

Minutes of **Ryarsh Parish Council** Meeting held in the Davison Room, Ryarsh Village Hall on
Monday 17th April 2023 at 8.00pm

Councillors Present:

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

Also in attendance:

L Mackie (Clerk)
2 members of public

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies were received and accepted from County Councillor Hohler, Borough Councillors Kemp and Montague. There were no Declarations of Interest.

Cllr McKinlay noted that this was the last time we meet as a Parish Council in this format. In May there will be new Councillors. The election in Ryarsh is uncontested, so those who have put their names forward will immediately be part of the new Parish Council. There are three vacancies. One existing Councillor is standing for co-option, and there are two residents interested in being co-opted, so there will be a full Parish Council.

Cllr Emson has been on the Parish Council for 33 years but will be stepping down. He has been the longest serving Parish Councillor in the village. It is sad news that he will be leaving and Councillors thanked him for all he has done. Cllr Mel Barton has been a Councillor for about 8 years, and has contributed a lot, and he was also thanked.

2. MINUTES

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

3. EXTERNAL REPORTS

(a) County Councillor Hohler
There was no report.

(b) Borough Councillors Kemp and Montague
Cllrs Kemp and Montague will no longer be representing the village due to the ward changes. Cllr Montague has sent a message sending his best wishes, and said it was a pleasure working with the Parish Council.

(c) Police
There was no report. Information is also available from Neighbourhood Watch alerts. Cllrs reported a spate of incidents in Ryarsh Park, with a group of 7 or 8 children knocking on doors and running away. It is understood this has been reported to the Police but the Clerk was asked to contact the PCSO. Cllrs do not believe those involved are from Ryarsh Park.

4. PLANNING

(a) Plans Received for Comment

- i. **TM/23/00539/FL - 2 Ryarsh Place Cottages, Birling Road** Two storey side/rear extension, single storey rear extensions, entrance porch and associated landscaping (Revision to refused application TM/22/02719/FL)
The previous application was rejected. The applicant has revised it and put in this new application. There were **NO OBJECTIONS**.

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Initials.....

- ii. **TM/23/00710/LDP - The Hollies, London Road** - Lawful Development Certificate Proposed: Outbuilding comprising a swimming pool, sauna, jacuzzi, bar, games room, plant room and changing facilities
This is not near any other properties. There were **NO OBJECTIONS**.

(b) Approvals

There were no approvals to report.

(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
- ii. **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

(d) Any other Planning Matters

It was reported that some of the sites proposed for the Local Plan have been rejected. There is no news about the sites in Ryarsh.

5. MATTERS ARISING

(a) Clerks Actions Since Last Meeting

- The newsletter was prepared and circulated.
- Contacted Addington Parish Council about the delivery lorries parked on the London Road. The Parish Council have already pursuing this with TMBC Enforcement.
- Appointed the Internal Auditor.
- Cllr McKinlay reported that she has spoken to the landowners following a complaint that the footpath behind the church is being widened. The owner confirmed this has happened due to one of their tractors and it is on their land. Concerns were expressed that the path could appear wide enough to take a car, which may then use the bridge across the motorway.

(b) Parish Alliance Buses Transport Agreement for Approval

Cllrs have seen the information from Nu Venture about the Friday bus service and the Agreement entered into by Borough Green Parish Council. All Cllrs AGREED to sign up to the Parish Alliance Buses Transport Agreement. There will be a payment of around £60-80 from Ryarsh for the Friday bus service.

It was reported that there are discussions between parents in Ryarsh and Leybourne about a bus service for Tonbridge schools.

(c) To receive update – Highways Improvement Plan

Kent County Council have considered a resident's complaints about speeding on Woodgate Road. The resident has said they would like to see a lower speed limit on Woodgate Road. KCC have offered Pedestrian Warning Signs. It was noted there are already signs on the bend near Woodgate Lodge, Woodside and Almadene. Cllrs did not think that signs would solve the problem of speeding, but AGREED to the signs which may help. KCC are carrying out traffic counts on Woodgate Road and Roughetts Road which will include speed data. There is unfortunately no footpath along this road. It was noted there is a footpath from the junction of Woodgate Road and Park Farm Road which runs adjacent to The Street for a short distance which could be better signposted.

(d) To consider Pedestrian Warning Signs – Woodgate Road

This has been discussed.

(e) To receive Councillors report on Fire Hydrant Inspections

Cllrs Barton and Sutton have completed the inspections and there were no issues to report, although one hydrant could not be located.

Cllr Betts noted that a sign was missing at the end of Old School Lane and will provide further information.

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- (f) Fusion for Business – Streetlights and Electricity
Cllr McKinlay reported that after we set the Precept, the Parish Council were hit by quite a large increase in the cost of electricity for the streetlights. This will affect the available spend for the year.
Fusion for Business is a Consultant who have approached the Parish Council. The Clerk will look into what they can offer and Cllr Sutton will speak to another consultant.
- (g) To consider Parish Council Insurance Renewal (01.06.23)
Cllrs approved a pre-renewal questionnaire, including the Declaration, for submission to Gallagher.
The Clerk has also updated the Fixed Asset Register and circulated this to Councillors.
- (h) Fly Tipping
There has been another incident of fly tipping. TMBC have some mobile cameras and equipment and the Parish Council have requested use of the cameras. Cllr Betts is dealing.
It was reported that TMBC have installed some excellent fly tipping signs near Birling Stables.
- (i) Parish Council Projects
An enquiry has been made about whether there will be a village litter pick before the Coronation. Cllr Martin will organise an event.

6. OPEN SESSION – Public Question Time

Monday 8th May is the Coronation Celebration. You must get tickets, although they are free, so organisers know the number of people attending.
Cllr Emson reported that plots of land had been sold in Ryarsh adjacent to the A20. The Clerk had been unable to find details of this online.

7. PARISH COUNCILLOR REPORTS

- a) KALC – Audit Training (Clerk) – 23.03.23
The Clerk attended the training.
Cllr McKinlay has attended a KALC planning event.
- b) Parish and Borough Council Elections – 04.05.23
The Parish Council election is uncontested in Ryarsh.
There will be Borough elections. Birling, Ryarsh and Leybourne are together in the same Ward because of the boundary changes. The number of voters in Leybourne is bigger than Ryarsh and Birling.
- c) Ryarsh Coronation Celebrations – 08.05.23
Cllrs Sutton and Martin are involved in the planning. The Parish Council was asked to contribute up to £150 to help support the event. Cllrs AGREED to provide funding up to £150.
- d) Ryarsh Parish Council May Meeting, APM and APCM – 15.05.23
The meeting has been moved from the second Monday of the month due to the Bank Holiday and the elections. The meeting will start at 7.45pm.
- e) Internal Audit 2022-2023 – 31.05.23
Noted.

8. MONTHLY CHECK LIST

- (a) To receive reports about
- i. Highways, Footpaths and Footways
There was nothing to report.
 - ii. Street lights
There were no issues to report.
 - iii. Parish property: Defibrillator, Ryarsh Resource Room

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There were no issues to report.

Cllr Sutton is organising Defibrillator Training at the Duke of Wellington, primarily for the Petanque club.

iv. Village Hall

The Village Hall Trust have confirmed that the Lease has been registered in the name of Official Custodian for Trustees

Cllrs reported that on Sunday at around 9am, the Village Hall car park was closed, but the whole stretch of footpath was blocked by cars parking for football. The pitches were in use, and the Hall was open, but cars had not been allowed into the car park. The Clerk was asked to write to the Village Hall Trust about this.

(b) Play Area and Recreation Ground

It was reported that the school have asked to use the Recreation Ground for the Fireworks Fund Raiser again but have not yet been given permission. The Clerk was asked to write to the Village Hall Trust and offer support for the school for this excellent fund raising event which was well attended and well monitored.

Deborah and Mark Nankivell are aware of this event. Cllr Sutton is involved in fund raising for the Christmas Tree Lights and Lighting ceremony.

Cllr Barton was thanked for completing his last inspection as play equipment warden.

It was reported that the fence between the Recreation Ground and the neighbouring land is being broken down. When balls are kicked over the fence, as they inevitably are, people climb over the fence to get the balls back. This causes damage and debris goes into the stream. The neighbour, who is responsible for the stream, is concerned that the debris may block the culvert. Cllr Sutton has recently climbed into the stream to clear a large amount of debris out, including plastic and broken parts of goal posts.

There was a discussion about how to solve this problem. Damage to the Village Hall's fence leads to trespassing on the neighbour's property to collect balls, and debris in the stream. Cllr Sutton will speak to the neighbour and report back to the Parish Council.

9. 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 Cllrs. 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 and Cllr Betts and Martin.

Payee	Description	Total
	Payment Approved at Meeting	
PSR Lighting	Streetlight Maintenance March 2023	£116.40
Offham Parish Council	KALC Audit Training (Clerk) Half Share	£20.00
St Martins PCC	Annual Donation – Churchyard Gardening	£1,200.00
KALC	Annual Subscription 2023-2024	£400.38
Clerk	Salary April 2023	£994.54
Clerk	Expenses March 2023	£13.65
Viking Direct	Office Supplies	£93.75

Payment to N Power for Electricity for March 2023 of £574.58 will be paid by Direct Debit.

(c) To note receipt of AGAR 2022-2023 from Mazars LLP

Noted. Papers will be ready to be considered and approved at June meeting.

(d) To consider End of Year Financial Statement for 2022-2023

This was considered and **APPROVED**.

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- (e) 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 8.52pm

Date of the next Parish Council Meeting, Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Parish Council Meeting is **Monday 15th May 2023** at 8pm

Signed 

Dated 15-5-23