

Cliffsend Parish Council

The Village Hall, Foads Lane, Cliffsend, CT12 5JH
clerkcliffsendpc@gmail.com
website: <https://www.hugofox.com/community/-15862/home/>



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Held on Thursday 12th March 2020 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present – Cllr Rogers (Chair), Cllr Mortimer, Cllr Ashley, Cllr Harrison, Cllr Forrest, Cllr Lyon, Alison Willoughby-Browne (Clerk), DCllr Marc Rattigan and 4 members of the public.

127/19-20 Welcome and apologies for absence -

Chairman advised that the proceedings were being audio-recorded and demonstrated the emergency exits. Apologies received from Cllr Galvin, DCllr Rogers and CCllr Messenger.

128/19-20 Declarations of interest - Cllr Harrison declared an interest in the Meadow.

129/19-20 Adoption of the minutes of 27th February 2020 as being a true record -

27th February minutes proposed by Cllr Ashley and seconded by Cllr Harrison, all in favour. Cllr Rogers signed the minutes as a true record.

130/19-20 Adoption of February payment schedule -

The payment schedule had been approved but not adopted in February, addressing this Cllr Forrest proposed and Cllr Rogers seconded, all in favour.

131/19-20 Matters arising from the above minutes -

Cllr Harrison had contacted the Southern Water representative, he apologised for not attending the coffee morning and said the A256 will open on 29th March (Pfizer's part) this has got to be open because of the toll bridge and The Open golf. No change in Cliffsend. Phase 3 in pumping station, Ramsgate. Agreement with TDC to use Hoverport has been sanctioned. Ebbsfleet Lane closed 1st April, access only so nature reserve can be reached. Newsletter to advise residents and a dedicated customer liaison officer on site (Hoverport). Double decker huts now in place to accommodate 3 teams of 6 who will be working on laying the new sections of pipe from Chalk Hill to the Ebbsfleet processing plant. Needs to be a barrier by the wooden hoarding on Sandwich Road for public safety.

132/19-20 Working Party & Councillor Reports -

CCllr Messenger via email - continues to oppose the Parkway Station and confirmed that many other KCC members believe this project to be a waste of money and he would continue to highlight the negatives of the station in every way he can. He will continue to push for progress with Southern Water and reminded everyone that KCC has an excellent 'Report a Fault' internet page where road problems can be reported, most of which are dealt with within 3 days -

<https://webapps.kent.gov.uk/KCC.KHSFaultsGIS.Web.Sites.Public/ReportAFault.aspx>

DCllr Marc Rattigan was welcomed, he attended the Sportsman Appeal 11th March, the decision is unknown at this stage but a strong case was put forward. If granted it will set a precedent for other developers. The biggest problem is the size of the development and retail would be a better use, rather than offices. Southern Water did not object to the plans. Cllr Forrest commented that the proposed office space is to be used by the building company and won't create any jobs for the village. Cllr Harrison and Cllr Ashley questioned whether it should be given a listing as parts of the building were very old, built using shingle from the beach. A meeting with Orbit Housing is also to be arranged.

Community Warden - no warden now, it was felt that we do need a presence in the village, we need to pursue. DCllr Rattigan may be able to help.

Finance Report - Cllr Rogers has applied to HSBC to amend the mandate to add Cllrs Harrison and Ashley as signatories and to remove ex-Councillor Francis-Cable. Cllr Rogers has an application form for internet banking. Council should have reviewed Financial Regulations 2019, asset register and anything to do with accounts. Cllr Rogers had circulated a NALC model prior to the meeting, proposed for adoption by Cllr Mortimer, seconded by Cllr Forrest, all in favour.

Meadow Report - Cllr Lyon advised that one of the trees had fallen down and the Marjorie Chapman Meadow sign is splitting, possibly rotten, when dried out will see if a repair is appropriate. Cllr Harrison will approach carpenter who is repairing noticeboard. New bark has been laid and hedges cut back. TDC open spaces will be cutting the ivy from trees. Cllr Forrest has not seen any Ragwort or Hogweed on perimeter. The working group will keep a check on the meadow, the grass will have to be allowed to grow to observe it. Currently, the frequent cutting of the grass keeps such plants at bay. Cllr Harrison had circulated historical information on the Marjorie Chapman Meadow before the meeting.

Highways Group - see appended report. Also mentioned; KCC refusal to take out stump on corner of Cottington Road as not considered an imminent safety issue, however, it does reduce visibility, Cllr Forrest to carry out visual safety inspections. The Hawthorn hedging has been cut back severely by the railway crossing, Cllr Forrest and Mr Bontoft commented. Cllr Harrison has had concerns raised by a member of the public.

Foads Lane to be closed 19th March for installation of a street light. Cllr Rogers commended a lady that collects leaf mulch, saving TDC a job.

133/19-20 Financial Matters - Cllrs Rogers and Harrison had previously scrutinised the following payments. Cllr Ashley proposed the acceptance of the schedule (providing we wait for the invoice from Countrywide before submitting the cheque) and Cllr Mortimer seconded, all in favour.

| Payee | Description | Invoice No | Chq No | VAT | Excl VAT | Total |
|------------------------|--------------------|------------|--------|--------------|----------------|----------------|
| David J Buckett | Internal Auditor | 1127 | 100913 | - | 476.10 | 476.10 |
| Clerk | March Salary | - | 100914 | - | 409.50 | 409.50 |
| Clerk | Expenses -Stamps | - | 100915 | - | 3.93 | 3.93 |
| Came & Co | Insurance Broker | 6560656 | 100916 | - | 724.52 | 724.52 |
| Countrywide | Meadow Maintenance | | 100917 | 40.83 | 204.17 | 245.00 |
| Total for Month | | | | 40.83 | 1818.22 | 1859.05 |

Cheques were signed as appropriate by Cllrs Mortimer and Rogers.

Whilst the cheques were being signed the Clerk explained about insurance on the trees in the meadow and confirmed that a claim on the insurance for public liability would only be upheld if the claimant could prove that the Council had been negligent, as the meadow and the trees are maintained regularly this would be very difficult to pursue.

134/19-20 Planning Applications -

R/TH/20/0171 Land East of 40 Canterbury Road West, Ramsgate, Kent - information was to be gathered by Cllr Galvin, as he was unavailable for briefing a check will be made as to the closing date for objections.

135/19-20 Current Topics -

Ongoing review of Council procedures - Cllrs Ashley and Rogers to initially investigate those pertinent to the accounts. A timescale of one week has been put on comments and thoughts on the procedures, once circulated.

Update on defibrillator - Clerk has contacted Heartsafe for paperwork and information on keys. Cllr Ashley to liaise and retrieve paperwork from Mr Hellyer, also to clarify with the Village Hall Committee their thoughts on the defibrillator. A member was present at the meeting and expressed that they would rather not have the responsibility, the 9 members of the Committee have to make a decision if they want this ongoing commitment. Clerk to write to Heartsafe as the point of contact until further notice.

Update on Bakers Field S106 monies - Clerk contacted planning department, their response was that '£15,000 is due to be paid for the play facilities at 50% occupation'. Cllr Forrest stated that in addition to this £121,000 has been allocated to primary schools, £5,000 to SPAs and a further amount towards library books. Cllr Ashley felt that we should be fighting so that our community benefits, not TDC. Cllr Forrest also asked TDC to clarify the figures for Canterbury Road West, Orbit and Cottington Road developments. Cllr Harrison stated that previous S106 money was used for the village.

Update on website - Southern Water bench request for suggestions on website and noticeboards, will be published until the end of the month. One website now and Facebook pages withdrawn. Cllr Forrest questioned the performance of the Hugo-Fox website, DCllr Rattigan and Cllr Mortimer had also experienced problems downloading information. Cllr Forrest to investigate.

Orbit Housing proposed development - despite many emails a mutually convenient date had not been reached. Two remaining dates were 7th April or 23rd April. The former was suggested, as the Acting Head of Planning was unavailable on that date, questions should be submitted prior to the meeting. Publicise on noticeboards and website the date decided and a request for comments, also notify the CRA.

Update on Sportsman Inn appeal - previously covered.

Update on minutes of Meadow Project (2007) - next meeting.

VE Day celebrations - should share with Village Hall Association; memories of 75 years ago, request for artefacts to go on display, to put in writing what we would like (Village Hall Committee Meeting 30th March at 1:30pm), disappointing that we cannot get all village groups together to celebrate. Cllr Forrest to telephone CRA member and Cllr Rogers to email.

Update on noticeboard Canterbury Road West - left-hand panel, glass not broken, carpenter has taken away, will advise on cost to repair and make more secure.

136/19-20 Clerk's Reports -

Clerk had investigated current years' minutes for mention of bus stop and enforcement notice to cut back foliage of 115 Sandwich Road. Minuted in May and June 2019.

137/19-20 Correspondence Received -

- Tree #2, intact, no trees will be removed.
- Thanet Community Land Trust Ltd - Cllr Mortimer to attend next meeting.
- TDC solicitor; no need for CPC to retain complaints board documentation.
- Southern Water - can Council take a more proactive role in finding out what is happening? Clerk will pass on information obtained by Cllr Harrison.

138/19-20 Public Questions -

Temporary bus stop at end of Foads Lane hadn't been requested. Cllr Mortimer to follow-up.

Mr Bontoft on a tour of the village had found many trip-hazards; North side of Cliffsend Grove. Cllr Forrest to photograph.

Cllr Harrison expressed her thanks to Brenda for printing documents for the Council.

The meeting ended at 9.28pm with thanks to all those who had attended.

Due to the current unprecedented circumstances we are unable to give a date for the next public meeting.