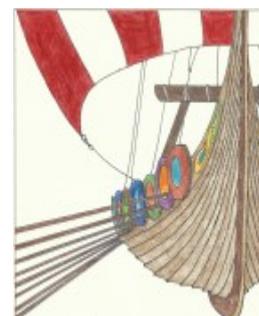


# Cliffsend Parish Council

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## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

Held on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November 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 Chapman (Vice-Chair), Cllr Harrison, Cllr J Fricker, Cllr Smith, Cllr Wilkinson, Alison Willoughby-Browne (Clerk), CCllr Shonk, DCllr Rogers, 7 members of the public.

- 34/23-24 Welcome and apologies for absence** - Chairman welcomed those present, indicated emergency exits. Apologies received from DCllr Davies.
- 35/23-24 Declarations of interest/Acceptance of Office** - no declarations of interest. Cllr Smith read the Declaration of Acceptance of Office which was signed and then countersigned by Clerk.
- 36/23-24 Adoption of the minutes of 19<sup>th</sup> September 2023 as being a true record** - 19<sup>th</sup> September minutes proposed by Cllr Harrison, seconded by Cllr Chapman, all in favour. Chairman signed the minutes as a true record.
- 37/23-24 Matters arising from the above minutes** - none other than to be discussed.
- 38/23-24 Working Party & Councillor Reports** -  
County Cllr – CCllr Shonk continues to speak up for the village, and Thanet. He has requested site visits from KCC but it is difficult getting people to attend, particularly evening meetings. He is happy to act as a mouthpiece to voice concerns of residents. Cllr Chapman mentioned that at the KALC (Kent Association for Local Councils) AGM, Roger Gough (Leader of KCC) spoke re' the severe financial position that KCC are in. Adult and Children social care and transport for disabled children put the most pressure on the County Council. It was mentioned that other councils had entered into S114 (as close to bankrupt as can be) where statutory responsibilities only are carried out. Not the case with KCC. CCllr Shonk has questioned the cost of Parkway when Cliffsend has no shops/Post Office/bus service.

District Cllr – DCllr Rogers had been contacted by residents about the removal of remains of a dolphin in Pegwell Bay, chased with relevant officer, delay caused by tides and the position of the dolphin - a vehicle couldn't get to it safely. Waiting for south of Canterbury Road West to come to planning committee, both District Cllrs will be attending to voice concerns. Lisa Collingwood - Beach and Coastal Manager - has had a number of meetings re' kite surfing issues at the nature reserve, DCllr Rogers due to receive more information shortly.

DCllr Davis met with Parkway Station Manager, with residents, about various issues; negotiations ongoing. He provided photographic evidence to TDC of the substantial earthworks on field - Hengist Way/Sandwich Road/Lord of the Manor which resulted in a visit from planning, awaiting confirmation of outcome. DCllr Davis will continue to monitor along with Parish Council members. The Little Cliffsend Farm change of use has attracted controversy and debate, the Parish Council should be heard on this matter and DCllr Davis will continue to support all members to ensure this happens. These issues are connected as the landowner is using one area to deposit waste from the other, against environmental laws. Chairman explained that because of pressure from central Government we don't know how successful we are going to be in stopping the south of Canterbury Road West development, if it does go ahead then the village needs something back.

Police Officer – unfortunately, PC Owen has moved on. We have a temporary Beat Officer until decisions are made on a replacement. PC Ninnim was invited to attend meeting and has been contacted re' traffic issues - vehicles turning right into Chalk Hill from Sandwich Road, awaiting response. Community Warden lost as well.

Meadow and Open Spaces – Cllr Wilkinson finally had a response from TDC re' the ivy on trees in play area; interviews have been held for a Tree Officer and ivy work will be added to a long list of works needed. Plenty of bags now available for litter picking, please get in touch if you are interested. Advantage of TDC bags is that they can be left by public bins for collection. Bark chips will be delivered when weather better. Cllr Wilkinson had liaised with Orbit representative re' street lights on Cottington Road, Clerk reported that they are due to be connected at the beginning of December. Various orphaned spaces have been identified, locations and photographs distributed to Council. Cliffsend received a Silver-Gilt award in the Parish in Bloom judging. The possibility of re-introducing Open Gardens in the village was discussed; would enhance aesthetics for Parish in Bloom. Cllr Harrison advised that this used to be run by the Residents' Association, needs further discussion. Cllr Harrison has all exhibition vases from the Gardening Club - free to a good home/club.

Planning and Highways – Vice-Chairman raised awareness of the Sea Link project - newsletter and consultation information distributed to residents, the project proposes to connect electricity cables from Suffolk to Pegwell Bay; open for consultation to all until 18<sup>th</sup> December, information on Parish Council website, documents available from libraries and TDC. The converter station to be sited on Minster marshes will be big - 80ft high, over about 7 acres. Technically outside our parish but cables will come in at bay.

Proposal to shut some household waste and recycling centres - Richborough nearest to us - KCC have confirmed a delay in the public consultation of how they manage/maintain recycling sites in future, all options still on the table but no timeline for public consultation - delay? Nothing for foreseeable future.

Little Cliffsend Farm - as mentioned - considerable earthworks and burying of horse manure, against Government regulations, brought to the attention of TDC and Environment Agency. Head of Planning should be getting back to us as to what requirements are. At KALC AGM two motions were carried - signs on level crossings to cut down pollution; turn off engines when barriers down, and to influence KCC about Community Wardens - questioned that cut by 60% in number whilst the budget for the Community Wardens is only cut by 20% - excessive cuts.

Youth, Communication and Events – Chairman advised that a site visit is intended in next few days to discuss the S106 monies received for more equipment for youth (one of the very few developer contributions we have received). No fixed ideas; hopefully renewal of football goal posts and cardiovascular equipment for all to use (KCC also offering grants for capital expenditure). Renewal of lease largely resolved. Cllr J Fricker expressed how successful the Halloween celebrations were, estimated 300 people turned up. Thanks go to actors/young people who helped make event really special and to Village Hall where hot dogs and sweets were given out. Tesco also provided a small donation. Next year we will need more actors and more community involvement during event.

18<sup>th</sup> December - Craft Club; Christmas specials - need to replenish art box. 12<sup>th</sup> December - gift-making at Coffee Morning; table centre-pieces for Christmas. Cllr J Fricker proposed that the Parish Council provide oasis and flowers, seconded by Cllr G Fricker, all in favour. Very successful last year, giving to older generation. Fliers have been issued and at least 30 are already interested.

Cllr Chapman raised awareness of the mobile library; every Thursday, dates and info on noticeboards. Looking at better ways to communicate is ongoing, to make sure as many are informed as possible.

**39/23-24 Financial Matters -**

Budget Monitoring - 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, bank balance at 30<sup>th</sup> September - £48,179.62. Cllr Wilkinson had verified that accounts and bank statement reconciled. Cllrs had checked the bank statement against accounts and the current budget was compared with spend to date and forecast spend; all on track.

Cllrs Harrison and Wilkinson had checked payment schedule and supporting documents. Contractual payment: Clerk's salary, bought-in services. Checks and payment schedule proposed by Cllr Smith, seconded by Cllr J Fricker, all in favour. Italics indicate already paid – contractual or agreed in previous meetings.

**November Payments**

Payee	Description	Invoice No	Method	VAT	Ex VAT	Total
<i>Harmer &amp; Sons</i>	<i>Meadow Maintenance</i>	<i>22075</i>	<i>Transfer</i>	<i>20.00</i>	<i>100.00</i>	<i>120.00</i>
<i>Mazars</i>	<i>External Audit</i>	<i>2256328</i>	<i>Transfer</i>	<i>42.00</i>	<i>210.00</i>	<i>252.00</i>
Cllr G Fricker	Meadow gate lock	18931	Transfer	-	22.89	22.89
Cliffsend Arts & Crafts	Hall hire holiday club Dec	-	Transfer	-	20.00	20.00
Harmer & Sons	Meadow Maintenance	22334	Transfer	20.00	100.00	120.00
Cllrs Fricker	Halloween events reimburse	-	Transfer	25.08	309.16	334.24
Cllr J Fricker	Plants for large planters	-	Transfer	11.98	60.00	71.98
Clerk	Toner cartridges	13434	Transfer	-	24.14	24.14
Clerk	Mobile phone top-up	-	Transfer	-	20.00	20.00
Cllr Chapman	Printer cartridges	LA5636578	Transfer	5.25	26.25	31.50
St Laurence Parish	Colour printing	-	Transfer			
KALC	AGM	8270763359	Transfer	1.00	5.00	6.00
<b>Total for Month</b>				<b>125.31</b>	<b>905.44</b>	<b>1030.75</b>

**40/23-24 Planning Applications -**

FH/TH/23/1091 68 Foads Lane (retrospective - single storey conservatory)  
 F/TH/23/0850 Little Cliffsend Farm (change of use - agriculture to keeping of horses, formation of access routes for horses/agricultural vehicles, sand school, lunge, parking, bunds)  
 FH/TH/23/1305 59 Foads Hill (front extension and pitched roof to existing garage)  
 FH/TH/23/1428 Park Ville, Windsor Road (single storey side and upper ground extension)  
 No particular issues other than Little Cliffsend Farm, other applications are smaller in terms of work involved and those who live close by are better placed to provide an opinion; all information on TDC site (search planning applications). Little Cliffsend Farm is an almost every day event, nothing decided and no date to go to TDC planning committee meeting where it will be discussed.

**41/23-24 Current Topics -**

Risk Management Statement review – Internal Auditor recommended that we regularly review for emerging risks; Cllrs had examined, no emerging risks.

Grant Application(s) – a grant application had been received and circulated; for £125 towards selection boxes for Father Christmas to give out at fair (S137). Proposed for approval by Cllr Chapman, seconded by Cllr J Fricker, unanimous. Any remaining to be donated to the Salvation Army.

Future events – three items 1. D-Day 80 celebrations - Cllr Harrison had been looking into what might be possible; a fish and chip supper for the over 80s and a picnic celebration in the meadow were mooted, possibly over the bank holiday weekend as lots going on 6<sup>th</sup> June (including beacon lighting). Further discussion required re' Tommys.

Chairman had circulated details of costings for obtaining a generator (approximately £450) enabling more events with independent power, safer cabling and could also use on Hugin's Green if desired. Cllr Harrison raised the issue of storage, something to consider before purchase. Chairman proposed that, subject to quotes and secure storage, that the Council purchase a generator, seconded by Cllr Chapman, motion carried. It may also be possible to apply for a grant from KALC for the purchase. Subject to firming-up costs, the Chairman proposed that we purchase new lighting for the trees to replace the existing LED lights (almost expired). It would make Cliffsend more aesthetically pleasing, will improve the light in those areas and generally make a nicer place to live. Not necessarily to purchase immediately but, in principle, were Council in agreement? Cllr Harrison informed that Residents' Association had arranged original lights and questioned what had happened to the Residents' Association funds.

A discussion ensued, approximately £600 to £650 for 100m of LED bulbs and the socket/box is already there. Cllr Harrison seconded, all in agreement.

Update on B17 Bomber commemorative display – Clerk and DCllr Rogers have contacted TDC. Gentleman who wishes to erect the display is crowd-funding, he had contacted TDC directly - not 'open spaces' but asset and property management, Clerk to chase. Hugin's Green information boards are not our responsibility but could be linked with other historical information, they need replacing.

Meadow maintenance – to ensure that we are spending public money wisely, three-year review of meadow maintenance. Despite numerous emails and telephone calls, only one quotation which isn't from our current contractor. Previous (2021) and current quote circulated, the quote received is very good, almost half the amount of current contractor. Cllr Harrison suggested a previous contractor used some years ago - cut the meadow for free for the haylage. To obtain more quotes in time for conclusion in January.

Update on play area lease/S106 – already discussed.

Sea Link project – discussed.

#### **42/23-24 Clerk's Reports -**

External Auditor's Report and Certificate received, conclusion of audit published 28<sup>th</sup> September. No matters gave cause for concern.

#### **43/23-24 Correspondence Received -**

- Residents – Earlsmead gate/harassment; provided link to Sept draft minutes.
- Residents – complaints re' excessive noise from event in Village Hall - emails and telephone call received; advised complainants to contact Village Hall Management directly. Chairman; out of our jurisdiction, sure they will deal with issue. Cllr Harrison stated that years ago a committee member would be present to ensure max' 100 people, that hirers didn't cause a disturbance and that they finished on time. Chairman suggested if any individual residents have any recommendations then to contact the Village Hall.
- Resident – information on public consultations; responded.
- Resident – unaddressed issues with Parkway; CCllr raising at KCC meeting - access/footpath/lighting/trees.
- Resident – advice on memorial bench; referred to TDC.

#### **44/23-24 Public Questions -**

Resident – some time ago requested stickers for bins (TDC advised no longer available) - bin by bus stop/Jet garage bags of cat litter causing bin to overflow, dog waste bags dropping on floor, also an issue with mess on pavements in Cliffsend. Cllr J Fricker had written to TDC to request a larger bin, and a new bin for Orbit estate; no reply. Resident reported that flood defences had recently been checked.

Resident – green on Cliffsend Road, bin needs replacing; rusted and partially open. TDC no longer providing dog waste bins, will probably be general waste (can be used for dog waste). DCllr Rogers to pursue bin issues.

Chairman advised that the Christmas tree had been ordered and is ready to be delivered once stand in place.

Resident – many drains blocked, leaves and dirt, had been using pipe to remove leaves. Parish Council is just one voice, if residents report to KCC - many voices - better to group together. In summer the repeater signs on Cliffsend Road were covered with foliage, should be reported to KCC, to check.

Clerk confirmed that the last mosquito check had been below the threshold level for spraying, TDC will continue to monitor larvae levels.