

Minutes of RYARSH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held on Monday 11th October 2021 at 8.00pm

Councillors Present:

Cllr M McKinlay (Chairman)
Cllr M Barton
Cllr A Betts
Cllr C Martin
Cllr J Sutton

Also in attendance:

Borough Councillor A Kemp (left at 8.20pm)
3 members of public
L Mackie (Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Emson, County Councillor Hohler and Borough Councillor Montague

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes arising from the Parish Council Meeting on 6th September 2021 were agreed by all Councillors and signed by Cllr McKinlay.

4. EXTERNAL REPORTS

(a) County Councillor Hohler
There was no report.

(b) Borough Councillor Kemp

- The Boundary Commission have issued their draft proposals and you should respond if you are concerned in any way. The proposal is for Ryarsh, Birling and Leybourne to be together.
- TMBC have a consultation for people to say what they want from the Borough Council and they are encouraging people to complete this.
- Cllr McKinlay reported that Church Farm have said residents can take their garden rubbish there and they will spread it on their fields and compost it.

(c) Police

Cllr McKinlay attended a strategic meeting with the Police and Crime Commissioner.

- We should expect local police to attend Parish Council meetings at least once every three months and should receive proper formal monthly updates
- Neighbourhood watch is being encouraged and will be revived, possibly under a different name
- A new app will be launched in the next three months called "My Community Voice" where you can report things to the police. Residents can also use Country Eye to report things like Fly Tipping, although it was noted that TMBC may prefer reports being made on their own website.
- The police provide regular updates on rural crime which are circulated to Councillors and put onto the Parish Council website, and there is a tremendous amount of work that goes on in this area

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- If people are worried about "naming names" they should use Crime Stoppers so they can report without giving their details.
- The PCC has two surveys underway: Violence against Women and the Police and Crime Plan Survey which residents can respond to.
- When asked about the use of drones by private individuals, the PCC said that the police can deal and this can be reported using the Kent Police website or you could make enquires with the CAA. Cllr Betts reported that it is the police who should enforce this and not the CAA.
- There has been a strong campaign on County Lines to sort out drug dealing in villages which is down by 40%
- An Independent Police Advisory Group (IPAG) is being set up.
- The police want parishes to know they are listening and want more information from us.

5. PLANNING

(a) Plans Received for Comment

- i. **TM/21/02485/TNCA - The Old Post Office, Chapel Street** - Dismantle dead Cherry tree (T1) to ground level and remove Ivy and deadwood from Black Walnut (T2)
There were **NO OBJECTIONS**.
- ii. **TM/21/02390/FL - Brionne, The Street** - Single storey extensions to front and side of the property
There were **NO OBJECTIONS**

(b) Approvals

- i. **TM/21/01408/FL - April Cottage, Park Farm Road** - Proposed side orangerie extension with demolition of existing conservatory to existing dwelling house
- ii. **TM/21/00554/FL - Layer Marney, London Road** - Proposed two storey rear extension with demolition of existing double garage to existing dwelling house

(c) Refusals

There were no refusals to report.

(d) Any other Planning Matters

There were no other planning matters.

6. MATTERS ARISING

(a) To receive report on Clerk's actions following the last meeting

- The monthly newsletter was prepared and circulated
- The PCSO has been told about the problems with parking from the building works on Roughetts Road
- Kent Highways were notified about the damaged fence on Birling Road but could not take action and passed this to TMBC Planning, who have also said they cannot take action. Cllr Hohler has reported this damaged fence to Ryarsh and Birling Parish Councils.
- A spare set of defibrillator pads have been ordered
- The Village Hall Trust were notified about the extra costs which the Parish Council has paid on their behalf
- A new play area bench has been ordered but delivery is delayed.

It was reported that Conways have attended to deal with the drainage problem from the ditch on Birling Road. The contractor has found the two blocked drains and cleared them. However, behind the bank is a ditch which also needs clearing according to a resident, and if that ditch is not cleared there is nowhere for the water to go. The Clerk will report this to Highways.

(b) To consider Parish Councillor Vacancy, discuss and approve co-option

If anyone is interested in the vacancy, they should contact the Chairman, a Parish Councillor or the Clerk for more information.

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- (c) To consider response to LGBCE Electoral Review of TMBC and agree working with Birling Parish Council

There was a discussion. Councillors felt it was a pity they could not remain as part of the BART parishes, but were happy with the proposal to link with Birling and Leybourne.

- (d) To consider progress of Highways Improvement Plan and residents' comments

The Chairman and Clerk are meeting with the new Schemes Project Manager at Kent Highways to look at our Highways Improvement Plan and we have got comments from residents.

There has been a lot of feedback about speeding on Woodgate Road and Roughetts Road and we are open to suggestions about what could be done to help this.

- (e) To consider The Queens Green Canopy Project

Cllrs will consider a tree for the jubilee.

- (f) To receive report about stones installed at Workhouse Road by Gallagher

The Parish Council asked Gallagher if they would be able to put stones back in Workhouse Road and they have kindly done this. They have put white stones back, in fact more than before, and they are big enough to keep vehicles off the verges. The Parish Council and residents are pleased with this. Gallagher have also offered help to clear the verge for wildflowers ready for next year.

- (g) To consider replacement Notice Board on Roughetts Road

Cllr McKinlay reported that the old Notice Board was removed by Woodgate Gardens free of charge.

Councillors did not feel the Notice Board which was removed on Roughetts Road by the bus stop needs to be replaced. There was a discussion about where a new Notice Board could be installed in Ryarsh Park if permission is given.

- (h) Ryarsh Park – to receive updates:

i. Meeting with Trinity Estates

Cllr McKinlay met with a representative from Trinity Estates. In the future a residents committee will take over from Trinity.

It was noted there were no rubbish bins in Ryarsh Park. TMBC have to be paid to install the bin and empty it. The roads have not been adopted yet.

The question was asked about why a litter bin was removed from the bus stop opposite the Duke of Wellington. The Clerk will find out from TMBC.

ii. Request for permission to install benches

Having looked at the playground, Cllr McKinlay is not sure it needs any more benches there at the moment.

- (i) Parish Council Projects:

i. Verge at junction of Roughetts Road, Workhouse Road, Woodgate Road and The Street

This has been discussed

ii. New bench for Play Area

Delivery delays have been discussed.

The contract for cutting back the vegetation has been given to Woodgate Gardens. Cllr Barton is waiting to hear from them.

It was reported that the School sign is covered by trees from Ryarsh Village Hall between The Duke of Wellington and Birling. The Clerk will ask the Village Hall Trust to cut the trees back.

7. OPEN FORUM – Public Participation Session

- Drainage – the drain outside Scannells Cottage on The Street is above road level and surface water cannot drain down it but flows around the drain. The drain needs dropping
- The drains are full of silt all down The Street and don't take water away. Highways do arrange for gulley suckers but they don't do the job properly – they need to be cleared as they are blocked. The machinery used does not take the silt out to clear the drains.
- Residents weren't told about the current road closure on The Street. Why was the notice sent three days late, why is it an emergency when they have known about the leak for 10 weeks, why has the road been dug up and reinstated and then dug up again already, why was the road closure on a Friday, why was there no work taking place there today?

8. PARISH COUNCILLOR REPORTS

To receive updates and reports:

- To consider fire hydrant checks (MB + JS)
Cllrs Barton and Sutton will carry out these checks.
- Police and Crime Commissioners Meeting (MM)
This has already been discussed.
- KCC Road Safety Strategy Launch 15.09.21 (MM)
Cllr McKinlay attended the Operation Zero launch.
- JPCTCG 16.09.21 (MM)
There is nothing relevant to Ryarsh to report.
- KCC Flood Warden Training – 06.10.21 and 09.11.21
Cllrs McKinlay and Martin will attend.
- KALC – Introduction to Project Management 09.10.21 (MM)
Cllr McKinlay delivered this to around 20 people.
- SBS Men's Shed Conference 08.10.21
Cllrs noted that Artur at The Baptist Church carries out a lot of work related to this.
- KALC Finance Conference 20.10.21 (Clerk)
The Clerk will be attending.
- Play Area Annual Inspection 09.11.21 (MM, MB)
Cllrs McKinlay and Barton will meet the Play Area Inspector.
- KALC AGM 13.11.21
Cllr McKinlay will be attending.
- Annual Remembrance Service St Martin's Church 14.11.21
Cllr Barton will arrange a wreath and Cllr McKinlay will attend the service.

9. MONTHLY CHECK LIST

- General Data Protection Regulations
There were no updates to report.
- To note any problems and receive reports about
 - Highways
There were no other issues to report.
 - Temporary Road Closure - Woodgate Road, Addington - 14th October 2021
This was noted.
 - Temporary Road Closure – Sandy Lane, Ryarsh – 25th October 2021
This was noted.

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- iv. To receive update – Damaged Road Signs, Workhouse Road
This has been reported to Kent Highways.
- v. Footpaths and Footways
There were no issues to report.
- vi. Street lights
There were no issues to report.
- vii. Trees
There were no issues to report.
- viii. Defibrillator
The Parish Council has paid for another set of pads for the defibrillator so there is spare set.
David Storey has completed the monthly check of the batteries.

(c) Play Area and Recreation Ground

There are no dogs allowed on the Recreation Ground, and although there are signs it was reported by a resident that they are easy to miss. A Councillor approached a member of public with a dog on The Recreation Ground who wasn't able to read. The newsletter can notify residents that there are no dogs allowed on The Recreation Ground, and the Clerk will contact the Village Hall Committee to suggest signs with symbols could be installed to help those who cannot read.

(d) Ryarsh Village Hall

The Parish Council wrote to The Village Hall Trust to explain what had been paid for on their behalf so they were aware.

10. FINANCIAL MATTERS

(a) To receive bank statements, consider and approve financial statements for signature and note budget monitoring

These have been circulated and considered by Cllrs. The statement was approved and signed by Cllr McKinlay. There were no issues relating to budget monitoring.

(b) To consider and approve invoice payments

The following invoices have been APPROVED since the last meeting.

Payee	Description	Total £
Satswana	DPO Fees	£90.00
Clerk	Reimbursement – picnic bench ordered with Sustainable Furniture	£265.00
Defibrillator Warehouse	Replacement Pads	£106.80
CPRE	Annual Membership	£36.00

The following invoices were APPROVED and the payments will be authorised by Cllrs Martin and Barton.

Payee	Description	Total £
PSR Lighting	Streetlight Maintenance September 2021	£116.40
Vision ICT	Biennial Fee for domain renewal	£108.00
Vision ICT	8 hosted email accounts November 21 – October 22	£151.20
Unity Trust	Service Charge	£18.00
KALC	Finance Conference (Clerk)	£60.00
Clerk	Reimbursement – photocopying Village Hall Documents	£7.02
Defibrillator Warehouse	Spare Adult Pads	£106.80

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Clerk	October 2021 Salary, expenses, allowance	£826.29
HMRC	October 2021 PAYE and NI	£96.56

A payment to Eon for Electricity for September 2021 of £127.55 will be paid by Direct Debit.

- (c) To note progress of application to add Cllr Betts as a signatory with Unity Trust Bank
It was reported that Cllr Betts has been added as a signatory.
- (d) To consider any other financial matters
There were no other matters.

11. MATTERS FOR NEXT MEETING

A series of local crimes, shed break ins, burglaries and attempted burglaries were discussed. The offender has been identified and there are a number of photos and CCTV images but the police have not taken action. Cllr McKinlay will raise this with Inspector Lizzie Jones. CCTV and lighting will help as an offender has been repeatedly seen trying door handles to see if they are unlocked, but wanting to stay in the dark and away from lights. Community Engagement Meetings with TMBC and the police would give residents the opportunity to raise these issue directly with the police. An article will be included in the Newsletter warning people to keep doors locked and to install better lighting at their properties. The police will be contacted to establish if they are able to fund lighting at the moment.

The Meeting concluded at 9.20pm

Date of the next Parish Council Meeting is **Monday 8th November 2021** at 8pm

Signed


Dated
8.11.21