

Cliffsend Parish Council

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

Held on Tuesday 19th March 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 Wilkinson, Alison Willoughby-Browne (Clerk), DCllr Davis, 6 members of the public.

- 56/23-24 Welcome and apologies for absence** - Chairman welcomed those present, indicated emergency exits. Apologies received from Cllr J Fricker, Cllr Smith, DCllr Rogers, CCllr Shonk.
- 57/23-24 Declarations of interest** - no declarations of interest.
- 58/23-24 Adoption of the minutes of 16th January 2024 as being a true record** - 16th January minutes proposed by Cllr Wilkinson, seconded by Cllr Chapman, all in favour. Chairman signed the minutes as a true record.
- 59/23-24 Matters arising from the above minutes** - none other than to be discussed.
- 60/23-24 Working Party & Councillor Reports** -
County Cllr – CCllr Shonk at another meeting, happy for us to contact with any issues.

District Cllr – DCllr Davis discussed issues re' Thanet Parkway; access and drop-offs at Earlsmead Crescent, explained that the aim is to satisfy everyone without inconveniencing anyone, DCllr Rogers had contacted Licensing Dept, they will contact cab companies and insist that they drop off at Parkway not Earlsmead Crescent. Parish Cllrs and DCllr Davis have notified Google Maps - confusing satnavs as postcode shown for Parkway is incorrect. Environment Agency now investigating the dumping of materials – land off Sandwich Road. DCllr Davis also chasing Estates Dept re' the plaque. Cllr Chapman raised the review of ward boundaries, consultation started; keep same number of wards, and/or change ward boundaries? DCllr Davis - reduction in DCllrs (56 to 42) should actually benefit as level of service not as good in triple wards (wards with 3 DCllrs). Chair and Vice-Chair had attended a meeting the week before re' the changes. Public have the ability to contribute and are encouraged to do so (info on website/Facebook). Changes won't be made until 2027. This apolitical assessment won't alter boundary of TDC or Cliffsend Parish. DCllr Davis in process of setting up a community litter pick for village; area by Jet garage, also the non-political survey from Craig Mackinlay should reach Cliffsend soon.

Police Officer – new Beat Officer (PC Howard) was invited to meeting, or to update by email.

Meadow and Open Spaces – Cllr Wilkinson - re-wilding and community gardening commenced in area opposite Village Hall; removed elder and part of hedging, now need to remove ivy and rest of hedging. To add some ash to soil to reduce acidity, will then plant more hedging away from roadside and dig a few beds in Primrose Way. Seeking further advice re' planting of Elm trees.

Incidences of dog fouling being investigated, obtained name and phone number for Dog Warden, has been reported to TDC on a few occasions. Chairman advised that the planting of trees and shrubs in various locations around the village is part of the BAM Nuttall Thanet Parkway scheme;

Blackthorn/Hawthorn/Dog Rose/Crab Apple/Birch at Viking Ship Café, similar Cliffsend Road (Wild Cherry replacing Birch). Earlsmead Crescent green; circle of Rowan/Whitebeam/Crab Apple/Ornamental Cherry, this was design that majority of residents voted on during consultation. Mini orchard Bakers Field (apple, plum and cherry). We will also receive a water bowser to aid the watering, hopefully volunteers will help get them established, first three years. First cut of meadow imminent, has been too wet to cut before. Previous contractor apologised for not submitting a tender, to be considered on renewal.

Planning and Highways – Bakers Field shop; application amended from 3 floors to 2, and class F2a – village shop, approved by TDC officers subject to be in keeping with surroundings.

Parish Council informed that Monson Homes will appeal against the decision made in December to turn down application for 141 houses, will be a written appeal to Planning Inspectorate. Parish Council will put forward same arguments as before, TDC officers said they will support the decision made at planning committee meeting. 65 new houses Canterbury Road West; most now occupied, all shared ownership.

Highways; reported damage to Sandwich Rd/Chalk Hill area, KCC repaired. Other markings around potholes - usually means they have been identified to repair. Request for KCC to assess the level of risk of Foads Hill has been bounced from one dept to another. If appeal for 141 houses is successful, will be in addition to the 65 new houses in north of village. Shared ownership suggests families - can't have families/elderly/vulnerable coming down Foads Hill the way it is. Cllr Chapman also noted that Sandwich Rd (Little Cliffsend Farm) area is nice and neat now - just not sure what buried there, hence Environment Agency investigating. Highways Improvement Plan (HIP) review imminent. DCllr Davis advised that the Joint Transport Board meeting soon, happy to put forward issues. Previous Beat Officer promised speedtraps/checks with focus on Canterbury Road West and Sandwich Rd in particular. No Speedwatch in Cliffsend, Acol have equipment that we can use, **we just need volunteers**.

Youth – Bakers Field S106 monies for youth/sports equipment; still discussing estimate, feel would be more cost effective to use private supplier. Estimate included cost of £500 to provide handwashing for workforce and £1100 for temporary fencing.

Communication and Events – bought generator so can be independent for power, agreed in previous meeting to buy a marquee. Hope to hold another camping event in the summer and also Party in the Park – purchasing a music licence, will be good to bring people together. **Will need volunteers to help**.

Cllr Harrison – commemoration of D-Day; free fish and chip lunch 6th June (1pm) for residents aged 80 and over, not excluding anyone else - would just be required to pay. Maximum 100 (capacity of Village Hall), a list of those interested has been started, Hall booked, further costs to Parish Council to be confirmed. Tommys have been cut (6), grateful to Jamie Cox and his son for cutting them out, will be placed around village at various points. B17 bomber plaque – Stevens & Carlotti Ltd are making a stainless steel lectern for us - for free. Surveyor has spoken with Clerk, need to mark location on map.

61/23-24 Financial Matters -

Budget Monitoring – 4th Quarter (31/3), bank balance at 4th March 2024 - £42,053.24. Cllrs had checked the bank statement against accounts and the current budget was compared with spend-to-date and forecast spend. Last meeting of financial year; on track, capital expenditure not budgeted for, agreed in previous meeting to purchase lighting for trees in this financial year. Marquee and container next financial year. Proposed by Cllr Harrison, seconded by Cllr Wilkinson, all in favour.

Cllrs Wilkinson and Harrison had checked payment schedule and supporting documents and proposed/seconded for acceptance, unanimous. Contractual payment: Clerk's salary, bought-in services. Italics indicate already paid/agreed previous meeting. Chairman mentioned the Cyber Crime presentation by Prevent and Protect Officers – Friday 22nd 10am Village Hall.

March Payments

Payee	Description	Invoice No	Method	VAT	Ex VAT	Total
KALC	Training - Planning	8751677629	Transfer	10.00	50.00	60.00
Abbey Access Ltd	Generator	21397	Transfer	108.33	541.66	649.99
Cliffsend Village Hall	Cyber Crime Presentation	-	Transfer	-	30.00	30.00
Harmer & Sons	Hedge cutting	22812	Transfer	200.00	1000.00	1200.00
KALC	Planning Conference	9095596419	Transfer	14.00	70.00	84.00
PPLPRS	Music Licence	SIN2661481	Transfer	29.84	149.21	179.05
Cllr Chapman	Travel expenses/Land Registry	1000004208849	Transfer	-	102.75	102.75
Cliffsend Village Hall	Meetings 2024-25	-	Transfer	-	180.00	180.00
Cliffsend Village Hall	D-Day 80 Lunch	-	Transfer	-	45.00	45.00
Clerk	Home Working Allowance	-	Transfer	-	312.00	312.00
Clerk	TDC meeting – parking	-	Transfer	-	3.20	3.20
Clerk	Mobile phone top-up	-	Transfer	-	30.00	30.00
SEiB	Parish in Bloom entry fee	3743	Transfer	-	55.00	55.00
Total for Month				362.17	2568.82	2930.99

62/23-24 Planning Applications -

FH/TH/24/0048 Park Ville, Windsor Road (erection of additional storey, glazed balcony, rear terrace, shelter above existing detached bunker, two staircases)

F/TH/24/0137 rear of 33 Foads Lane (erection of one two-bedroom bungalow following demolition of garage/workshop). Comments submitted by Parish Council.

FH/TH/24/0149 The Homestead, Arundel Road (two storey front extension)

TPO/TH/24/0287 1 Primrose Way (Holly tree plus other plant species; fell)

Anyone can have their say via the Planning Portal on TDC website.

63/23-24 Current Topics -

Ongoing review of Council procedures – existing Standing Orders compared with NALC template, have discussed using templates as a lot of work to maintain our own documents when updated, legal documents accessible. NALC template suggests approval of Standing Orders at AGM, therefore, deferred until May. Risk Management Statement; now reviewed regularly for emerging risks.

Council insurance – three quotations, highest excluded, two for comparison – current broker and an insurance company (cheapest quote). However, cheapest would entail having to do the work ourselves if a claim necessary. Cllr Harrison proposed that we would pay no more than the quotation from our current broker £631, seconded by Cllr Wilkinson, all in favour.

75th Anniversary Hugin celebration - 28th July 2024, we will be celebrating, scale will depend on what support we get. Chairman in touch with living history societies; Øst Centingas provided cost to set up Viking village on Hugin's Green, demonstrate how they lived, arts and crafts, portable forge, mock battles, Viking shield painting, catering/drinks. Maybe view inside Hugin itself, can dress up, possibly a Viking procession from Broadstairs (Viking Bay) to Ramsgate. Will need a working group who can help achieve funding/ideas etc. Non-Cllrs can join any of our working groups. DCllr Davis to ask if TDC will enable this to happen at full Council meeting next week.

64/23-24 Clerk's Reports -

- Chairman/Vice-Chairman/Clerk met with TDC officers in January.
- Two grant applications to benefit village submitted, both refused.
- Met with residents of Earlsmead Crescent, Thanet Parkway Manager and DCllrs Davis and Rogers to discuss issues.

65/23-24 Correspondence Received –

Resident – shop application, unable to access planning portal; TDC ICT issue.

Resident – update received from KCC re' 20mph in Cliffsend Road.

Resident – speeding/speed cushions vs raised table; HIP addresses mitigants, 20mph part of plan, included was a raised table to mitigate against speeding, since HIP written a number of councils have taken them out because of damage to cars, noise etc. Is it still appropriate or is there something else? 20mph has mostly done its job for Foads Lane/Hill/Cliffsend Rd corner, is there something else we can do rather than dig up the road? Will take time to review. Cllr Harrison suggested rumble strips or speed camera, £17k for a raised table, speed cushions £8k a pair, would it be better to channel money towards Foads Hill rather than corner? Resident suggested that raised table would divert traffic to more hazardous route, unintended consequence. Resident – ongoing issues with Thanet Parkway/ownership of land; new signs provided by Southeastern, could benefit from planting at back of garages to deter vandals; Blackthorn etc. Cllr Chapman located S106 money within KCC from 2 previous planning applications; KCC to appoint an officer in April to progress expenditure. If Phase II Cottington Rd goes ahead it may become irrelevant, in which case we should be given funds. From Council's perspective, more than happy to help out and prevent graffiti, provided no inhibitor to residents accessing Parkway.

Resident – help with gardening projects, particularly growing fruit/vegetables.

Residents – missed bin collection Beech Grove; to report via portal/telephone.

Resident – tree planting - proximity to neighbouring trees; TDC design.

66/23-24 Public Questions -

Resident – thanked Clerk for coming to meeting, have a good relationship with Parkway Manager, very accommodating and kind. New signs clearly show where the actual footpath is, should be fitted by Friday 22nd March. Not stopped anyone going through, some kicking gates open and not being respectful. Chairman; if KCC had sorted out TR32 along top of field down to Lavender Cottages, if it had been reinstated with proper signage would have mitigated some of this.

Resident – more rail links in June, good but will increase footfall. Parents are dropping children off, they think they can drive right up to gate, safeguarding issues; children been playing in area for 20 years but not safe now, gate just to show that not the actual entrance. Resident spent two years getting 'no access to Thanet Parkway' sign at beginning of Old Hall Drive, also requested one for Earlsmead Crescent, Parish Council happy to support in that quest.

Resident – 65 new houses in Canterbury Road West, rather than using Foads Hill/Lane will probably increase footfall through garage block; would use existing pathway - Earlsmead to Cottington, maybe place sign past end of Clive Rd. Cllr Wilkinson has been working on alternative route and has approached Network Rail, they had done some work in that area, reinstated access. The path should have been turned at an angle and had access from Foads Lane as Clive Road access very remote, vulnerable people are not likely to want to go that way - in mix for HIP. Also, collision in Cliffsend Rd where grass verge is narrowing highway. KCC responsible, the more who raise concerns the better. Where are events publicised? Facebook/website/noticeboards, once finalised those discussed will be advertised, also Speedwatch – website/Facebook/minutes.

Meeting concluded at 21:13