

MINUTES of Ryarsh Parish Council Meeting held in the Davison Room, Ryarsh Village Hall on Monday 11th July 2022 at 8.00pm

Councillors Present:

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

Also in attendance:

County Councillor Hohler (8.00-8.15pm)
L Mackie (Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Payne, Borough Councillors A Kemp and P Montague.

2. MINUTES

- (a) To receive and approve the Minutes of the meeting held on **11th June 2022** for signature
It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of 11th June 2022 be approved and signed as an accurate record by Cllr McKinlay.

3. EXTERNAL REPORTS

- (a) County Councillor Hohler

Cllr Hohler reported that:

- KCC had a stand at the County Show at Detling which was popular. Reconnect Kent is a programme for children and young people and is designed to help them thrive following the pandemic.
- The Ofsted report for Children's Social Services puts Kent as one of the top in the country. They were marked as Outstanding in three areas and Good in one.
- She has attended an interesting conference on Museums, to see how they are run and what they are doing.
- She has been to a service at Canterbury Cathedral for donors about the restoration. A Statue of Prince Philip and the Queen has been put up for the Jubilee.
- The Offham Solar Park was approved by KCC and now goes to Michael Gove for final approval. Tom Tugendhat MP has written to ask for checks as to where the solar panels are made, and said it should be turned down if they are made with slave labour.
- The Turner Contemporary is looking for a new chairman.
- There is not good news about the buses which KCC supported and paid for as they were not commercial routes. They have had to be cut by KCC as budgets are so difficult. KCC have now been given a grant from government but cannot use it for the services that were supported by the Council. Bus companies are also short of drivers and fuel is expensive, so they have cut their services and unfortunately people think this is also something that KCC have done. Eligibility is a problem for school buses for some people. Pupils are provided transport to their nearest school, but if they chose to go to a school further away then they don't get transport provided and have to pay.
- KCC does have a statutory obligation to provide a service but that is just a standard service.
- There have been over 3,000 arrivals from Ukraine. There have been more sponsors and visas passed for Kent than any other area of the country. The Fire Brigade have

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been checking before anyone moves in that the properties are safe from the point of view of fire. They then go back after the family arrive to see if they need help.

- Covid numbers are increasing a lot. It doesn't seem to be so severe but it has got a nasty strain for vulnerable people. Numbers in the over 55's are going up quite fast and in primary school age children. There are no rules from Government, and KCC are taking sensible measures.

(b) Borough Councillors Kemp and Montague

There was no report.

(c) Police

There was no report.

4. PLANNING

(a) Plans Received for Comment

- TM/22/01343/AGN - Land North Of Woodgate Road** - Prior Agricultural Notification for upgraded of forest tracks in Ryarsh Wood, accessed via a metal gate located at the junction of Park Farm Road, Chapel Street and Workhouse Lane or from Woodgate Road next to Woodgate Cottage
There were no objections, but Cllrs considered representations made by a resident and agreed that warning signs were needed at the junction, and that consideration needed to be made for mud on the roads.
- TM/22/01416/FL - Old Place Farm, Birling Road** - Two storey detached double garage and adjoining store room
There were **NO OBJECTIONS**.

(b) Approvals

- TM/22/00589/FL - 1 And 2 Ryarsh Place Cottages, Birling Road** - Single storey rear extension
- 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)

(c) Refusals

- TM/22/00448/FL - Farm Land South Of Brook House, Roughetts Road** - Total of ten handmade timber glamping pods for guests along with recycling/waste, cycle storage, a reception, a reading room, an outdoor play area, a communal BBQ hut and a barrel sauna. One parking bay per pod located next to each pod is proposed along 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 where they can enjoy the sun and soak in the surroundings. Also intended are associated footpaths and landscaping of the site.

(d) Any other Planning Matters

- TM/22/01246/FL - Callis Court Farm, London Road** - Change of use of Callis Court Barn from equestrian to residential (Class C3) through the conversion of the existing building. Change of use of the land to domestic garden. **NO OBJECTIONS**

5. MATTERS ARISING

(a) Clerks Actions Since Last Meeting

- The newsletter was prepared and circulated.
- Liaised with Kent Highways and the Village Hall Trust about the branches overhanging the play area
- Liaised with Landscape Services, the football team and the Village Hall Trust about grass cutting. Cllrs commented that the field was always left immaculate by the contractor and the Clerk was asked to pass on this message.

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- Reported the location of the streetlight on The Street that isn't working to the contractor
- Liaised with resident about road closure on The Street
- Chased for delivery of Notice Board, which has now been received
- Submitted the AGAR 2021-2022

(b) TMBC Review of Polling District/Places/Station 2022 (21.08.22)

Details have been circulated.

(c) Tonbridge and Malling Street Trading Consultation (29.08.22)

Details have been circulated.

(d) KCC Bus Funding Consultation Report

Details have been circulated.

(e) Parish Council Projects – Notice Board for Ryarsh Park

The Notice Board has been delivered and Cllr McKinlay is liaising with Ryarsh Park about installation. Ryarsh Park owners have agreed to pay for it to be put up.

6. OPEN FORUM – Public Participation Session

There were no questions.

7. PARISH COUNCILLOR REPORTS

(a) KALC Cllrs Conference 30.06.22 (MM)

Cllr McKinlay attended, and it was good to have face to face meetings again.

(b) KALC T&M 21.07.22 (MM)

Cllr McKinlay will attend.

(c) KALC Chairmanship Conference 28.07.22 (MM)

Cllr McKinlay will attend.

8. MONTHLY CHECK LIST

(a) To receive reports about

i. Highways, Footpaths and Footways

There was a footpath at the top of Chapel Street that was covered by vegetation but this has now been cleared.

It was reported that the verge at the corner of Ryarsh Park at the Roughetts Road/The Street junction was overgrown with vegetation making it difficult to see. The Clerk was asked to contact Ryarsh Park to establish if they own the land.

KCC Highways have lowered the drain on Old School Lane and retarmacked the surface, as requested, to deal with the drainage problems.

A property on The Street has gravel which is protruding onto the highway. A cyclist has fallen on it, and it would make braking on the surface difficult. The owners have swept it back onto the driveway but gravel continues to spill onto the carriageway. The Clerk was asked to contact the owners.

ii. Street lights

The Clerk has reported the streetlight between Moonfield and Brookline that isn't working to the contractor.

iii. Parish property: Defibrillator, Ryarsh Resource Room

There were no issues to report.

iv. GDPR

Cllrs have read the update from Satswana, the DPO, and it was AGREED that the Clerk should download Cyber Alarm.

(b) Play Area and Recreation Ground

There was nothing to report. Cllr Barton has inspected the play area.

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- (c) Ryarsh Village Hall
There was 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 Barton and Martin.

Payee	Description	Total £
	Payments Approved Since Last Meeting	
Viking	Office Supplies	£102.95
Unity Trust	Quarterly Service Charge	£18.00
	Payment Approved at July Meeting	
PSR Lighting	Streetlight Maintenance June 2022	£116.40
Clerk	Salary July 2022	£836.04
Clerk	Expenses June 2022	£13.65
HMRC	PAYE and NI July 2022	£97.34
Green Barnes Ltd	Notice Board	£1,993.55
KALC	Planning Conference 10.03.22	£60.00

Payment to N Power for Electricity for June 2022 of £107.52 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 was signed by Cllr McKinlay. There were no issues relating to budget monitoring for the year.
- (i) To receive update about Pension Scheme for Employee
The Clerk made a report as Responsible Financial Officer. The Parish Council has been set up with the Nest Pension Scheme and the Clerk has been enrolled on that scheme as an Eligible Employee. Formal notification of the terms of the scheme have been sent by the Parish Council to the Clerk, as employee, and from Nest.
As an Employee, the Clerk reported that she had received details from The Parish Council and from Nest and had opted out of the pension scheme. The Clerk will continue to receive contributions towards pension from the Parish Council monthly in addition to her salary which she will put into a private pension scheme.

10. MATTERS FOR NEXT MEETING

The Meeting concluded at 8.40pm

Date of the next Parish Council Meeting is **Monday 12th September 2022** at 8pm

Signed 

Dated 10-10-22