

ACOL PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held at the Village Hall, Acol,
at 11.00am on 2nd December 2019.

Present: Cllrs Miss S. Bransfield (Chairman), D. Hayfield, J. Inchley and Mrs. I. Osborne.

Also present: Cllr. T. Roper (TDC), Roy Wade (Clerk) & 2 residents.

45. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. Ms. Dawson, Ms. Debbie Forsyth, PCSO, KCC Warden Tony Gander and Ray Owen.

46. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting 7th October 2019 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

47. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No disclosures of interest were made.

48. CO-OPTION TO COUNCIL

The Clerk reported that he had prepared and displayed a notice inviting any resident of the Village to apply for co-option to the Parish Council. No responses had been received. The position was noted and it was agreed to take no further action at this time.

49. REPORT OF POLICE/COMMUNITY WARDEN/PCSO's.

No officers were in attendance to report.

50. ACOL PARISH COUNCIL – FINANCIAL STANDING ORDERS

The Clerk tabled draft financial standing orders based on the national standard orders of the NALC.

RESOLVED: That the financial standing orders, as tabled, be adopted by Acol Parish Council.

51. REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN

The Chairman reported upon the following:

- a) Stagecoach – still no update, despite further emails requesting one.
- b) Crown & Sceptre – a new rear section has been built and work appears to be progressing inside the building.
- c) BT telephone kiosk is still working, despite no confirmation from BT.
- d) Highways – several matters attended to:
 - Damaged amenity cover, The Elms, attended to and repaired immediately.
 - Right-hand Acol gateway sign on Minster Road has now been replaced.
 - New salt bin purchased for Nursery Fields. Delivered 20th November and Highways Notified. It was filled a few days later.
 - Shrubbery has been cleared around the Acol gateway sign on Margate Hill, thanks to Karen Ault reporting to them.
 - Highways have advised that they will consider tarmacking the road up to the wall on bend near the duck pond, to prevent weeds growing, when the road is next attended to.
 - A 50mph repeater sign was requested, which was mentioned by a villager, and the matter is being considered.
 - APC was invited to submit a letter of support for KCC's application for government funding to build a Birchington/Acol/Westgate relief road, to include extending Columbus Avenue, which APC has done and despatched last week.
- e) Parish Forum – We were unable to attend, but have received the Minutes.

52. QUEX PARK ESTATES – RENEWAL OF LEASE ON THE RECREATION GROUND

The Chairman reported on correspondence with Quex Park Estates on the need to renew the lease on the Recreation Ground which had expired. The cost of renewal would be in the region of £250.00 for which provision had not been made in the budget.

RESOLVED: That the lease be renewed and the Council undertake to meet the cost of renewal.

53. RECREATION GROUND – PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

Cllr. Hayfield reported on improvement to the play area to modernise it and make it more attractive to youngsters. Members were advised that the climbing frame needed to be replaced and it was suggested that a carousel or see saw be installed. Finally the Clerk advised that he had included a draft sum of £2,000.00 in the budget for such works.

RESOLVED: That consideration of this matter be deferred to the next meeting to:

- (i) **Allow for further research into the costings and the type of play equipment to be installed; and**
- (ii) **Enable investigations to establish whether any funding streams are available to fund these improvements.**

54. DRAFT BUDGET 2020/21

It was provisionally agreed that the draft budget in the sum of £7,030.00 be agreed in principle and further considered at the January 2020 meeting.

55. INTERNAL REPORT OF PARISH COUNCIL'S FINANCIAL RECORDS

The report of the Internal Audit was still awaited.

56. PARISH WEBSITE/BROADBAND

- (i) **Website** - Ray Owen was not in attendance to report; and
- (ii) **Broadband** - Richard Steel reported on further discussions:
 - Thirty-seven households have committed to applying for the Government Broadband Vouchers.
 - The original costing has been revised to cover all 115 homes in our community and we need just a few more commitments to cover our share of the £95,000 cost, with adequate contingency.
 - Acol will be a pilot for a new version of the Openreach Community Broadband Partnership.
 - Openreach management will attend the January Parish Council meeting to provide a briefing and answer any questions.
 - The new network build will commence once Openreach has submitted a funding claim to the DCMS, which it will do as soon as enough pledges have been received.

57. CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk reported on:

- (1) **Parish Elections** – An invoice had been received in the sum of £232.38 from TDC in respect of elections held on 2 May 2019. The Chairman reported that she had written to Ms Homer (C.E. – TDC) and stated that as election had not been held on that date and that elections for the Parish Council were not held and Members had been returned without a contest it was not acceptable to invoice Acol P.C. Members were advised that Ms Homer had responded and were advised of the contents. The Clerk reminded Members that he had spoken to staff in the election office and received the same advice as that conveyed to the Chairman.
RESOLVED: That the invoice be not paid at this stage and TDC be asked to further explain the reasons for the invoice as in previous elections this had not been the practice to charge for uncontested elections.
- (2) **Salt Bin** – Members were advised that the bin had been delivered and sited with the approval once Kent Highways had given its final approval.
RESOLVED: That the position be noted and the payment for it be made. (See payment schedule details).
- (3) **Back up of Parish Council Records-** **RESOLVED that 2 external drives be purchased for the use of the Chairman and the Clerk of the Council to enable the Council's records to be backed up.**

58. FINANCIAL MATTERS

- (i) **Payments Schedule.**

RESOLVED: That the following payments be made:

650	SERCO	Grass cut April, May, October	33.78	195.98
651	D.Hayfield	CCTV Energy costs	0.00	45.00
652	CANCELLED			
653	D.Hayfield	Swing seats	0.00	125.98

654	SERCO	Grass cut – November	11.26	67.56
655	HMRC	PAYE – 3 rd Quarter	0.00	110.00
656	R.Wade	Salary – 3 rd Quarter/ Plus postage 21.96	0.00	461.96
657	R.Owen	Parish Council URL	2.00	12.00
658	D.Hayfield	Salt bin	0.00	85.00
V.H.	Man Cttee	Donation to Seniors’ Xmas dinner	0.00	100.00

(ii) **Bank balance.**

The following financial details were not available at the meeting.:

Balance at 01.11.19	£11,650.12
Less cheques agreed	1,032.50
Balance at 10.09.19	£10,617.62

Cllr. Mrs. Osborne verified the financial details.

59. REPORT OF COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Thanet Cllr Roper reported on:

- (i) **TDC Budget** – the budget deficit was currently £1.5m but it was expected that this would be reduced by April 2020 resulting in only a small increase to the council tax level.
- (ii) **Port of Ramsgate** – the purchase of 2 pontoons was not going ahead and would be replaced by 2 berths;
- (iii) **Travellers’ Site** – Consideration of this matter had been deferred to allow for public consultative meetings to be held.
- (iv) **Ramsgate Race Way** – the proposal considered by the Planning Committee was refused.

60. MATTERS OF REPORT BY MEMBERS

No matters were raised.

61. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed to hold the next meeting at 11.00 am on 13th January 2020.

Time concluded: 12.35.