

CLIFFSEND PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Held on Tuesday 8th March 2018 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall

Members Present. - Parish Councillors Blaydes (Chairman), Searle, Francis-Cable,
Hellyer & Lyon

In Attendance - 6 members of the community, and District Cllr Townend

110/17-18 Welcome & Apologies

Apologies from Cllr Hovenden, Community Warden Tony Gander, and PCSO John Litchfield. Due to the absence of the clerk, the Kent County Councillors may not have been reminded of this meeting.

Cllr Blaydes opened the meeting and explained the safety procedures.

111/17-18 Declarations of interest

None

112/17-18 Adoption of minutes of 8th February 2018 as being a true record.

Cllr Hellyer proposed minutes be adopted, Seconded **Cllr Francis-Cable** – all in favour.

113/17-18 Matters arising from the above minutes.

Grounds Maintenance Officer.

Cllr Blaydes has drawn up a draft Contract of Employment. The contractor and all councillors present have agreed to this document, and a copy was given to **Cllr Hellyer** to pass to the contractor for signature.

Replacement Clerk

Cllr Blaydes reported that advertising for a new clerk locally, and on the KALC website, had not resulted in any applications. He proposed that we advertise the vacancy with the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC). After discussion it was proposed by **Cllr Blaydes** and agreed by all to pay for the Silver Job Advert package (includes SLCC website and Twitter) for 2 weeks, at a cost of £185+VAT. **Cllr Blaydes** will arrange.

(The clerk resigned due to nearly 6 years of harassment from certain factions within the village community. Any candidate for the clerk's position will have to be informed of this history.)

CPC Bank Account

On 3rd Mar **Cllr Blaydes** changed the registered address for the CPC account with HSBC from the previous clerk's address to his own.

114/17-18 Reports

F & GP Committee Report – as F & GP minutes.

District Cllr Townend - referred to the current changes at TDC after the resignation of the previous leader.

Community Warden emailed - he has been moving around, logging and reporting to KCC potholes caused by bad weather last week and work needed on hedges (e.g. Cottington Road)

Cllr Hellyer has obtained sand-weighted cones & a "Man at Work" sign for the General maintenance man to use when working on roads without pavements – e.g. Foads Hill below the Railway Crossing.

Cllr Lyon asked again if the junction & bend at Foads Lane / Foads Hill / Cliffsend Road can be improved, at least marked with a "Slow" sign, after 3 cars crashed there in the ice & snow last week - coming very close to hitting residents & children

in their own gardens The vehicles demolished a garden wall & the side of a garage. **Cllr Blaydes** had contacted KCC about the hazardous state of the junction and it was then gritted. This junction is on the 42 bus route, but due to the continued bad weather KCC only managed to grit primary routes, and the 42 bus route is a secondary route. These accidents give more evidence to KCC of the danger of this junction.

Cllr Francis-Cable asked about SpeedWatch. This is now organised and the equipment supplied through the Community Warden and the councillor should get in touch with him. The separate speed logging in the village, which uses automated equipment which records speeds and numbers of vehicles (but not number plates), was scheduled to start in Jan but has been delayed due to software problems with the equipment. It will be moved to various locations to record for a day or two in each location. **Cllr Francis-Cable** would like to be involved in any speed reduction associated work. **Cllr Lyon** reported persistent speeding on the Sandwich Road; residents have to stand on the pedestrian crossing to protect children from speeding vehicles when the children are using the crossing to get to / from the school buses. A resident enquired about speed humps to slow traffic. **Cllr Blaydes** stated that KCC are very reluctant to put these in; but we should supply evidence & then put pressure on KCC to look again at village speeding problems.

115/17-18 Public Questions – no decisions made

Resident stated that during the bad weather last week vehicles attempting to go up Foads Hill had to reverse back down due to lack of gritting; a Network Rail employee who was at the railway crossing cleared the road below the crossing because it was impassable.

Asked if CPC can request KCC to prioritise the Foads Lane / Foads Hill / Cliffsend Road junction. **Cllr Blaydes** confirmed that the Community Warden will carry out speed checks once the equipment is available. **Cllr Searle** reported that a previous councillor (John Alexander) had produced plans to try to improve road safety in the village, particularly Cottington Road and railway bridge signage and traffic calming along Foads Lane / Foads Hill / railway crossing. However, KCC would not consider these due to “lack of fatalities” on these roads.

Asked if CPC can purchase a “Welcome to Cliffsend” sign to replace the one which was stolen from the gateway on Canterbury Road West?

116/17-18 Financial Matters

There are no bills to be approved this month.

117/17-18 Current Topics

Meadow Lease

Cllr Searle gave a brief resume of the history of the lease. The 125 year lease of the meadow to CPC, at peppercorn rent, was required by the s106 agreement for planning permission of the Chapman Fields housing estate - between Thanet District Council (TDC), Robert Chapman (the farmer who owns the land) and Millwood Homes (developers). CPC agreed to accept the meadow lease for recreational use by the community in 2006, but decided that to “save money” they would not employ a solicitor to check it, but just accept the draft lease drawn up by solicitors for Millwood Homes. However, this lease is not Land Registry compliant, which TDC require. CPC have been trying to get a new Land Registry compliant lease agreed with the farmer for over 2 years. The farmer has offered alternative land to try to persuade CPC to give up the meadow lease completely, which CPC has refused. He will sign a new lease if CPC agree that it will not be renewable at the end of the lease period; the current lease is renewable. CPC agreed to discuss it at the end of the 125 year lease period. The response is that farmer will not agree to a renewable new lease. So the process has reached an impasse. The current (non-Land Registry compliant) lease was accepted by the farmer, and he has chased CPC when the terms of that lease were not being met. So, although the

lease is not as required by TDC, the farmer has enforced the requirements for over 11 years and therefore accepted it as valid.

But CPC now have another problem in that we do not have a clerk. If we are unable to find a replacement shortly then CPC will have to be wound up. The lease is between CPC and the farmer, so what will happen to it if CPC ceases to exist? Will it be taken over by TDC – or not? Will the village lose the meadow completely? Our solicitor will try to find out, and CPC will try to find the Parish Council Constitution which should explain the winding up process. (TDC insisted that the lease was between the farmer and CPC, not TDC.)

Neighbourhood Plan

As in the 8th Mar 2018 F&GP minutes.

Beacon

Clerk asked TDC if CPC can use the TDC beacon on Hugin Green. No responses to date.

Village in Bloom

Cllr Francis-Cable has sourced some large planters. CPC need help from TDC to select the best locations. One could possibly go on the corner of Cliffsend Road / Foads Lane?

Defibrillator

Cllr Francis-Cable contacted the Village Hall committee and they have agreed that it can be positioned on the outside of the Hall. It needs a low power electrical supply to keep the unit “alive”; estimated running cost about £5 per year. **Cllr Hellyer** can get an electrician, and will get prices. The overall cost of the defibrillator (not including installing the power supply) is about £2,000. It was suggested that the Shop Committee could fund the defibrillator from the proceeds of the winding up of the Shop, but this is not legally permissible as all proceeds must be returned to the shareholders.

Summer Event

Cllr Francis-Cable reported that it is still “work in progress” by the residents who requested it – he will chase.

Salt Bins

Cllr Francis-Cable will ask Wingham Parish Council about how they go about covering the insurance, health and safety requirements for people using their salt spreader and storage of equipment. He has a quote for the bins in the region of £1,000 (incl VAT) and will send the written quote to **Cllr Blaydes**. The Community Warden will arrange for the bins to be filled. **Cllr Lyon** proposed that we purchase 5 salt bins, **seconded** **Cllr Hellyer**, all in favour.

118/17-18 Clerks report

None

119/17-18 Correspondence report

None

120/17-18 Any Other Business

Cllr Blaydes

General Data Protection Regulations

This will come into effect on 25 May 2018, and will affect CPC and all councillors own computer file storage. All councillors emails will need to be encrypted and the computers should have a power-on password. This will be on the agenda for April. Recommended shareware encryption software package is VeraCrypt, and MS Outlook email is encrypted automatically. **Cllr Blaydes** supplied printed information about GDPR to all councillors.

Clerk's Laptop

The clerk's laptop needs a power-on password and encryption. It has no back-up so **Cllr Blaydes** needs to purchase a back-up drive for it. **Cllr Lyon** proposed purchase of a suitable back-up drive, seconded **Cllr Hellyer**, all in favour. Cllr Blaydes will purchase the necessary items (expected cost <£50.00)

Meeting closed at 21.14 hrs.

Date of next meeting 12th April 2018 at 7.30pm.

Clerk to the Council: email: cliffsendparishcouncil@gmail.com