

Cliffsend Parish Council

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

Held on Thursday 15th April 2021 at 7.30pm via Zoom.

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

Present – Cllr Forrest (Chair), Cllr Lyon, Cllr Harrison, Cllr Pooley, Cllr Chinnery, Alison Willoughby-Browne (Clerk), 10 members of the public.

- 1/21-22 Welcome and apologies for absence** - Clerk opened the meeting by announcing a change to the agenda as Martin Rogers had tendered his apologies for not being present, he had given notice to the Clerk and TDC of his resignation from Cliffsend Parish Council. Cllr Forrest assumed the position of Chairman for the meeting, he advised that the proceedings were being video-recorded. Apologies from DCllr Rogers, DCllr Rattigan, PCSOs.
- 2/21-22 Declarations of interest** - none.
- 3/21-22 Adoption of the minutes of 18th March 2021 as being a true record** - 18th March minutes proposed by Cllr Lyon and seconded by Cllr Pooley, all in favour. Cllr Forrest to sign the minutes as a true record.
- 4/21-22 Matters arising from the above minutes** - none other than those to be discussed.
- 5/21-22 Working Party & Councillor Reports** -
PCSO – via email, happy that we are entering Parish in Bloom; non-competitive and a better introduction into competition. May be able to arrange some plants. Cllr Forrest asked how many hours are PCSOs supposed to spend in the village. Clerk explained that there are three sharing the duties. Cllr Forrest felt that we are not getting the visibility that we are entitled to, how can we increase visibility and ability to communicate with them?

Meadow and Open Spaces – Cllr Forrest asked whether we are going to look at developing the meadow in any way, residents writing in to Council about the meadow and other areas. Cllr Lyon to arrange a Meadow meeting and invite interested residents; environmental issues/opportunities. TDC - carbon neutral by 2030, trees have been removed along railway line, we are not doing anything to compensate for that, as a Council we should be looking at ways to re-green, re-wild. An email was received about leaving a longer area in meadow; **Clerk to contact contractor** as 6 cuts were suggested this year, we have had two already. Cllr Forrest has spoken with KCC re' area between garage and traffic lights; KCC have promised a meeting, may involve Southern Water as area disturbed when new sewage pipe was installed. Cllr Forrest explained that the meadow lease has not been registered with the Land Registry and the Council is looking to do that.

Highways – report circulated. Network Rail platform on Foads Hill; serious health and safety issues on how they had finished it, they have now put in a wire mesh fence and filled gap from kerb to fence, the street lamp base was disturbed when digging foundations, now stabilised. Network Rail had carried out the initial works without planning permission, Cllr Forrest said this was unacceptable and has asked that they consider a meaningful gesture of goodwill.

Funding; nothing from Southern Water as yet, have secured £7,500 of funding from WW Martin/Orbit Homes South (£5,000) and Millwood Designer Homes (£2,500).

£15k will cover traffic calming raised table. Cllr Forrest mail dropped to houses near Foads Lane/Hill/Cliffsend Road corner to explain what we are considering, how it works - 48 mail drops, two responses, both in favour. How we progress will depend on funding secured.

Street lighting; a quote was received from KCC to supply street lighting to Cliffsend Road - £9,358 plus an additional £164.93 for KCC to adopt and maintain the lights. Residents at Bakers Field support the proposal as lighting is not good on development. £10k in budget for highways, Cllr Forrest proposed that we use that funding to provide the lighting, Cllr Lyon seconded, motion carried. Cllr Forrest explained that KCC/TDC will not fund these initiatives it is down to Parish Councils, we need to be more assertive when precept is set; our parish is half the size of Minster, our precept is c20% the amount of Minster's. Understanding is that it doesn't increase the amount of council tax that residents pay but brings a higher % of that into the Parish Council, TDC and KCC would have less. We need to be more ambitious as a Council, donors are being very generous, we should also be tapping into possible funding opportunities from contractors working in the area.

Finance – unfortunately, two Notices of Casual Vacancy pending; Cllr Rogers and Cllr Mortimer were both on Finance Working Group, now just the Clerk. Will need support in the future, the next payments are in May, will need new signatories in place for then.

Youth – Cllr Pooley met a resident who at present is doing life-coaching, keen to work improving lives post-COVID. Cllr Pooley would like to improve basketball net and goals. Cllr Forrest wondered whether the resident would be interested in working with Youth Group. We have £15k of S106 monies from Bakers Field, Clerk has contacted TDC five times without acknowledgement - Iain Livingstone twice, Bob Porter twice and Tim Willis. **Clerk and Cllr Forrest to pursue**, if we don't get a response we should be making a complaint; refusing to respond is not acceptable behaviour. Cllr Harrison has a basketball net, a resident offered some goal nets and has dropped them off to Cllr Pooley.

6/21-22 **Financial Matters -**

Cllrs Lyon and Harrison had previously checked the following payments with supporting documents (both payments made before financial year-end). KCC have not provided an invoice yet for the payment listed on agenda. Schedule unanimously approved.

April Payments

Payee	Description	Invoice No	Method	VAT	Excl VAT	Total
Came & Co	Council Insurance	-	Transfer	-	501.51	501.51
Harmer & Sons	Meadow Maintenance	18231	Transfer	18.00	90.00	108.00
Total for Month				18.00	591.51	609.51

7/21-22 **Public Questions -**

Resident commented on the re-surfacing of Canterbury Road West, questioning why the rest of the road to Lord of the Manor roundabout hadn't been addressed, this is the part with most problems. Cllr Forrest had contacted KCC already, awaiting response.

Cllr Harrison remarked on the dangerous siting of a new fence and double gates on the bend of Cottington Road; KCC Highways agreement with property owner. South-side kerb stones in place of the soft verge, could be a problem for drivers with oncoming traffic. Cllr Forrest said that plans showed the 30mph limit will be pushed back towards Lavender Lane and a gateway introduced; forming a single track.

Resident (previously emailed) asked when there would be new road markings from Lord of the Manor roundabout to Cliffsend Road; central white lines. Cars are cutting across the carriageway to APC and Cliffsend Farm, actually a no-right turn. Cllr Forrest has spoken to KCC. Resident also asked whether Sandwich Road would be resurfaced; there is money budgeted for this, shouldn't delay the renewing of lines.

8/21-22 **Planning Applications -**

F/TH/21/0172 2 Cliff View Road (alteration to fenestration and roof configuration; variation of F/TH/20/0518 erection of 2 semi-detached chalet bungalows)
FH/TH/21/0283 Heimetli Arundel Road (retrospective single storey rear extension)

9/21-22

Current Topics -

Financial Regulations Review – Cllr Forrest checked, a couple of alterations to make will postpone acceptance until next meeting when more Councillors have viewed.

Update on Meadow Lease Meeting – already addressed.

Village Hall Support – funds kindly released from restrictions by former Shop Association, Parish Council have discussed supporting the Village Hall, quotation received for removal of main ceiling (containing asbestos) circulated - £6,282 including VAT Council can then claim back (£1,047). Cllr Lyon proposed that the Parish Council support this project, Cllr Pooley seconded, all in favour. Cllr Forrest stated that it was a wonderful thing for Cliffsend Parish Council to do for the community.

Proposed Allotments – Ramsgate Town Council; oversubscription of allotments in Ramsgate area, wondered if Cliffsend residents would be interested in allotments. Parish Council have registered an interest, enough at the moment (still in proposal stage), dependent on how much money the Parish Council would have available, where the allotments might be etc.

KALC Membership – information circulated, Cllr Harrison questioned its value for money, £593 per annum plus VAT. Clerk read out some details from correspondence, a discussion ensued. Cllr Forrest suggested it would be worthwhile circulating what type of training is available, then if Cllrs interested we could work out whether it is cost effective to join. Cllr Chinnery expressed an interest. Cllr Harrison suggested that a representative from KALC attend a meeting and explain what we get for our money, this has been previously offered.

10/21-22

Clerk's Reports -

Minster Parish Council empty 6 of our bins 3 times a week, they are very rarely full, if overflowing often due to household waste. Minster has many bins but there is still a problem with dog fouling, it is about educating people. Cllr Pooley suggested a bin around Bakers Field, top of village towards Canterbury Road West, Meverall Avenue. 7 bins along Sandwich Road, **Clerk to find out how often TDC empty them and how much for supply and installation.** Cllr Forrest mooted that TDC should be providing bins at every bus stop.

Cllr Harrison had followed up on damage to wall in Cottington Road by a lorry delivering to Orbit site, will be rebuilt in a sympathetic way. Sub-contractors and operatives on site have been spoken to re' speeding cars and no barriers. External auditor instructions received from PKF Littlejohn, internal audit is May, we should be exempt from an external audit.

11/21-22

Correspondence Received -

- Resident – clarification after Parish Council meeting 18th March; advised on Council procedures, budget monitoring, insurance and audit.
- Resident – complaint regarding conduct at 18th March meeting; forwarded to Chairman.
- Ramsgate Town Council – allotment oversubscription; discussed.
- Resident – re-wilding/environmental policy; circulated to Cllrs, Chairman responded. Cllr Forrest agreed; when see what companies like Network Rail have done, we should be using our position as a Parish Council to go back to companies such as BAM Nuttall, Southern Water for mitigation, help us do something that contributes to the environment.
- Member of public – information on Orbit Housing developments; Clerk advised.
- Concern about Cliffsend Orbit development; in Cliftonville advertised as social housing and then turned out to be a private venture.
- Mowing of meadow – discussed previously.
- Communication re' Thanet Parkway, resident wondered if KCC have a disruption compensation scheme for those affected by the work? Discussed, to investigate.
- Resident raised concerns re' a health and safety issue around Earlsmead Crescent ?slurry from cleaning prior to resurfacing 26th April. Cllr Lyon has raised a complaint with KCC.
- Complaint about road closures, length of time Cottington Road closed and uncoordinated closures so as to isolate Cliffsend. Advised on re-opening of the roads affected.

The meeting concluded at 21:26 Date of next meeting – **AGM 6th May**