

Minutes of Ryarsh Parish Council Meeting held in the Davison Room, Ryarsh Village Hall on
Monday 13th March 2023 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:

L Mackie (Clerk)
County Councillor Hohler (8–8.10am)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

2. MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of 13th February 2023 be approved and signed as an accurate record by Cllr McKinlay.

3. EXTERNAL REPORTS

(a) County Councillor Hohler

- An Enforcement Officer has made a compliance visit to Ferns Quarry. Working with the quarry, they are confident they can bring the site into compliance
- KCC have a lot of consultations ongoing such as about communities getting together and Government is sending a lot out about planning
- Using the "No use empty scheme", KCC borrowed money and built 14 up to date easy to run low energy houses which they sold to a District Council in East Kent. Families from their emergency waiting list were able to be housed
- She has arranged for Kent Highways to set up traffic counts in two areas of the village. Issues on some roads are difficult to solve as they are too narrow for extra signs, and there will always be people who drive too fast.
- The King's Coronation takes place on the Saturday morning, with a concert and street parties on the Sunday. The King is keen that it should be a volunteer day on the Monday.
- Cllrs Martin and Sutton have been part of one meeting to help plan a Coronation Party in Ryarsh. It will be held on the Recreation Ground, with rounders, bring your own food, drink and picnic. Tables and Chairs will be put out. There will be a children's King and Queen fancy dress. The King is not keen on beacons for environmental reasons.

(b) Borough Councillors Kemp and Montague

There was no report.

(c) Police

It was noted that a car had been stolen in Birling, opposite the pub.

4. PLANNING

(a) Plans Received for Comment

There were no plans received.

- (b) Approvals
There were no approvals to report.
- (c) Refusals
There were no refusals to report.
- (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.
 - Contacted Tom Tugendhat MP about the M20 Smart Motorway noise problem, and he has written to National Highways for an update
 - Reported leaves and vegetation on the Roughetts Road footpath to TMBC, who attended and said there was not much in the way of leaves on the path but there was a big covering on the grass edge. A crew will attend but this may not be for a few weeks as there are other areas that need to be cleared first
 - Reported to the contractor that the light by the second traffic calming island is not working. Cllrs noted that this has been repaired
- (b) To consider and approve funding for 58 and 70 buses
It is important to encourage residents to use this Friday Service. KCC have agreed a grant to keep this limited service running until July. The Parish Council must advertise this service – Use it or Lose it.
There were concerns the old timetable is still displayed at the bus stop.
There was a discussion about how to fund the temporary service and it was felt that s137 was suitable. Only a small amount is needed from Ryarsh Parish Council. Councillors agreed to contribute to this service.
- (c) To consider request for action – speeding Woodgate Road
ATCs (Automated Traffic Counts) are being fitted, two in Roughetts Road and one in Woodgate Road to check on the speed of traffic.
- (d) To consider report about damaged footpath near St Martin's Church
Cllrs discussed this footpath which was reported by a resident. The footpath has been widened by a tractor driving along there and before long a car will be able to fit. The footpath is also being made very dirty. It was agreed that Cllr McKinlay would approach the owners to discuss this.
- (e) Annual Review: Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Media Policy, Complaints Procedure, Freedom of Information Act, Retention of Documents and Records, 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.
- (f) Annual Review of Risk Assessments
The Annual Review was considered and approved.
- (g) To consider and adopt KALC Civility and Respect Pledge
Cllrs agreed to pass a resolution to sign up to the civility and respect pledge

By signing up to the civility and respect pledge, we are demonstrating that our council is committed to treating councillors, clerks, employees, members of the public, representatives of partner organisations, and volunteers, with civility and respect in their role

To sign up the Parish Council will register, and Councillors agree to the following statements:

- Our council has agreed that it will treat all councillors, clerk and all employees, members of the public, representatives of partner organisations, and volunteers, with civility and respect in their role
- Our council has committed to training councillors and staff
- Our council has signed up to Code of Conduct for councillors
- Our council has good governance arrangements in place including, staff contracts, and a dignity at work policy
- Our council will commit to seeking professional help in the early stages should civility and respect issues arise
- Our council will commit to calling out bullying and harassment if and when it happens
- Our council will continue to learn from best practice in the sector and aspire to being a role model/champion council e.g., via the Local Council Award Scheme
- Our council supports the continued lobbying for the change in legislation to support the Civility and Respect Pledge, including sanctions for elected members where appropriate

(h) Great British Spring Clean (17.03.23 – 02.04.23)

Cllrs did not want to formally take part in this event. A village clean up will be carried out prior to the Coronation event on the Recreation Ground.

(i) To discuss Kings Coronation

There is another Committee meeting tomorrow.

There was a discussion about applying for grant funding, or a donation from the Parish Council. Costs will be low, but the Committee will consider figures at their meeting.

It is planned to hold a collection to raise money for the Christmas Lights during the afternoon.

There are also discussions taking place to hold a Race Night to fund raise for the Christmas Lights.

(j) To consider Fire Hydrant Inspections

Cllrs Barton and Sutton are carrying out the inspections tomorrow.

(k) Parish Council Projects

There are no further projects to discuss.

6. OPEN SESSION – Public Question Time

There were no members of public present.

7. PARISH COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Elections – Councillors were reminded they needed to download nomination forms, or apply to TMBC for paper forms, and make appointments with TMBC to deliver the forms if they intend to stand for election.

Cllr Emson reported that, after 33 years on the Parish Council, he does not intend to stand for election in May. Cllrs expressed their sadness at this news, and expressed their thanks at his long service for the village.

8. MONTHLY CHECK LIST

(a) To receive reports about

i. Highways, Footpaths and Footways

In Addington outside Big Motoring World, delivery vehicles park every day on the A20. On one occasion there were three lorries. Sometimes they have the door open with the driver standing in the road. To drive past you have to go on the chevrons and into the middle of the road which is really dangerous. The delivery lorries could reverse into the site. The Clerk was asked to contact Addington Parish Council to find out if they have had any complaints.

Kent Highways have produced a revised Highways Improvement Plan which has been circulated to Councillors to consider.

It was noted that the gully outside Brookline Coaches was filled, but has dropped. This can be reported on Highways online Portal.

- ii. Street lights
There were no issues to report.
- iii. Parish property: Defibrillator, Ryarsh Resource Room
There was nothing to report.

- (b) Play Area and Recreation Ground
Cllr Barton is carrying our regular checks and there was nothing to report. Cllrs Barton and Emson removed the gate, which was repaired and replaced within 24 hours.

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 Martin.

Payee	Description	Total
	Payment Approved at Meeting	
PSR Lighting	Streetlight Maintenance February 2023	£116.40
Clerk	Salary March 2023	£1,084.74
Clerk	Expenses February 2023	£9.10

Payment to N Power for Electricity for February 2023 of £508.66 will be paid by Direct Debit.

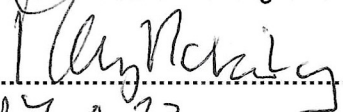
- (b) To receive bank statements, consider and approve financial statements for signature and to monitor budget
These have been circulated and considered by Cllrs. The statement was approved and was signed by Cllr Sutton.
- (c) To consider and approve appointment of Internal Auditor 2022/2023
Cllrs AGREED to appoint Lionel Robbins again as Internal Auditor.
- (d) To consider any other financial matters
There were no other financial matters.

10. MATTERS FOR NEXT MEETING

There were no matters.

The Meeting concluded at 8.43pm

Date of the next Parish Council Meeting is **Monday 17th April 2023** at 8pm

Signed

 Dated
 17-4-23