costly. It is hoped the project will be moving forward soon and the building can be used for Council Meetings and by local community groups. The Parish Council will be seeking feedback at the Summer Fete as to what residents would like to see the new Community Room used for as well as other ideas for the village.

Parish Clerk

The Parish Clerk gave a presentation on the accounts for the previous year which are appended to these minutes.

58. PRESENTATION ‘OUR FINEST DOUR’ BY CLLR. INNES

Cllr. Innes gave an illustrated presentation on the importance of the River Dour both locally and in the national context of a chalk stream – 1 of 200 in the world, 85% of which found in England, supporting unique and important wildlife. He outlined the issues facing the river, opportunities for volunteering and the partnerships which the Parish Council are forming to improve the upper Dour. The volunteering opportunities include local ‘citizen projects’ which the Parish Council will be seeking to initiate.

Meeting closed at 8.15pm