

Minutes of Ryarsh Parish Council Meeting held in the Davison Room, Ryarsh Village Hall on
Monday 12th June 2023 at 8.00pm

Councillors Present:

Cllr M McKinlay (Chairman)
Cllr J Sutton (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr Betts
Cllr S Payne

Also in attendance:

County Councillor Hohler (8 – 8.35pm)
Borough Councillor Bill Banks (8 – 8.35pm)
2 Members of Public (candidates for co-option)
L Mackie (Clerk)

Before the meeting, a presentation to Ba Storey was made for the Ryarsh Community Award. A presentation was also made to Ivor Emson, in recognition of an outstanding 33 years of service on the Parish Council.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Martin. There were no Declarations of Interest. Cllr McKinlay welcomed our new Borough Councillor Bill Banks.

- 2. CO-OPTION OF NEW MEMBERS.** To consider and approve co-option of new members
There are two vacancies following the uncontested election. Chris Bowyer and Eddie Dennis have put their names forward for co-option. They gave some information about themselves and why they would like to be on the Parish Council. There was a discussion and it was AGREED that they both be co-opted. Cllrs Bowyer and Dennis were welcomed onto the Parish Council and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

3. MINUTES

- i. To receive and approve the Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on **15th May 2023** for signature
It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 15th May 2023 be approved and signed as an accurate record by Cllr McKinlay.
- ii. To receive and approve the Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on **15th May 2023** for signature
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4. EXTERNAL REPORTS:

- (a) County Councillor Hohler
Cllr Hohler reported that:

- Visit Kent have 70 tourist attractions as part of the Kent Big weekend on the 24th/25th June weekend. Bus transport is free that weekend thanks to a collaboration between KCC and the bus companies in Kent.
- The Leader of KCC has written to the Director General of the BBC about a proposed 40% cut in finance to radio Kent. The radio is widely used for travel etc and KCC and the Kent Resilience Forum have a good relationship with Radio Kent.
- The Prime minister visited Kent Scientific Services at Kings Hill and met with the KCC leader and Trading Standards. They are seizing vapes that are not legal at Ports and are trying to stop free samples being given to children.

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Initials.....

- Due to the risk of fire from batteries there has been a ban on E-Scooters on rail services across the whole South East, including at station storage.
- Natural England has announced Shaun the sheep is the new mascot of the Kent Countryside Code. Cllr Hohler is Rural Champion for Kent.
- KCC have been told to cut the Annual Budget for Waste Disposal by £1.5m. 2 sites are already closed and another 2 are being looked at. Allington HWRC definitely won't close.
- There is a new campaign for Eurostar, asking for international trains to stop at Ashford and Ebbsfleet again.
- South East Water have said there is not enough drinking water so asked people not to water their plants.
- 25% of drivers don't have anywhere to charge an electric vehicle and 1/3 home owners don't have driveway parking so can't charge at home. There are suggestions for charging points at lampposts.

(b) Borough Councillor Banks

Borough Cllr Banks reported that:

- He and Paul Boxall work together, but won't both attend Parish meetings. They have three Parish Councils to cover and are treating Leybourne Chase Residents Association separately.
- Across the Borough there are 20 Conservative seats, 11 Liberal Democrats seats, 8 Green Seats, 3 Labour seats and 2 Independent seats, which totals 44 seats. No one party is in control of the Borough Council. The 2 Independents have agreed to work with the 20 Conservatives, so it is 22 seats - 22 seats and the Mayor, instead of just being a ceremonial role, will have the casting vote.
- He is attending his first meeting of the Parish Partnership Panel. He was a Leybourne Parish Councillor but has never been to the PPP. Cllr McKinlay has been attending for years. Fly tipping might be on the agenda, and Cllr Banks is conscious that this is a concern for Ryarsh and Birling. He and Cllr Boxall will work to make sure the villages are top of the priority list for mobile CCTV. He noted the more we charge to save money at tips, the more we increase expense in another direction. There is the expense of fly tipping and also the emotional distress caused by seeing it.
- He is interested in Emergency Planning and was involved with the plan for Leybourne.
- He is also interested in tree planting, and has involved schools in this
- In connection with planning, although he is new, he wants to keep green spaces between villages. He was involved in campaigning to buy Leybourne wood.

A question was raised about fly tipping, and how it appears that since there were charges at tips there is more fly tipping. Cllr Banks said that statistical information from KCC disagrees with that, although that is not what he sees. Would those dumping trade take an alternative if it is offered?

Cllr Hohler commented that published figures in all villages in Tonbridge and Malling for 2021, 2022 and 2023 show how incidents of fly tipping have gone down or up. Larkfield has a high number of incidents but this went down last year. Fly tipping is horrible but you don't pay to dump waste – you only pay if it is heavy. The charges are not that expensive. She noted that she sees fly tipping of food wrappers, nappies etc, not just trade waste. Work can be done to trace the source of the waste that is dumped. If TMBC do this efficiently and prosecute those responsible they will make a profit from fly tipping.

Cllr McKinlay said the Parish Council was not impressed with the planning department and delays in putting the Local Plan together. Cllr Banks noted it is a tricky subject – if you have a Local Plan there is a good chance residents will not like it, but if you don't have one we are put in a worse situation.

(c) Police

We have had contact from the new Beat Officer, Beat Sergeant and Inspector.

5. PLANNING

(a) Plans Received for Comment

- i. **TM/23/01053/FL - Land West Of Callis Court Farm, London Road** - Proposed change of use from agricultural to equestrian, to include a new access route through the land
There was a discussion. The only concern was the new route into the land coming off the top of the hill on the A20. Cllr will look at the papers and reach a decision before the next meeting.

(b) Approvals

- 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)

(c) Refusals

- i. **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

(d) Any other Planning Matters

There was a discussion about the Local Plan, and Regulation 18 consultation. There are 52 new sites.

6. MATTERS ARISING

(a) Clerks Actions Since Last Meeting

- The newsletter was prepared and uploaded onto the website
- Mailchimp has not been set up yet for group emails to circulate to the village
- Prepared papers for Audit and met with the Internal Auditor
- UKPN have been working with the Village Hall Trust about laying power cables at the side of the Recreation Ground. The Parish Council own the Village Hall and car park and these are leased to The Village Hall Trust. UKPN want a wayleave from the Parish Council as well. The Clerk will circulate correspondence for Cllrs to consider.

(b) To consider Highways ATC Results

The results have been circulated. The Clerk was asked to report the recent accident on Roughetts Road to Highways.

(c) Parish Council Projects – Picnic Bench, Ryarsh Park

We have liaised with a resident on Ryarsh Park who indicated that residents would prefer a picnic bench by the swings. The Clerk will circulate details of picnic bench options. Trinity and Residents can be involved in the decision.

7. OPEN SESSION – Public Question Time

There were no members of public present.

8. PARISH COUNCILLOR REPORTS – to receive updates and reports

There were no reports.

9. MONTHLY CHECK LIST

(a) To receive reports about

- i. Highways, Footpaths and Footways

The Clerk was asked to contact the owner of the land adjoining Birling Road near the school asking them to cut back vegetation growing onto the footpath. This can also be reported to TMBC.

- ii. Street lights

There were no issues to report.

- iii. **Parish property: Defibrillator, Ryarsh Resource Room**
It was noted the Resource Room needs tidying up and perhaps re-purposing. It would be good to get the school involved again, as those children who planned the Ryarsh Resource Room have now grown up. Cllr McKinlay will speak to the school about this after the summer holiday.
- iv. **Village Hall**
David Storey has replied on behalf of the Village Hall Trust. Their big project at the moment is to rebuild the toilet accommodation, although works are on hold while they look for suitable funding. Cllrs were aware of the Parish Council's financial position, with costs of electricity being much higher than anticipated. Cllrs want to support the Village Hall and have budgeted to donate £1,000, but agreed to wait until further into the year to decide how much can be donated.
- (b) **Play Area and Recreation Ground**
Cllr Betts reported that one bench is wobbly and moves a lot. A concrete fence post is at an angle bordering the Recreation Ground. Cllr Sutton will speak to a resident and former Councillor about repairing the bench. He will also speak to David Storey to establish whether the fence belongs to the Village Hall or the property owner.

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 Sutton.

Payee	Description	Total
	Payment Approved at Meeting	
PSR Lighting	Streetlight Maintenance May 2023	£116.40
Lionel Robbins	Internal Audit 2022-2023	£90.00
Clerk	Reimbursement – Box for award	£11.18
Clerk	Salary June 2023	£923.14
HMRC	June 2023 PAYE and NI	£92.14
Clerk	Expenses May 2023	£13.65

Payment to N Power for Electricity for May 2023 of £520.00 will be paid by Direct Debit.

- (c) To note Insurance Renewal 01.06.23
The renewal of the Insurance Policy under a Long Term Agreement was noted.
- (d) To receive report from Internal Auditor for year ending 31 March 2023 and to consider if any action is needed
The report was received and considered by Councillors. It was **RESOLVED** that there was no action required.
- (e) To review the effectiveness of the system of Internal Control. Councillors are asked to consider the Statement of Internal Control in support of the Annual Governance statement
Councillors considered and approved the Statement of Internal Control for the year ending 31 March 2023 at the May meeting and this was signed by the chairman and Clerk on behalf of the Parish Council.

- (f) To approve the Annual Governance Statement for 2022-23, Section 1 of the AGAR for the year ending 31 March 2023.
The Council considered and approved the Annual Governance Statement for 2022-2023 and answered "yes" to all the statements. The Chairman and Clerk signed and dated the Statement on behalf of the Parish Council.
Following the External Auditor Report 2021-2022 that the "AGAR has not been signed in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015: Section 1 was not signed by the Clerk" the Parish Council ensured that the Clerk and Chairman correctly signed Section 1 of the AGAR 2022-2023.
- (g) To approve the Accounting Statements for 2022-23, Section 2 of the AGAR for the year ending 31 March 2023 and the supporting Bank Reconciliation as at 31 March 2023 and the explanation of the significant variations from last year (2021-22) to this year (2022-23)
The Council considered and approved the Accounting Statements and the supporting Bank reconciliation as at 31 March 2023 as provided by the Responsible Financial Officer who had prior to the meeting signed and dated Section 2 of the AGAR for 2022-2023. The Chairman signed and dated the Accounting Statement on behalf of the Parish Council.
- (h) To note the dates for the Exercise of Public Rights as selected by the Parish Council's Responsible Financial Officer (03.07.23-11.08.23)
The Council notes the period for the Exercise of Public Rights from Monday 3rd July to Friday 11th August 2023.
- (i) To approve change of signatories with Unity Trust Bank
Cllrs approved the addition of Cllrs Bowyer and Dennis as signatories with Unity Trust Bank.
- (j) 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 9.10pm

Date of the next Parish Council Meeting is **Monday 10th July 2023** at 8pm

Signed


Dated
10-7-23