

Minutes of **Ryarsh Parish Council** Meeting held in the Davison Room, Ryarsh Village Hall on
Monday 14th March 2022 at 8.00pm

Councillors Present:

Cllr M McKinlay (Chairman)
Cllr I Emson (Vice Chairman)
Cllr M Barton
Cllr C Martin
Cllr S Payne
Cllr J Sutton

Also in attendance:

County Councillor S Hohler (8-8.15pm)
1 member of public
L Mackie (Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr A Betts, and Borough Councillors Kemp and Montague. There were no declarations of Interest.

2. MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of 7th February 2022 be approved and signed as an accurate record by Cllr McKinlay.

3. EXTERNAL REPORTS

(a) County Councillor Hohler

- KCC are very concerned about the situation in Ukraine and the people there, and are supporting a sponsoring initiative. KCC are also being very careful about cyber-attacks. There is guidance available about what you can do to protect against cyber-attacks. KCC are looking at all their investments, pensions and finances and are trying to change those that have any links with Russia.
- The budget went through but was very difficult as prices in so many things are going up - gas, oil, building materials, metal etc.
- The bus companies only run routes that make them money. Over the years KCC has listened to people who need buses that aren't commercially viable (eg in evenings, to villages etc) by putting in lots of money to support those buses. At the moment, the number 58 bus is being looked at. It costs KCC £6m per year in order to support these buses and it doesn't seem to be a sensible use of taxpayer money if people are not using them. There is a consultation available online. This was raised at the JPCTCG who noted that this was supported by Government. However, it isn't supported by Government any more. There is a good argument that people haven't used the buses so much during lockdown, so a suggestion may be to carry on for another 6 months - 1 year to see if usage picks up.
- At the Joint Transport Board, roadworks in the village were mentioned, because there are drains in the road sticking up and Highways are lowering them so water drains away
- Cllr Hohler made a complaint about the Quarry at Ferns and this went to Committee about 6 months ago. There are two breaches of planning conditions to do with the land by the motorway, and planning is the responsibility of TMBC who are dealing. There are also breaches of hours and other conditions. Ferns have been told about this but it is a slow process. Cllr Hohler is continuing to work on this. Cllr McKinlay suggested that the Parish Council make another visit to the quarry.
- There is an Engagement underway about Libraries asking the public what they think and what they like. It is really important to build the love of books for children. KCC has had over 2,000 replies with 99 ideas. 94% of those responding want to still use the libraries and say they are important. KCC need to make sure buildings are up to scratch as well.

Minutes of Ryarsh Parish Council Meeting

- There are lots of scams going on at the moment. One is saying the police need more funds to follow a problem up, but the police would never ask for money.
- The Dean of Rochester Cathedral has noted that the digital industry accounts for 4% of co2 emissions which is a higher percentage than aviation and will cause as much co2 as traffic in the future.
- The Chair of the Committee on Climate Change, John Gummer, has visited and was pleased with what is being done in Kent.
- There is a campaign on speed limits. This is the limit and not a target. In 2020 there were 144 crashes caused by excessive speed. 2/3 of the crashes involved drivers who were male aged 17-34.
- Rogue traders – ring Citizens Advice Bureau to report any problems.
- The Levelling up White Paper is to do with the way we deliver services. Michael Gove is coming to Kent about this. KCC is one of the largest strategic authorities in the country. Kent is one county and works well as one County.

Cllr Emson reported problems for residents in Addington from sand being blown into their properties and on their roads and provided photos for Cllr Hohler. She is aware of the problem from Addington residents. Cllrs noted they would have experienced the same problems if the quarry were permitted in Ryarsh.

(b) Borough Councillor Montague

There was no report.

Cllr McKinlay reported that the Local Government Boundary Commission for England have proposed a reduction in the number of Borough Councillors by 12. As a result, they are reorganising the wards and the Boundary Commission's initial recommendations puts Ryarsh with Birling and Leybourne. Ryarsh had made representations to be grouped with Birling and Addington. There were concerns that Leybourne is much bigger with very different priorities. Ryarsh would prefer to be grouped with other rural wards. It was agreed that the Parish Council should respond to the consultation and say we think the draft proposals are wrong.

(c) Police

Cllr McKinlay has been very impressed at how much information we are getting from the police having signed up to My Community Voice. There is no police report from our PCSO this month. Inspector Lizzie Jones attends Tonbridge & Malling KALC meetings and reports on what is going on which is useful. Cllr Emson reported seeing PCSO Kim McGowan around the village more. Cllr McKinlay is attending another event at Police HQ next month.

4. PLANNING

(a) Plans Received for Comment

There were no plans received.

(b) Approvals

- i. **TM/21/02857/FL - Little Close, Chapel Street** - Double storey wrap around extension

(c) Refusals

There were no refusals to report.

(d) Any other Planning Matters

- i. **TM/22/00220/FL - 2 Roughetts Row, Roughetts Road** - Enlarge the approved extension both to create additional space, avoid expensive underpinning costs and to create a roof to match the neighbouring extension. (amendment to planning permission TM/18/02452/FL: first floor rear extension)
- ii. **TM/21/03164/FL - Farm Land South Of Brook House, Roughetts Road** - Proposed total of ten handmade timber glamping pods for guests along with recycling/waste, cycle storage, reception, reading room, outdoor play area, communal BBQ hut and a barrel sauna. One parking bay per pod located next to each pod is proposed along

Minutes of Ryarsh Parish Council Meeting

with an additional 6 bay parking/turning area which includes 1 electrical vehicle charging point and 1 accessible parking bay. Each guest pod will have a small area of decking to the front. Also intended are associated footpaths and landscaping of the site (**APPLICATION WITHDRAWN**)

- iii. It was reported that there are more caravans on the field past Blooming Plants, which is in Leybourne. The Clerk has written to Leybourne Parish Council about this before and was asked to write again and find out what action they are taking.
- iv. Cllr McKinlay attended the Tonbridge & Malling KALC Executive Committee and there were general questions about what was going on with TMBC planning. There are changes in names and we don't know who is in charge. All the other parishes had complaints about planning from TMBC.

5. MATTERS ARISING

(a) Clerks Actions Since Last Meeting

- The newsletter was prepared and circulated.
- The railings outside the Primary School were reported to the School, who had not received complaints about them but were happy for the Parish Council to pursue. This will be added to the Highways Improvement Plan. Cllrs agreed the crossing here is dangerous. It was noted that Highways have installed new signage at Old School Lane and are changing some speed signs to make them more visible.
- Contacted TMBC to empty the dog waste bin on Old School Lane. It was noted this bin is often left unemptied. Anyone can report bins to TMBC at waste.services@tmbc.gov.uk who will arrange for their contractor to clear.
- Chased TMBC about why the waste bin by the bus stop on The Street was removed.
- The van parked on Chapel Street was reported to Kent Highways, TMBC Parking Enforcement and the Police. Highways replied that as the embankment is not owned or maintained by highways and is by the adjacent land owner, they have no power to do anything. The PCSO stated that there are no parking restrictions or double yellow lines. It is understood the embankment is owned by Gallagher and Cllr McKinlay will contact them. Cllr McKinlay will sign a letter to the van owner pointing out the damage caused and asking them to park elsewhere on the road.
- The raised drain covers on Old School Lane have been reported to Kent Highways.
- The broken streetlight over the Notice Board in the play area was reported to the contractor and mended. Cllrs noted how quickly the contractor attended and repaired the light.

It was reported that the streetlight was not working on the corner of Moonfield, by the footpath on the corner. It is thought that this has not been converted to LED as it is not as bright as other bulbs. The Clerk will report this to the contractor.

- (b) Consultation No 58 Bus Service <https://letstalk.kent.gov.uk/bus-funding-reductions> 20.04.22
This was discussed with Cllr Hohler. Nu Venture had reported previously that the bus was being well used, but now they say it is not being well used. Cllrs thought this may be because of Covid. There was an increased frequency in buses when they changed to smaller buses, so maybe that is why there are less passengers on each bus? As a Parish Council, Ryarsh is not happy to lose our service.
- (c) LGBCE final recommendations for new electoral arrangements for Tonbridge & Malling
<https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/node/27207>
This has been discussed.
- (d) TMBC Draft Housing Strategy Consultation 13.04.22 <https://www.tmbc.gov.uk/housing/housing-strategy-2022-2027-consultation>
Cllrs did put forward suggestions about housing for Ryarsh many years ago for Ryarsh Park, but no one from the village was ever allocated the social housing.
- (e) TMBC Off Street Parking Proposal www.tmbc.gov.uk/offstreetcharges
Ryarsh is not impacted but residents will be affected by prices at other TMBC car parks.

Minutes of Ryarsh Parish Council Meeting

- (f) Annual Review: Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Media Policy, Complaints Procedure, Freedom of Information Act Policy, Retention of Documents and Records Policy, GDPR Action List, Street Light Maintenance contract, Fixed Asset Register, Grievance and Disciplinary procedure, Equal Opportunities Policy and Travel and Expenses Policy
These are considered and reviewed annually. There are no updates needed. Cllrs considered and approved the policies and procedures without amendment.
- (g) Annual Review of Risk assessments
The Annual Review was considered and approved.
- (h) To consider Emergency Plan
Cllrs McKinlay and Martin have worked on this. There are issues with storing the names of vulnerable residents. Cllrs Emson and Sutton are on the Emergency Committee.
- (i) Parish Council Projects – Ryarsh in Bloom, Picnic Bench, Notice Board for Ryarsh Park
Ryarsh in bloom is not being entered into this year but something will hopefully take place before the Jubilee.
Cllr Barton has installed the new picnic bench and will oil both benches again.
Cllrs approved the purchase of a Notice Board, details of which the Clerk has circulated. Cllr McKinlay has liaised with a resident representative from Ryarsh Park. Trinity have confirmed their approval for the Notice Board to be put up and the resident is asking for their maintenance contractor to install.

6. OPEN FORUM – Public Participation Session

There were no questions.

7. PARISH COUNCILLOR REPORTS

- (a) KALC T&M 24.02.22
Cllr McKinlay has discussed this already.
- (b) KALC Planning Conference 10.03.22 (MM)
Cllr McKinlay attended.
- (c) KALC AGAR Conference 30.03.22 (Clerk)
The Clerk will attend.
- (d) JPCTCG 31.03.22
Cllr McKinlay will attend.
- (e) Queens Jubilee Event 04.06.22
There has been a committee meeting on zoom which Cllrs Martin and Sutton attended. They are designing flyers. There will be an afternoon tea in the hall, similar to the last jubilee celebration, with a church service on Sunday. There is another committee meeting this week. Any trees to be planted for the jubilee must be planted before 31st March in order to go on record. Initially, there was a discussion about obtaining free trees to distribute at the celebration for people to plant. This can go ahead but won't be included in the record.
The school thought water bottles were a good idea. Children will label them. The Clerk will look at recycled plastic bottles and metal bottles. We do want them to have something on that says jubilee.

8. MONTHLY CHECK LIST

- (a) To receive reports about
 - i. Highways, Footpaths and Footways
The Clerk was asked to report the damaged fence on Birling Road to TMBC Planning Enforcement referring to the S215 Planning Act "Untidy Land Notice".
 - ii. Street lights
These have already been discussed.

Minutes of Ryarsh Parish Council Meeting

- iii. Parish property: Defibrillator, Ryarsh Resource Room
Cllr Sutton reported that the Resource Room looks fine. There are no other issues to report.

(b) Play Area and Recreation Ground

The Play Area looks good and Cllr Barton is carrying out regular checks.

(c) Ryarsh Village Hall

There is nothing to report.

9. FINANCIAL MATTERS

(a) To consider and approve invoice payments

The following accounts for payment were approved. The payments will be authorised by Cllrs Martin and Barton.

Payee	Description	Total £
PSR Lighting	Streetlight Maintenance February 2022	£116.40
Offham PC	Clerk's AGAR Training	£25.00
Clerk	Salary March 2022	£951.09
HMRC	PAYE and NI March 2022	£177.60

Payments to N Power for Electricity for January and February 2022 are due, but have not been invoiced. These will be paid by Direct Debit.

(b) 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 will be signed by Cllr McKinlay. There were no issues relating to budget monitoring for the year.

(c) Any other Financial Matters

Cllrs have seen the NALC agreed National Salary Scale Increases and agreed to increase the Clerk's salary in accordance with these.

Cllrs approved Cllr Payne being added as a signatory to the Unity Trust Account and counter signed the Submission Form.

10. MATTERS FOR NEXT MEETING

The Meeting concluded at 9.00pm

Date of the next Parish Council Meeting is **Monday 11th April March 2022** at 8pm

Signed 

Dated 11-4-22