

Cliffsend Parish Council

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Held on Thursday 28th July 2020 at 7.30pm via Zoom.

Present – Cllr Rogers (Chair), Cllr Ashley, Cllr Harrison, Cllr Mortimer, Cllr Forrest, Cllr Lyon, DCllr Rogers, Alison Willoughby-Browne (Clerk) and 4 members of the public.

34/20-21 Welcome and apologies for absence - Cllr Galvin absent, no apologies received. Cllr Rogers advised that the proceedings were being video-recorded.

35/20-21 Declarations of interest - Cllr Harrison (meadow).

36/20-21 Adoption of the minutes of 21st July 2020 as being a true record - 21st July minutes proposed by Cllr Harrison and seconded by Cllr Lyon, all in favour. Chairman to sign the minutes as a true record.

37/20-21 Matters arising from the above minutes - A member of the public offered to help with the planters. Cllr Harrison donated some beer kegs to transport water for the planters.

38/20-21 Working Party & Councillor Reports -
District Cllr – retrospective planning application for Little Cliffsend Farm – change of use from agriculture to grazing land. This is happening a lot, changes are often done so that houses can eventually be built on the land. DCllr Rogers has consulted Jenny Suttle and will object to the application. Financial situation at TDC not good, asking cabinet to agree use of reserves, £3million hole in budget. OK at present but may change in the next week/months, more grants coming from Government. Thanks to Cllr Forrest and his wife for flowers.

Cllr Forrest – retrospective application from National Rail – in March the hedges were removed within bird nesting season with no planning permission. Application states that no trees or hedges impacted, although photograph of Foads Hill before hedges were removed. Questioned why they had to remove 21m of hedgerow in bird nesting season for a 7.2m platform. We believe they have left the site unsafe, left with concrete posts with loose wires, and would like to specify how it should be finished. Cllr Forrest volunteered to draft a response with the concerns raised regarding the site. Cllr Ashley advised to bear in mind our road safety project when speaking to National Rail.

39/20-21 Financial Matters -
Budget was distributed before 21st July meeting. Councillors to examine further and this will be addressed before the end of the next quarter. The Auditor suggested support such as a mobile phone, this has now been purchased.

Cllrs Lyon and Rogers had previously checked the following payments with supporting documents.

July Payments

Payee	Description	Invoice No	SO/BT	VAT	Excl VAT	Total
David J Buckett	Internal Auditor	1169	Transfer	-	476.10	476.10
Clerk	Council mobile phone	-	Transfer	-	34.99	34.99
Cllr Forrest	Plants for barrier troughs	-	Transfer	14.64	122.75	137.39
Total				14.64	633.84	648.48

Cllr Rogers proposed that the Council accept the payments, Cllr Mortimer seconded, all in favour. Clerk suggested that two standing orders were set up - Clerk's basic salary and Countrywide monthly contract, Cllr Harrison proposed and Cllr Forrest seconded, carried unanimously.

40/20-21 Planning Applications -

F/TH/20/0621 Land East of 40 Canterbury Road West – DCllr Rogers advised that this has been approved. Cllr Forrest commented that the Council had shown due diligence; a lot of the windows are opaque, additional bedroom on second floor and cills are just below head height. KCC requirement for four and five bedroom houses are for two off-road parking spaces.

FH/TH/20/0826 1A Canterbury Road West – erection of single storey side extension forming an annexe. The list of planning applications is circulated each week but Cllrs expressed difficulty accessing the documents on the site. Cllr Forrest to investigate this application. When applications are displayed it is really down to neighbours to object.

41/20-21 Current Topics -

Ongoing review of Council procedures – amalgamation of the Press and Media Policy and Communications Policy, not done as yet.

Memorial trees – Cllr Forrest – in February, agreed that Parish Council had responsibility to make the arrangements for the decisions on tree maintenance, all but two owners were happy for Council to. Currently spending £495 a year to have bark chips placed at base of trees, the trees aren't touched at all, not good value. Need to make a decision that we don't do this in following years, allow the grass to grow at the base of the trees. Cllr Harrison offered to source bark chips for free. Cllr Ashley – full plan in place for the actions, as the grass is cut it may damage the trees, need to minimise any damage. Existing wooden cages around trees to protect them. Chair commented that Clerk has contacted Brachers Solicitors to obtain copies of advice supplied to us, the trees at top of slope not thriving, as others have. Previous survey suggested; let the trees look after themselves, most memorials are looked after for a while and then interest wanes. Cllr Harrison suggested collars around the bottom of the trees. Meadow and Open Spaces Working Party to discuss options and report back to the Council. Chair mentioned that we are paying a national company £3,000 a year, surely we could look closer to home to maintain the meadow.

TDC funding – Cllr Forrest - over £700,000 S106 monies for Bakers Field, Orbit Houses, Canterbury Rd West, nothing coming to village. Cllr Forrest read through 6 years of Parish Council minutes, he noted that the Parish Council objected to all developments that is why we didn't receive S106 monies. In 2014 the Managing Director of Millwood Homes referred to New Homes Bonus - the payments that councils receive directly from Government based on rateable value of properties – Bakers Field £1million, £4/5million with other developments? No-one from TDC has ever discussed how that can be spent in the village, we need to engage with TDC, firstly, re' S106 monies for projects not going ahead e.g. Ursuline College expansion. Councils across the country receive £millions in New Homes Bonus that is hidden. Our monies are being used to fund projects in other areas, we should have money for this village e.g. for a Doctor's surgery. Hopefully not where TDC finding £2 million for Thanet Parkway. DCllr Rogers – the rules have changed with the New Homes Bonus, have to build a certain amount of the houses before they get the bonus. TDC raided reserves to keep head above water during COVID crisis, nothing available at present. Another 2,500 houses of Local Plan - money could come into Cliffsend, Parish Council needs to make decisions for 10 years ahead. Cllr Ashley, forward thinking parish council – looking to set-in processes for the future so that when we move on, other Councillors will

have a track record to follow. Cllrs Ashley, Rogers and Forrest to approach Ian Livingstone, TDC Head of Planning.

42/20-21 Clerk's Reports - Certificate of exemption submitted to PKF Littlejohn. Website and noticeboards have audit information. Clerk advised a resident of Canterbury Road West to write in with views from residents re' the state of the road and speeding. A resident had commented on the stables referred to by DCllr Rogers; there was an incident with a horse and an elderly resident in the village and too many horses are being accommodated. Mr Barton is happy to check the condition of benches/street furniture and give a quotation.

43/20-21 Correspondence Received –

- Minster Surgery curtailing delivery of prescriptions.
- Orbit Housing – TDC meeting 5th August; those who commented in past have been asked for objections. DCllrs Rogers and Rattigan would be happy to read. DCllr Rogers said the biggest complaint was changing over to 100% affordable housing when originally 30%. Local people are to be given first option, or family of local people, then will extend to Thanet, not London. Cllr Harrison to speak to site agent as verge removal has left sharp edges to the tarmac of Cottington Road.
- Lost iPad/tablet
- Resident offered water container for planters
- Resident of Earlsmead Crescent complained about tents and rubbish on green, Cllrs Harrison and Rogers investigated.
- Thank you from resident of Cliff View Rd for the prompt action re' potholes.
- Cliffsend Village Hall Committee (CVHC) re' resume from Cllr Ashley, and list of trustees.

44/20-21 Public Questions –

Resident of Earlsmead Crescent – aware of the state of the green; tents, shoes, rubbish. The person complaining had made feelings very public on Facebook, parents make sure belongings are cleared every evening.

Resident has sent an extensive email to CVHC. No seven day public notice of AGM, April 2020 AGM no minutes of this meeting. Trustee list has changed a number of times over the last weeks. Aware of at least 10 residents that would love to be involved with the village. Village Hall, Council and Residents Association need to work together. Other residents have raised concerns about Village Hall expenditure and income. Cllr Ashley happy to support the CVHC and residents.

The meeting finished at 9.26pm.

Date of next meeting – TBA