

Minutes of Ryarsh Parish Council Meeting held in the Davison Room, Ryarsh Village Hall on
Monday 13th February 2023 at 8.00pm

Councillors Present:

Cllr M McKinlay (Chairman)
Cllr I Emson (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Barton
Cllr A Betts
Cllr S Payne
Cllr J Sutton

Also in attendance:

L Mackie (Clerk)
County Councillor Hohler (8-8.10pm)
5 members of public

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Martin, and Borough Councillors Kemp and Montague. There were no Declarations of Interest.

2. MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of 9th January 2023 be approved and signed as an accurate record by Cllr McKinlay.

3. EXTERNAL REPORTS

(a) County Councillor Hohler

- 9,000 potholes have been reported since 15th December 2022, compared with 2,000 the year before. KCC are trying to catch up with repairing all of those. The good news is there are more efficient ways of repairing them now.
- KCC have 65 gritters and they are coming out on the roads tonight. They only cover A and B roads as there are 5,500 miles of roads in Kent. A map on the KCC website shows the roads which are being gritted.
- There are 3,000 salt bins in Kent and it costs £75,000 to fill them all up. They will not automatically fill them due to the time it takes, but let KCC know if there is an empty bin that needs filling or if there is a bin that is not used.
- Over the Christmas period the police were out and targeting drink and drug drivers. There were 249 arrests.
- KCC have reviewed the budget and it is very challenging. Social care was up by £36m last year. The budget was approved on Thursday last week but it wasn't easy.
- A year ago when people replied to KCC's budget consultation they asked why don't you save money by putting KCC services in one building rather than dotting them all around. KCC have carried out a lot of research with experts and there is a huge consultation from mid January to mid March. Residents can take part online.
- People have started writing in about buses and asking if KCC could take the bus stops away if there is no bus route. KCC are optimistic that the services could be restarted, so are not taking bus stops away for at least 6 months.
- There are bus proposals arranged with Norman Kemp at Nu-Venture for one bus a week, but if the service is not used it will be lost. There is a collection of Parish Councils who may be prepared to pay towards the bus service.
- It was noted that timetables and notices on the bus stops should be updated quickly so visitors aren't waiting for buses that are no longer running.
- Cllr Hohler was asked if the money for claims for pothole damage comes out of the pothole budget or KCC insurance. Cllr Hohler thought it came from KCC money rather than from insurance.

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Initials.....

(b) Borough Councillors Kemp and Montague

Cllr Montague has provided a report:

- Enforcement of littering continues with over 400 fines issued since the pilot began in October. The vast majority are for cigarette ends.
- Although it's early days, we have obtained an agreement to be supplied with 4 mobile CCTV cameras. These could be used in hotspot areas of anti-social behaviour (perhaps fly tipping?)
- Cllrs should notify Cllr McKinlay of any areas that would benefit from the mobile CCTV and she will liaise with TMBC.

(c) Police

Cllr McKinlay noted that shed break ins are happening again, so sheds or garages should be properly locked.

A resident responsible for a number of incidents has been jailed for 6-9 months.

The Police and Crime Commissioner has circulated a Victim Voice leaflet. The PCC is concerned that victims of crime are not getting a proper service and is working to do something about it.

4. **PLANNING**

(a) Plans Received for Comment

- i. **TM/23/00159/TEN – Land Adjacent M20 North Of Bumblebee Barn, East Street, Addington** – Prior Telecommunications Notification: Replace existing mast with a 30m high lattice telecommunications mast, 12no. antennae, 4no. 600mm diameter transmission dishes, 6no. equipment cabinets, new compound fencing and ancillary development thereto

This application was discussed. It is understood that residents living near the mast in Addington are upset, and it is going to be a large mast.

However, it is noted that there are telecommunications permitted development rights, and there is not a lot that the Parish Council can do to object. There were concerns expressed at how large the mast would be compared to the existing mast but there were **NO OBJECTIONS.**

(b) Approvals

- i. **TM/22/02546/FL - Land South East Of Church Farm, Church Road** – Change of use of land for the provision of 4 no. removable glamping pods together with associated decking areas, parking and landscaping
- ii. **TM/22/02406/FL – Hillview, London Road** – New front bay with entrance porch and single storey side extension

(c) Refusals

- i. **TM/22/02719/FL – 2 Ryarsh Place Cottages, Birling Road** – Two storey side/rear extension, single storey rear extensions, entrance porch and associated landscaping.

(d) Any other Planning Matters

There were no other planning matters.

5. **MATTERS ARISING**

(a) Clerks Actions Since Last Meeting

- The newsletter was prepared and circulated
- Asked TMBC about the number of objections filed under the Local Plan Consultation for sites in Ryarsh. TMBC do not have that detail at this stage.
- Written to Birling Parish Council about the Primary School Hardship Fund and is awaiting more information
- Reported to the PCSO the crashed car, the bottles and cans littered in certain areas, and attempted break ins at Ryarsh Park
- Submitted the 2023-2024 Precept Request to TMBC

(b) Green Belt Petition

The Parish Council is happy to support this petition.



- (c) To receive update – defibrillator and order of new pads
Zoll cannot confirm if the defibrillator has been checked. Ryarsh Village Hall Trust arrange for a qualified nurse to check the unit who has confirmed it is working ok so no further investigations are needed. New pads have been ordered.
- (d) To consider Ryarsh School Hardship Fund
There is nothing to report.
- (e) 58 & 70 Buses
There is a lot of activity going on to try and provide the villages with at least one bus a week. The 58 bus stops running today.
- (f) To consider Emergency Plan
Cllr McKinlay is working on it and welcomes any input. Cllr Martin is working with her.
- (g) To consider Fire Hydrant Inspections
Cllrs Sutton and Barton will carry out the inspections shortly.
- (h) Parish Council Projects
Gill Didino addressed the meeting about planning a village event to celebrate the King's Coronation. It was agreed that Sunday 7th May 2023 would be the best date. Gill is liaising with the Village Hall Trust to book the Hall and Recreation Ground.
There was a discussion. It was suggested that a rounders match would be inclusive. Other suggestions included Kings and Queens fancy dress for the children, a Tea Party and a Tree to be planted. A group will be set up to help organise the event. Insurance for the event must be arranged.
- (i) Kent Highways Road Closure, Church Road – 20th February 2023
This was noted.

6. OPEN SESSION – Public Question Time

A resident raised the possibility of holding a Red Bull Soap Box Race from the top of The Street to finish in front of the pub. He is proposing trying to get a road closure for 4-5 hours and get companies to sponsor a soap box. Money raised would be used for the Village. The event would be held on Saturday 24th June. The resident noted he would have to do a lot of the work. Cllrs agreed this was a good idea, but noted it was not a long route. Insurance would be required for the event.

The Parish Council could not organise the event because of the insurance obligations and because Councillors do not have the expertise but there were no objections to the event. An organising group will get together.

7. PARISH COUNCILLOR REPORTS

i. Highways Improvement Plan Meeting 26.01.23

Cllr McKinlay and the Clerk met with Kent Highways. Last year we put together a Highways Improvement Plan. Some items have been completed and it has now been reviewed. There are a collection of items, and one of the main issues is the speed and problems on Roughetts Road. In order to deal with those issues we need the right kind of data. Kent Highways have agreed to put speed measuring devices on Roughetts Road to provide objective measurements about speed.

There are some great ideas for the village, but the Parish Council or Kent Highways don't own the land to carry them all out.

Cllr Sutton was involved in a car accident on Roughetts Road, but following a complaint had no response from the police. There was another serious accident on Roughetts Road last year.

There was a discussion about noise from the smart motorway. Oonagh and Gerry Boyle would like to pursue the issue with Highways England. The Clerk will provide them with details.

- ii. KALC and Ryarsh Community Awards 2023
Cllrs will consider nominations and reach agreement by email.

8. MONTHLY CHECK LIST

(a) To receive reports about

i. Highways, Footpaths and Footways

Cllr Emson raised a problem travelling up the Street towards Roughetts Road. He said the Highway Code states you give way to traffic uphill, but cars are not giving way and are mounting the kerb and rutting the bank. It was reported that this was on the previous Highways Improvement Plan but was taken off by Kent Highways who said there was nothing they could do to resolve this.

A question was raised about whether there is regular drain cleaning in Church Road - if there is rain the whole road floods. It was reported that regular cleaning may not be taking place, so this should be reported on the Kent Highways portal for them to inspect.

It was reported that the footpath along Roughetts Road is blocked with leaves which need clearing and vegetation grows onto the path making it narrower. The Clerk will report this to TMBC.

Parts of Roughetts Road have been closed to replace electrical replacement. Residents reported that the contractors did a great job, particularly against the background of a lot of complaints about the work taking place.

ii. Street lights

The street light on the 2nd traffic calming island is not working.

iii. Parish property: Defibrillator, Ryarsh Resource Room

There was nothing to report.

(b) Play Area and Recreation Ground

Cllr Barton will remove the play area gate tomorrow and Cllr Emson will weld it in place.

9. FINANCIAL MATTERS

(a) To consider and approve invoice payments

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

| Payee | Description | Total |
|-----------------------------|---|---------|
| | Payment Approved at February | |
| PSR Lighting | Streetlight Maintenance January 2023 | £116.40 |
| PSR Lighting | Repair Work – Birling Road Traffic Calming Island | £282.00 |
| Commercial Services Trading | Quarterly Grounds Grass Cutting | £415.37 |
| Clerk | Reimbursement - DropBox | £95.88 |
| Clerk | Salary February 2023 | £904.94 |
| HMRC | PAYE and NI February 2023 | £110.57 |
| Clerk | Expenses January 2023 | £9.10 |
| Clerk | Reimbursement – Lenovo Laptop | £400.00 |
| Defib Warehouse | 2 x paediatric pads | £237.60 |

Payment to N Power for Electricity for January 2023 of £149.45 will be paid by Direct Debit.

(b) To receive bank statements, consider and approve financial statements for signature and to monitor budget

These have been circulated and considered by Cllrs. The statement was approved and was signed by Cllr McKinlay.

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(c) To consider Recreation Ground Maintenance Contract Renewal
Cllrs have considered the quote and consider that Landscape Services are doing such a good job they were very keen to renew the contract.

(d) To consider any other financial matters
It was noted that the electricity unmetered supply contract has now been set up.

10. MATTERS FOR NEXT MEETING

There were no matters.

The Meeting concluded at 9.10pm

Date of the next Parish Council Meeting is **Monday 13th March 2023** at 8pm

Signed 

Dated 13-3-23