

Cliffsend Parish Council

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

Held on Thursday 11th February 2021 at 7.30pm via Zoom.

Meetings of the Council are recorded. AV recordings are retained only until draft minutes are adopted as a true record.

Present – Cllr Rogers (Chair), Cllr Lyon, Cllr Forrest, Cllr Harrison, Cllr Mortimer, Cllr Pooley, Alison Willoughby-Browne (Clerk), DCllr Rogers and 16 members of the public.

- 101/20-21 Welcome and apologies for absence** - DCllr Rattigan and PCSOs Litchfield and Rougvie.
- 102/20-21 Declarations of interest and appointment of Officer** - sadly, Dave Ashley tendered his resignation from the Council due to illness, the Notice of Vacancy is to be displayed until 15th February. The Clerk confirmed that there had been no proposals for a replacement for the position of Vice-Chairman. The Chairman proposed that because the AGM is in May that the position remains vacant until then. Cllr Harrison seconded, Cllr Forrest against, carried by majority.
- 103/20-21 Adoption of the minutes of 14th January 2021 as being a true record** - 14th January minutes proposed by Cllr Harrison and seconded by Cllr Mortimer, those that were present at the last meeting were in favour. Chairman to sign the minutes as a true record.
- 104/20-21 Matters arising from the above minutes** - no matters arising.
- 105/20-21 Working Party & Councillor Reports** -
DCllrs – DCllr Rogers informed that the Sportsman Inn planning application will be coming up Wednesday 17th February. DCllrs Rogers and Rattigan will be representing residents. Cllr Rattigan had spoken with the owners of 23 Foads Hill, it is being sold to a family who are not going to be taking in children. DCllr Rogers was aware of the problems in Earlsmead Crescent re' the planting of wildflower plugs, a resident had made contact, willing to pay for a couple of evergreen trees on edge of green. The Chairman asked whether most TDC employees are working from home as it is difficult to get a response at times, DCllr Rogers confirmed that they are.

PCSO – Clerk had received an email from PCSO Rougvie. He reported that he had to chat with some youths to remind them of the COVID restrictions but that mostly everyone was respecting the restrictions. He advised that the Southeast in Bloom competition closing date has been extended to 31st March.

Meadow – Cllr Lyon explained that the tree by the Village Hall had been cut down and that she had requested that the roots are also treated. The change in weather meant that the trees along Foads Lane couldn't be cut as the workforce had been diverted to look after the roads for KCC. The plans to plant in Earlsmead Crescent green have been stopped, Cllr Lyon suggested Primrose Way for planting.

The Viking Ship will not be covered as it will be set up again in two months time, it has been treated so should be protected against damage caused by exposure. **Cllr Lyon will chase up the cutting of Foads Lane**, it was pointed out by Cllr Forrest that it will soon be bird-nesting season.

Cllr Harrison reported to TDC Environmental Health that older youths have been using the zip wire, noise from the zip wire is also noticed by residents at night. **Clerk to follow up.**

Highways – report circulated. Cllr Forrest reported that two posts had been replaced in the car park next to the garage. Network Rail retrospective planning permission for cameras has been passed, the objections raised had no bearing; the removal of hedges during bird-nesting season is a Police matter, not a TDC consideration. Both KCC and the Parish Council raised road safety issues, apparently not an issue in deciding planning permission. Cllr Forrest has followed up with KCC to see if they will be taking action, awaiting response.

Posters have been placed on lampposts for the Traffic Regulation Notice, public are allowed to comment before 1st March, if 8 or more comments raised it will be referred to Joint Transportation Committee. Received an outline design for raised table at Cliffsend Road/Foads Lane/Hill, approx cost is £15,000. Funding for the Highways Improvement Plan has been confirmed by WW Martin/Orbit Homes Southeast - £5,000, awaiting Southern Water figure and Millwood Homes have also said they would like to contribute.

The Parish Council has been waiting for the Stage 3 safety audit re' lighting on Cliffsend Road. Cllr Forrest proposed that we pay £200 from the road safety fund for KCC to do a lighting design for Cliffsend so that we know what costs are involved before going into discussions with KCC and Millwood Homes; this would also include confirmation that national grid power is available. Cllr Pooley seconded, motion carried by majority. Cllrs Harrison and Lyon confirmed that the lighting on Cliffsend Road is a historic problem. Cllr Rogers advised that the land for a shop on Bakers Field has now been sold, lighting would be required for a retail unit. Also the raised table. **Clerk to contact head of street lighting and ask to go ahead with lighting design.**

Finance – precept submitted to TDC by Clerk as per previous discussion, accounts up to 31st January reconciled with bank account.

Youth – COVID restrictions make things difficult. Cllr Forrest had heard that there were two gentlemen looking to put in new goalposts, **Cllr Lyon to make enquiries.**

106/20-21 Financial Matters - no items of expenditure since last meeting.

107/20-21 Public Questions -

Buyer of 23 Foads Hill explained that communication from TDC had been poor, in order for her to purchase the property as a family home, Action for Children (owners) need to apply for planning permission to change the class of the property to residential. Concerns were raised by a resident of Foads Hill as Action for Children run residential units for children with a number of issues. Buyer assured that it is to be a family home, Cllr Harrison to liaise with buyer, residents of Foads Hill, DCllr Rattigan and the estate agent. DCllr Rogers can support the application as well, with a clause that it must be a residential home. Cllr Harrison has volunteered to lead on planning.

Trustee of Village Hall – would like to have been notified that Dave Ashley had resigned from the Parish Council as he is now no longer available to represent the hall. Cllr Harrison explained that the Parish Council didn't know if Mr Ashley was going to continue in his role as trustee. The Chairman explained that on the Charities Commission website he is still shown to be a trustee of the Village Hall.

108/20-21 Planning Applications -

FH/TH/21/0034 7 Cliff View Road (erection of single storey flat roof garage, erection of single storey rear extension) no comments.

FH/TH/21/0118 37 Earlsmead Crescent (erection of a single storey rear extension).

Sportsman Inn – Cllr Rogers explained that anyone that has made an objection in the past has probably received a letter to provide a comment for the planning meeting 17th February.

109/20-21 Current Topics -

Update on defibrillator – was needed 21st January, fortunately ambulance crew attended very quickly and the defibrillator wasn't used. Heartsafe have contacted the Clerk and problems with the keypad part of lock have been ruled out, the problem seems to be with power from batteries reaching the lock, waiting for further response from Heartsafe.

Southeast in Bloom Competition – PCSO Litchfield said that the village always looks so nice that we probably wouldn't have much to do, also outside volunteers may be able to help. Cllr Forrest said the area coming in to Cliffsend from Sandwich Road is not pretty, where KCC spent £6,000 on shrubs, which have not been maintained. TDC offering 500 wildflower plugs, also able to provide trees, the Biodiversity and Horticulture Officer is visiting the village next week, meeting with residents from Earlsmead Crescent, he could also advise on what could be done with unattractive area. It was proposed by Cllr Forrest that we pay £60 registration fee for the competition, seconded by Cllr Harrison, motion carried. Cllr Lyon reported that lorries coming through the village have knocked her neighbour's wall down, **to liaise with Cllr Forrest.**

Village Hall – Cllr Forrest asked for Councillors' views on re-designating funds for benches to the Village Hall. The Internal Auditor for the Parish Council had been contacted for his advice. Cllr Forrest suggested that if those that designated the fund were not in a position to designate it then we have to return it, if they were in a position to designate it then they could re-designate it. Cllr Rogers explained the advice from the Auditor - provided we can get funds properly released we may be able to approach the Village Hall for a 'shopping list' and then provided works are commissioned by the Parish Council, we would be in a position to reclaim the associated VAT. Majority of Cllrs in favour, **Clerk to write to previous Chair of Shop Association to ask if the funds can be released to the care of Parish Council.**

Mr Pooley gave an update; a lot of residents involved, have secured free work carried out by a couple of companies, sourced scaffolding at 12% of costs paid last year. The solar panels have been removed and inspected for free, and turned off as box on internal wall was arcing, will need to discuss if they will be used in the future. 240 plus roof tiles were broken, these have been fixed by an ex roofer. For the first time in years there is no water coming in. The dehumidifiers are working 24/7, there may be a damp course issue. Quotes have been obtained for the floor repairs and a builder's quote for rectifying everything causing the leaks is approx £8,000. Looking at approx £12,000 without a building surveyor or damp course action. DCllr Rogers asked what had happened to the grant of £10,000 - over £18,000 had been spent by previous trustees on the floor, flat roof, toilets etc. Cllr Harrison asked if insurance was being pursued. There is an open claim at the moment.

Councillor vacancy – Notice of Vacancy on noticeboard and website, if 10 residents ask for a by-election then that would be held in May, at a cost of £3,000. Failing that, co-option as soon as TDC tell us that an election has not been requested. The interview panel will be Cllr Harrison, Cllr Lyon and Cllr Mortimer.

Clerk's appraisal – Cllrs have received a copy, next formal appraisal will be a year's time.

Additional bins for Cliffsend – Cllr Pooley observed that there is a lot of rubbish in Cliffsend, she has been approached by residents re' rubbish and dog fouling on the streets. Since lockdown the number of dogs in the village has increased. A Facebook poll showed that residents feel that there aren't enough bins. Cllr Rogers had also noticed bins overflowing, and that some are being removed. Cllrs Lyon and Harrison questioned whether people would want them outside their front doors. Residents are advised to use ordinary bins if there are no specific bins for dog mess. Cllr Mortimer said that if bins are not being emptied it poses an environmental health risk. Would be useful to have a timetable for inspection/emptying of bins. **DCllr Rogers offered to speak with Operational Services at TDC.**

110/20-21 Clerk's Reports -

- Noticeboard; quotation for £60 to repair, Cllr Rogers proposed that this is accepted, all present in favour.
- Reply received from Planning Enforcement re' the enforcement notice on 2 Old Hall Drive; still ongoing, inspection carried out before Christmas, Officer met with owner. Excess vehicles had been removed from front garden and several from back garden.

The deadline has been extended, revisit due at beginning of April. **Clerk to update resident who raised concerns.**

- Lack of road markings - Foads Hill/Seaview Road/Clive Road; reported to KCC, email acknowledged but nothing done as yet.
- Overflowing bin on Hugin Green has been emptied.
- Cllr Pooley has taken photos of roads that need sweeping; to be added to list.
- The ramps going over the pipework in Sandwich Road were reported as being very slippery in the wet weather; reported to Southern Water. Dismantling of pipework started in February.
- No reply from Bob Porter re' S106 and New Homes Bonus Payments; **Clerk to contact again.**
- Complaint re' fly tipping of garden waste in Cottington Road; Planning Enforcement are investigating.
- Contacted contractor for meadow; happy to start, possibly March.
- Clerk reminded Councillors to make sure that the information on their DPLs is up to date, to inform Monitoring Officer at TDC of any alterations.

111/20-21 Correspondence Received -

- TDC - winter mosquito check, no signs of larvae in any of the pools - no action required.
- Rural Kent - developing homes in rural communities; advised of webinar.
- Resident - goalposts left on Earlsmead Crescent green; letter written to owner explaining that it is TDC land, goalposts have been removed. A member of the public at meeting stated that the goalposts weren't a problem for quite a few of the residents.
- Resident - environmental project, Woodland Trust free tree packs, would the Parish Council support environmental projects?
- Resident - poor condition of Cottington Road; contacted WW Martin. The works they were doing at that time involved a lot of lorries going back and forth, that work has now finished.
- Resident - distress caused by noise from developments; contact information provided.

A lot of communication received re' wild flower garden Earlsmead Crescent green, a discussion ensued; the residents knew nothing about it and should have been consulted. Cllr Forrest stated that there are 3 or 4 places that wildflowers could be sited – Earlsmead Crescent, land opposite the Village Hall, Viking Ship, meadow (with landowner's permission). Primrose Way. Cllr Rogers advised that he had contacted the landowner with regards to moving the Jubilee bench, not resolved as yet.

Cllr Harrison proposed that the meeting be extended by 15 minutes, seconded by Cllr Forrest, all in favour.

The Parish Council should be the point of contact and everyone in the village should be consulted, Cllr Pooley offered to meet with TDC's Biodiversity and Horticulture Officer. No consideration was given to giving up the space where children play, where else could they safely go? A resident commented that in the Thanet Local Plan Earlsmead Crescent is designated a local greenspace for informal recreation use.

Cllr Harrison advised the Parish Council of the passing of Colonel John Dilliway; a well-known resident of Cliffsend. He was the husband of the Parish Council's first Chairman Jean. A true gentleman who will be sadly missed. His funeral will be held 18th February, Cllr Harrison will attend.

The meeting concluded at 21:39

Date of next meeting – **18th March 2021**