

Minutes of Ryarsh Parish Council Meeting held in the Davison Room, Ryarsh Village Hall on  
Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 8.00pm

**Councillors Present:**

Cllr M McKinlay (Chairman)  
Cllr Betts  
Cllr C Martin  
Cllr S Payne  
Cllr J Sutton

**Also in attendance:**

L Mackie (Clerk)

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Apologies were received and accepted from County Councillor Hohler. There were no Declarations of Interest.

**2. ELECTIONS 2023**

- a) To note Parish Council Uncontested Election  
Cllrs McKinlay, Betts, Payne and Sutton were returned as Councillors in the uncontested election.
- b) To approve Co-option of New Members  
Caroline Martin confirmed she wished to continue as a Councillor and was co-opted back onto the Parish Council. Two residents will be considered for co-option at the next meeting.
- c) Signing of Declarations of Acceptance of Office by all Councillors  
These were signed by Councillors. There were no changes to the Declaration of Pecuniary Interests to be submitted.
- d) Appointment of Representatives to External Bodies  
These will be considered when new Councillors have been co-opted in June.

**3. MINUTES**

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023 be approved and signed as an accurate record by Cllr McKinlay.

**4. EXTERNAL REPORTS**

- (a) County Councillor Hohler  
There was no report.
- (b) Borough Councillors Banks and Boxall  
There was no report.
- (c) Police  
A rural police force report has been circulated.

**5. 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

- i. **TM/23/00854/TPOC - Telecoms Mast, Birling Road** - All trees within 22m of the telecommunications mast to be lopped to a height of 15m. Standing in Woodland W1 of Tree Preservation Order (No objections)

**6. MATTERS ARISING**

(a) Clerks Actions Since Last Meeting

- The newsletter was prepared and circulated.
- Reported incidents of "door knocking" by groups of young people to the police. Those involved and their parents have been spoken to.
- Confirmed to Borough Green Parish Council that Ryarsh Parish Council supports the Parish Alliance Bus Transport Agreement.
- Submitted the insurance pre renewal questionnaire
- Written to the Village Hall Trust about the car park being closed for use by vehicles during the football match one Sunday. The Trust replied and said the car park would have been opened if the football team had booked the pitches.
- Written to the Village Hall Trust to support the use of the Recreation Ground by the school for their fireworks event. Correspondence has been circulated and following negotiations between the school and the Trust, permission has been granted for them to use the Recreation Ground again for the event.
- At the request of a resident, requested that KCC provide a replacement kissing gate at path MR152 where it joins Roughetts Road.
- Contacted Fusion for Business and also Pro-Eco Ltd about electricity supply for the streetlights. Following advice, the Parish Council will consider this in the New Year, closer to when the contract is due for renewal.
- The Clerk reported that the security filters on the email system had blocked group emails, due to the large email distribution list used to contact residents. The email provider has advised the Parish Council to use a bulk email provider. Cllr Betts will work with the Clerk to deal with this.
- There was a discussion about safety for vehicles passing Big Motoring World on the A20 when delivery lorries park outside. TMBC Enforcement or the Police can deal.

(b) To receive Councillors report on Fire Hydrant Inspections

This has been completed and will be submitted to KFRS. It appears that a fire hydrant sign was removed from a wall at the bottom of Old School Lane.

(c) To consider Parish Council Insurance Renewal (01.06.23)

This was considered and Cllrs AGREED to renew it. The Parish Council is already signed up to a Long-Term Agreement.

(d) Parish Council Projects

A bench or picnic bench for Ryarsh Park could be considered. The Clerk will contact a representative for the residents on the Park for feedback.

**7. OPEN SESSION – Public Question Time**

There were no members of public present.

**8. PARISH COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

a) Parish and Borough Council Elections – 04.05.23

Ryarsh is now warded with Leybourne and Birling. The newly elected Borough Councillors are Bill Banks and Paul Boxall.

The Ryarsh Parish Council election was uncontested.

b) Ryarsh Coronation Celebrations – 08.05.23

The celebrations were amazing. Cllr McKinlay congratulated everyone involved and praised the terrific cooperation between the village, the Church, the Parish Council and everyone else. Cllrs Sutton and Martin said that everyone had joined in.

Cllrs thanked Steve Hughes who sourced many of the prizes for the raffle, and the Parish Council will send a formal letter of thanks.

£710 was raised in the raffle, which has been passed to Mark and Deborah Nankivell towards the Christmas Tree and lighting ceremony. Cllr Sutton hopes to organise a race night in Autumn to raise further funds towards the Christmas Tree.  
Cllr Betts discussed helping run the Village Fete perhaps together with the school. The school fete is on 17<sup>th</sup> June this year. Cllr Betts will speak to the school. Cllr Martin offered to help.

- c) Internal Audit 2022-2023 – 31.05.23  
This was noted.

**9. MONTHLY CHECK LIST**

(a) To receive reports about

i. Highways, Footpaths and Footways

KCC Highways have produced the results of the Traffic Counts. They show that the majority of vehicles are sticking with speed limits. The results emphasise that from the pavement, a car going past gives the illusion of going faster than it is. The numbers breaking the speed limit is very small, but it was acknowledged that it is those breaking the speed limit that cause the problems – and it only takes 1 vehicle to cause an accident. The Clerk will establish how this compares with other surveys KCC do, whether they can see anything different from the average and whether they can spot any anomalies. The Clerk will also look at the previous survey.

One way of helping is Speedwatch, but volunteers have not been forthcoming in the past. The results will be shared in the newsletter, and an explanation that the Parish Council will work with KCC as to what can be done, along with a request for residents to get involved with Speedwatch.

The Clerk was asked to find out if Birling had a traffic count completed recently. There have been roadworks increasing the traffic through Birling, and they have had the speed limit reduced from 60mph to 40mph in places.

It was reported that the vegetation from Ryarsh Park had not been cut back and was blocking visibility at the junction of The Street and Roughetts Road. The Clerk will contact the Managing Agent again.

ii. Street lights

There were no issues to report.

iii. Parish property: Defibrillator, Ryarsh Resource Room

There were no issues to report. Cllr Sutton is running another training course soon and has spoken to a resident who carries out training.

iv. Village Hall

This has already been discussed.

(b) Play Area and Recreation Ground

There was nothing to report.

**10. FINANCIAL MATTERS**

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

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

(b) To consider and approve invoice payments

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

Payee	Description	Total
	<b>Payment Approved at Meeting</b>	
PSR Lighting	Streetlight Maintenance April 2023	£116.40
Clerk	Salary April 2023	£851.94



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HMRC	April 2023 PAYE and NI	£110.64
Clerk	Expenses April 2023	£13.65
Clare Gadwell	Reimbursement – Coronation Expenses	£69.21
Clerk	Reimbursement – Event Expenses	£61.44
Hiscox Insurance Company	Insurance Renewal	£1,429.31

Payment to N Power for Electricity for April 2023 of £527.33 will be paid by Direct Debit.


- (c) To consider and approve Insurance Renewal due 01.06.23  
This was considered and approved.
- (d) To approve Statement of Internal Control, Supporting Statement and Fixed Asset Register  
These were considered and approved. The documents were signed by Cllr McKinlay and the Clerk.
- (e) To approve End of Year Financial Statement and Bank Reconciliation Statement 2022-2023  
This was approved at the April meeting.
- (f) End of Year Audit Update (AGAR) 2022-2023  
The AGAR papers will be considered and approved at the June meeting.
- (g) To approve change of signatories with Unity Trust Bank  
Councillors agreed that Ivor Emson and Mel Barton should be removed as signatories and the papers were signed by Cllrs Betts and Martin.
- (h) To consider any other financial matters  
There were no other financial matters.

**11. MATTERS FOR NEXT MEETING**

There were no matters.

The Meeting concluded at 9.00pm

Date of the next Parish Council Meeting is **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2023** at 8pm

Signed .....  .....

Dated ..... 12.6.23 .....