

## PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, 17 July 2024 at 1830hrs

Coldred Village Green

### MINUTES

To receive reports from the County and District Councillors, Kent Police Neighbourhood Beat Officer, Speed Watch, Neighbourhood Watch and Community Warden. Public questions and comments on non-agenda items (this section will be limited to 15 minutes or otherwise at the discretion of the Chair)

**Juliette West, Community Warden** gave a short verbal report on the current situation regarding the changes within KCC and Community Wardens. Changes to the Social Care Act have meant her role is concentrated very much on working with other agencies to provide and improve social care in the community. The Chair thanked Juliette for her contribution.

#### PUBLIC QUESTIONS

None

#### 71/2024 IN ATTENDANCE & APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

**Present:** Cllrs Mark Watson (Chair), Barry Crush, Lyn Symes, Sindy Denyer, Marien Elgar, Terry Hunt, Carole White, Keith Roberts, Sue Taber, John Bulaitis and Aidan Softley

20 Members of the public

**Clerk:** Jan Rousell

**Apologies:** Cllr Bradley Stauffer-Kruse (Vice Chair)

#### 72/2024 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 19 JUNE 2024

Minutes of the meeting held on 19 June 2024 were agreed to be a true and accurate record proposed by Cllr Hunt seconded by Cllr Roberts. **Agreed with 3 abstentions**

#### 73/2024 MATTERS ARISING

Cllr Bulaitis proposed that the Council congratulate the Coldred Forum for winning the grant for the proposed works to the pond and thank the Forum and the wider community for all the work carried out so far, seconded by Cllr Roberts. **All Agreed**

It was suggested that Cllr Watson liaise with Coldred Forum to highlight what information should be included in the plan presented to the Council and a meeting be arranged, if necessary.

#### 74/2024 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Softley claimed a DPI on item 79/2024 79.01.

#### 75/2024 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION LIMITED TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA – 15 minutes in total.

None

## 76/2024 CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair reported that he had met with Mark Lamb, headteacher at Shepherdswell School to try to encourage stronger relations between the Parish Council and the school.

The Chair represented the Council at the recent CLT meeting.

## 77/2024 CLERK'S REPORT

A report has been circulated (available on the website). **Cllr Roberts proposed that the Council accept the offer made by DDC to forfeit the replacement dog waste bin in Mill Lane and add the bin on Coldred Village Green to Veolia's schedule, at no expense. Seconded by Cllr Taber, All Agreed**

### In addition to the report:

**Freedom of Information Request** – the Council has recently received a FOI request which has been dealt with accordingly by the Clerk.

**Bench on Shepherdswell Village Green** – the bench on the village green has now been removed and will be replaced. Clerk to organise for resident to sign bench agreement.

**Assets of Community Value** – the Council have previously registered the Co-op, The Bell Inn, The Carpenters Arms and White Cliffs Medical Centre as Assets of Community Value. These registrations are due to expire in September 2024.

**It was proposed the registrations be renewed. Proposed by Cllr Roberts and seconded by Cllr Hunt. All Agreed**

## 78/2024 PLANNING

The Chair of the Planning Committee reported on the meeting held earlier – please see relevant minutes.

## 79/2024 FINANCE

79.01 To approve payments.

<b>Balances as 14 July 2024</b>	<b>£</b>
Current A/C	1068.96
Business A/C	121150.90
<b>INCOME</b>	
M Wright (rent) 20/06/2024	260.00
M Wright (rent) 05/07/2024	260.00
<b>EXPENDITURE TO RATIFY</b>	
Hugo Fox (Website)	23.99
Steve Marsh Designs (Coldred Sign)	150.00
Clerk's Wages	1090.32
	<b>1264.31</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE TO APPROVE</b>	
Clerk's Expenses	56.50
Village Hall Fees	72.50
Harmers (inv 23495)	792.06

Lionel Robbins – Internal Auditor	140.00
HMRC	64.64
	<b>£1344.63</b>

**Cllr Roberts proposed the schedule of payments be approved, seconded by Cllr Hunt. All Agreed**

## **80/2024 WORKING GROUP REPORTS**

80.01 Carbon Footprint Working Group – nothing to report.

80.02 Highway Improvement Plan Working Group – previously circulated (available on website).

**Cllr Taber proposed that the Council purchase a second speed gun and a cost of no more than £160, seconded by Cllr Denyer. All Agreed**

80.03 Reed Meadow Working Group – nothing to report.

80.04 Communications Working Group – nothing to report.

## **81/2024 TO RECEIVE A PROPOSAL FROM CLLR HUNT REGARDING THE PURCHASE OF LAPTOPS FOR PARISH COUNCIL USE**

This proposal has been circulated (available on the website).

Cllr Roberts proposed that the Council purchase laptops for those Councillors who wish to have one for Parish Council work and those Councillors who wish to continue to use their own device sign a 'Bring Your Own Device Agreement', seconded by Cllr Softley.

**Cllr White proposed that the Council leave the decision to the next meeting to allow more information to be sought regarding software and other expenses, seconded by Cllr Taber. Agreed with 1 against and 3 abstentions**

## **82/2024 COMMUNITY**

82.01 Village Hall

i) To review request from the Village Hall Committee regarding the installation of a Fire Escape Gate (available on the website). **Cllr Roberts proposed that the Council accept the request subject to further research with the relevant bodies , seconded by Cllr Denyer. All Agreed**

82.02 Recreation Ground

i) Rec Working Group - Cllr Watson reported that a meeting was held last month and an article has been written for the village magazine outlining what the forum has done in the past, indicating that maybe it should reform with a wider audience and inviting interested parties to attend a meeting on 25 September 2024.

ii) To receive a proposal from Hill Avenue & Approach Road Residents Association (available on the website). Cllr Denyer commented that a long term financial plan needs to be established in order to ensure the maintenance of the roads,

**Cllr Roberts proposed that in this instance the Council agree to fund 75% of the costs but ask the association to present a plan for the long term maintenance of the roads. Seconded by Cllr Crush, Agreed with 4 abstentions**

iii) To review feedback received from other Parish Councils regarding Recreation Grounds and propose a way forward – after discussion **Cllr Watson proposed that a working group be established to look into Charitable status in more detail and report back at the next meeting, seconded by Cllr White. All Agreed**

The working group will consist of Cllrs Watson, White, Denyer, Roberts, Bulaitis and Taber

82.03 Carpenters Yard

- i) Two requests have been received from residents. The first request was funding for salt to fill the salt bin. **Cllr Hunt proposed that the request be approved, seconded by Cllr Roberts. Agreed with 1 abstention**

The second request was for a pathway to be mown through the new grass from the gate at Carpenters Yard to allow residents to access the village hall. **Cllr Roberts proposed that we allow residents to cut the grass, seconded by Cllr Elgar. Agreed with 1 abstention**

82.04 Shepherdswell Village Green – this item was held in closed session.

**83/2024      DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

This will be on Wednesday 18 September 2024 in Shepherdswell Village Hall at 1930hrs