

Cliffsend Parish Council

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

Held on Tuesday 18th July 2023 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 G Fricker (Chair), Cllr Chapman (Vice-Chair), Cllr J Fricker, Cllr Harrison, Marcus Wilkinson, Alison Willoughby-Browne (Clerk), CCllr Shonk, DCllr Davis, PC Owen, Community Warden and 15 members of the public.

- 12/23-24 Welcome and apologies for absence** - Chairman welcomed those present, he gave an overview of meeting procedure for those who hadn't attended before. Also explained that if decisions are to be made during meeting on issues raised by the public, these need to be submitted at least 48 hours before the agenda is issued. Indicated emergency exits. Apologies received from DCllr Rogers and Cllr Smith.
- 13/23-24 Declarations of interest/Acceptance of Office and co-option of new Councillor** - no declarations of interest. Each Cllr read their Declaration of Acceptance of Office, signed and then countersigned by Clerk. Chairman introduced Marcus Wilkinson, he had been interviewed previously and was formally proposed for co-option by Cllr Harrison, seconded by Cllr J Fricker, all in favour. Marcus read his Declaration of Acceptance of Office and gave a brief history of himself.
- 14/23-24 Adoption of the minutes of 16th May 2023 as being a true record** - 16th May minutes approved by those Cllrs present at AGM (Cllrs Fricker). Chairman signed the minutes as a true record.
- 15/23-24 Matters arising from the above minutes** - Thanet Parkway/Network Rail confirmed that they will remove as many of the dead trees as practically possible prior to opening of Parkway, root ball removal and replacement will occur during the planting season, and further watering and maintenance. Hopefully more successful this time, thanks go to two residents who pursued this issue.
- Cottington Road site (run-off pit area) and Bakers Field submitted to KCC as potential sites for woodland/mini-orchards in call for sites for tree planting.
- 16/23-24 Working Party & Councillor Reports** -
County Cllr - CCllr Shonk explained that all concerns taken seriously, this is his second term of office. He is the most vocal representative and advocates Cliffsend, £43 million for Parkway but no shop! Potholes too many to mention, £700k just been spent on repair of Westcliff Road, Ramsgate.
- District Cllr - DCllr Davis; elected in May, lots of changes at TDC, things are improving; including communication with Parish Councils. With DCllr Rogers has worked with Chair and Vice-Chair particularly to ensure that the Parish Council's voice is heard. Flippant reply received by Parish Council re' agricultural land by Lord of the Manor – blatant hardcore dumping etc. To take appropriate action. DCllr Davis attended a meeting at Cllr Harrison's house re' antisocial behaviour and possible HMOs in village, has started action, other wards also affected, key is cross-agency communication/action.

Both District Cllrs helped clear overgrowth around bollards on Foads Hill, a resident had reported. DCllr Rogers has written to new Head of Assets re' play area lease, and S106.

Police Officer - PC Owen, our new Beat Officer (with Pegwell/Nethercourt/Newington) introduced himself. Worked for 10 years in Thanet; response, community safety, task force. He explained about the re-structuring - reduced number of PCSOs and increased number of uniformed officers. Will be point of contact for most issues and happy to engage with Cllrs to learn of issues faced in Cliffsend.

Community Warden - time split between same areas as PC Owen, had lots of welfare visits; elderly and vulnerable. Also, highways, potholes etc. Important to raise awareness of the KCC Community Warden Public Consultation – warden services to be cut from 70-38 – please access survey, there is no leeway financially - the service will be cut, but distribution of wardens will be dependent on survey. Currently, there are 11 wardens and one team leader, to be reduced to 3 wardens and one team leader. Rural villages might suffer. Survey runs until Oct, make voices heard <https://letstalk.kent.gov.uk/community-warden-service>

Chairman and Vice-Chair attended the Thanet Area Committee meeting, Parish Council hadn't seen sight of this consultation until then, other things from TDC and KCC should have been sent and haven't, not limited to Cliffsend – other rural villages have also suffered, towns are their focus. There is no service level agreement between TDC and parishes, no obligation to communicate with us under agreement, not acceptable. Parish Councils have relatively limited powers other than to express the voice of residents, residents equally have power to do that; would encourage to report things that are wrong via web portals etc. The more that do, the more likely that TDC/KCC will take notice.

Meadow and Open Spaces - Cllr J Fricker – Parish in Bloom judge wowed by meadow, impressed to see the biodiversity in village open spaces, gave tips on how to continue. Planters in Primrose Way being dismantled to see whether fit for purpose, if so, will be re-lined and supported. 'Sharing' herb boxes in park - Chris Barton donated the planters, fitting as he gave so much away to the community. Sunflowers to be planted by group of five-year olds. Chairman explained about the failure of TDC to renew the lease on the play area with Maudsley Trust, it expired February 2022. The Parish Council has S106 monies to spend on youth but until we know whether the lease is secure, we can't spend. Consequence of it not being renewed last year is that the Maudsley Trust are going to change the conditions of lease. Another example where TDC have failed us.

Tree order submitted to BAM Nuttall; final number, species, and maintenance. Cllr Harrison questioned whether we could plant more trees on bank by rail-track to act as a buffer, original planning didn't include planting of trees but will replace trees that have died. Network Rail won't allow planting on bank itself.

Chairman proposed that we purchase a table and seating for the empty plinth in play area in memory of Chris Barton. Seconded by Cllr Harrison, all in favour. **To obtain quotes for next meeting.** Cllr Harrison wondered whether we could combine with a coronation dedication.

Planning and Highways - Vice-Chairman explained about importance of collaboration with District Council - needed for all aspects of planning. Consultation last year regarding this, came to a halt with elections. DCllr Davis raised at Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting, intention to improve collaborative working with TDC and parish councils. S106 money – fees paid by developers because of impact on local area (e.g. schools/road use), whether a big development e.g. Cottington Road/Canterbury Road West or smaller. So far none of this additional money has reached Cliffsend, trying to rectify this. Vice-Chairman has written a number of times but no reply, DCllr Rogers has now written to TDC Chief Executive Officer Colin Carmichael.

Several communications re' top of Sandwich Road, has no planning permission, no reply as yet. Richborough Household Waste and Recycling Centre - KCC proposed three options for centres in Kent, all of which included the closure of Richborough. Technically just outside of parish, but joined with a Sandwich Cllr to work together to oppose closure, MP fully supports keeping site open.

Significant progress - latest information is that four proposals have now been put forward, only two of these involve closing Richborough; will go to public consultation imminently, would encourage residents to get involved with this, see website/Facebook and sign up to mailing list at <http://eepurl.com/ihodrv> Cllr Harrison thanked CCllr Shonk who had also been involved. Chairman explained that KCC has a £50 million deficit, they need to make savings, recycling centre provision is not a statutory obligation, they are looking at anything non-statutory to cut.

S106 (lack of) is not limited to Cliffsend – across Thanet TDC has been taking from developments and spending in Ramsgate/Broadstairs/Margate etc not villages. In terms of Cliffsend, TDC have had a sum of seven figures from developers, of which Cliffsend has not received a bean. We were not involved in consultation process and should have been, raised to see if protocol has been broken. TDC have received a lot of attention from Parish Council, District Cllrs and Overview and Scrutiny Committee (planning enforcement), this will force transparency.

Highways – verges – multiple reports to KCC about state of verges throughout village, had a site visit from KCC and have spoken with TDC about trees in park. Frustratingly, KCC do not have Cottington Road on their map of verges, the only reason it is there is because dust and debris has created a verge and they have failed to maintain it. Same applies for Cliffsend Rd/Foads Lane where grass cut but not vegetation, also raised. Classic example where residents can report directly (<https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem>) Chairman asked if CCllr Shonk would be able to follow this up. Cllr J Fricker observed that it is impossible to walk up Foads Lane safely, needs addressing urgently. Only one tree on Foads Lane is responsibility of KCC – Elm on road side of fence, everything else is TDC, not helped by fact that lease hasn't been renewed. TDC said that an option was to contact Maudsley Trust, can imagine response! We need lease signed and then we can get tidied up.

DCllrs have raised issue of number 9 bus, meeting planned last week but was cancelled. A bus stop was part of planning application for Parkway; obliged to put a bus stop outside station, however, Stagecoach are not obliged to use it. Stagecoach have refused to divert the Loop to Parkway because there is no right turn out of station. Will pursue both issues. Resident stated that there will be a private service from Parkway to Discovery Park.

TDC is responsible for parking regulations within village, at present they have no plans to do anything about potential (key) issues with parking, will wait until a problem and then address it. We don't know what usage will be/impact of parking; won't deal with unknowns and potentials.

Chairman attended a meeting at TDC re' cycle paths - urban connectivity. Cycle highways have been identified within Thanet, including from Haine Rd developments to Canterbury Road West, however, no one identified how to get to Sandwich Road via Lord of the Manor, Cllr G Fricker drew out several options.

Highways Improvement Plan (HIP) was drawn up with KCC, includes raised table at Cliffsend Rd/Foads Lane/Hill junction. Approved this expenditure in budget as sick of waiting for funding from other parties. However, knowing that TDC has a seven figure sum for developments going on/around Cliffsend, why should it come from precept (public money), it should come out of the money that developers have given to the District Council - TDC should find £17K as a goodwill gesture.

Communicated by various methods that we have free stickers and posters reminding drivers of the 20mph/30mph limits. PC Owen is a trained radar operator and has kindly agreed to organise some spot checks, a discussion ensued re' target areas. Local Councils won't install speed cameras unless there is a significant risk or incidences major enough to install. Once again, if you are keen to be involved, please sign up for Speedwatch. Cllr Wilkinson has started to look at hot spots, PC Owen advised that have to do where speed limits are obvious.

Youth - Cllr J Fricker informed of camping event 12th August, 2pm to early Sunday morning. Kent Wildlife Trust attending for insect and butterfly identification and nature-based events, will also analyse meadow to see species growing. Bird and bat box making (Chair would be grateful for any templates/help) and marshmallow toasting over a campfire in evening. Hoping for good weather, Village Hall can be used.

Arts and crafts event; Monday 31st July at Village Hall, crocheting, knitting, drawing, great fun.

Communication and Events - embracing different forms of communication, also recognise that not everyone has access to internet, will put more physical communications on boards as well as social media.

17/23-24 **Financial Matters -**

Budget Monitoring – 1st Quarter, bank balance at 30th June - £37,251.90. Cllr Harrison had verified that accounts and bank statement reconciled. Cllrs had checked the bank statement against accounts and the current budget was compared with spend to date; auditor asked for a forecast spend to be included to give more accurate monitoring e.g. rise in lonos costs was not anticipated, therefore, not budgeted but can be shown in forecast spend. Despite Coronation event expenditure, on track. May seem as if we have a lot of money, but as discussed – raised table would reduce by approx £17k. D-Day celebrations to be budgeted for next year (will include beacon lighting). Checks proposed by Cllr Harrison, seconded by Cllr Chapman, motion carried.

Cllrs Harrison, J Fricker and Chapman checked payment schedule and supporting documents. Contractual payment: Clerk's salary. Payment schedule proposed by Cllr G Fricker, seconded by Cllr Wilkinson, all in favour. Italics indicate already paid – contractual or agreed in previous meetings.

July Payments

Payee	Description	Invoice No	Method	VAT	Ex VAT	Total
<i>Cllr Judith Fricker</i>	<i>Reimburse Coronation Events</i>	-	<i>Transfer</i>	<i>57.86</i>	<i>490.70</i>	<i>548.56</i>
<i>Popplett Taylor Consulting</i>	<i>2022/23 Internal Audit</i>	<i>PTCPC229</i>	<i>Transfer</i>	-	<i>480.00</i>	<i>480.00</i>
<i>Harmer & Sons</i>	<i>Meadow Maintenance</i>	<i>21517</i>	<i>Transfer</i>	<i>20.00</i>	<i>100.00</i>	<i>120.00</i>
<i>Village Hall</i>	<i>Grant for Roof Repairs</i>	-	<i>Transfer</i>	-	<i>5000.00</i>	<i>5000.00</i>
Cliffsend Arts & Crafts	Hall Hire Holiday Club 29/7	-	Transfer	-	20.00	20.00
KALC	Dynamic Councillor Course	6814630509	Transfer	12.00	60.00	72.00
Harmer & Sons	Meadow Maintenance	21688	Transfer	20.00	100.00	120.00
Clerk	Audit Printing	-	Transfer	1.33	6.67	8.00
Clerk	Microsoft Office 2021 Software	42162470	Transfer	17.33	86.66	103.99
Cllr J Fricker	Re-wilding/Hedgehog Supplies	ABT90AEUI	Transfer	3.16	15.84	19.00
Cllr J Fricker	Parish in Bloom Planting	-	Transfer	14.80	73.94	88.74
Clerk	Mobile Phone Top-up	-	Transfer	-	10.00	10.00
KALC	Subscription 2023-24	8580	Transfer	128.83	644.15	772.98
Total for Month				275.31	7087.96	7363.27

18/23-24 **Planning Applications -**

FH/TH/23/0643 3 Mount Green Avenue (erection of garage, 1.8m boundary wall)

TPO/TH/23/0728 14 Scales Drive (Sycamore fell)

TPO/TH/23/0750 1 Primrose Way (2 x Lime tree fell, 1 x Sycamore size reduction)

FH/TH/23/0824 22 Bakers Field (single storey side extension)

A/TH/23/0826 North/South A299 (4 x temp banners external face of platform 2)

FH/TH/23/0866 38 Foads Hill (2 x dormer, juliet balcony, french doors)

F/TH/23/0482 Adj 1 Mansfield Villas, Windsor Rd (2 x 3 storey 4 bed dwellings)

F/TH/23/0850 Little Cliffsend Farm, Chalk Hill (change of use of land from agricultural to the keeping of horses; formation of access routes for horses and agricultural vehicles, sand school, lunge, vehicle parking area and bunds)

Applications are listed for information. Most of trees in Cliffsend have Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs), as a matter of principle we express that view back to TDC, they will then go through the process, should uphold TPOs. The latter, although outside parish, has potentially wider connotations, same person filling in west of Sandwich Road. Cllr Harrison said added worry is extra traffic coming down Chalk Hill/potential accident because only entrance in and out. Residents are free to express views on planning applications.

19/23-24 **Current Topics -**

Ongoing review of Council procedures – via email, Cllrs were asked to examine the Risk Management Statements for any emerging risks, none identified. Council is looking at various communication methods, therefore, review of Communications procedure deferred to September. Code of Conduct/Complaints/Public Questions were reviewed and adopted, proposed by Cllr Chapman, seconded by Cllr G Fricker, motion carried.

KALC membership – affiliation with NALC (National Association for Local Councils) annual fee, for which we get access to certain benefits, procedures etc. Reasonable percentage of precept - £800 a year, after a meeting with the Chief Executive, and the Thanet Area Committee meeting, conclusion was to renew for another year, on payment schedule, all in favour.

Pegwell Bay B17 commemorative display – Cllr Harrison provided some background information - 1st December 1943 B17 Bomber crashed into Sandwich Bay, the American crew survived. To link in with D-Day landings and celebrations next year, considering a commemorative display on Hugin Green, had internal discussions around fact that wasn't Pegwell Bay but to get to Sandwich Bay have to go to private estate and pay. Gentleman who proposed is willing to raise funds, he has already secured donations from surviving family. Should also tie in with other historical facts about Cliffsend which we discussed previously and could equally commemorate (tank traps/pill box). Cllr Harrison to obtain specification and to liaise with resident on other historical points of interest. Cllr J Fricker suggested that other sun-bleached, decaying boards containing historical/geographical information should be replaced, could combine entire history of Cliffsend - **to establish ownership of these boards.**

20/23-24 Clerk's Reports -

Due to the success of re-wilding initiatives, Cliffsend is now a re-homing site for hedgehogs.

21/23-24 Correspondence Received -

- Residents – proposed closure of Richborough Recycling Centre.
- District Cllr (St Peters) – progress with BAM Nuttall-funded planting.
- KCC – closure of Canterbury Road West, 4 nights commencing 31/7/23, 8pm to 6am, to replace defective expansion joints on railway bridge and repair damaged road surface. Night of Parkway opening!
- Resident – overgrowth Foads Lane/Cottington Road.
- Residents – Clive Rd; possible HMOs, and unacceptable behaviour. Cllr Harrison thanked all those who had attended the meeting, surprised that so many there to discuss problems, also other locations in Thanet affected by intimidating behaviour and harassment. DCllr Davis to meet residents individually.
- Resident – Thanet Parkway; parking/buses, speed limit Canterbury Rd West.

22/23-24 Public Questions -

- Resident - location of Lime trees in planning application.
- Resident - since implementation of 20mph, Foads Lane has become a racetrack, no footpath, noisier and a danger to pedestrians particularly early mornings. Speedwatch could help prevent.
- Resident - 20mph stickers – bins only go out once a week, where else can they be put? Top of Foads Hill, have to edge your way out, serious accident recently at top of Cliff View Road, nothing at bottom of road to show that 20mph. Cars speed up towards Canterbury Road West, verbal abuse, road rage, what else can be done? Access to Parkway at night; as a pedestrian is not safe – overgrown vegetation, no cameras or lighting. Chair believes that lighting is there just not switched on yet. **To investigate route.**
- Resident - update on Earlsmead Crescent green planting – reported last meeting, majority of responses chose extension of existing planting, will probably just scale back the number of trees to plant, smaller species e.g. native cherries, Rowan etc.
- Resident - pathway by new housing estate, Canterbury Road West, corner sticking so far out could be dangerous, could Council investigate? Only 2.5m between kerb and chevron.

Meeting concluded at 21:16