

# Cliffsend Parish Council

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting  
Held on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2020 at 7.30pm via Zoom.

Present – Cllr Rogers (Chair), Cllr Ashley, Cllr Harrison, Cllr Mortimer, Cllr Forrest, Cllr Lyon, Alison Willoughby-Browne (Clerk), DCllr Rattigan.

**56/20-21 Welcome and apologies for absence** - Cllr Pooley and DCllr Rogers. Cllr Rogers advised that the proceedings were being video-recorded.

**57/20-21 Declarations of interest** - none.

**58/20-21 Adoption of the minutes of 17<sup>th</sup> September 2020 as being a true record** - 17<sup>th</sup> September minutes proposed by Cllr Harrison and seconded by Cllr Lyon, all in favour. Chairman to sign the minutes as a true record.

**59/20-21 Matters arising from the above minutes** - no matters arising, other than those on agenda.

**60/20-21 Working Party & Councillor Reports** -  
DCllr – planning application for 6 cottages in Pegwell has been dismissed. Cllr Forrest asked whether there was any proposed development between the railway line and Clive Road in Cliffsend; a resident had suggested that the removal of trackside trees was due to new houses being built. DCllr Rattigan to investigate, he also advised of a new tree policy where the removal of trees will incur hefty fines if developers don't adhere to the rules.

PCSO – Clerk had reported observations from the last meeting to PCSO Litchfield. Via email, he advised that there are now three PCSOs serving Cliffsend, all on different shifts so hopefully they will have the village covered.

Meadow and Open Spaces – estimates are in for meadow and hedge cutting, to be discussed and then reported to full Council in November. Mr Barton is prepared to be a member of the Working Party, three benches need attention.

Highways – (report circulated) concrete posts have now been installed in the car park opposite Sportsman Inn. KCC have been slow in responding to issues raised by the Highways Improvement Plan. Southern Water have reported that Foads Lane/Sandwich Road will be open by the end of this month, Sandwich Road will be open by the end of the year and the new pipe should be operational through to Richborough Processing Plant by the end of March, tankers will be present until complete. The opening of Sandwich Road should take traffic away from Cottington Road where work has commenced, the Contracts Manager has been contacted as a road sweeper caused chaos at school-run time. Dumper trucks through the village were a temporary measure, they are now using Sandwich Road. Whilst cement is being laid at Cottington Road developments, lorries will have to come through the village as they are too high for the bridge.

Finance – the Working Party examined the Council's accounts and bank statements in detail. The accounts are recorded accurately, in appropriate categories and reconciled. The budget was compared with actual income and expenditure. Due to economic inactivity, several planned items of expenditure have not been taken up. There are no significant adverse variances to bring to the attention of the Council. Our cash balance is tending towards £7,000 higher than planned. The Council cannot commit to expenditure that has not been planned, so any current year surplus may influence where we wish to go next year. Cllr Forrest asked for an end-of-year forecast, to be advised before next meeting.

Youth – Cllr Pooley is lead; meeting soon to discuss the way forward, the key issue is engaging with young people, looking to bring in members from the community to work with, and guide, the Council.

**61/20-21 Financial Matters** - Clerk's interim award, effective from October 1<sup>st</sup>.

**62/20-21 Public Questions** - no members of public present.

**63/20-21 Planning Applications** -  
F/TH/20/0949 9 Oakland Court (agricultural land to residential garden) – DCllr Rattigan offered to investigate.

F/TH/20/1160 26 Old Hall Drive (air conditioning units) – no comments.

No objections to either submitted on TDC portal.

Vice-Chairman suggested that some applications are more important to local neighbours; if they have any input then they should be driving these issues rather than the Parish Council. Vice-Chairman would like to set up an Infrastructure Planning Group to look at larger projects that have an impact on the whole of our community, with support from representatives from other groups and members of the community. **Cllr Ashley to compile ideas for the next meeting**, he recommended that the Council should raise awareness to applications through the website. Cllr Harrison stated that the less significant applications would probably be passed now, due to new building regulations.

The Chairman had submitted a majority objection to the Sportsman Inn proposal, he reiterated concerns regarding the height and questions regarding hospitality; bikers' café and micro-pub. DCllr Rattigan had discussed the application with Jenny Suttle as little difference between the last application and current. There were 7 objections to the previous application and 13 against the latest, including a Kent Police statement (layout to rear of property lacks natural surveillance, flat roofs could be used for climbing) also Southern Water re' drainage and KCC parking concerns. Worries are the new act regarding change of use and that people will get tired of the appearance of the derelict hostelry and settle for anything in its place.

**64/20-21 Current Topics** -

- Southern Water bench – Cllrs Lyon and Harrison suggested two different sites on Hugin's Green. Cllr Ashley said that until we know the turning circle dimensions for wheelchair users we cannot put anything in place. **Clerk to re-contact advisor to ask for statistics of floor space required.** Cllr Forrest asked if the Salty Seal at the nature reserve is still an option, there may be a Health and Safety issue as to how much space is required between cars and wheelchair users. Cllr Forrest reported that there is now a disabled garden beside the toilet block at the nature reserve where a raised garden has been created for wheelchair access, a path leads through shrubs to Salty Seal. **Cllr Ashley to follow up.**
- Meadow matters – to be discussed at next meeting.
- Highways Improvement Plan – double yellow lines (DYL) - 5 separate locations within village, residents have been asking for this for a number of years.

To change the use of the highway a Traffic Regulation Order needs to be issued this will cost £3,750.73, excluding DYL. KCC members have committed £2k, Southern Water £5-10k, Highways Group are requesting £1750.73 from the Parish Council to allow the Traffic Regulation Order to go ahead. Cllr Forrest has spoken to residents, all supportive, also suggested three or four other areas but KCC will not apply if they feel there is a problem. Areas are – Sandwich Road/Cliffsend Road; extension of DYL, Cliffsend Grove into Foads Lane, Cliffsend Road/Foads Lane and Foads Lane into Cottington Road (2 areas). The Chair did question where the cars parked in these locations will park when the DYL are applied, also would the DYL enable drivers to go faster? Funding was proposed by Cllr Harrison, seconded by Cllr Lyon, all in favour.

- Thanet Parkway – a controlled parking zone within 400m from access to the station has been suggested by developers. A parking beat survey will be carried out where streets are surveyed on two separate days of the week between midnight and 2.30am to see where cars are parked; Lambeth model. The Parish Council should get ahead of that to see what residents think – mail drop asking simple questions such as how many cars in household/where they park/regular visitors, so that we get a good picture of who is using the roads. **Cllr Forrest will develop a questionnaire over the next couple of months.** Gratis resident permits were mentioned, people should not be made to pay to park where they have been parking for years. The whole village could be affected.

#### **65/20-21 Clerk's Reports –**

- After the last meeting, an email was sent to Cllr Iain Livingstone regarding the New Homes Bonus Payments, S106 monies and a village plan.
- Planning Enforcement is investigating 2 Old Hall Drive.
- New Council email addresses are being used, contact has been made with Hugo Fox regarding the domain name, will probably need telephone support from IONOS to set up.
- A further email was sent to Environmental Health regarding the mosquitoes, an additional check of the breeding grounds was carried out; four main areas, lots of surface water but no mosquitoes in the air. There were larvae in one of the four areas but at an advanced stage, therefore, spraying would be ineffective. The next visit is early January but they are more than happy to visit any areas that we think may be a problem, there may be other species that Environmental Health are not aware of.

Cllr Harrison advised about flooding on Cottington Road by St Augustine's Cross, **Cllr Forrest to raise with KCC.**

#### **66/20-21 Correspondence Received -**

- Resident – Sportsman Inn; is the Parish Council opposing as before? Advised of September meeting discussion.
- CVHC – co-option of trustees; Cllr Ashley to be Parish Council Representative Trustee; forms have been submitted, awaiting acknowledgement. Chairman thanked Cllr Forrest for giving advice to Committee re' the trees and gulleys, TDC have been in touch.
- CVHC – Parish Council meetings; virtual meetings until end of year? Advised that national guidelines recommend that we continue to hold meetings remotely, we would like to reserve Thursday evenings.
- Resident – Southern Water bench; advised of history of the bench and that the Parish Council would welcome any suggestions.

The meeting concluded at 20:57

Date of next meeting – TBA