

Minutes of Ryarsh Parish Council Meeting held in the Davison Room, Ryarsh Village Hall on
Monday 9th October 2023 at 8.00pm

Councillors Present:

Cllr M McKinlay (Chairman)

Cllr A Betts

Cllr C Bowyer

Cllr E Dennis

Cllr C Martin

Cllr J Sutton

Also in attendance:

Borough Councillors Bill Banks and Paul Boxall, 2 members of public, L Mackie (Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

2. MINUTES

To receive and approve the Minutes of the meeting held on **11th September 2023** for signature. It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th September 2023 be approved and signed as an accurate record by Cllr McKinlay.

3. EXTERNAL REPORTS:

(a) County Councillor Hohler

Cllr Hohler has provided the following report:

- KCC agreed to confer and grant the Freedom of the County to the Ship's Company of HMS Kent. The ship's crew marched through Maidstone in celebration, accompanied by the Massed Bands of HM Royal Marines.
- Her Royal Highness, the Princess of Wales, visited Kent to see the work of our Portage team, supporting pre-school children with special education needs and disabilities (SEND) and helping each child's learning and development through play.
- LIBRARIES: more than 20,000 children in Kent registered for the Summer Reading Challenge this summer, including 3,000 new library members.
- Our prison library team won the National Library Awards Reading Award in a unanimous decision. The team was nominated for the work they started in lock down and continue to develop to bring library services to prisoners in HMP Swaleside. The library provides a vital well-being opportunity for the prisoners, thanks to our hugely dedicated team, Liz and Tracy.
- FOSTERING: for Kent's vulnerable young people, we are looking for foster careers who can truly make a difference in their lives. It is Kent Fostering Service's priority to place young children in safe, nurturing and stable homes, close to their friends, school and family. Anyone interested in fostering is welcome, regardless of their gender, their sexual orientation, their marital status, whether they have children or not, their ethnicity or religious belief. You can attend one of our online events: 10am on Saturday 14th October, 7pm on Wednesday 15th November, Tuesday 12th December. For more information you can ring 03000 420 002 on weekdays from 9am to 5pm or online at Kent Fostering.
- FINANCE: there is a wide set of budget pressures across the sector. There are significant budget gaps and pressures in adult social care, children's services placement costs, home to school transport - especially SEND.
- We are taking a number of management actions to address the in-year pressures and are making significant progress. The bigger challenge is the build up of the longer term pressures for 2024-25 and beyond. That is why we are developing a medium term, and longer term, plan: Securing Kent's Future. It will address the linkage of policy and practice, measures to address high cost placements, uses of technology, addressing our cost base, our partnership with the NHS, and much more.

- UASC (Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children): the number of UASC in our care has been rising rapidly. This has, potentially, financial, service and safeguarding implications for KCC. In the current situation we are unable to discharge ALL our statutory duties to ALL young people, whether UASC or citizen. We continue to raise both the financial and service challenges with national government. Our strongly held view remains that an effective operation of the National Transfer Scheme would enable us to deliver, properly, all our duties. Our Judicial review proceedings against the Home Secretary regarding delivery of the Nationally Transfer Scheme are due to be heard on 10th October.
- Schools and RAAC: tremendous proactive work has been done, which is a matter of pride for KCC, and we have worked with the full range of Kent schools.
- SEND: the Secretary of State for Education has approved our application for two new special schools (in Swanley and Whitstable) which will serve children with Profound, Severe and Complex needs. More children will be able to go to a school that meets their needs, closer to where they live, which is good for children and their families, and good for the tax payer too.
- HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT: we continue to deliver our Household Support Fund and will be supporting over 10,000 households with food vouchers. Information on our help with energy bills will be available on the Kent Together page, as schemes are launched. Our Money Advice Hubs are continuing to grow with more and more residents taking up this support. These projects have been short listed for awards in innovation and social inclusion.

(b) Borough Councillor Banks and Boxall

Cllr Banks reported:

- Leybourne Parish Council has secured the money to buy the woods to protect that bit of green space
- There will be a public consultation about parking charges, most noticeably in West Malling and Martin Square. It will generate £50k revenue a year for TMBC.
- Tree Project. He would like a volunteer from the Parish Council who he can liaise with and come up with a re-wilding project for Ryarsh. He has an allowance and can help with the project. A Parish contact is needed to work with the school, TMBC, KCC, landowners etc. There needs to be research about suitable sites in the village and who owns the land. Winter is the time to do this. There is also funding that may be available from KCC.

Cllr Boxall reported:

- Fly tipping – there is an issue with debris ending up on someone's drive in the village, and this is a Clarion issue. Cllr Boxall is pursuing this with them.

(c) Police

The update has been circulated.

(d) Village Hall

Their application for funding from TMBC was rejected.

A request has been made for help. The Clerk will ask what sort of help is needed and can include details in the Newsletter. A donation to the Village Hall towards the refurbishment of the toilets will be considered later in the Year.

4. PLANNING

(a) Plans Received for Comment

- i. **Yard at Ryarsh Place Farm**, Ryarsh, West Malling, Kent ME19 5LP
Although on the Agenda, an application has not been listed yet.

(b) Approvals

- i. **TM/23/01573/PDVRB - Park Barn Farm, Park Farm Road** - Prior notification: Change of use of a building and land within its curtilage from an agricultural use to a flexible use (Class R.3 (b) over 150 square metres) for use as building of flexible B1 (Class E) and B8 (Storage and distribution) use. **PRIOR APPROVAL NOT REQUIRED**

- (c) Refusals
- i. **TM/23/01517/LDP - Owenden, London Road** - Lawful Development Certificate Proposed:
Dropped kerb to allow access to parking area to be created on front garden
- (d) Any other Planning Matters
- i. **Land West of Roughetts Road** – Request for an Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Opinion to determine the information to be provided in an Environmental Statement to accompany a planning application for the proposed extraction of aggregate (sand) – KCC/SCO/TM/0140/2023 – www.landwestofroughettsroad.co.uk
A solicitors letter has been submitted on behalf of the Ryarsh Protection Group. Kent County Council have said there is not a need for sand from the development of that land.
- ii. **TM/23/01606/FL - Land West Of Callis Court Farm, London Road** - Change of use of agricultural land to equestrian use (ancillary to residential dwelling) with erection of stables and fencing (**OBJECTIONS SUBMITTED**)
The Parish Council objections have been submitted and we await TMBC's decision.
It was noted that ownership is not to do with planning, so you can get planning permission on someone else's property even though it is meaningless as you don't own the land.

5. MATTERS ARISING

- (a) To receive update about HIP
Kent Highways have asked if we would like signage at the end of Woodgate Road to warn people about the junction. Cllrs agreed that yes, they would like Kent Highways to install signage.
It was noted that the white lines have been repainted at the junction and it is a lot clearer now.
- (b) TMBC Consultation - draft Economic Development Strategy 2023-2027 (13.10.23)
This is available online.
- (c) To consider D-Day 80 celebrations (06.06.24)
There is plenty of time for planning this.
- (d) To consider purchase of two Tommy Silhouettes
Cllrs thought there was already one Tommy Silhouette. The Clerk will see if this is stored in the Village Hall. If there is already one silhouette then only one needs to be purchased. The Clerk will ask the Village Hall Trust if one Tommy can be put up near the Notice Board on the Recreation Ground and will ask Kent Highways if one Tommy can be put up by the Village Sign at the junction of Roughetts Road and Woodgate Road.
- (e) To receive update about Registration of Village Hall Lease with the Land Registry
The papers are with the solicitors who are dealing with the Land Registry.
- (f) Parish Council Projects – Picnic Bench (Ryarsh Park), Notice Board
Cllrs will discuss colour and style of the bench for Ryarsh Park.
The Clerk will contact the Village Hall about replacing the Notice Board, and contractor details are needed to install the new board.
- (g) To approve change of date of January meeting
Cllrs Agreed to change the meeting to a week later, 15th January 2024.

6. OPEN SESSION – Public Question Time

There were no questions.

7. PARISH COUNCILLOR REPORTS – to receive updates and reports

- (a) Clerks Conference – 27.09.23
The Clerk cancelled the conference booking.
- (b) KALC AGM 18.11.23
Cllr McKinlay is attending. She also attended the finance conference which was interesting.

8. MONTHLY CHECK LIST

To receive reports about:

- (a) Play Area and Recreation Ground
Cllr Betts is continuing to make regular inspections and there is nothing to report.
- (b) Highways, Footpaths and Footways
Cllrs AGREED to accept the salt bag from Kent Highways. Cllr Betts will approach Brookline to ask if it can be located on their property.
It has been reported that the sign at the top of Roughetts Road by the A20 is twisted.
- (c) Street lights
Cllr Bowyer has a list of streetlights and will inspect them.
- (d) Parish property: Defibrillator, Ryarsh Resource Room
Cllr Payne was going to tidy the Ryarsh Resource Room and speak to the school about making changes to it.

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.
- (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 September 2023	£116.40
Vision ICT	Biennial fee for domain renewal	£108.00
Netwise	8 hosted email accounts	£172.80
Vision ICT	Website hosting package Renewal	£330.00
KALC	Finance Conference 04.10.23	£84.00
Clerk	Salary September 2023	£923.17
HMRC	September 2023 PAYE and NI	£92.14
Clerk	Expenses August 2023	£9.10
Mazars	Electricity Supply Sept 23	£486.85

Payment to N Power for Electricity for September 2023 of £486.85 will be paid by Direct Debit.

- (c) To receive the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2022-2023 audited by Mazars
Cllrs have received and considered this and AGREED that there was no action to take. The Notice of Completion has been published along with the audited AGAR.
- (d) To consider any other financial matters
There were no other matters.

10. MATTERS FOR NEXT MEETING

Cllrs agreed to change the date of meetings to 7pm. The Clerk will speak to the Village Hall about availability.

The Meeting concluded at 8.40pm

Date of the next Parish Council Meeting is **Monday 13th November 2023** at 8pm

Signed 

Dated 13/11/23