

# CLIFFSEND PARISH COUNCIL

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**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting  
Held on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2015 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall**

**Members Present. -Parish Councillors Alexander Vice Chairman, Searle, Fiander, Hovenden & Lyon**

**In Attendance - Ashley Stacey, Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer, 14 members of the community. District Cllr JTownend & Cllr B Rogers.**

**42/15-16 Welcome & Apologies**

Clerk gave apologies from **Cllr Knowles** who is on holiday.

**Cllr Alexander** opened the meeting, and gave emergency exit information. **Cllr Alexander** also asked if anyone is recording the meeting to declare it. Mr Rogers confirmed he was taking an audio recording.

**43/15-16 Declarations of interest**

None

**44/15-16 Adoption of minutes of 4<sup>th</sup> June 2015 as being a true record, following some amendments**

**Proposed Cllr Alexander, Seconded Cllr Lyon – Four Cllrs in favour –Cllr Hovenden could not vote as she was not present.**

**Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2015 be approved following some amendments.**

**45/15-16 Matters arising from the above minutes**

**Playground** – Clerk read a letter from Morgan Harris TDC who advised that the playground can be accessed by disabled children and families. The path is beneficial not essential. **Cllr Alexander** advised that maybe we should put the council officer into a wheel chair and see if he could access the playground.

**Recording equipment** – clerk asked what she should look into? Video or sound Cllr Alexander confirmed sound.

**Microphones/sound system** – village hall have confirmed that the sound system is being fixed.

**Contact point** – **Cllr Searle** advised that it has been changed back to 12.30pm.

**Cllr Hovenden** suggested that the contact point be on Hugin Green- no further action was discussed.

**Website** – **Cllr Searle** confirmed that she will update when she has time.

**Consultations** – **Cllr Hovenden** advised that the consultation responses were completed at the council meetings in public, and if the members who were enquiring had been there they would have witnessed the response. **Cllr Alexander** advised that he was not going to discuss these issues as it was not a full council. Clerk advised him that he must make a decision as a proposal had been made. **Cllr Hovenden** proposed that the consultations review be abandoned and we move forward. **Seconded Cllr Lyon**, three in favour – two cllrs against. Resolved to abandon consultation. Action – to review new cllrs training needs.

**Cllr Hovenden** noted that the minutes state that Mr M Rogers has been voted onto the Finance Working Party. Usually this would be co-option. She requested that the role of such a position be investigated and reported.

**46/15-16 Reports**

**District Councillors – Nothing to report**

**Community Warden/PCSO – PCSO** advised that contact point time couldn't be changed re above.

**Cllr Reports** - TAC meeting in also on 2.7.15 so Cllr Hovenden was unable to attend, , TRRG – **Cllr Fiander** did not attend as she was unaware of the meeting. Clerk to contact and advice of new membership.

#### **F & GP report**

**Cllr Searle** proposed the weeding of the trees take place at a cost of £395 (No VAT), Seconded **Cllr Alexander** – All in favour. **Cllr Searle** proposed quote from tree surgeon £370 + Vat, seconded **Cllr Lyon**, all in favour. **Cllr Searle** proposed the brambles to be cut in September - £235.00 + Vat, seconded **Cllr Hovenden** all in favour.

Memorial plaque – estimate of £60-150. Owners are still unsure what to do. **Cllr Searle** proposed that the PC donate half the cost, but with a maximum of £50 towards the cost of the plaque. **Cllr Lyon** seconded – all in favour.

**Cllr Hovenden** advised the NHWP questionnaire 2 had a 53% response. Target is document ready by end of December. Data base and spreadsheet are currently being tested before input of real data. **Cllr Hovenden** proposed that the group remain as a working party as the work is confidential, seconded **Cllr Searle**, all in favour. **Cllr Alexander** proposed thanks be given to **Cllr Searle** for all her hard work, seconded **Cllr Hovenden** and all in favour.

Finance Working Party – Clerk advised the meeting was held and discussed several outstanding final issues.

**Cllr Lyon** proposed that the historic financial items are no longer pursued. **Cllr Hovenden** seconded - Three in favour, two against.

**Cllr Alexander** advised that Mr Weatherley has resigned. **Cllr Hovenden** asked the clerk to confirm that TDC, not the clerk, deal with all the issues relating to the election, notices etc.

#### **47/15-16 Public Questions**

There was much discussion about the Parish Council and it moving forward rather than moving backwards. **Cllr Alexander** advised that the PC was investigating the finances back to 2011 – when the new clerk came into post. He also felt that because the auditor was only charging £75 for the audit he was obviously missing things and he could not do it for that cost and he isn't qualified. Clerk advised that the auditor was only auditing 2014/15 and not previous audits. In 2011 the audits were bad, there were no financial regulations in place, and they have gradually got better and better. As the chair did not know, clerk also confirmed that there are 2 audits, an internal and external audit. Clerk asked if she was being investigated for financial irregularities? **Cllr Alexander** confirmed that sometimes you had to take a little criticism and he was 99% sure that it was fine. Clerk advised that it has all been blown out of proportion as the issues being looked into were a VAT claim and the section 106 monies from TDC. Clerk advised that she would be happy to resign. **Cllr Alexander** said that it was up to her. After complaints from Council members and the public Cllr Alexander offered an apology. Clerk did not accept his apology.

#### **48/15-16 Financial Matters**

**Checked by Cllr Alexander and Cllr Fiander**

**Chqs were signed by Cllr Searle and Cllr Hovenden**

**Chq No 588 -A Stacey – Wages £342.13**

**Chq No 589- HMRC £81.03**

**Chq No 590 – A Stacey Expenses £55.96**

#### **49/15-16 Current Topics**

**Communications** – **Cllr Alexander** raised this although it was not on the agenda. He has met with TDC who advised that the emails to **Cllr Hovenden** should be sent by paper. **Cllr Hovenden** advised that she was happy to receive emails from the clerk. The discussion continued for some time and **Cllr Alexander** told **Cllr Hovenden** to

'belt up', a member of the audience advised **Cllr Alexander** that it was not appropriate to speak like that in a council meeting. Cllr Alexander agreed with the member of the audience that it was inappropriate to speak in that fashion and apologised to both **Cllr Hovenden** and the audience. **Cllr Alexander** suggested that the member of the audience leave the hall. **Cllr Alexander** will refer back to the legal manager at TDC.

**War Memorial – Cllr Alexander** proposed a feasibility study be set up to look into the possibility of a war memorial, clerk queried if the group name was correct? **Cllr Alexander** advised it was correct. **Cllr Fiander** seconded with all members in favour. **Cllr Alexander** and 3 members of the public agreed to take part.

**Weatherlees Treatment Plant – Cllr Alexander** asked clerk to write a letter regarding smells, clerk confirmed it needed to be proposed and seconded on behalf of the PC. **Cllr Hovenden** also advised that they could be coming from Discovery Park. – letter to both – Proposed **Cllr Alexander**, Seconded **Cllr Fiander** four in favour - **Cllr Hovenden** abstained.

**Consultations** – covered above

**50/15-16 Clerks report**  
**None**

**51/15-16 Correspondence received**  
KCC letter advising Minster PCSO is also covering Cliffsend.

**52/15-16 Planning Applications**  
**Jentex amended app – OL/TH/15/0020**  
**Land west of pumping station – F/TH/15/0400**  
**Parkway – planning app to be submitted May 2016. Cllr Shonk gave an update.**

#### **Public Questions continued**

Resident asked - can a safety gate be placed across the meadow exit onto Cliffsend Road. **Cllr Searle** advised that it is a public footpath and it cannot.

Resident advised that if the 20mph speed limit was in place the gate would not be needed. Also the benches need refurbishment works. No proposal made

There was a discussion regarding the speeding and roads within and surrounding Cliffsend. No actions or proposals made.

Mr Rogers advised – if the information is not provided for the FWP then he will ask for the information via FOI.

**Cllr Searle** proposed that the meeting be extended 15 mins – seconded **Cllr Hovenden**, all in favour

**Cllr Searle** advised the meeting of the amended planning application for the Jentex site. Comments must be in by 9<sup>th</sup> July. **Cllr Lyon** proposed a letter be sent to TDC approving amendments, **Seconded Cllr Fiander** – all in favour

**Cllr Searle** advised that the planning app for the asparagus field is not yet on the planning website and we haven't had the papers. Clerk to chase up. **Cllr Hovenden** proposed that we inform TDC that a survey has already been taken as part of the Neighbourhood Plan and the villagers do not support this site. Seconded Cllr Lyon all in favour.

Meeting closed at 9.45 pm Date of next meeting –6<sup>th</sup> August 2015, **Clerk to the Council: Mrs Ashley Stacey, 3 Rossetti Road, Birchington CT7 9ER, Tel 01843 848473**