

Cliffsend Parish Council

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

Held on Thursday 21st July 2022 at 7.30pm at front of 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 Harrison, Cllr J Fricker, Alison Willoughby-Browne (Clerk), CCllr Shonk, DCllr Rogers and 5 members of the public.

- 12/22-23 Welcome and apologies for absence** - Chairman welcomed those present. Apologies received from Cllrs Barton and Lyon.
- 13/22-23 Declarations of interest** - no declarations of interest.
- 14/22-23 Adoption of the minutes of 19th May 2022 (AGM) as being a true record** - 19th May minutes proposed by Cllr Harrison, seconded by Cllr G Fricker, motion carried. Chairman signed the minutes as a true record.
- 15/22-23 Matters arising from the above minutes** - none other than to be discussed.
- 16/22-23 Working Party & Councillor Reports -**
County Cllr – attends coffee morning regularly, spoken with Paul Valek (KCC) that day and any questions or concerns can be passed on to him. 20mph everywhere and double-yellow lines, enforcement is a problem. Do we have any contact with KCC representative? A community van drives around village, no contact.

District Cllr – new Interim Chief Executive, Interim Monitoring Officer and Deputy Chief Executive so happier on TDC. DCllr Rogers spoke to Council leader re' tree planting in Cliffsend; referred to Cabinet Member Cllr Kup and Dr Hannah Scott, Clerk had spoken with Dr Scott in May but was awaiting further information. **Council needs to provide maps of areas for planting.**

DCllr Rogers also enquired about play area lease and stated that we cannot lose the playground. Member of public has submitted a freedom of information request to see when lease expires, or if it has expired. Resident complained that no disabled toilet at Viking Ship Café. There is no statutory requirement to provide toilets but Cllr Rogers has referred to appropriate department.

Meadow and Open Spaces – Chairman and Clerk had met with meadow landowner to discuss options for the meadow. Conversations have been going on for a number of years but hadn't reached a conclusion. Have enough information now to go out to residents for their views -

1. hand entire meadow back, landowner would put a path around bottom three sides so people can continue to walk dogs (access to memorial trees), the public right of way would be changed. Landowner would plant olives/vines in middle and is prepared to sign a legal agreement to say that it won't be built on.
2. hand approximately 2/3 back (exact amount to be determined) and village would own remainder. Returned portion - olives/vines.
3. hand it all back, landowner would consider putting a barn-style building on bottom part that would be a community asset, which he would own e.g. butchers/craft; dependent on raising finance, gaining appropriate permissions and making a return on investment.

4. leave as is and let rental agreement run out.

Too important for Parish Council to make a decision on, will be included in the general survey to be distributed in September. The meadow costs £2.19 per Band D house per year to maintain. Due to cost of fuel each cut has increased by £10 and the hedges £60 (one-off payment) but cuts have been reduced.

Cllr J Fricker had looked into pricing for planting bulbs in autumn; planting Narcissus pseudonarcissus (native) by Viking Ship, Earlsmead, Cottington Road etc. Wholesalers - 1500 bulbs for £500, also made enquiries with local garden centre to buy direct, may be cheaper in bulk. Residents can then be involved with planting the bulbs. Camp night 13th August; proposed activities include bird boxes and hedgehog houses using reclaimed wood from skips/building sites. A resident asked whether they would be for sale, maybe a small donation which can go back into re-wilding the village.

Parish in Bloom; 29th June, short trip around village. Aim is to put in as many trees as we can. Re-wilding is not what it says on the tin; managing nature, taking out invasive species, leaving native species and giving them a hand, plan is for a lifetime. Judge liked what we are doing, what we have started, next year will see the growth, especially enjoyed bug hotel and what we have done to encourage children; woodland walkway. Cllr J Fricker and volunteers thanked for doing an amazing job.

Planning and Highways – Cllr Harrison met with residents of Arundel Road; they are experiencing further disruption with a renovation project - San Remo – moved boundary further over into turning circle causing people to turn on private driveways, car nearly hit. Also, corner house 6ft fence obstructing view, enforcement stated that no 6ft fence should be on inner side of pavement; shouldn't be any more than a metre high. Arundel is one of two unmade roads in village (also Windsor) unfortunately, residents are responsible for unmade roads so likely a civil matter. CCllr Shonk suggested a site visit from TDC/KCC enforcement, **Clerk to contact**. Chairman explained that Sandwich Road (30mph) has no repeater signs, sign at traffic lights at bottom and just before APC turn-off, approx a mile in between the two. Parish Council to request speed surveys on Sandwich Road, then dealing with facts. Council requested re-surfacing of Foads Lane/Hill prior to 20mph implementation.

Chairman also raised the subject of funding (lack of) from developments, should be asking TDC/KCC where monies are; Clerk has investigated (developers and TDC). The raised table was part of the Highways Improvement Plan, there is insufficient funding at present, still would like to happen, just don't have the money. Cost is approximately £16k, can fund part but not all, also a child safety issue with children walking from north of park. KCC previously stated that there are no safety issues with the corner of Foads Lane/Hill/Cliffsend Road. **List of concerns to be given to CCllr Shonk.**

Youth – Cllr J Fricker; posters up to encourage families during school holidays to use meadow in a positive way, rather than just to walk dogs. Weather permitting - star-gazing evening, forest crafts, fire pit on a brick base. Just a small amount of people, have to be conscious of neighbours. Can repeat if successful. Cllr Barton mentioned that he might be able to get hold of a mobile skate park, possibly once a month. Goals to be replaced, quote received. Last year, a couple of previous Cllrs had met with TDC workers about the possibility of a hardcourt, couldn't formally discuss until on agenda, Parish Council to conduct a feasibility study.

17/22-23 Financial Matters -

First budget review of financial year; budget vs actual spend/income had been distributed to Cllrs. Cllrs also checked the bank statement against accounts; reconciled with bank balance at 30th June - £36,221.45 (20mph design and implementation paid). Cllr Harrison had checked the balance of accounts against bank statement and signed both documents.

HMRC payment not on schedule (£61) had to be paid by 22nd July. Cllrs Harrison, Lyon and J Fricker checked payment schedule and supporting documents. Contractual payment: Clerk's salary. Payment schedule, financial/audit checks proposed by Cllr G Fricker, seconded by Cllr J Fricker, all in favour.

July Payments

Payee	Description	Invoice No	Method	VAT	Ex VAT	Total
KCC	HIP; TRO and works - 20mph	900151921	Transfer	-	11154.91	11154.91
Cllr J Fricker	Reimburse Jubilee celebration	-	Transfer	-	22.50	22.50
Clerk	Reimburse Jubilee gifts	89576/61276	Transfer	-	31.14	31.14
Clerk	Reimburse Jubilee crafts/gifts	4696/1907/8152/5432/5064	Transfer	6.49	37.15	43.64
Clerk	Reimburse Jubilee crafts/gifts	WEB14254685	Transfer	8.42	42.08	50.50
Cllr Harrison	Reimburse travel; Jubilee bale	-	Transfer	-	11.43	11.43
Harmer & Sons	Meadow Maintenance	20068	Transfer	18.00	90.00	108.00
Clerk	Mobile phone top-up	-	Transfer	-	10.00	10.00
Clerk	Reimburse maintenance	-	Transfer	3.25	16.25	19.50
Clerk	Reimburse Zoom subscription	INV156353746	Transfer	23.98	119.90	143.88
Village Hall	Hire – July meeting	-	Transfer	-	24.00	24.00
Total for Month				60.14	11559.36	11619.5

18/22-23 Planning Applications -

F/TH/22/0350 Plot 7 Youngs Nursery, Arundel Road (changes to fence boundary)

FH/TH/22/0770 17 Mount Green Avenue (single storey rear extension)

FH/TH/22/0789 29 Foads Lane (retrospective – detached annex rear garden)

F/TH/22/0824 Chapel House, Thorne Hill (alteration to opening hours)

TH/TPO/209/1997) 14 Sceales Drive (crown reduction; height and spread)

FH/TH/22/0860 2 Lavender Lane (single storey rear extension)

Chapel House not actually in our parish but extended opening hours for wedding venue to make more viable, depending on wind direction and if playing music until late at night then could affect residents of Cliffsend, idea is to raise awareness and then people can object if they feel they don't like the proposal.

19/22-23 Current Topics -

Ongoing review of Council procedures – Code of Conduct, Complaints and Public Questions reviewed, proposed by Cllr G Fricker, seconded by Cllr J Fricker, motion carried.

KALC/Rural Kent membership – Council was unsure whether to rejoin KALC/NALC, having spoken with other Councillors and members, Chairman now convinced of value, it is a high percentage of precept (£613.46) will request a reduced fee as membership commences April, Parish Council may be excluded from events because not members. Cllr G Fricker proposed that we rejoin, Cllr J Fricker seconded, Cllr Harrison in favour.

Funding/S106 – already discussed.

20/22-23 Clerk's Reports -

- Update on Sealink proposal; speaking with stakeholders late summer/early autumn, will confirm details following school holidays.
- Thanks to Youth Reparation, have painted benches, placed woodchip around nature path, treated Jubilee and picnic benches, painted noticeboard, really benefitted from their visits to the village, hopefully that is reciprocal.
- Viking Ship memorabilia purchased; programmes from when Hugin sailed to England, on last payment schedule, Council now in possession, need to work out where/how we can display and enable residents to see them.
- Period of Exercise of Public Rights – finishes 22nd July. Confirmation from external auditor.
- Mosquitoes – Clerk contacted TDC; no larvae in January and only in one pool in April, furthest from Pegwell. Numbers very low so wouldn't trigger levels for spraying. Sent off a picture of two mosquitoes photographed last year, over an inch long.
- Abandoned car in Foads Lane; PCSO contacted owner, car had broken down, now moved.
- First tranche of precept received and VAT reclaim (£826.58).

21/22-23 Correspondence Received -

- Resident – overgrown TE37 pathway; reported to Ramblers Association and Minster Parish Council as completely overgrown and giant hogweed present; KCC to clear.
- Resident – update on 'Southern Water' bench; photos distributed of position on Hugin's Green - flat, lovely view over bay and close to footpath for wheelchair access, all in favour. Cllr Harrison suggested a notice to clarify that it is for wheelchair users. Jubilee bench to be moved, delayed due to Covid and then cement shortage, will find a temporary home whilst waiting for something permanent.
- Residents – allotments; three people contacted Clerk, list of interested parties created. Council has thought about options, electricity and water need to be provided.
- Resident – plans to enforce the current 30mph along Sandwich Rd? Discussed.
- Resident – Thanet Parkway access; raised last year, some residents wanted access stopped behind garages, confirmation from KCC that no change to current situation. Residents worried about station-users parking on roads.
- Resident – overgrowth at entrance to play area Cliffsend Road/Foads Lane; cleared.
- Resident – meadow proposal/funding; discussed.
- Residents – progress of raised table; discussed.
- The Cinnamon Trust; volunteers needed for Cliffsend; published.
- Pageant Master, Queen's Platinum Jubilee Beacons – thank you to all participants who lit beacons.
- TDC – Thanet Shared Prosperity and Levelling Up survey; completed by Chair and Clerk.
- Resident – memorial tree/other; advised that we can't plant any more trees in meadow, Council to think of other options, possibly direct to TDC. Cllr J Fricker asked what funds were put in place for existing memorial trees as they now need a lot of work, no funding.
- Resident – complaint – alleged breach of Code of Conduct; Complaints Procedure being followed, will inform complainant of outcome.
- Resident – status of determining feasibility of hard court in play area; discussed.
- Resident – speeding motorbikes on bypass and in village; advised Police issue, speed guns should be an option, issue since dual carriageway built, Ramsgate to Dover route.
- Hall Management – accident involving post box; Chairman relocated Parish Council box.
- Residents – Arundel Road issues; discussed.
- Resident – missed verge cutting on Foads Hill; advised to report online, probability that someone was parked on verges which prevented cut.

22/22-23 Public Questions -

Resident – large vehicles parking on corner of Nicholas Drive obstructing view, would more double-yellow lines be possible? Chairman explained that the law and Highway Code are different; Highway Code advisory - should not park on corner. Law says can, however, Police can take action if obstructing public highway. It is a frustration, as village grows we are going to get more issues. To enforce, we need more volunteers for Speedwatch.

Chairman stated that we still have two Cllr vacancies, given that we need as many voices as possible, would encourage anyone who has an interest to step forward.

Meeting concluded at 21:11