

ACOL PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held at the Village Hall, Acol,
at 11.00am on 13th January 2020.

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

Also present: Cllr. T. Roper (TDC), Roy Wade (Clerk) & 8 residents.

62. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

63. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting 2nd December 2019 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

64. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest.

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

No officers were in attendance to report.

66. REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN

The Chairman reported upon the following:

- Planning application for a Perfume Factory in the Walled Garden. It appeared on the Weekly Planning List in March as "Garden Cottage, Minster Road, Monkton, Ramsgate" which did not stand out as being at the top of our Minster Road so it was missed. It was approved in November. The Parish Council will write to TDC to request that they notify neighbouring villages of a planning application that will impact upon them.
- There was a mixed response to the approval of additional retail units by Minster Services and McDonalds, but relief it will not become a site for travellers.
- Stagecoach have now responded to our request for a courtesy stop and have sent a letter to Mrs Ann Murray with this statement:
"In certain areas there are no designated bus stops. In those areas buses will stop on request where it is safe to do so. Customers should pick a point away from parked cars, road junctions etc and give a clear signal in good time to the driver of the vehicle. When you come to alight you should ring the bell once in good time to alert the driver. We have reiterated the importance of this instruction to our drivers."

67. RECREATION GROUND – PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

Cllr. Hayfield reported further upon the proposed improvement to the play area to modernise it and on discussions with some residents who favoured the installation of a see saw instead of a carousel. The equipment would cost £1,200.00 and there would be the cost of removing the wooden climbing frame and the placement of the see saw. The total cost of purchase and installation would be met from the £2,000 now approved within the budget for 2020-2021

RESOLVED: the report and proposals of Cllr. Hayfield be approved and the see saw purchased and erected in the Spring.

68. DRAFT BUDGET 2020/21

RESOLVED: that the draft budget in the sum of £7,490.00 be approved and a precept of £5,500.00 be requested from TDC.

68. INTERNAL AUDIT OF PARISH COUNCIL'S FINANCIAL RECORDS

The report of the Internal Audit was still awaited. The Clerk to report once the report has been received.

69. PARISH WEBSITE/BROADBAND

Richard Steel introduced Tim Clarkson from Openreach who attended our meeting to discuss the planned Community Broadband Partnership. Tim is an Openreach Customer Field Manager and currently has around 80 such projects on the go. Although 95% of the UK now has broadband provision that's considered to be adequate (with speeds of 30 mbps or more) the Community Partnership programme is enabling coverage for harder to reach communities such as ours. So far, 800 such communities have been provided for.

The timescale for our provision should be within 12 months, and there should not be too much disruption from the works. Existing infrastructure will be used so far as possible – and Tim confirmed that existing services will be unaffected so those who do not need fast broadband service will be able to continue with their existing suppliers.

The new FTTP (Fibre to the Premise) infrastructure will provide each home with its own connection from the Exchange, with speeds measured in 100s of mbps rather than the current single digit speeds experienced in the south of Acol, with much greater reliability. Although, at present it appears that BT is the only current Acol broadband supplier that can provide service across the new network, as previously reported, the expectation is that as fibre infrastructure develops more providers will come onboard.

The latest monitoring indicates that UK fibre coverage has just reached 11%, so our community can now look forward to changing from a fast broadband laggard to being among the frontrunners!

70. CLERK'S REPORT

Parish Elections – Members were advised that TDC had responded to the Parish Council's concerns in respect of the invoice received in the sum of £232.38 from TDC in respect of elections held on 2 May 2019.

TDC had stated that although the Parish Council had not been charged for elections since 2003 they should have been and further insisted that the invoice now presented should be paid.

RESOLVED: That the invoice in the sum of £232.38 be now paid.

71. FINANCIAL MATTERS

(i) **Payments Schedule.**

647	TDC Election costs	0.00	232.38
660	B'ton PCC – Village Hall ground rent	0.00	*200.00
661	Serco - Grass Cut Dec.	11.26	*67.56
662	D.Hayfield - CCTV hard drive	0.00	*80.00
663	HMRC PAYE – 4 th Quarter	0.00	110.00
664	R.Wade - Salary – 3 th Quarter	0.00	440.00
665	Sunstone I.P - CCTV Maint/Call outs	156.00	936.00
666	Quex Estates - Rec Ground rent	0.00	60.00

It was also noted the following financial details:-

- **Balance at 01.01.20** **£10,536.45**
- **Less payments now agreed** **£1,718.38**
- **Balance at 13.01.20** **£ 8,758.07**

Cllr. Mrs. Osborne verified the financial details.

72. REPORT OF COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Thanet Cllr Roper reported on:

- (i) **Travellers' Site** – Consideration of this matter had been deferred to allow for public and parish council consultative meetings to be held.
- (ii) **Polling stations**– TDC would be consulting on the suitability of local parish council election venues: and
- (iii) **Parkway Station** – The consultation period for the Parkway Station would expire on 20th January 2020.

73. MATTERS OF REPORT BY MEMBERS

Cllr Mrs Osborne – urged that residents gave more commitment to the Neighbourhood Watch initiative

Cllr. Inchley - reported on the dumping of bedroom furniture in the area of Walnut Tree Cottage.

74. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed to hold the next meeting at 11.00 am on 23rd March 2020.

Time concluded: 12.20pm.