

Cliffsend Parish Council

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

Held on Thursday 17th March 2022 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Meetings of the Council are recorded. AV recordings are retained only until draft minutes are adopted as a true record.

Present – Cllr Lyon (Chair), Cllr Harrison, Gary Fricker, Judith Fricker, Alison Willoughby-Browne (Clerk), DCllr Rogers and 7 members of the public.

- 80/21-22 Welcome and apologies for absence** - Cllr Lyon welcomed those present, Clerk advised that the proceedings were being recorded. Apologies received from Cllr Barton and DCllr Rattigan.
- 81/21-22 Declarations of interest and co-option of new Councillors** - no declarations of interest. Judith and Gary Fricker met with Cllrs in March, then a further meeting with Vice-Chairman and Clerk when Declarations of Acceptance were read, signed and countersigned by Clerk; they were welcomed as Cllrs.
- 82/21-22 Adoption of the minutes of 20th January 2022 as being a true record** - 20th January minutes proposed by Cllr Lyon, seconded by Cllr Harrison, motion carried. Cllr Lyon signed the minutes as a true record.
- 83/21-22 Matters arising from the above minutes** - none other than to be discussed.
- 84/21-22 Working Party & Councillor Reports** -
District Cllr – received lots of enquiries about new council tax portal; paying via computer (can still pay by direct debit through Council offices). Real-time information on bins, collections etc now available online (www.wasteservices.thanet.gov.uk). 75% of people are satisfied that Pegwell and Cliffsend are a good place to live. Cllr J Fricker commented that we will have to change the minds of the other 25%.
- Meadow and Open Spaces – contractor has cut Cliffsend Rd hedging 1st March, later than expected, first request made 21st January. Clearing brambles is not in the remit of Minster Council so Parish Council will address. Cllr J Fricker stated that fly tipping of garden waste was occurring in the meadow, appears to be directly from shrubs in gardens. **Clerk to write to residents of Nicholas Drive.**
- 85/21-22 Financial Matters** -
Fourth budget review of financial year; had been distributed to Cllrs, the budget was compared with spend to date. Cllrs also checked the bank statement against accounts; reconciled with bank balance at 28th February - £46,204.71 (includes Highways Improvement Plan funds, reserves and March payments). Proposed by Cllr Harrison, seconded by Cllr Lyon, all in favour.

Cllrs G Fricker and Harrison approved the payment schedule and supporting paperwork (payments for Village Hall already made). Contractual payment: Clerk's salary, Harmer & Sons (meadow maintenance). The following payments were proposed by Cllr Harrison, seconded by Cllr J Fricker, motion carried.

March Payments

Payee	Description	Invoice No	Method	VAT	Excl VAT	Total
Village Hall	Late cancellation of booking	-	Transfer	-	24.00	24.00
Village Hall	HIP/March hire	-	Transfer	-	42.00	42.00
D J Buckett	Internal Auditor fees 2020/21	1291	Transfer	-	475.20	475.20
Gallagher	Council insurance	481848606	Transfer	-	501.51	501.51
KCC	Modification of traffic lights	900146837	Transfer	296.50	1482.52	1779.02
Clerk	Home Working Allowance	-	Transfer	-	312.00	312.00
Clerk	Telephone calls	-	Transfer	-	8.01	8.01
Clerk	Mobile phone top-up	-	Transfer	-	10.00	10.00
SEiB	Parish in Bloom entry	-	Transfer	-	25.00	25.00
Total				296.50	2880.24	3176.74

Harmer & Sons – hedging invoice outstanding, to pay if completed by end of March.

86/21-22 Public Questions -

Resident questioned whether the overgrowth by the bus stop had been reported - pampas grass encroaching onto footpath - Cllr Lyon had contacted KCC.

Resident asked when the grass verges will be cut – KCC. Re-opening of Viking Café discussed (Friday 1st April). Cllr G Fricker wondered whether whoever has Viking café automatically has control of gate – yes, Cllr Harrison advised that leaving open resulted in cars parking overnight, would be good if someone could open during the day and close at night.

Resident – why are the Council spending £2k a year of taxpayers' money to maintain the meadow when all it can be used for is dog-walking? A long discussion ensued, resident asked whether there are plans for the Parish Council to make the landowner's proposals for the meadow knowledge to the village? Long history of communication with landowner – proposal; 2/3 of meadow would be returned to the landowner and a barn erected, however, the lease would have to be altered. Legal paperwork only obtained from solicitors last year. Cllr Harrison claimed she knew nothing about previous meetings with landowner.

87/21-22 Planning Applications -

F/TH/22/0083 Sportsman Inn (alterations to cabrio rooflights front elevation). Concern that with building to corner, view will be obscured.

FH/TH/21/1910 The Old Farm Shop, Cliffsend Rd (erection of dormer windows/loft conversion)

FH/TH/22/0186 18 Cliffsend Road (erection of dormer windows/loft conversion)

FH/TH/22/0236 6 Cliffsend Grove (erection of dormer windows/rooflights/loft conversion)

Nothing for our concern, application for shop officially withdrawn.

88/21-22 Current Topics -

Auditor report 2020/21 – received in January and circulated to Cllrs; 16 findings/comments using a traffic light system, low risk – green, medium risk - yellow and high risk - red, Council received 16 green.

Update on Highways Improvement Plan (20mph proposal) – plans were available to view at coffee mornings, evening meeting, noticeboards and website; feedback forms to gauge opinions. Double yellow lines, lighting and modification of traffic lights completed, next stage is to vote on whether we go ahead with proposal, nothing decided as yet. Proposal includes Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) which gives residents opportunity to object, feedback so far very positive. Funding is in place, if we don't spend on HIP then it would probably have to be returned; Southern Water £10k, WW Martin/Orbit £5k, Millwood Homes £2,500. Cllr G Fricker asked about the roads that may be affected by Thanet Parkway; previously resident parking was mooted, will have to address if residents have problems when station up and running. The plans were designed by KCC – based on speed surveys. Resident who examined plans stated that parked cars make a natural chicane to slow traffic down. Cllr G Fricker was concerned that only 10 residents had left views on feedback forms and proposed that before approving the plans we should go ahead with the TRO, seconded by Cllr Lyon, all in favour. Cllr Harrison questioned whether it was possible to have the Parish Council meetings on another night (as often clash with TDC meetings) **Clerk to find out which days are available.**

Cliffsend re-wilding – Cllr J Fricker suggested that it would be good to involve children; conservation engagement with Kent Wildlife Trust e.g. Adonis butterfly particular to this area, what to plant and where, hedgehog highway houses, forest school in play area using wood from the forest. Could use some of S106 funding (youth projects) for raised beds, herbs, rhubarb, nature garden, vegetable growing.

Funding/S106 monies – BAM Nuttall are confident in ensuring funding for the trees, Council will have to approach landowners. Response from TDC re' S106, last May it was suggested that someone would liaise with us, finding out why the process stalled. TDC have suggested goals; more durable, tiger mulch under zip wire, awaiting RoSPA report. Cllr J Fricker stated that we should be asking children what they would like. Chair of Hall Management Committee suggested a boxing club in the Village Hall supported by the Council.

Clerk had contacted Monson Homes (Canterbury Road West development) re' S106 monies; payment of £2,169,033 to be made to KCC for education contributions and CCG (Clinical Commissioning Groups) for GP surgeries to extend or revamp surgeries in area. The developer stated in paperwork that they would like to see S106 monies going to local community but how this is spent is down to KCC and TDC.

Update on Post Office outreach service – consultation period finished 3rd February, awaiting feedback. Email from resident wondering what elderly residents are supposed to do, Clerk also spoke with residents at Coffee Morning. Resident was going to ask around to see if a bus service would be welcomed. An apology was received from Post Office Ltd re' the original letter that went out. Cllr Harrison had investigated options for a bus service – couldn't get any of the shops that would benefit to subsidise/fund, £4 return fare but it was felt that people wouldn't want to pay that. Clerk explained situation to Monson Homes; transport systems for Thanet Parkway being evaluated, it might be that things improve because of the developments.

Cliffsend footpaths – changes to TR32 footpath leading from Clive Road – to create a cycle path for better access to Thanet Parkway; online consultation. Also footpath TE37 Cliffsend to Minster, closed temporarily due to presence of giant hogweed.

Jubilee celebrations – Cllr Barton has made enquiries re' lighting the beacon 2nd June. Celebrations in meadow mooted, will need community involvement. Cllr G Fricker asked whether Cliffsend Village Hall Committee and Parish Council could work together, the hall has been left available all weekend, Parish Council will need to come up with plans.

89/21-22 Clerk's Reports -

- Parish in Bloom entered for 2022, community involvement forms part of judging.
- Kent Wildlife Trust/Ramsgate Society beach cleaning; dates below.
- Clerk reminded Cllrs to make sure their Declarations of Pecuniary Interest were up-to-date.
- Old Coffee Morning account now closed, bank statement shows charities to which funds have been donated to.
- Southern Water will investigate our water supply if more residents contact - Water Quality Department of Southern Water - 0330 3030368.
- Buses – previous survey closed, improvement plan published, waiting for Government funding allocation for Kent. New consultation re' bus funding reduction, closes 20th April – https://letstalk.kent.gov.uk/bus-funding-reductions?tool=survey_tool
- Internal audit - 18th May 2022, will need an external audit this year as income exceeded £25k threshold.

90/21-22 Correspondence Received -

Resident – reason for withdrawal of Post Office facilities; not viable, discussed.

Thanet Area Committee (TAC) – response to TDC local Plan Review; approved for submission.

Resident – allocation of free trees for Cliffsend; waiting for confirmation from BAM Nuttall - significant funding, Parish Council have to sort out ownership of areas.

TAC – KALC carbon footprint calculator.

Action with Communities in Rural Kent – membership for 2022/23.

SECAMB – Staff Wellbeing Volunteer Recruitment; published information.

Walking in England – free walks to download and print; published.

Resident – S106 monies, planters; one of planters is rotting, the lining is letting water through and screws are not holding. Cllr Harrison suggested building it up with pallets for support.

CVHM – Post Office apology, trees to rear of Village Hall; Cllr Harrison contacted 5 different companies but only two responded, Cllr Lyon arranged for a further quotation. Quotations - £700, £550 and £360; removal of three sycamore stems which contact the new fence. Others have looked at trees, advised that stems should have been removed before fence was erected. Cllr J Fricker proposed that we accept the quote for £360, seconded by Cllr Lyon, all in favour.

TDC – Council budget approved for 2022/23.

Kevin Pressland – resignation from TDC.

Resident – update on twinning; advised that no further response from enquirer.

Resident – TDC mowing of bluebells - Earlsmead Crescent green; bluebells that Council funded were mown over, there was 4-5cm of growth. Cllr J Fricker advised that it may result in a better crop next year.

TDC – new online system for council waste services – wasteservices.thanet.gov.uk.

Resident – hazardous pavement Cliffsend Road; KCC informed.

Resident – Canterbury Rd West development/tree planting/maintenance issues/meadow; discussed, Youth Justice Service to be contacted for maintenance issues as short of beneficial things to do.

Kent Wildlife Trust – Pegwell Bay beach clean; 10/4/22, 27/6/22 volunteers needed.

Resident – withdrawal of Minster 3G pitch before start of school.

Resident – sponsored haircut in aid of Little Princess Trust, Coffee Morning 15/3/22.

Meeting concluded at 21:04