

Minutes of Ryarsh Parish Council Meeting held in the Davison Room, Ryarsh Village Hall on
Monday 10th July 2023 at 8.00pm

Councillors Present:

Cllr M McKinlay (Chairman)
Cllr J Sutton (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr A Betts
Cllr C Bowyer
Cllr E Dennis
Cllr C Martin

Also in attendance:

Borough Councillor Bill Banks, 1 member of public, L Mackie (Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

2. MINUTES

To receive and approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 12th June 2023 for signature
It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th June 2023 be approved and signed
as an accurate record by Cllr McKinlay.

3. EXTERNAL REPORTS:

(a) County Councillor Hohler

Cllr McKinlay has spoken to Cllr Hohler. Kent Libraries have received a number of awards.
The Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan consultation will not affect Ryarsh as there is no
need for any of the sharp sand. There is a need for more ragstone from the quarry at
Hermitage Lane.

(b) Borough Councillor Banks

Borough Cllr Banks reported that:

- He has attended a few meetings on various committees. He is on the General Purposes Committee and attended Cabinet, although not as a member. He is on the Licensing Sub - Committee.
- The TMBC Cabinet Meeting dealt with the Urban Capacity Study. There is one site in Ditton and one in Tonbridge, identified to be used for housing. The Ditton site was rejected, but it went through in Tonbridge so they have lost a green space. There is a debate to take place in the Borough - if we need more houses they must go somewhere. Is it easier to add them onto villages, or fill green spaces, or could there be a large development like Kings Hill with all the facilities that will go with it.
- Fly tipping – there are 4 mobile cameras at TMBC and they are trying to identify Ryarsh and Birling as possible hot spots. There is an issue that the camera needs to be near a street light, but it is unlikely fly tipping will take place near a street light. There is probably a 2 month wait for a camera but he will pursue it on our behalf. Further commercial waste fly tipping in Workhouse Road was mentioned. If it is harder to access the system to dispose of waste, it makes fly tipping easier, which is an ongoing debate between KCC and TMBC.
- Although Parish Councils are not political, if there is a by election in TMBC there may be a shift of power, which is relevant to Parish Councils.
- Cllr Sutton mentioned an announcement by Tom Tugendhat MP on social media about higher fines for fly tipping and graffiti. Cllr Banks said there has been criticism that TMBC haven't convicted anyone of fly tipping, but they have. Higher fines is a deterrent effect that will help reduce fly tipping.

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Initials.....

- (c) Police
Cllr McKinlay and the Clerk have met the Beat Officer Lisa Whitehead. She came with a colleague, as last week was anti- social behaviour week. She is keen to find out how the village works and to be seen out and about. She is already dealing with motorbikes using the field at the top of Woodgate Road and has covered this in her crime report. Scooters driving around Bull Lane were also mentioned.

- (d) Village Hall
The Clerk contacted the Village Hall to explain the Parish Council will consider a donation towards the end of the financial year. The Village Hall Trust understood and were happy to wait as the modernisation project for the toilets is on hold.

4. PLANNING

- (a) Plans Received for Comment
i. **TM/23/01258/FL - Partridge Farm, Sandy Lane** - Conversion and alteration of a redundant rural building to a dwellinghouse
There were **NO OBJECTIONS**.
- (b) Approvals
There was nothing to report.
- (c) Refusals
There was nothing to report.
- (d) Any other Planning Matters
TM/23/01252/TEN - Mast On Land Adjacent M20 North Of Bumblebee Barn, East Street
Prior Telecommunications Notification: For the removal of an existing 15m monopole mast and associated compound, and the installation of a replacement base station which includes a 25m sharable lattice mast, 6no. antenna and 2no. dish antenna on to 1no. new ring frames which will be attached to 1no. proposed 25m tower. Ancillary development thereto. **NO OBJECTION** response submitted.

5. MATTERS ARISING

- (a) To receive update about UKPN cables to be laid in the Village Hall car park and Recreation Ground
Cllr McKinlay met a representative from the advisors to UKPN with David Storey of the Village Hall Trust. UKPN are re-routing the cables underground so they can take down the overhead pylons on the Downs. There was a discussion about where the cables will be going. From the road to the side of the fence they will be laid as close as possible to the fence and they will reinstate everything they have taken out.
The Village Hall will get an annual fee for the cables going through their land.
- (b) To consider D-Day 80 celebrations (06.06.24)
Previously celebrations in the village went well. Cllrs wanted to celebrate and will meet to discuss, also consulting with The Village Hall Committee.
- (c) Draft Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024-39 and Draft Kent Mineral Sites Plan – Regulation 18 Public Consultation 13.06.23-25.07.23
This does not affect Ryarsh. There was no response to make.
- (d) To consider TMBC Parish Council's Infrastructure Statement
Cllrs considered. It was agreed that replacement of the play area equipment and money for the Village Hall can be included.
- (e) To note Road Closure – The Street – 01.08.23
This was noted.

- (f) To consider request for contribution towards purchase price of Leybourne Woods, from Leybourne Parish Council

Cllrs have seen this request. Although sympathetic the Parish Council has not got a budget to contribute to the price and our precept has already been affected because of changes to electricity charges.

A suggestion for a Just Giving Page was made.

Cllr Banks discussed the plans to buy the Wood, and said that Leybourne are speaking to the local Parish Councils. They are looking at grants and other funding options and he understood that Ryarsh could not contribute. The Parish Council have also purchased Castle Lake.

- (g) Parish Council Projects – Picnic Bench, Ryarsh Park

The Clerk will circulate details.

6. OPEN SESSION – Public Question Time

A resident asked if the ban could be reversed so that dogs are allowed on the Recreation Ground. There was a discussion. Councillors were supportive of dogs being allowed, but the Recreation Ground is owned by Ryarsh Village Hall Trust. The resident will contact David Storey to discuss.

It was noted that the bin on Roughetts Road that was destroyed by a car, has already been replaced.

7. PARISH COUNCILLOR REPORTS – to receive updates and reports

There were no reports. Cllr McKinlay attends the Parish Partnership Panel and the TMBC Standards and Ethics Board.

8. MONTHLY CHECK LIST

To receive reports about:

- (a) Play Area and Recreation Ground

Cllr Betts has carried out the regular inspections and there are no issues to report.

Cllr Sutton has asked for a quote to mend some fencing on the Recreation Ground. It does not look like it is about to fall over. It was noted this was on Village Hall land.

There was a discussion about the fencing from the stables on Birling Road which is looking even worse and falling over. The Clerk was asked to contact TMBC again to see if they will take any action.

- (b) Highways, Footpaths and Footways

It was noted that a lot of areas are overgrown. The footpath mentioned at the last meeting has been checked again and is not bad enough to report.

It was reported that Cllrs McKinlay and Sutton and the Clerk are meeting with Emma Tilbury from Kent Highways and Cllr Hohler to discuss the Parish Highways Improvement Plan.

- (c) Street lights

There was nothing to report.

- (d) Parish property: Defibrillator, Ryarsh Resource Room

There was nothing to report. Another training course has been planned. The school will be asked to consider the Ryarsh Resource Room in September.

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 Councillors. The statement was approved and was signed by Cllr McKinlay. Spending is over budget on streetlights due to the rising cost of electricity, but the invoice has gone down slightly this month.

- (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
	Payment Approved at Meeting	
PSR Lighting	Streetlight Maintenance July 2023	£116.40
Clerk	Salary July 2023	£923.14
HMRC	July 2023 PAYE and NI	£92.17
Clerk	Expenses June 2023	£9.10

Payment to N Power for Electricity for June 2023 of £487.11 will be paid by Direct Debit.

- (c) Audit 2022-2023 – To note the dates for the Exercise of Public Rights (03.07.23-11.08.23)
Noted.
- (d) To consider any other financial matters
CPRE – Cllrs agreed to continue the subscription at the same amount as currently paid, £36pa.

10. MATTERS FOR NEXT MEETING

There were no matters.

The Meeting concluded at 9.00pm

Date of the next Parish Council Meeting is **Monday 11th September 2023** at 8pm

Signed 

Dated 11th Sept. 2023