

Cliffsend Parish Council

The Village Hall, Foads Lane, Cliffsend, CT12 5JH
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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

Held on Thursday 20th January 2022 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

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

Present – Cllr Lyon (Chair), Cllr Harrison, Cllr Barton, Alison Willoughby-Browne (Clerk), 7 members of the public.

- 69/21-22 Welcome and apologies for absence** - Cllr Lyon welcomed those present, Clerk advised that the proceedings were being recorded and demonstrated the emergency exits. Apologies received from DCllr Rogers.
- 70/21-22 Declarations of interest** - none.
- 71/21-22 Adoption of the minutes of 11th November 2021 as being a true record** - 11th November minutes proposed by Cllr Lyon, seconded by Cllr Barton, motion carried. Cllr Lyon signed the minutes as a true record.
- 72/21-22 Matters arising from the above minutes** - none other than to be discussed.
- 73/21-22 Working Party & Councillor Reports** -
Meadow and Open Spaces – hedges in meadow are to be cut soon. Current contractor has quoted for maintenance from April - no increase. Arranging a meeting with Minster regarding the play area; cut back twice a year but brambles are not a part of the hedging, limitations due to equipment they have. Has been neglected, may have to approach TDC. Cllr Lyon reported that the hedges by train line on Foads Hill have been cut and the nuisance drain cover has been reported again.
- 74/21-22 Financial Matters** -
Cllrs Harrison and Barton approved the payment schedule and supporting paperwork before the meeting (no invoice received for supply of Christmas tree and payment for hall amended to £48 due to late cancellation). Contractual payment: Clerk's salary. Grant and KCC payments made December as approved in previous meetings. The following (excluding the supply of Christmas tree) proposed by Cllr Barton, seconded by Cllr Lyon, motion carried.

December/January Payments

Payee	Description	Invoice No	Method	VAT	Excl VAT	Total
Resident	Grant payment 55/21-22	-	Transfer	-	125.00	125.00
KCC	Lighting column installation	900141118	Transfer	-	9215.81	9215.81
KCC	Design and cost; 20mph	900141205	Transfer	-	691.00	691.00
TRRG	Subscription 2021	-	Cheque	-	25.00	25.00
Clerk	Stationery	-	Transfer	1.00	5.00	6.00
Supplier	Christmas tree	-	Transfer	-	180.00	180.00
Clerk	Mobile phone top-up	-	Transfer	-	10.00	10.00
Clerk	Overtime pay	-	Transfer	-	60.00	60.00
Village Hall	January's hire	-	Transfer	-	24.00	24.00
Total				1.00	10335.81	10336.81

Grant applicant expressed thanks to the Parish Council for the support.

The budget review was submitted to each Cllr, each category of the Council's budget for 2021-2022 was compared with the spend-to-date and the predicted end-of-year spend (no significant deviations other than those discussed during previous quarterly checks) this was then compared with the proposed budget for 2022-2023.

The 3rd quarter accounts and bank account statement were also distributed to Councillors for comparison, bank account reconciles with accounts. Cllr Harrison checked this prior to the meeting and initialled both documents; the account balance at 31st December - £47,383.51.

75/21-22 Public Questions -

Resident – is the Parish Council going to show some more ambition in raising funds through precept and doing more for the village? Ash and Minster populations c3,500, Cliffsend 2,000+, Ash and Minster's precepts are £90k and £85k respectively, per capita Cliffsend should be asking for £50k. Parish Council should be doing more e.g. benches need attention, Village Hall may need further support, village events etc. Cllr Barton felt that it would be better to steadily increase the precept.

76/21-22 Planning Applications -

F/TH/21/1671 Land South of Canterbury Road West (145 dwellings/landscaping). Called-in by DCllr Rattigan. Cllr Barton found discrepancies in planning application, he raised the issue of secondary school funding; the application states that secondary school places would be met by the new school being built in Margate but KCC has withdrawn funding for this proposal. Resident - KCC have more funding available for rural bus services. Mitigation could be to get school buses from village to various schools. The developer has stated that they will try and ensure that S106 monies get ploughed back into the community.

FH/TH/21/1802 1 Sceales Drive (single storey conservatory) – no objections.

77/21-22 Current Topics -

Ongoing review of Council procedures – Communications Policy – deferred from November, no adjustments necessary, all in favour.

Update on Highways Improvement Plan (HIP) – Council has now paid for lighting columns and design and cost for 20mph limit in village, design to be published on website. Cllr Lyon suggested that plans should be made available to residents in the Village Hall with KCC Highways representative. Funds remaining from donations received - £14,388. Where possible, existing lamps/columns will be used, adjustment of two illuminated restriction signs so that they can be co-mounted, additional speed limit repeater signs on Cliffsend Road and Foads Hill, also an introduced short 40mph stretch between Richborough Way Bridge and Lavender Lane - buffer zone as can't reduce from 60mph to 20mph. Including the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) - £11,154.91. Suggestions were made re' further double yellow lines opposite the old Post Office as cars now parking there. Cllr Barton would like white stop lines where Nicholas Drive meets Foads Lane, possibility to use the same TRO for other changes. Correspondence received asked for a sign showing no pathway – Walmer Gardens/Foads Lane. The HIP included the reconfiguration, testing and implementation of reduced red-light time on Canterbury Rd West and Sandwich Road to avoid idling; KCC provided a quotation of £1500. After discussion, Cllr Lyon proposed that the Council funds the adjustment of the traffic lights, seconded by Cllr Barton, Cllr Harrison in favour.

Cliffsend re-wilding – communication with KCC last year re' the planting of bulbs in Primrose Way, it was explained that even if the bulbs were just planted at the base of the trees the grass would not be cut until June (planting in December). Cllr Barton advised that swathes of planting would be preferable, better to de-turf and put wildflower beds in, can then be mowed up to the edge and would look nice; more complaints are received about no cutting than cutting.

Budget/Precept for 2022-2023 – the Council Tax Base for Cliffsend 2022-23 is 798.50.

Submission date for precept - 26th January. Due to current financial situation, Council didn't want an increase in precept to impact on households. Also, until we have a full Parish Council then inappropriate to make a significant increase; raised by rate of inflation - £17,391. Cllr Barton suggested that the Council identify set projects that need doing and budget for them and include in precept for 2023-2024.

Events budget increased to £2k for Jubilee celebrations, an external audit will be required for 2021-2022. Total expenditure £16,953 will still have significant reserves c£24k in addition to HIP funds and S106 monies. Precept for 2022-23 proposed by Cllr Barton, seconded by Cllr Lyon, motion carried.

Coffee Morning grant 2018 – Clerk read out a statement on behalf of Council (see attached). Cllr Lyon stated that any decision made by the Council must be made in a public meeting, the old Coffee Morning provided a service to the community and the Council felt that it would not be in the public interest to pursue the return of what little funds remain. Should move on, better informed and aware, and be mindful of how funds are allocated in the future. Clerk will check closing bank statement and report back to the Council. Statement from the floor - £500 grant was taxpayers' money, resident didn't agree that precept money could be used for donations for church roof, hall rental for the Arts and Crafts group and lunches (e.g. Harry and Megan's wedding celebration) £500 could easily have been refunded to the Council. Cllr Lyon stated that we wouldn't have had a coffee morning now if it wasn't for them, representative of old Coffee Morning explained awaiting Council's decision before closing the account, remaining funds to be donated to charities. Cllr Lyon proposed that the Council does not request the remainder of the Coffee Morning funds, seconded by Cllr Barton, unanimous.

Grant application – post-Christmas meal for retired Residents' Association members. On agenda for December, as meeting cancelled couldn't review. Applicant asked for a decision to be made before Christmas, the grant was declined due to the Association having sufficient means to fund the event. Cllr Harrison suggested that an organisation that raises money, cannot ask for funding that is not inclusive of everyone in the village, need to be careful re' funding in the future.

Post Office outreach service – withdrawal of service, Clerk apologised as the letter from Post Office link (suggesting that the premises had been withdrawn) had been published before consulting with Cliffsend Village Hall Management (CVHM). They are asking for that statement to be withdrawn. Cllr Harrison was concerned for residents who rely on the service; she contacted the Postmaster who explained that the outreach service wasn't viable. Cllr Harrison is investigating bus services e.g. to Tesco Extra, but need to establish numbers interested in paying a small fee for such a service. Enquiries have been made as to whether the service could be held during Tuesday Coffee Mornings; would increase footfall, however, machines use a dedicated internet line - in shop. Cllr Harrison to approach Stagecoach re' funding.

Future Parish Council meetings – Cllr Harrison suggested a reduction in the number of meetings a year because of lack of Cllrs, if just quarterly meetings, may encourage people to join Council. Extraordinary meetings could be held if necessary. Cllr Harrison said that she can always be contacted with any issues. Cllr Barton was concerned about planning applications, and Clerk – finances. At present if lose one member - inquorate, see how it works out in new financial year, proposed by Cllr Barton, seconded by Cllr Harrison, Cllr Lyon in favour.

78/21-22 Clerk's Reports -

Confirmation from BAM Nuttall that they will secure funding to pay for the trees that Council requested. Cllr Barton explained that 90% of trees are lost through bad planting, to fund 3 years maintenance as well.

79/21-22 Correspondence Received –

- Resident – complaint re' unprofessional behaviour; Clerk addressed.
- Harmer & Sons – grounds maintenance for 2022; discussed.
- Resident – maintenance of benches, overgrowth etc; discussed.
- KALC – cyber-attack on Cantium's education network.
- Resident – privacy issue with Canterbury Road West development; given developer details.
- TDC – Chair for Margate Town Deal Board/action plan following auditor's recommendations.
- KCC – reconfiguring, testing and implementing reduced red-light time at traffic lights Sandwich Road and Canterbury Road West; discussed.
- Thanet Rural Regeneration Group (TRRG) – 2021 subscription.
- PCSO – information on Police Surgeries; published.
- Field Studies Council – free tree guides for over-16s.
- KALC – Contain Outbreak Management Fund information.
- Resident – objection to Canterbury Road West development.
- TDC – Council's successful bid for funding to prevent homelessness.
- KALC – warning that KALC have been subjected to a ransomware attack.
- Resident – enquiry re' shop; directed to CVHM.
- Residents' Association – re' grant applications; forwarded information, discussed.
- KALC – forthcoming introduction of Integrated Care Partnerships; major changes taking place in how health and care is organised in England.
- TDC – public engagement to 'partial update' of Thanet Local Plan; published.
- TDC – draft Council Tax Base 2022/2023; discussed.
- TDC – invitation to be a part of the Sustainable Partnership Group/proposals to deliver a balanced budget for 2022-2023.
- Resident –? signage to indicate no pathway from Walmer Gardens to Foads Lane; discussed.
- Resident – funding to secure trees for Cliffsend; discussed funding from BAM Nuttall.
- Post Office Limited – temporary closure of outreach service; discussed.
- Sealink Project (National Grid) – briefing session with Parish Council to discuss proposed high voltage undersea electricity link between Suffolk and Kent; Clerk to arrange.
- CVHM – trees overhanging car park; to investigate.

Cllr Lyon proposed that the remaining payments for hire of the Village Hall this financial year be paid in advance, seconded by Cllr Barton, motion carried.

Meeting concluded at 21:11