

Cliffsend Parish Council

The Village Hall, Foads Lane, Cliffsend, CT12 5JH
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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

Held on Tuesday 16th July 2024 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Meetings of the Council are recorded. AV recordings are retained only until draft minutes are adopted as a true record.

Present – Cllr G Fricker (Chair), Cllr Chapman (Vice-Chair), Cllr Harrison, Cllr J Fricker, Alison Willoughby-Browne (Clerk), 3 members of the public.

- 12/24-25 Welcome and apologies for absence** - Chairman welcomed those present, indicated emergency exits. Apologies received from CCllr Constantine, CCllr Shonk, DCllr Davis, DCllr Rogers and Cllr Wilkinson.
- 13/24-25 Declarations of interest** - no declarations of interest.
- 14/24-25 Adoption of the minutes of 28th May 2024 as being a true record** - Vice-Chairman offered two corrections to draft minutes, three emailed to Clerk. Cllr Chapman proposed the revised version, seconded by Cllr Harrison, resolved. Chairman signed the minutes as a true record.
- 15/24-25 Matters arising from the above minutes** - none other than to be discussed.
- 16/24-25 Working Party & Councillor Reports** -
Meadow and Open Spaces – Clerk; very large cherry tree felled in play area, chippings left. Parish in Bloom judging 1st July, ticked conservation boxes - Elm feather, and BAM Nuttall tree planting.

Planning and Highways – Vice-Chairman had submitted two papers to the Planning Inspectorate, recommending refusal of the 141 Monson Homes houses, refusal supported by TDC officers and District Cllrs. Developer has submitted 649 documents. Other appeals typically take several months, maybe a year. Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Clerk met with KCC to look at the safety of Foads Hill; two parts – the 141 houses and safety generally – Chairman had suggested that no room for footpath so KCC should acquire land for ramp or some other form of access, no money (KCC) and no fatalities/serious incidences but the point was to get acknowledgement from KCC that it is not ideal, we can then add to Highways Improvement Plan and highlight safety issues to developers. 20th July - resurfacing of Cliffsend Road. Cllr Harrison raised the issue of overgrowth Foads Hill/Cottington Road (residents have reported to KCC, **Parish Council to report to KCC/TDC**) and parking of vehicles in Foads Lane. Resident – nursery drop-offs blocking road.

Youth – Chair; further conversations with TDC - have to supply through one of their six suppliers. We presented them with evidence that quote before was extraordinarily expensive. At meeting, suggested that they can install some of the equipment themselves rather than a third-party contractor - will save some costs. We have submitted to them our preference, just waiting for them to come back to us with revised costs. Meadow camping event - 10th August.

Communication and Events – discussion re' cloud storage, current facility increased in cost from 60p to £8.40 a month, cheaper options available. 75th Anniversary Hugin celebration; big event (28th July 2024, noon-5pm). Ost Centingas will provide a Viking fashion show, arming the warrior weapons display, champions duel, mock battle, and more. Representations from many organisations e.g. Kent Wildlife Trust and English Heritage. Face/rune/shield painting.

Refreshments on site. Posters distributed, interviews planned on BBC Radio Kent and Academy FM. Ramsgate Carnival at 4pm, can come to our event and then on to Carnival. Well done to Cllr Harrison who worked extremely hard to commemorate D-Day 80; Tommys, Fish and Chip Lunch was a great success (65 portions), followed by the Beacon lighting with bugler, thanks to Mile High Scaffolding who stacked the brazier. Parish Council is catering for all parts of our community in terms of age.

17/24-25 Financial Matters -

Budget Monitoring – 1st Quarter, bank balance at 30th June 2024 - £45,746.89. Cllrs had checked the bank statement against accounts and the current budget was compared with spend-to-date and forecast spend. ‘Subscriptions’ in excess because of purchase of music licence. Cllr Harrison had verified that the accounts reconciled with bank statement. Proposed by Cllr G Fricker, seconded by Cllr Chapman, all in favour.

Payment schedule and supporting documents circulated to all Cllrs. Chairman encouraged Clerk to talk to Council if equipment temperamental (phone) as we had discussed an upgraded phone, current much improved since replacing battery. Cllr J Fricker proposed that payment schedule be accepted, seconded by Cllr Harrison, motion carried. Contractual payments; Clerk’s salary, bought-in services. Italicised already paid.

July Payments

Payee	Description	Invoice No	VAT	Ex VAT	Total
KALC	<i>Subscription 2024-25</i>	9111	141.59	707.94	849.53
<i>Poplett Taylor Consulting Ltd</i>	<i>Internal Audit</i>	<i>PTCPC286</i>	-	360.00	360.00
Cllr J Fricker	<i>Hugin Celebration</i>	-	-	16.50	16.50
Clerk	<i>PA System</i>	864702	48.83	244.16	292.99
Clerk	<i>D-Day Fish and Chips</i>	-	-	272.00	272.00
TDC	<i>TDC Land Hire</i>	<i>00790-TDC-311</i>	-	301.00	301.00
<i>Boxgreen Landscapes Ltd</i>	<i>Meadow Mows - May</i>	8897	28.00	140.00	168.00
<i>Challenge Packaging Ltd</i>	<i>Hugin Celebration</i>	<i>S/O573441</i>	16.00	80.00	96.00
Clerk	Phone Battery	-	-	20.00	20.00
Clerk	D-Day Expenses	-	-	5.90	5.90
Clerk	Insulating Tape	302040	1.50	7.49	8.99
Clerk	Mobile Phone Top-Up	-	-	20.00	20.00
Clerk	Fire Extinguisher	31884	2.83	14.16	16.99
Clerk	First Aid Kit	245449	2.70	13.49	16.19
Cllr G Fricker	Bowser Tow Parts	3754-43710	9.21	46.03	55.24
Cllr G Fricker	Hugin Celebration	88067	4.33	21.66	25.99
Boxgreen Landscapes Ltd	Meadow Mow - June	8918	14.00	70.00	84.00
Total for Month			268.99	2340.33	2609.32

18/24-25 Planning Applications -

FH/TH/24/0611 15 Mount Green Avenue (erection of front porch, roof extension, single storey rear extension)

F/TH/24/0034 Richborough Energy Park (battery storage scheme, retrospective)

Chairman advised caution around anything containing lithium-ion batteries, the insurance industry is extremely worried following incidences of sparks, fires and even explosions. Clerk to publish information re’ a new bill to improve the safety of the batteries.

19/24-25 Current Topics -

Ongoing review of Council procedures – new Financial Regulations circulated, Code of Conduct and Complaints. Chairman had responded. Financial Regulations – issued by NALC in May with adjustments for the size of our Council. Two Cllrs hadn’t read documents, deferred until September.

S106 play area equipment – already discussed.

Commemorative plaque – recent communication from TDC offering to reduce Surveyor Fees to £120, but legal fees still need to be paid (£550). Cllr Harrison had forwarded an email that evening which suggests a further reduction after project organiser had contacted TDC. Cllr Harrison wants it to be free, she had met with Cllr Rick Everett to discuss, has been working on this for two years - plinth made for free by Stevens & Carlotti Ltd, crowd-funding raised money for plaque, and will be installed at no cost by Kingsheath Construction.

Chairman stated that TDC throwing in fees at 11th hour not acceptable.

Siting of container – Chairman; we agreed to buy a container but question now is where to site it. A couple of different options on the table, point is to get some agreement between us on what we are going to do about it. Cllr Harrison; wouldn't agree with placing where landowner said it could go as felt it could pose a danger to children or anyone else walking through the meadow at night, could be a hiding place for someone to jump out, and too close to memorial trees. Preferred place would be 'wasted corner' (by picnic tables). Cllr Harrison had contacted the landowner, she said that it wasn't his intention to have anything in the meadow, there were other options, he had suggested a further site meeting with all Cllrs. Vice-Chairman stated that safeguarding very important consideration, also practicality and appearance. Cllr J Fricker; we rent the meadow, he has allowed us to place the container on his land, we should be listening to what he wants. Chairman; from a security perspective the whole area is a risk, particularly at night. From a physical security perspective, siting container at far end of meadow makes container itself more vulnerable as further away from people. Chairman and Vice-Chairman had met with landowner, toured the various sites, discussed each one in turn, came up with the meadow. Chair had emailed correspondence to other Cllrs, at no point did landowner say that he didn't want container in the meadow, he expressed a preference for it to be behind the Village Hall. Independently, a Cllr decided to take it upon themselves to disregard that email to try and convince the landowner otherwise. Other sites discussed have issues such as additional permissions. **To arrange a further site meeting.** Chairman expressed his dissatisfaction at the manner that this had been dealt with, spent the last couple of years rebuilding relationship, now what we had in the past with different factions from Parish Council having different conversations with him.

20/24-25 Clerk's Reports -

- Period of exercise of public rights finished 12th July, information with external auditor.
- County Cllr Constantine (when offered apologies) stated that she is attending a briefing 24th July, regarding the Sea Link Project, keen to get feedback from residents - karen@karenconstantine.co.uk

21/24-25 Correspondence Received -

Resident – concern for new trees Earlsmead Crescent green; some failing, Cllr Wilkinson to monitor, during Parish in Bloom judging checked trees, some require a wedge between stake and tree.

22/24-25 Public Questions -

Sea Link Project - further consultation 8th July to 11th August (residents encouraged to respond - contact@sealink.nationalgrid.com or post to 'FREEPOST SEA LINK'. **Information can be found at www.nationalgrid.com/sealink**).

Vice-Chairman had contacted Sea Link re' webinar dates, and the proposed construction and maintenance compounds - old hovercraft base, also where meets Sandwich Road. Proposed to use for temporary parking, plant and consumables, temporary compounds (could be extended durations) would be set up when required. Mitigation for use of hoverport site by Southern Water was paying TDC.

Resident confirmed the historical importance of the area, has published on residents' forum where a lot of objections, Vice-Chairman; much more effective if everyone writes in than getting together as a group. Pegwell Bay has many international designations (**to publish on website, Facebook and noticeboards**). Chairman; Curlews, Snipes and Lapwings used to feed on the fields by St Augustine's Cross, didn't stop them getting permission to build houses despite RSPB and Natural England putting in objections. Vice-Chair; if home in on Cliffsend/Minster on map supplied by Sea Link Project, since last consultation it has expanded in terms of impact on area, as well as maintenance compounds, draft order limits doubled in size coming into Pegwell Bay, and converter station increased in size. Chair; Sir Roger Gale and Karen Constantine both opposed, two sides of political spectrum, have to harness that, maybe need to understand who in KCC/TDC is for it/against it. Cllr J Fricker suggested something on Viking Day. **To share with Facebook groups, provide a poster.** Notice and consultation period short, could include in objection. National Grid not state owned - a private company, aims and objectives are not the same. Not saying shouldn't have cable, but should be in the right place.

Clerk to contact TDC re' 2 Saxon Way, rubbish left unsecured for seagulls to ravage.

Meeting concluded at 21:11