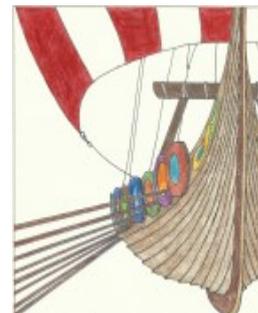


Cliffsend Parish Council

The Village Hall, Foads Lane, Cliffsend, CT12 5JH
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Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Held on Tuesday 16th May 2023 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 G Fricker (Chair), Cllr J Fricker, Cllr Smith, Alison Willoughby-Browne (Clerk), DCllr Davis, Community Warden and 3 members of the public.

01/23-24 Welcome and apologies for absence (by existing Chairman) - Cllr G Fricker welcomed those attending and indicated emergency exits. Apologies received from Cllrs Chapman and Harrison, DCllr Rogers. Before handing meeting over to Clerk, Chairman took a moment to reflect on the sad passing of our Cllr Chris Barton; fond memories of a kind person - a loss to Ramsgate Town Council as well as the parish, thoughts are with his family.

02/23-24 Declarations of interest, election of Officers, confirmation of Working Group membership - no declarations. Clerk asked if there were any nominations for the position of Chairman; Cllr Smith proposed Cllr G Fricker, seconded by Cllr J Fricker, all in favour (Cllrs Chapman and Harrison had expressed support via email/telephone to Clerk). Vice-Chairman; Cllr G Fricker proposed Cllr Chapman for this position, seconded by Cllr Smith, Cllr J Fricker in favour (Cllr Harrison in support). Both nominations were uncontested. Declarations of Acceptance of Office to be read to full Council.

Clerk relinquished chairing the meeting to Cllr G Fricker who explained that the Parish Council election was uncontested, therefore, those who had submitted nomination papers (Cllrs G Fricker/J Fricker/Harrison/Smith/Chapman) were duly elected.

- Meadow and Open Spaces Working Group; Cllrs J Fricker and Smith.
- Planning and Highways Working Group; Cllrs Chapman, Harrison and G Fricker.
- Finance Working Group; Clerk, Cllrs G Fricker and Chapman
- Youth Working Group; Cllrs J Fricker and Smith.
- Communication and Events Working Group; Cllrs Smith, J and G Fricker.

03/23-24 Adoption of the minutes of 21st March 2023 as being a true record - 21st March minutes proposed by Cllr G Fricker, seconded by Cllr J Fricker, motion carried. Chairman to sign the minutes as a true record.

04/23-24 Matters arising from the above minutes - none other than to be discussed.

05/23-24 Working Party & Councillor Reports -

District Cllr – DCllr Davis explained that new administration at TDC, he expressed a desire to work collaboratively as much as possible and ensured a productive relationship. Both District Cllrs attended Coffee Morning; lots of issues from residents e.g. speeding Foads Lane/Hill, number 9 bus. Good working relationship with new constable for Thanet, and the PCC (Matthew Scott) worked with them on campaign. TDC Annual Meeting Thursday 18th May, will then know who is on Joint Transportation Board. Chairman expressed a wish for a meeting with both District Councillors to discuss a number of common issues including development in area, green wedge, safety, shop, transport and lack of communication from TDC.

Community Warden – had a purge on potholes; all repaired within three weeks. Next is old, uneven paving slabs in Cliffsend Grove. New KCC Highways Technician – no hedging to be cut until after 31st July, area that needs attention is the roadside vegetation which is obscuring view of road. Thanks expressed for help with Coronation Celebrations.

Meadow and Open Spaces – Cllr J Fricker explained the cutting plan for the meadow – leave meadow for re-wilding but cut diagonally so that walkers can get around safely. After two years of re-wilding – amount of flora we have is amazing, plan is to take a photo every month to see changes. Initially dog-walkers thought that dogs wouldn't like the long grass but they really enjoy it. The Coronation Celebrations went really well, thanks to all those involved. Such a success that more events requested, will definitely have a Summer Festival with camping-out like last year.

Planning and Highways – retrospective planning application for Cliffsend Farm was granted permission, despite objection. Understood that a further retrospective application will be submitted for the activities in the field on west side of Sandwich Road i.e. bund and dumping of aggregate waste etc. Chairman asked for Ramsgate Town Council's position on application, nothing back. Shouldn't be able to carry out works and then apply retrospectively, farmer also allowed young man to set up a burger van on land; do Maudsley Trust know that land being used for something other than agriculture? Cllr Chapman to write to Trust. A discussion ensued re' leases, also shop (didn't come as high as expected on sentiment survey) would welcome District Councillor input.

Youth – S106 spend within 2.5 years, would like to put more in park but not going to make capital investment until we know park is secure. DCllr Davis asked for details in writing and he will make it his priority to pursue. Chairman explained that Parish Council has considered a Neighbourhood Plan but would take an extraordinary amount of time, is massively complicated and would cost a lot of money. Only a couple have gone ahead in Thanet, some Councils stopped halfway through. DCllr Davis offered to liaise with colleagues at Broadstairs Town Council to see if a cost-effective way of achieving. Benefit is that can directly stop unwanted development, however, it could take five years to implement, by which time developments may have been built anyway.

Cllr J Fricker spoke about the success of the holiday craft clubs; next is 29th May. Residents' Association have given permission to use the green noticeboard as a nature/wildlife board for children to participate with drawings etc. Community Warden wondered on ownership of boards near Hugin's Green – important, historical for Viking Trail, poor condition (TDC).

06/23-24 Financial Matters -

Internal Auditor visited 11th May. Prior to the meeting the completed Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2022/23 Form 3, Annual Internal Audit Report, Bank Reconciliation, Explanation of Variances and Notice of Public Rights were distributed to Cllrs. Each section of the AGAR was examined.

Due to expenditure exceeding the £25,000 threshold, the Council is not exempt from the limited assurance review. The Annual Internal Audit Report was considered.

AGAR Section 1 – the Council considered and approved the Annual Governance Statement for 2022/23; Cllrs responded to each statement of Internal Control read out by the Clerk. Chairman and Clerk signed the statement on behalf of the Council.

AGAR Section 2 – the Council considered and approved the Accounting Statements and supporting documents (Bank Reconciliation; bank balance at year end £33,236.90, Explanation of Variances) as provided by the Responsible Financial Officer who had signed Section 2 of the AGAR for 2022/23 before being presented to the authority. The Chairman countersigned the document.

Confirmation of the commencement date for the exercise of Public Rights; 5th June to 14th July incl.

Auditor had suggested a paperless approach where possible, Cllrs Smith and J Fricker had checked the following payments with supporting documents, via email. Cllr Smith proposed that the payment schedule be accepted, Cllr J Fricker seconded, motion carried. Contractual payments; Harmer & Sons and Clerk's salary. Italicised already paid.

May Payments

Payee	Description	Invoice No	Method	VAT	Ex VAT	Total
Clerk	Southern Water Plans	1123863	Transfer	6.66	33.34	40.00
Harmer & Sons	Meadow Maintenance	21161	Transfer	20.00	100.00	120.00
Clerk	Defibrillator Pads	305	Transfer	21.20	113.95	135.15
Cliffsend Arts & Crafts	Hall Hire 3 rd April Holiday Club	-	Transfer	-	20.00	20.00
Village Hall	2023-24 Hire for PC Meetings	23501	Transfer	-	180.00	180.00
Village Hall	Hire – 29 th May Arts & Crafts	-	Transfer	-	20.00	20.00
Village Hall	Hire – Coronation Deposit	-	Transfer	-	100.00	100.00
Cllr Judith Fricker	Reimburse Easter Event	-	Transfer	-	80.89	80.89
Cllr Judith Fricker	Reimburse Easter Event	-	Transfer	-	60.45	60.45
Harmer & Sons	Meadow Maintenance	21308	Transfer	20.00	100.00	120.00
Clerk	Laptop	172844	Transfer	54.83	274.17	329.00
Clerk	Mobile phone	-	Transfer	-	10.00	10.00
Total for Month				122.69	1092.80	1215.49

07/23-24 Planning Applications -

F/TH/23/0482 land adjacent 1 Mansfield Villas, Windsor Road (erection of 2 three-storey 4 bedroom semi-detached dwellings)

FH/TH/23/0459 3 Lavender Lane (part two, part one-storey outbuilding, pool) planning application Considered each – take process within TDC.

08/23-24 Current Topics -

Ongoing review of Council procedures – Financial Regulations, Grant Application Policy and Forms highlighted for review, proposed for acceptance by Cllr G Fricker, seconded by Cllr Smith, carried.

KALC membership – Kent Association of Local Councils; membership since September 2022, still on the fence, subsidised training in addition to almost £800 for membership, still not sure what we are getting for that money, auditor did question increase in subscriptions. Chairman proposed that we have a meeting with KALC to find out what benefits are, what are we not using them for that we should be?

BAM Nuttall tree planting/KCC 'Call for Sites' – after various meetings, have finalised sites for planting; extend copse by Viking Café, agreement to plant a mini-orchard on Bakers Field, fill-in shrubs Cliffsend Road where existing green is. Earlsmead survey – three options – extend planting by existing trees, to mirror (copse both ends), or to ring the green. Preferred option was to extend the existing tree area. Some residents didn't want any additional trees; mostly for fear that children would lose a large space to play in. They won't be tall trees, will be plenty of room to play and amount will be scaled-down. Next stage is to decide on numbers/species and go back to BAM Nuttall, also need to factor in maintenance for next three years. 19 people in Cliffsend have offered help, DCllr Davis to spread the word. Also had correspondence from KCC to contact landowners to see if they would be willing to have trees planted, thoughts are where new ponds are - would nice to be ringed with mini orchard. Resident questioned whether Sandwich Road an option, plans to plant scuppered – a lot of activity on TDC scanners; sewer, high voltage cable etc.

Councillor training – in budget, Cllrs to see what is of interest.

09/23-24 Clerk's Reports -

First tranche of precept has been paid into bank account - £12,699.

lonos - increased charges from £2.40 to £3 a month.

Asked to trial a new highways reporting tool, can report directly.

10/23-24 Correspondence Received -

- Resident – Cllr Chris Barton memorial; to liaise with Ramsgate Town Council who also expressed a wish to do something.
- TDC – 1,100 trees planted to tackle climate change.
- Resident – thanks for Easter craft event.
- KCC – 20mph speed limit post survey analysis; commissioned to evaluate the scheme, completed general survey. Further traffic speed surveys were part of evaluation, awaiting feedback.
- Resident – Thanet Parkway planting/fly-tipping; garages Earlsmead – estimated that possibly 50% of planted trees have died - probably worst year to plant and inadequate

maintenance. Resident has been proactive in contacting Parkway, insufficient planting on residents' side, further planting required for soundproofing, important to make right choice - drought-tolerant. To discuss further.

- Resident – information on TR32 pathway; advised that now dual purpose. Ordnance survey map – cuts across middle of field, does not skirt boundary. Access directly from Cottington Rd between new houses and Lavender Lane; straight line to railway embankment and then turn right along embankment, it doesn't go around back of Earlsmead, therefore, fly-tipping is futile as not part of pathway. Only dual purpose north of arch.
- Resident – Parkway public engagement – advised Council of questions put to team.
- Minster Parish Councillor – 2050 Flooding Maps – depends how data interpreted/appetite for risk. Worst case scenario that by 2050 some of parish will be under water. The idea is when developers are riding roughshod over areas that they should take this into consideration. Resident stated that a sink hole had formed at the back of Sportsman development after the last storm.

11/23-24 Public Questions -

Any update on pavement by Sportsman development? Cllr Harrison made enquiries and reported to County Cllr and KCC Highways. Potholes – bus stop, to raise again with KCC.

The meeting concluded at 21:18