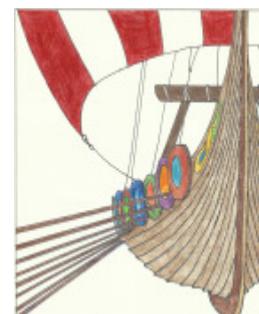


Cliffsend Parish Council

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

Held on Wednesday 25th January 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 Harrison, Cllr J Fricker, Hannah Smith, Alison Willoughby-Browne (Clerk), Community Wardens and 3 members of the public.

- 45/22-23 Welcome and apologies for absence** - Chairman welcomed those present, Clerk advised that the meeting was being recorded and indicated the emergency exits. Apologies received from Cllr Barton, CCllr Shonk, DCllrs.
- 46/22-23 Declarations of interest and co-option of new Councillor** - no declarations of interest. Council in desperate need for diversity and extra members to share the burden, Chairman introduced Hannah (previously interviewed) who had kindly agreed to be an additional member, proposed by Cllr Harrison, seconded by Cllr J Fricker, all in favour. Hannah read and signed Declaration of Acceptance and was welcomed.
- 47/22-23 Adoption of the minutes of 23rd November 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.
- 48/22-23 Matters arising from the above minutes** - none other than to be discussed.
- 49/22-23 Working Party & Councillor Reports** -
County Cllr/District Cllr – not present.

PCSO – Clerk read out report; changes to PCSO structure this year after an extensive Neighbourhood Policing Review and cost cutting within Kent Police. Current PCSO will be in Cliffsend until at least 6th June. Then will not be ward based PCSOs but a team of between 6 and 8 covering Thanet. He attends Coffee Morning when able, holds monthly surgeries and encourages people to sign up to My Community Voice a two-way communication tool from Kent Police (see noticeboards/website).

Community Warden – Team Leader for Thanet and Swale introduced our new Community Warden for Newington, Pegwell and Cliffsend. Been in post for 6 months now, lots of training, attended some Coffee Mornings, conducted visible presence (VP) around village and has reported multiple road defects, uneven pavements (Cliffsend Grove), verge damage, Cottington Road lights and also caught a cow in country park!

Meadow and Open Spaces – Chairman discussed the survey and the four choices for the meadow put to residents, overwhelming majority (approx 65%) to keep as it is, **Chairman to write to landowner to tell him outcome**. Meadow was used for activities last year and plan to do more this year. Cllr J Fricker – daffodil bulbs kept for planting by school children, unfortunately, weather didn't permit so Cllr planted. Bluebells potted to plant 'in the green' at Earlsmead Green, Primrose Way and front of Village Hall. Chairman and Clerk met with TDC to discuss tree planting (BAM funding) have new options to discuss with residents of certain areas. Designated areas; Cliffsend Road, side of Viking Café, Sandwich Road (replacing lost trees), Jet Garage (before and after) and Earlsmead Green.

Another area waiting for Management Association approval is Bakers Field; mini orchard (not tall trees). Just received species list from TDC to factor in budget from BAM; mixture of standard trees and whips (less maintenance) also agreement from BAM to supply a water bowser, which can be drawn on trailer. Ramsgate Town Council has kindly agreed to store in exchange for use. Will also formally put a call-out to residents to help with watering.

Parish Council plan to advertise for a Green Team; litter picking, looking after green spaces, teaching youngsters why we pick up rubbish/dog waste etc. In half-term 'Forest School' type day - children to work in woodland/park, re-use Christmas Tree etc.

Meadow contractor has provided costs for further year, apart from interim increase in 2022 due to increased fuel costs (£10 extra per cut and £20 for each section of hedging) hasn't increased since negotiation in 2020. To look at re-tendering in November.

Planning and Highways – 20mph implemented, realistically only good with enforcement. Has had a positive effect but will always be people who choose to ignore. In November shout-out for Speedwatch volunteers; full training and equipment provided, now video surveillance - power for Police to prosecute drivers if speeding. Please do sign up if concerned and can start to catch some of the rogue drivers. People speeding between bumps on Sandwich Road, have requested further speed survey also that repeater signs are put there.

Foads Hill extension refused permission. Cllr Harrison informed that she had arranged meetings between families affected in Clive Road and developer. Planning has lapsed, Chairman understood that boundary/hedging will be reinstated. TDC Planning Enforcement to update on their site meeting.

Youth – Cllr J Fricker had met with Kent Wildlife Trust to discuss half-term event at Nature Reserve - all ages - safari/bird-watching activity. They are also willing to come to Village Hall to give talks/presentations, would be great to get more residents interested, lots to see (including a beaver!)

50/22-23 **Financial Matters -**

Budget Monitoring – 3rd Quarter, bank balance - £38,417.27. Cllr J Fricker had verified that accounts and bank statement reconciled. All Cllrs checked the bank statement and accounts and as part of our budget talks for the new financial year, the current budget was compared with spend to date. Proposed by Cllr J Fricker seconded by Cllr Harrison, motion carried.

Cllrs Harrison and J Fricker 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. Those in italics already paid.

January Payments

Payee	Description	Invoice No	Method	VAT	Ex VAT	Total
<i>Cliffsend Village Hall</i>	<i>Grant - kitchen 41/22-23</i>	-	<i>Transfer</i>	-	<i>1000.00</i>	<i>1000.00</i>
<i>Resident</i>	<i>Christmas Fayre 41/22-23</i>	-	<i>Transfer</i>	-	<i>125.00</i>	<i>125.00</i>
<i>Cllr J Fricker</i>	<i>Reimburse Narcissus bulbs</i>	<i>6303</i>	<i>Transfer</i>	-	<i>405.50</i>	<i>405.50</i>
<i>Cliffsend Arts & Crafts</i>	<i>Support towards costs 41/22-23</i>	-	<i>Transfer</i>	-	<i>100.00</i>	<i>100.00</i>
<i>KALC</i>	<i>Precept webinar</i>	<i>5520071669</i>	<i>Transfer</i>	<i>2.80</i>	<i>14.00</i>	<i>16.80</i>
<i>HMRC</i>	<i>Tax/NI</i>	-	<i>Transfer</i>	-	<i>67.00</i>	<i>67.00</i>
Clerk	Stationery	2578751	Transfer	-	9.99	9.99
Clerk	Soil pH Test Kit	8794741	Transfer	-	12.89	12.89
Clerk	Stationery	-	Transfer	-	1.68	1.68
Clerk	Mobile phone top-up	-	Transfer	-	10.00	10.00
Village Hall	Hire – March meeting	-	Transfer	-	24.00	24.00
Total for Month				2.80	1770.06	1772.86

51/22-23 **Planning Applications - none.**

52/22-23 **Current Topics -**

Councillor vacancies – two more Cllrs required, elections in May.

Ongoing review of Council procedures – Chair refreshed Risk Management Statement as a little outdated/needed tidying up, Standing Orders adjusted – day of future meetings –

3rd Tuesday of every other month starting in March, documents previously circulated to Cllrs. Chairman proposed acceptance, Cllr Harrison seconded, motion carried.

Parish Council Sentiment Survey – Chairman had analysed data, put into different demographics; lovely pie charts, just needs to create narrative around it. It threw up some interesting things e.g. sports facilities; didn't matter which age demographic but sports was quite a long way down the list of priorities (5/6 out of 10). Most important was quietness/green spaces, usual swing in terms of priorities as demographic got older - medical facilities became more important/transport reasonably high up. The Loop will be stopping at Parkway, so will have connected bus service and train station to get into Ramsgate/Canterbury. None of existing services are short, when Parkway opens will look at details of timetable and publish something to show connecting services. Cllr Harrison stated that we need to get bus service into village, she had investigated on closure of Post Office - £4 return to get to Tesco Extra, now Post Office shut in Minster may be increased need. Chairman felt that the biggest issue is getting to Minster surgery, there is a potential for community buses, will need to be factored in to budget/precept, possible but will be a cost.

Budget/Precept for 2023-2024 – looked at current budget and precept, what it gives us as a Parish Council and, more importantly, what it doesn't give us. Current precept is probably 40% of that of our peers (Minster/Monkton/Acol/St Nicholas) i.e. we charge a significant amount less than our peer groups, additionally over last five years we have increased our precept by 7.5%, our peers are closer to 40% in same period. Last year - 1% increase and double digit inflation, the precept doesn't allow us to invest properly in the village, just allows us to run Council, any capital projects we want to undertake for benefit of Cliffsend we have to beg, steal and borrow. Therefore, looked at precept and what it could reasonably be. Precept is calculated on an average (Band D) property, Thanet District Council provide a provisional Council Tax Base for the calculation - 863.00 for 2023/24, the current Band D amount per year is £21.78, proposal is to increase to £29.42 (precept represents less than 1% of overall Council Tax bill) this is equivalent to 64p per month per Band D property. Will provide us with additional funding to invest in village and is still 50% of what everyone else is charging, if not less. Chairman proposed the discussed budget and increase in precept (£25,398) seconded by Cllr Harrison, all in favour. **Clerk to submit figure to TDC.**

Re-wilding projects volunteer group – need to get a group of people together, will advertise via website, Facebook and noticeboards.

Coronation of King Charles III – Chairman has applied for national 'Big Lunch' pack – hope to have something similar to Jubilee celebrations, to liaise with Village Hall Management and Residents' Association. Cllr Harrison advised that it is a memorable year for Parish Council – formed 20 years ago. Cllr Harrison has a time capsule and would like suggestions as to what to include in it.

53/22-23 Clerk's Reports

- Mosquitoes – TDC reported that the pools had been checked that day, there were no larvae present. Also, that the run-off pools could not be added as they are not on public land, therefore, can't enforce treatment. Chairman said a survey had shown that mosquito numbers down compared with previous years, it is a tricky balance as mosquitoes are food for bats/birds.
- Historic England contacted about the anti-tank pimples/tank traps/pillbox, awaiting reply.
- TDC re-contacted about play area lease, awaiting reply.
- Notification that defibrillator may have been used on 12th January, Clerk checked pads etc. Doesn't appear to have been used.

54/22-23 Correspondence Received -

- Resident – summary of Clive Road issues; circulated, Enforcement contacted for update.
- Pageantmaster – future beacon lighting information – confirmation that no lighting for coronation, but to light 6th June 2024 to commemorate D-Day 80.
- ACRK (Action with Communities in Rural Kent) – closure of charity. Without major funding can no longer continue to operate, therefore, being wound-up.
- Resident – concern re' 'Call for Sites' and building of many more houses; circulated, discussed, see Public Questions.
- Resident – re-filling of grit bins; replied, actioned.
- Village Hall Management – Hall closed 20/2/23-5/3/23 for kitchen replacement.
- Resident – 20mph sign missing from new post; works incomplete, to monitor.
- TDC – proposed increases to fees and charges, budget for 2023-24. Cllr J Fricker had requested new dog waste/public bins for housing estate 6 months ago, need to escalate. Community Warden confirmed that dog waste can go into general waste bins; dog waste bins not being installed/replaced. **Clerk to contact Orbit to request bins and ask TDC for stickers.** Green bin collection costs increasing to £63/yr.
- Resident – Cliffview Road racetrack, encourage resident to get involved with Speedwatch.

55/22-23 Public Questions -

Resident asked whether it is possible to put up speed camera signage; preferable to put up Speedwatch signs instead. Also, how was decision made on meadow; residents decided, majority answer taken, will be published in full.

Same resident expressed alarm at TDC's 'Call for Sites' and the massive number of houses inferred e.g. between Sandwich Road and Pegwell Bay (asparagus field). A discussion ensued. Call for Sites is a call to landowners to sell their land to allocate for houses. Resident felt that now is the time to say/do something rather than when decisions have been made, should he approach himself or join forces, Parish Council powers are limited, if we complain then not much better than individual, can call on Ward Cllrs etc. Representation made to KCC/TDC, they are under pressure from central Government, reality is mitigating the impact rather than getting stopped altogether. People have to make their voice heard, there are forums through KCC/TDC, the more individuals who complain the more they will take notice. Chairman has also put in a request for a bridge/crossing on Canterbury Road West to link to Westwood Cross.

Resident wondered who is responsible for piece of land by golf course/traffic lights; is that where we want to put trees? TDC – yes – cabling detected, plans of area requested. Saplings cut on Sandwich Road; Tree Preservation Orders could be placed on trees.

Meeting concluded at 20:50