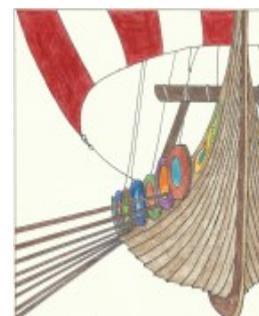


# Cliffsend Parish Council

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## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

Held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September 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 Wilkinson, Alison Willoughby-Browne (Clerk), DCllr Rogers, PC Owen, 21 members of the public.

- 23/23-24 Welcome and apologies for absence** - Chairman welcomed those present, indicated emergency exits. Apologies received from CCllr Shonk, DCllr Davies and Cllrs Smith and J Fricker.
- 24/23-24 Declarations of interest** - none.
- 25/23-24 Adoption of the minutes of 18<sup>th</sup> July 2023 as being a true record** - 18<sup>th</sup> July minutes proposed by Cllr Wilkinson, seconded by Cllr Chapman, all in favour. Chairman signed the minutes as a true record.
- 26/23-24 Matters arising from the above minutes** - Cllr Chapman had investigated the jutting-out pavement building site on Canterbury Road West, and contacted KCC. It was explained that this is just whilst the building work is taking place and is not permanent. KCC will monitor the situation, as will the Parish Council.
- 27/23-24 Working Party & Councillor Reports** -  
County Cllr - no report, some issues in Cliffsend - KCC, would be good to have an update.

District Cllr - DCllr Rogers informed by Colin Carmichael that the upcoming bin strike was not going ahead. Two developments called-in; Little Cliffsend Farm and Land South of Canterbury Road West, not on this month's list - may be next month. Spoken to officers regarding the two houses in Clive Road, they have not been registered as HMOs, monitoring the situation. Several complaints received re' Parkway – DCllr Rogers had emailed KCC; volume and frequency of announcements reduced. The overgrowth on Cottington Road to be addressed 20<sup>th</sup> September. Was contacted by a young man re' permission for the memorial information plaque to be erected on Hugin's Green, contacted Open Spaces. Chairman explained that part of a wider discussion on things of interest in Cliffsend. Little Cliffsend Farm is technically outside of Cliffsend; change of use to accommodate a large number of horses, vehicular traffic, car park. The Parish Council raised objections and asked for it to be called-in, meaning that it doesn't get accepted straight away and gets looked at in more detail by committee. Same person who has built earth bund on other side of Sandwich Road, unsure as to what is being deposited, concerned about environmental impact as above aquifer that serves Thanet.

Police Officer - PC Owen explained that within a couple of days of opening, Parkway car park became a priority; attracted racers, same groups who had caused issues in Whitfield/Manston/Discovery Park, aim was to keep away from car park until ramps in place. Transport Police attended, should see a reduction. If there is a problem too much for beat officers to handle then the task force takes over; mixture of beat officers and PCSOs. Ongoing Kent Police operation trying to clamp down on careless driving/tints/illegal exhausts etc. Also, looked at Parkway gate access, aware of situation as member of Cliffsend residents' groups, from a Police point of view just kept an eye on what going on.

Because of Parkway issues, speed checks delayed, need PC colleagues to help give out tickets, action plan for autumn, particularly interested in Foads Lane and Canterbury Road West. PC Owen raised awareness for 'My Community Voice' a two-way engagement, residents can register areas of interest and communicate via this or email (not for emergencies). Chairman requested that Sandwich Road be included for speed checks.

Meadow and Open Spaces - Cllr Wilkinson had contacted TDC re' ivy on trees in play area, they will look at problem. Also sourced tree bark and more litter bags for litter picking. In process of identifying orphaned spaces, where we can plant and maintain; outline plan at end of October. Pruning of brambles over summer months, particularly those at head height. Chairman explained about orphaned spaces – bits of grass/earth/land e.g. corner of Foads Hill/Cliffsend Road, although adopted by KCC they don't really do anything with them. Primrose Way planters, partly done. Would really like people who are green-fingered to volunteer their time, skills etc. Can then set up working parties to prepare for Parish in Bloom, let's make village better and welcoming. Chairman will strim verge alongside park, anyone welcome to come along and help. KCC have inspected trees, at time of inspection they were in good condition with no signs of ill health or major defect, ivy sever works to be carried on KCC Highways trees.

Planning and Highways - Vice-Chairman advised that the paper that had been submitted regarding Little Cliffsend Farm was joint Cliffsend and Pegwell, a combined paper. Environment Agency have raised concern re' the horse manure on protected ground waters. Relevant planning application - land south of Canterbury Road West; to build 145 houses, south of new buildings to Hengist Way, the Council submitted a paper which will be dealt with at committee level. Gist of objection is that it is Grade I agricultural land and that the houses are in addition to Local Plan. Big development company, we have to be realistic in our chances to get stopped, if we don't try then won't succeed. TDC has agreed to build 17k homes, this 145 is not part of Local Plan. Chairman reiterated that we are currently in discussion/formal complaint to TDC re' S106/CIL monies - where is our money/why hasn't Cliffsend received its fair share of improvements? One of which is the Cottington Road footpath that should have been created, in the application. Information is not hidden, anyone can go to TDC website and see monies that TDC receive and what it is meant to be spent on.

Highways - Cottington Road; multiple on site/virtual/correspondence arguing with KCC about fact that not cut back etc. Land registry consulted to see where houses finish and road starts. Some clear definition, technically fences set a little back, KCC not maintained for so long that unsure what original width of road is, tomorrow (20<sup>th</sup>) will be cut back to original, height and width, will then be down to residents of Beech Grove to maintain.

Youth - Halloween event in park again, with Village Hall, great success last year. 29<sup>th</sup> October craft holiday club. Chairman proposed that we buy the Christmas tree again, seconded by Cllr Chapman, all in favour. Camping event went well in August, thanks to all who volunteered; overnight event in meadow to try out camping, children made nest boxes, bat boxes, Kent Wildlife Trust did a bug hunt. Hope to do more of those sorts of things, relies on volunteers, would welcome any participation/ideas. Cllr Wilkinson suggested more bat boxes in park. Play area lease still outstanding.

Communication and Events - Cllr Harrison explained about the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day landings next year, and that she would like to create a leaflet/magazine of family memories/stories. Will need to be done well in advance, please contact Cllr Harrison if you have anything to do with that period of time (Beryl Harrison 01843 594094). Also, will be working with a resident, looking at historical things for an event. Cllr Harrison also has a full-size Tommy and will be taking it to a local steelworks to see whether they can cut one, has already obtained permission from artist. This will be an event to take pride in, might not be here at all if it wasn't for those that gave their lives to save us. Chairman asked if there will be a national commemoration – yes, beacon lighting is part of celebration. Would be good to involve children, also any militaria to support event. Cllr Harrison is arranging a plaque to commemorate the American B17 airmen who ditched into Pegwell/Sandwich Bay, much interest shown including the daughter of one of the airmen. Request to site on Hugin's Green, at no cost to the Parish Council, just need permission from TDC.

**28/23-24 Financial Matters -**

Payment schedule and supporting documents circulated to Cllrs Smith and Wilkinson.  
 Cllr Chapman checked payment schedule and supporting documents as Cllr Smith not present.  
 Contractual payment: Clerk's salary.

Council Hugo Fox website has always been free, from October there will be a charge of £9.99 per month. Clerk looked into options, paying Hugo Fox offered the best value and we won't have to create a new website. Can review in a year (or sooner). Chairman questioned the need for Zoom as free platforms available, subscription to be cancelled before auto-renews. Proposed by Cllr G Fricker, seconded by Cllr Chapman, all in favour. Italics indicate already paid – contractual or agreed in previous meetings.

**September Payments**

Payee	Description	Invoice No	Method	VAT	Ex VAT	Total
Harmer & Sons	Meadow Maintenance	21860	Transfer	20.00	100.00	120.00
Clerk	Zoom Subscription	INV209566928	Transfer	23.98	119.90	143.88
Clerk	Mobile Phone Top-up	-	Transfer	-	10.00	10.00
Cllr J Fricker	Planter Compost	-	Transfer	3.00	15.00	18.00
Cllr J Fricker	Summer Camping Event	2529/5320	Transfer	10.16	57.27	67.43
Cllr J Fricker	Planter Compost	-	Transfer	4.67	23.33	28.00
Cllr J Fricker	Stationery	0212	Transfer	6.64	33.18	39.82
Cliffsend Arts & Crafts	Hall Hire Holiday Club 29/10	-	Transfer	-	20.00	20.00
Harmer & Sons	Meadow Maintenance	22021	Transfer	20.00	100.00	120.00
<b>Total for Month</b>				<b>88.45</b>	<b>478.68</b>	<b>567.13</b>

**29/23-24 Planning Applications -**

F/TH/21/1671 Land South of Canterbury Road West (erection of 141 dwellings, with open space, landscaping, access and associated infrastructure).

**30/23-24 Current Topics -**

Ongoing review of Council procedures – updated 'Communications' and alteration to 'Public Questions', proposed by Cllr Harrison, seconded by Cllr Wilkinson, motion carried.

Commemorative displays - Pegwell Bay B17/Remembrance – as discussed, Chairman requested an update by November; what official celebrations are, what we are going to do and engagement with residents, ? approach Sandwich Town Council to see what their celebrations will involve.

Community Emergency Plan – not statutory, in event of a disaster/emergency, where to meet etc. Obvious place would be the Village Hall, to liaise with Management. Clerk attended a course end of August, to circulate the information and we can get an idea in place. PCSO Litchfield and Community Warden attended training, unfortunately, our Community Warden has now resigned due to upheaval at KCC and lack of job security. Sad for two reasons – personal level she was great, made KCC's job easier as most likely won't replace her.

**31/23-24 Clerk's Reports -**

- Developer of Sportsman update on pavement - this will be replaced and tidied once they have completed the fit out to the ground floor unit, reminder needed!
- Overgrowth at bottom of Foads Lane/right of Foads Hill before the crossing will be addressed by KCC both locations are unregistered i.e. don't appear on Land Registry. Soft Landscapes will cut back under non-recoverable cost code. Corner of Foads Lane to dropped kerb owned by TDC, they will cut back, street light is disappearing into overgrowth. Also, a report of weedkiller being used in Cliffsend Grove, OK with being used on pavement outside properties, but not on KCC asset – verge, to investigate further. Left hand side by crossing is Network Rail's responsibility, Chairman had noticed treatment with weedkiller.
- Clerk reminded Cllrs to make sure Declarations of Pecuniary Interest were up to date.
- Second tranche of precept received.
- KCC advised that they had not been invited to make a full bid application to the Species Survival Fund for elm re-establishment, will look for further funding. Woodland/mini-orchard still being pursued.
- Sealink Project to engage further with Parish Councils and Landowners.

Cllr Chapman advised that the proposal to shut Richborough Recycling Centre had been put on hold, meant to have gone out for consultation in July, at moment has been withdrawn.

### **32/23-24 Correspondence Received -**

- Resident – extension of 20mph Cliffsend Road; to Sandwich Road, Clerk contacted KCC, the areas for implementation of 20mph were dependent upon the speed survey results and policy, therefore, 20mph started at Meverall Avenue.
- Resident – overhanging branches Hugin's Green cycle/pedestrian path; TDC informed and addressed.
- Resident – weeds/overgrowth Nicholas Drive; KCC attended and spoke with resident, Land Registry shows all one plot, pavements have been sprayed with weedkiller to remove trip hazards. Can't enforce on private land.
- Resident – unlawful removal/destruction of wildlife habitat Sandwich Road; KCC/TDC/Kent Wildlife Trust informed about those wishing to improve their sea view by destroying vegetation, investigating.
- Residents – Thanet Parkway – drifting/antisocial behaviour/announcements/access
- KCC – Kent Plan Tree projects.

Cllr Harrison questioned whether there had been spraying for mosquitoes. Latest check in August, no report as yet but doubtful spraying had occurred.

### **33/23-24 Public Questions -**

Chairman asked that before get into a debate, that all excitement/emotion that has been on social media, be contained within the meeting. He then stated -

'We (Parish Council) don't have any powers in this, we are here to discuss, far better that we deal with this calmly amongst ourselves rather than it escalate and other agencies get involved.

Summary is that gap between garages and houses is owned by the Crown Estate, not residents of Earlsmead/TDC. It is a fact that the gate that has been put on there has been done so without obtaining permission. When spoke with residents the intention was to be a visual barrier to casual users of Thanet Parkway who had misdirected themselves down the wrong way, intention was for it to never be locked and that any resident would have freedom of access, also a fact that if a passageway has been used for a certain period of time it effectively becomes a public right of way in all but name. With those facts and some sympathy to residents with increased people traffic between garages and houses that wasn't there before Parkway was built, we need to make sure that this keeps contained and that there is no aggravation between the people of Cliffsend.'

Resident - who is responsible for removing it? The view is it shouldn't be there but it is, provided that there is no disruption to access by the residents to Thanet Parkway, provided that nobody running out of houses to confront residents, as long as not used to obstruct anybody.

Resident - KCC were in discussion at second meeting about fencing off the area, would solve all the problems, any feedback on why that didn't happen? Legally they are not allowed to because not their land. Once phase two/three of Cottington is completed; extra houses, people will walk through there anyway, through estate, this is a temporary inconvenience. Parish Council already in contact with TDC/KCC as there should have been a footpath built as part of planning application. Footfall increased, ramblers come through, concerned about parking situation in 5/6/7 years' time when takes off, won't park in car park when charged will move to village. KCC entered into a memorandum of understanding that committed to a one-year period of monitoring parking before and after station opens within a 600m radius from station, we can ask to extend this period. Careful what you wish for; residents parking - TDC will pay for one permit and residents will be asked to pay for additional.

Resident - notices saying not a public right of way are remaining up? Being made to feel that should be taking another route, even children, uncomfortable for them then encourages antisocial behaviour. Technically, not a statutory right of way, comes down to how implemented rather than the sign.

Resident - no lock on gate, irrespective of what signage is there, there will be no lock. Fundamental point – safety issue; a lot of children in the village, have to open gate which could be a deterrent to children accessing the platform. Motorcycles reported to Police.

Cllr Harrison was concerned about the spikes on gates, if someone was injured climbing over the top then residents liable. Parking would be more of a problem for residents with no drives on Earlsmead, will need to be considered if parking permits come into force.

Gravel adding frustration which must echo when someone stands on it.

Cllr Harrison questioned the lack of seating on platforms, and type (perches). Also, more expensive to buy a ticket from Parkway to Canterbury than from Ramsgate. Chairman also met two Ramsgate Town Cllrs at the station, when questioned they were discussing the decoration of the arch (big rainbow) and underneath Parkway as it is a Ramsgate Station! Chairman emailed and asked for the Parish Council to be consulted in any further discussions.

Resident - light pollution from station flooding through, can we propose a screen to reduce the amount of light coming through? Parish Council has asked for increased signage, and to address the announcements, we have been assured that unnecessary announcements have been cut out and volume reduced. Will investigate a screen.

Resident - graffiti started, who will deal with, can see creeping through garages and area? DCllr has raised. If we were in control of a street mural around arch that was representative of Cliffsend might be something to explore, apparently inside of tunnel has been painted in about 10 coats of anti-graffiti paint.

Meeting concluded at 21:08