

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RIVER PARISH COUNCIL

Held at 7pm on Tuesday 10th June 2025 in River Methodist Church

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. A. Denyer (Parish Clerk), County Cllr. Thorp and 3 members of the public

59. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr. Dixon, Cllr. Innes and Cllr. Jones

60. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none

61. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) Parish Council Meeting 08.04.2025

The minutes of the meeting held on 8th April 2025 had previously been circulated. Cllr. Shariff proposed that the minutes represented a true record of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr. Atkins and all agreed.

b) AGM / Annual Parish Meeting 13.05.2025

The minutes of the meeting held on 8th April 2025 had previously been circulated. Cllr. Beresford proposed that the minutes represented a true record of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr. Taylor and all agreed.

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

Item 42c(iv) Speedwatch: Cllr. Shariff asked if any action would be taken as a result of the recent speedwatch session results. Chair responded that some of the drivers caught speeding would be receiving letters from the police.

63. REPORTS

a) District and County Councillors

County Cllr. Thorp introduced himself. He has already had a meeting with Kent Highways and is interested in being involved in highways and transportation, as well as SEND, at Kent County Council.

b) Parish Councillors

i) Cllr. Atkins will be away for the next meeting but asked that the rota for the Summer Fete be discussed.

ii) Cllr. Styles-Martin has received an email from the Managing Director of Stagecoach Southeast confirming that the missing flag from the Bus Stop on The Ridgeway will be replaced on 6th July. No further information received on possible funding for the replacement bus shelter on Lewisham Road.

iii) Cllr. Shariff reported that the new lamp post required on Cowper Road has been installed but no working light as yet.

c) Policing

No report

d) Parish Clerk

i) Kent F.A. have agreed to be the partner signatory on the Community Use Agreement for the Recreation Ground Community Meeting Room.

ii) Clerk has been in contact with the Planning Manager at Sport England who has agreed to speak with DDC Planning Department about the delay in reconsulting over the planning applications for Flint House.

iii) The delivery of the planters has been delayed due to production problems and is now scheduled for the week beginning 23rd June.

iv) The results of the London Road ATC Survey have been received and will be on the agenda for next month.

v) Notes from the meeting at DDC regarding forthcoming Local Government Reorganisation have previously been circulated. Clerk will be attending a further meeting organised by KALC during June.

vi) A quarterly networking meeting for Parish Clerks is now being hosted by DDC. Topics discussed at the first meeting included lack of banking services, lack of enforcement with regard to parking and planning from DDC, speeding and antisocial behaviour (particularly nuisance bikes). There is also a problem with the lack of reporting to the police meaning that they are not receiving intelligence as to the scale and location of ASB problems.

64. ANY QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

- i) Query as to the disappearance of 'No Fishing' notices, particularly along Lower Road.
- ii) Query as to vegetation/bushes encroaching onto the pavement. It was confirmed that this is the responsibility of the householder or landowner.

65. PLANNING MATTERS

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

- i) DOV/25/00450 | Fell to ground level one Beech (T1) the subject of Tree Preservation Order No 3 of 1996 | Russelldene, 105B London Road, River, CT16 3AA - No comments.
- ii) DOV/25/00522 | Proposed change of use for camping and associated facilities | Holmstone Wood, Crabble Lane, River, Kent - Supports.
- iii) DOV/25/00518 | Extension to existing dropped kerb | 96 Lewisham Road, River, Dover, CT17 0PB - No comments.
- iv) DOV/25/00542 | Installation of a air source heat pump | 5 Luckhurst Road, River, CT17 0PE - No comments.

b) Any decisions made by Dover District Council

- i) DOV/25/00354 | Certificate of Lawfulness (Proposed) for the erection of a rear dormer extension and 2x front velux to facilitate loft conversion | 100 Lower Road, River, Dover, CT17 0RD – Certificate Proposed Granted
- ii) DOV/25/00197 | Crown raise to 5.2m on roadside of canopy of one Purple Leaf Plum the subject of Tree Preservation Order No10 of 1980 | Lower Road, River, CT17 0UX – Grant Advertisement Consent
- iii) DOV/25/00336 | Erection of 2 dwellings with associated parking and EV charging points (existing garages to be demolished) | River Garage, River Street, River, CT17 0RB – permission granted.

66. FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) To receive and approve the annual internal audit report

The annual internal audit report was received and approved.

b) To receive and approve the Annual Governance Statement 2024/25

The Annual Governance Statement was reviewed, approved and signed by the Chair.

c) To receive and approve the Accounting Statement 2024/25

The accounting statement for 2024/25 was received, approved and signed by the Chair. Clerk will now submit the completed Annual Governance and Accounting Return for the Year ended 31st March 2025. The period for the exercise of public rights of inspection will begin on Monday 30th June. A final copy of the submission will be circulated to Councillors.

d) Financial Report for April/May 2025

The full digital financial report including bank statements had previously been circulated. Clerk reviewed the transactions for April and May 2025.

e) To receive a proposal to purchase a data projector

A proposal was received to purchase a data projector to allow materials to be more easily shared at meetings without the need for paper copies. The model recommended is the Epson EB-E20 at a cost of approx. £300. The purchase was proposed by Cllr. Styles-Martin and seconded by Cllr. Shariff. All agreed.

67. RECREATION GROUND MATTERS

a) Annual Play Area Safety Inspection

The annual play area safety inspection has been received. All items were found to be in good order. It is believed that the only issues raised have already been fixed following the regular quarterly inspection and maintenance. Clerk will confirm.

b) Recreation Ground Signage

Temporary signage confirming the opening times of the toilets and emergency contact details have been put up. Permanent signage will follow shortly.

c) Recreation Ground Suicide Awareness Bench

A request to install a Suicide Awareness Bench, in memory of a family member, which includes contact information for people seeking help and is lit by a solar light at night was discussed and approved. Clerk was requested to get a costing for a plinth underneath the bench. Clerk is to arrange a meeting with the family to discuss a site for the bench.

d) To review the draft Flint House Community Room funding plan

Cllr. Shariff went through the draft of the plan. There will be a need to demonstrate the need for the facility from the community for funding purposes and the planned consultations will provide this evidence. The possibility of several consultations including one at the fete were discussed.

68. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED BY THE DATE OF THE MEETING

a) Pavilion Meadow & Chisnall Road Residents Association – Lower Road Junctions

A request has been received for double yellow lines around the junctions where Lower Road meets Pavilion Meadow and Chisnall Road. Cars parked very close to both junctions make it dangerous for vehicles emerging onto Lower Road. Clerk was asked to discuss with Kent Highways.

b) Dover District Council - Kearsney Abbey Play Area Refurbishment

DDC have replied to the letter sent regarding the Play Area Refurbishment at Kearsney Abbey, understanding that the Parish Council cannot commit financially to the project due to uncertainty over the Flint House project and confirming that they will continue to engage with the Parish Council as the project progresses.

c) Complaint about early morning mowing at the Recreation Ground

A resident has complained about mowing taking place at the Recreation Ground beginning at 6.30am one morning. The resident requested that the grounds be locked at night or, if not, that seating be moved away from residential areas and CCTV be installed at the Crabble Lane Play Area. Chair suggested that the suggestions be discussed at the next meeting.

69. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Nothing further.

Meeting closed at 8.25pm