

**ACOL PARISH COUNCIL**

Draft Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held at the Village Hall, Acol,  
at 11.00am on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2019.

Present: Cllrs Miss S. Bransfield (Chairman), D. Hayfield, J. Inchley and Mrs. I. Osborne.

Also present: Cllr. T. Roper (TDC), Roy Wade (Clerk)

**33. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Ms. Debbie Forsyth, PCSO, KCC Warden Tony Gander and Ray Owen.

**31. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting 29<sup>th</sup> July 2019 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

**32. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No disclosures of interest were made.

**33. CO-OPTION TO COUNCIL**

The Clerk was requested to prepare a notice inviting any resident of the Village to apply for co-option to the Parish Council

**34. REPORT OF POLICE/COMMUNITY WARDEN/PCSO's.**

No officers were in attendance. PCSO Ms. Forsyth was not present but submitted a written report.

The Chairman read the report to Council:

*"Pleased to report that your village has been quiet over the last 2 months.*

*"A report of nuisance youths on haystacks but unfortunately a report of a distraction burglary targeting an elderly resident on Plumstone Road. Offenders of this nature tend to target elderly people and I would encourage all residents to be vigilant and look out for their neighbours and loved ones. I would also urge people not to let strangers into their home unless they can independently confirm their identity and not accept any unsolicited offers for work to be carried out on the spot. If you are ever unsure, ask them to come back at another time when friends or family are around to offer support, and close the door.*

*"I would like to take this opportunity to promote Neighbourhood Watch. We have a brilliant Neighbourhood watch liaison officer at the station, Adam Sackett, and he is constantly updating us and providing us with invaluable intel, protecting your area and keeping you in touch with what crimes of note eg burglaries, fraud are being committed in Thanet. His details are:- : [adam.sackett@kent.police.uk](mailto:adam.sackett@kent.police.uk)*

*"My email is [60457@kent.police.uk](mailto:60457@kent.police.uk) but please remember to report all crimes through the correct channels."*

**35. ACOL PARISH COUNCIL – STANDING ORDERS**

The Clerk tabled draft standing orders based on the national standard orders of the NALC.

**RESOLVED: That the standing orders, as tabled, be adopted by Acol Parish Council.**

**36. REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN**

- (i) **Stagecoach.** A villager had complained to the company about a bus driver refusing to stop at Plumstone Rd junction, insisting there was no bus stop. He took her to the next bus stop, which was at Spitfire Way, about 2 miles out of the village! The Parish Council also wrote to Stagecoach in support of the complaint. An acknowledgement was finally received with an assurance that it will be "looked into".
- (ii) **Crown & Sceptre.** The new owners are attending to the building's structure.
- (iii) **Traffic monitoring.** The Parish Council has now received a copy of the monitoring conducted since traffic calming was installed. Almost 17,000 vehicle movements were recorded in one day with speeds up to 90+mph!
- (iv) **KCC application for government funding.** The government have agreed that KCC's application for almost £50m for a Birchington/Acol/Westgate Relief Road can progress to the next stage. Kent Highways have given an excellent presentation on our behalf and we hope to see funding available within the next few years.

## DRAFT MINUTES

- (v) **BT Kiosk.** Parish Council continue to persist with insistence that all previous agreements to retain our kiosk are respected. No response has yet been received.
- (vi) **Ptarmigan consultation.** Parish Councillors attended the recent event in Birchington, but Ptarmigan are preoccupied with building 1,600 new houses, to which most attending residents lodged objections.

The Clerk reported that he was still awaiting the final report of the Internal Auditor, David Buckett, and will report to Council as soon as it has been received.

### 38. COUNCIL WEB SITE/BROADBAND

- (i) **Website** - Ray Owen was not in attendance to report; and
- (ii) **Broadband** - Richard Steel reported on discussions with George Chandler (KCC) on a voucher scheme to introduce fibre optics to the Village.

**RESOLVED: That Council support the plan developed with KCC's Broadband Manager, to use the Government's and KCC's Broadband voucher schemes to aggregate grants to finance the estimated £65,000 cost of a Community Broadband Partnership that will provide fibre to Acol properties and superfast (greater than 25 mbps) broadband availability at no additional cost to householders.**

### 39. CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk reported on:

- (1) **Parish Elections** – An invoice had been received in the sum of £232.38 from TDC in respect of elections held on 20 May 2019. The Clerk reminded Members that an election had not been held on that date and that elections for the Parish Council were not held and Members had been returned without a contest.

**RESOLVED: That the invoice be not paid at this stage and TDC be asked to explain the reasons for the invoice.**

- (2) **Salt Bin** – Members were advised that the bin would be ordered and delivered to the Chairman's home for siting once Kent Highways had given its final approval. Karen Ault undertook to agree a siting with other residents on Nursery Fields and these details would be submitted to Kent Highways.

### 40. RECREATION GROUND

Cllr. Hayfield reported:

- (i) **Dog Bins.** Thanks were offered to Ms Ault for her efforts in securing the dog bin.
- (ii) **Repairs to the Post.** The post securing the chains had been repaired and he and the Clerk had met the operatives on site to inspect the work;
- (iii) **Seats to Children's' swings.** **RESOLVED: that the Council purchase 2 swing seats at a cost of £74 each to replace the existing seats which are in poor condition.**
- (iv) **Children's Play Area.** Cllr Hayfield reported that the play area was in a poor condition and that some of the equipment needed replacing. **It was agreed to draw up a costed scheme for the refurbishment of the play area and to submit to Council when the draft budget for 2020/21 was being considered.**

### 41. FINANCIAL MATTERS

- (i) **Payments Schedule.**

**RESOLVED: That the following payments be made:**

<u>Chq No</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>VAT</u>	<u>Amount</u>
646	SERCO	Grass cut Aug	11.26	67.56*
647	<b>CANCELLED</b>			
648	N. Cooper	Play area repairs	0.00	199.85
649	SERCO	Grass cut Sept	11.26	67.56

\*Cheque 646 was paid prior to the meeting.

- (ii) **Bank balance.**

The following financial details were not available at the meeting.:

Balance at 01.10.19	£12,088.48
Less	267.41
Balance at 10.09.19	£11,821.07

**Cllr. Mrs. Osborne verified the financial details.**

### 42. REPORT OF COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Thanet Cllr Roper reported on:

## DRAFT MINUTES

- (i) **Port of Ramsgate** – the apparent purchase of 2 pontoons,;
- (ii) He has been appointed to the Travellers' Sub Committee with a view to identifying a permanent site for travellers;
- (iii) **Ramsgate Race Way** – the proposal will be considered by the Planning Committee but many residents had objected to the scheme;

### 43. **MATTERS OF REPORT BY MEMBERS**

Cllr. Mrs. Osborne reported that James Wright would be the guest speaker at the next Thanet Area meeting.

### 44. **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed to hold the next meeting at 11.00 am on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2019.

**Time concluded: 12.25.**