

Cliffsend Parish Council

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

Held on Thursday 14th January 2021 at 7.30pm via Zoom.

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

Present – Cllr Rogers (Chair), Cllr Ashley, Cllr Harrison, Cllr Mortimer, Cllr Pooley, Alison Willoughby-Browne (Clerk), DCllr Rattigan and one member of the public.

90/20-21 Welcome and apologies for absence - Cllr Lyon, Cllr Forrest, DCllr Rogers and PCSO Litchfield.

91/20-21 Declarations of interest - Cllr Ashley - Village Hall.

92/20-21 Adoption of the minutes of 10th December 2020 as being a true record - 10th December minutes proposed by Cllr Harrison and seconded by Cllr Rogers, all in favour. Chairman to sign the minutes as a true record.

93/20-21 Matters arising from the above minutes - at the last meeting it was proposed by Cllr Ashley and accepted by majority that we shouldn't increase the precept for the coming year. Cllr Rogers explained that since the meeting we have received communication from TDC giving us the proposed unit charge (Council Tax base). On that basis we cannot set the precept at the same level. Cllr Ashley proposed and Cllr Harrison seconded, that we accept the next amount available which would be an increase of £61 to £16,507. All were in favour.

The noticeboard on Canterbury Road West is damaged again. The budget provision of £1,500 to replace or refurbish has been removed. Will require re-instatement or funding repairs from contingency. Cllr Pooley has a price-list for noticeboards.

94/20-21 Working Party & Councillor Reports -

District Cllr – DCllr Rattigan updated the Council regarding the Sportsman Inn application; officers looking at approving recommendation of application, called-in and will be decided by panel, could be rejected again. There will be a 5% increase in Council Tax as there is a £900,000 deficit, there may also be redundancies. No news about a development by the rail track, Clive Road area. Cllr Harrison stated that if three trees are being planted for every one removed it is going to take a long time for them to mature. Noise levels have increased and track will be level with bedroom windows. Privacy could be compromised for quite a few houses in that stretch. Will there be any kind of barrier? DCllr Rattigan will enquire.

Cllr Rogers was surprised that the former nursery conversion to domestic residence was not granted permission. DCllr Rattigan couldn't see any problems. With the change to classes of use a D1 application is the same class as retail so it would benefit the village to get it back to residential.

PCSO – Cllr Rogers had received an email from another Parish Council which showed a regular input, and attendance to meetings, from PCSOs. We seem a bit neglected in this area. If encouraging people to report incidences then it is important that we have feedback.

Correspondence was received from PCSO Litchfield regarding the Southeast in Bloom Competition, with application form and photos of Ramsgate's entry last year. He stated that there was not much to report for Cliffsend - COVID has had a big impact. The PCSOs have visited the village regularly, particularly the areas of concern, they have explained the COVID rules to a group of youths.

Meadow and Open Spaces – Cllr Rogers has updated the meadow landowner on progress of discussions.

Highways – feedback had been received from Cllr Lyon regarding the extension of the double-yellow lines in Foads Lane. KCC are happy with the changes, Traffic Regulation Order still waiting to go ahead. Cllr Rogers understood if six people raise an objection in a designated area then it will go to a review, if they don't then proposals will go through. No objections raised so far. Cllr Harrison reported a near miss in Foads Hill, at junction of Clive Road; a car came from Seaview Road straight across at speed without stopping, fortunately a lady on a bicycle had slowed down. The 'Give Way' markings are indistinct and **KCC Highways need to be alerted to the inadequacy of road markings.**

Finance – nothing to report.

Youth – Cllr Pooley; quiet due to COVID restrictions, play area in poor condition.

95/20-21 Financial Matters - no items of expenditure since last meeting.

96/20-21 Public Questions -

Once again a resident expressed a need for closure on the bench relocations. Proposals have been made and seconded but no final decisions made. There are conflicting views and issues with both sitings that need to be addressed.

97/20-21 Planning Applications -

FH/TH/20/1583 46 Foads Lane (alteration of roof, erection dormer, porch)
FH/TH/20/1570 3 Mount Green Avenue (two storey front and side extension)
FH/TH/20/1544 1 Lavender Lane (retrospective application; 2m high fence)
F/TH/20/1676 Rear of 23 to 33 Foads Lane (erection of 2 detached dwellings)
F/TH/20/1735 23 Foads Hill (change of use from Nursery to dwelling)
FH/TH/20/1745 12 Earlsmead Crescent (erection of single storey rear extension)

Neighbours should make their views known through the planning portal.

Clerk had spoken with architect re 23 Foads Hill, it was refused as applicant hadn't considered the loss of community use by closing it down as a nursery; it has been closed since 2018.

They have a family ready to buy the property. DCllr Rattigan expressed concern that the owner is Action for Children; who is going in to the property? Is it being sold so that it could be used for something else in the future? Previous owner was Bart's. Just need to make sure that it is for domestic use, DCllr Rattigan will approach planning – happy to approve with a stipulation that it can't be used for other than domestic.

98/20-21 Current Topics -

Update on double-yellow lines – in December KCC were still waiting for contributions from the Kent County Councillors, once received they were going to progress with the Traffic Regulation Order.

Update on defibrillator – a lock specialist has examined the keypad and confirmed its failure. Clerk contacted Heartsafe (suppliers of the cabinet) who advised that the two-year warranty has now expired, a photo of keypad has been emailed for advice, Council telephone number is on cabinet for assistance if defibrillator is required.

Update on benches – discussed during Public Questions.

Update on training – Cllr Harrison, not easy to get responses at the moment. To follow-up.

Southeast in Bloom Competition/street cleaning – what is community feeling at the moment, who will help? Cliffsend Parish Council could financially support the initiative.

Noticeboard - Canterbury Road West, awaiting a quote if repairable.

Update on Village Hall – Cllr Ashley reported major problems with structure of Village Hall; damp, roof, gutters, floor. Mr Pooley is leading with a team of volunteers. Building surveyors/structural engineers have been contacted as it is no good repairing individual problems if the building is not structurally sound. The flooring contractor visited and stated that the floor is repairable. Obviously the problems with the roof and gutters will need to be addressed first. Cllr Harrison offered to look at the water-damaged curtains. The insurance company will be contacted.

Update on Sportsman Inn – with perseverance may be approved. A further objection was submitted by the Parish Council.

99/20-21 Clerk's Reports -

Clerk contacted Mr Iain Livingstone in TDC Planning twice last year re S106 and New Homes Bonus Payments; no response. An email has now been sent to Mr Bob Porter, awaiting a reply. Clerk was informed that S106 monies for the village developments are going to be put in a large pot and be allocated at the end of this month. Cllr Forrest had previously investigated these monies, maybe TDC have reviewed?

Contact from TDC about the precept and remittance advices after change of email address and bank details.

Overflowing bin at the Hugin reported to TDC, also pursued the covering of the Hugin, no response from the department as yet. A different source has suggested that it won't be covered this winter.

2 Old Hall Drive is looking a lot tidier, **Clerk to contact Enforcement Department to confirm they are happy with progress made.**

Complaints have been received about the state of roads in Cliffsend – decaying leaves etc; reported and paperwork raised to sweep the roads. Cllr Rogers explained that this is one of the services covered by Council Tax and that if areas are neglected TDC must be informed. Cllr Pooley offered to take photos of affected areas.

Highways Group member has concerns about two areas. (1) the quality of the surface of the central island on the Sandwich Road at the bottom of Foads Lane. (2) Cliffsend Road. Land fronting the duck pond is wet and muddy. Unsuitable as a pedestrian refuge and would be better if a hard surface could be installed. Need to verify ownership of the strip contained within kerb.

Southern Water has been contacted after a resident advised that a wooden post in the car park opposite the Sportsman Inn needs to be replaced. This was due to be carried out at the same time as the kerbstones.

100/20-21 Correspondence Received -

- Kent Community Housing Hub - local rural housing issues.
- Census Engagement Manager - raising awareness for Census 21/3/2021; online completion so trying to engage Councils to encourage those that may have difficulty filling in the forms to complete them.
- Kent NRSWA Coordinator – frame and cover repairs to manhole Foads Lane 6/4/2021, road closed for 1-2 days; to publish.

The meeting concluded at 21:01

Date of next meeting – **11th February 2021**