

Cliffsend Parish Council

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

Held on Tuesday 4th October 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 G Fricker (Chair), Cllr Harrison, Cllr Barton, Cllr J Fricker, Alison Willoughby-Browne (Clerk), CCllr Shonk and 7 members of the public.

- 23/22-23 Welcome and apologies for absence** - Chairman welcomed those present and indicated the emergency exits. Cllr Lyon had tendered her resignation as a Parish Councillor, therefore, we have another vacancy in addition to two that already exist. The Notice of Vacancy has been published and will finish 19th October, will then know if we can co-opt. If anyone is interested then please contact the Clerk. Apologies received from DCllr Rogers.
- 24/22-23 Declarations of interest and appointment of Officer** - no declarations of interest. Appointment of Vice-Chairman postponed until November.
- 25/22-23 Adoption of the minutes of 21st July 2022 as being a true record** - proposed by Cllr Harrison, seconded by Cllr J Fricker, motion carried. Chairman signed the minutes as a true record.
- 26/22-23 Matters arising from the above minutes** - none other than to be discussed.
- 27/22-23 Working Party & Councillor Reports** -
County Cllr – Chairman had written with a number of issues; funding, Sandwich Road, safety etc to be brought to attention of KCC, CCllr Shonk informed the Council that he had passed this on to those in charge.

Meadow and Open Spaces – was Cllr Lyon's responsibility. The survey in relation to the meadow is on agenda later. Clerk and Chairman meeting with TDC and BAM Nuttall 6th October to finally agree on location and maintenance of trees that BAM have kindly agreed to donate. Need to plant relatively soon, update at next meeting. Cllr J Fricker – re-wilding plan for village; at Viking Ship there used to be large swathes of daffodils, lost these, would like to replace and add to other green areas. Idea is to get a team of volunteers together to prepare soil, rotivate and create a map of where to plant the bulbs. Approval for Narcissus and bluebell bulbs required, will come from contingency fund; four quotes received, cheapest £244 plus VAT for 2000 Narcissus bulbs, £300 for bluebells. Chairman suggested expenditure of no more than £600. Cllr Harrison proposed, seconded by Cllr Barton, all in favour.

Planning and Highways – corner of Cliffsend Road and Foads Hill verges now adopted; maintenance now goes over to KCC. Plan to make a wildflower area, ensuring does not grow too high and obscure corner. Update on 20mph; approved, waiting for implementation (*TRO - 31 comments made - 21 in support and 10 against, only one of which was considered a valid objection on traffic management grounds*). A resident explained about the problems faced with air and noise pollution in Foads Lane due to it being used as a cut through partly because of traffic calming on Sandwich Road. Advised to look at website for Highways Improvement Plan/traffic surveys and to contact Clerk with concerns. KCC approached about more traffic surveys on Sandwich Road.

Youth – Cllr J Fricker; Halloween events planned with hall Trustees - children all in one place, off streets, avoiding 'trick or treat'. 22nd October - pumpkin carving day in hall, then bring along on Halloween (6.30pm) to the hall for scary music and lights, hot chocolate and pumpkin soup, play area being used as well. Quoted £1.80 per pumpkin (including 10% discount) Cllr Harrison to see if she can get free pumpkins/apples. Provisional £200 budget proposed by Cllr Barton, seconded by Cllr Harrison, all in favour.

Cllr Barton stated that Global Generation Church are selling a lot of equipment e.g. a portable MUGA; metal framework with two goals, which could be used in playground area, not a permanent structure, storage may be a problem, to find out more. Also, hopeful of the mobile skate park; paperwork being put in place, approval from landowner necessary. Planters available for long-term lend.

28/22-23 Financial Matters -

Second budget review of financial year; budget vs actual spend/income had been distributed to Cllrs, 2nd tranche of precept received 20th September. Cllrs also checked the bank statement against accounts; reconciled with bank balance at 30th September - £42,248.69. Cllr J Fricker had checked the balance of accounts against bank statement and signed both documents. Second quarter checks proposed by Cllr Harrison, seconded by Cllr G Fricker, all in favour.

Cllrs Harrison and Barton checked payment schedule and supporting documents. Contractual payment: Clerk's salary. Payment schedule proposed by Cllr J Fricker, seconded by Cllr Harrison, all in favour.

September/October Payments

Payee	Description	Invoice No	Method	VAT	Ex VAT	Total
HMRC	Tax/NI	-	Transfer	-	61.00	61.00
David Buckett	Internal Audit Fees	1372	Transfer	-	475.20	475.20
PKF Littlejohn LLP	External Audit Fees	SB20220716	Transfer	40.00	200.00	240.00
Harmer & Sons	Meadow Maintenance	20209	Transfer	20.00	100.00	120.00
KALC	Subscription 2022/23	8561	Transfer	81.79	408.96	490.75
Clerk	Reimburse Portaloo	400468423	Transfer	30.55	152.75	183.30
Clerk	Mobile phone top-up	-	Transfer	-	10.00	10.00
TRRG	Subscription 2022	-	Transfer	-	25.00	25.00
Westgate Town Council	Climate Literacy Training	WTC65	Transfer	-	216.67	216.67
Cllr G Fricker	Bench security straps	-	Transfer	12.16	60.79	72.95
Village Hall	Hire – November meeting	-	Transfer	-	24.00	24.00
Total for Month				184.50	1734.37	1918.87

29/22-23 Planning Applications -

FH/TH/22/1092 Great Cliffsend Farm, Cottington Road (single storey extension). Approved. TPO/TH/22/0851 14 Scales Drive (Sycamore fell). Clerk asked for clarification as two applications submitted a day apart – one for a reduction in height and width, the second for felling, explained that the Parish Council would object to a healthy tree being felled.

30/22-23 Current Topics -

Audit reports – internal audit on accounts and governance in May, traffic light system showing risk; red, amber and green. Received 14 from 16 green with two areas highlighted – advisable to have more signatories on bank account (auditor appreciated this was due to lack of Cllrs). Other was Clerk's laptop, purchased in 2015. Income and expenditure exceeded threshold of £25k, therefore an external audit was required; no matters gave cause for concern.

Update on Highways Improvement Plan – 20mph design discussed in Planning and Highways. Clerk requested resurfacing of Foads Lane/Hill before implementation, did not meet criteria for resurfacing.

Update on Arundel Road – Cllr Harrison and Clerk met with developer and builder. Electricity pole within boundary of property by some way, others in road are outside property boundaries. Cllr Barton explained that the ground it sits on belongs to UK Power Networks (Clerk had contacted but because not owner of property could not discuss). Cllr Harrison noticed that internal walls had been removed, therefore, building control is now involved. Potential buyers of another property were overheard suggesting that because unadopted they could take a bit of Arundel Road.

Cllr Barton explained that because it is unadopted it doesn't fall in anyone's domain, it is a civil matter. Cllr Harrison questioned whether we had solicitors we could ask, Chairman explained that whilst we have sympathy we can't use public money to fund a civil case, could look at getting the road adopted. **Cllr Harrison to consult KALC.** Local MP situation as none of agencies willing to engage? CCllr Shonk stated that it is really complicated.

Play area lease – Parish Council made aware the play area lease ran out 28th February 2022, DCllr Rogers had made enquiries, waiting for an update, although we have been assured that it won't be lost. Local Authorities have to provide areas for children to play.

Survey – general sentiment survey; how do you want village perceived? Farmer wants meadow back, four options, depending on what residents say then we'll take back to farmer. Waiting for a date from distributor; £85, printing £55 plus paper £12 (less than £200) expenditure proposed by Cllr Harrison, seconded by Cllr G Fricker, motion carried. Will collect from doorsteps, two weeks after distribution, or could be put in Parish Council post box.

Village Christmas tree – Cllr J Fricker – will obtain three quotes for Christmas tree, should make the most of it by having it up by 1st December, similar quality and size to last year.

31/22-23 Clerk's Reports -

- S106 - DCllr Rogers is pursuing; information is not forthcoming from TDC about S106 on any of other developments. We need our share so that we can continue to make improvements to services/offer services to the village. Cllr Harrison mentioned the Redrow development, will border Cliffsend – their S106 contribution is £6 million. Cllr Barton questioned where the money goes for projects that didn't go ahead.
- Parish in Bloom - Silver award! Thanks to all those involved, particularly Cllrs J and G Fricker. Cllr J Fricker said that it is just the beginning; planting the seeds for future generations, need to get young involved, our gardeners for the future that will keep village looking pretty.
- Declarations of Pecuniary Interest - remind Cllrs every 6 months to update if necessary.
- Climate Literacy training course - Chairman and Cllr J Fricker attended, about understanding all the different factors; consumerism is biggest. They have to make personal declarations and will bring to Council with e.g. tenders/future suppliers by assessing their green credentials, sourcing locally to reduce CO₂, all will be factored in to decision making.

32/22-23 Correspondence Received -

- Resident – inconsistent speed signage Cottington Rd; noted, 20mph implementation soon.
- Resident – request to cut hedging by train line, renew road markings; reported. Hedging cut, road markings will be reviewed after 20mph.
- National Grid – surveys to assess access to proposed work sites; Sealink project, hall booked for a public presentation in November.
- Resident – mowing of Earlsmead Crescent by residents; re-wilding plan, 1 or 2 individuals haven't entered into spirit of it, have been cutting back and mowing, just need to engage with those individuals and explain what we are doing.
- Resident – use of empty noticeboard for environmental projects; Residents' Association, the map is being refurbished and won't be ready for some time, been refused permission for use for environmental issues. Empty, it may be a target for vandals.
- TDC – Thanet District Council and Parish/Town Councils Collaboration Survey; completed.
- Resident – community library; most are in people's houses, Council are in support of idea, to investigate options and bring to next meeting, could contact Birchington/Minster Shed, would need permission from landowners.
- Resident – congratulations on 'a night under the stars'. Feedback was brilliant.
- Resident – issues with bin collections, erratic; responded, reported. Need to keep reporting on TDC website/waste portal. If missed then they will often come around to empty at a later date, certain roads do seem to have a problem.
- Resident – Chancel Repair Liability St Mary; unlikely (confirmed with Rector).
- KCC – notice of adoption of verge/footway Cliffsend Rd/Foads Hill.
- Cliffsend Village Hall Management – request for further funding. Amended request to contribute to capital works; upgrading of kitchen facilities, on agenda for November to discuss fully and vote on.

- Clancy/Southern Water – advance notification of water main diversion, Canterbury Rd.
- Resident – double-yellow lines Nicholas Drive; Cllr Barton - was considered at the time of initial approach to KCC, came back that we couldn't have them there, not sure of reasoning. They might not help lack of visibility, vehicles parking on Foads Lane opposite are the problem – pick-up truck, no MOT, reported to PCSO.
- Resident – who to contact re' Manston Airport DCO; advised District Councillors.
- Resident – dangerous overgrowth Cottington Road; reported to KCC. Used to be a soft verge, appears that narrower than before, it is not, been measured several times. The soft verge made it look wider, vegetation overhang - KCC contacted residents to cut back or KCC will, at a cost.
- KCC – invitation to Rail Summit; distributed.
- Resident – location of Book of Condolence; arranged to sign at St Mary's Church.
- Resident – overgrowth in Marjorie Chapman Meadow; Cllr Harrison investigated, dead branches coming over into garden, **needs further investigation as also a fallen tree from Nicholas Drive.**

Cllr Harrison had been approached about Chalk Hill; more stabling for horses. Mosquitoes; Cllr J Fricker said they are essential to feed bats, TDC reports to Parish Council three times a year but no spraying for some time. Also, that parking on Auction day can be a problem e.g. parking on bend into Cottington Road. Auctioneers request that those attending park considerately. Cllr Harrison suggested that the PCSO visit for the event.

33/22-23 Public Questions -

Members of Cliffsend Arts and Crafts Club re' funding for cost of yarn (also received email, to be included in November correspondence) village benefits from knitted toppers for the post box and litter bin etc. Enjoy doing and receive wonderful feedback but becoming expensive, 6-8 displays throughout the year. Cllr Harrison suggested asking for donations within village and haberdashery shop in Ramsgate. Cllr Barton asked whether a constituted group as difficult to give funds to individuals. Council to discuss further.

Resident – any plans for firework night? No - public displays are very expensive, Cllr Barton stated that fireworks have doubled in price and paperwork is monumental.

Resident – any up-to-date information on project board for Parkway? Discussed March opening and footpaths. Resident concerned about the run-off pits for new housing, surrounded by single fence and water is collecting; water safety issue for children. To ease the passage of water, told that they would never fill with water, 1 in 100 year event. Cllr J Fricker has questioned what planting would be there as part of re-wilding. **To raise concerns with TDC.**

Resident – can Parish Council contact English Heritage to request maintenance of Grade II listed tank traps adjacent to Sandwich Road. Also, vegetation was cut back at the bus stop by TDC but not the overgrowth in Foads Lane (ongoing issue).

Meeting concluded at 21:15