

ACOL PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Meeting held on 14th May 2018 at 18.00 hours in the Village Hall, The Street, Acol

Present: Councillors Miss Sheila Bransfield, D Hayfield, J Inchley & Mrs. Osborne

Also Present: R Wade (Clerk to the Council)

10. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Parish Assembly and Annual General Meetings held on 10th April 2018 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

11. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

12. RESIGNATION OF FORMER COUNCILLOR RICHARD STEEL

The Clerk reported that Mr. Steel had resigned from the Parish Council. TDC has been advised of the resignation and a notice advertising the vacancy displayed on the parish notice board. Members would be kept informed of the situation.

13. CHAIRMAN'S REPORTS

The Chairman reported upon the following:

(i) Crown & Sceptre

Torran were in "Breach of Conditions" when they removed the roof. At the Planning Committee meeting in February 2015, they said they would retain the fascia of the building and this was included as a Condition of the Planning Approval of March 2015. APC has pointed out this fact to the Planning Inspectorate. When the Section 215 was served upon Torran by TDC in December 2017, they omitted to confirm that there was no Right of Appeal for such a contravention.

The closing date for responses to the alleged Appeal was 9th May.

(ii) Highway Matters

The results of the Traffic Monitoring have been received and the results are now known. The total volume of traffic for one week, from 22nd to 28th February inclusive, was 78,721 and the number of vehicles speeding at over 36mph was 3,708, although it was 10,392 if we include everyone over 30mph. It would appear that only 8 were driving at over 50mph, which is still too many through our little lanes.

It would appear that, unless there is another route, a traffic calming programme in Acol would be ineffective in cutting volumes. The only solution would be the extension to Columbus Avenue, which would also prevent motorcycles using it as a race track late in the evenings.

APC has been campaigning for this extension for over 20 years and Kent Highways have recently highlighted it as a priority, but no finance has ever been secured for it. Likewise, TDC have never enforced their policy that any company wishing to build a commercial property in Thanet would be expected to contribute to the cost of improvements to the infrastructure.

(iii) Southern Water

Southern Water has now responded to our question about the provision for sewage disposal from the new Maple Leaf Industrial Estate. They said "The solutions considered are for flows to go east and not to Acol WPS." That is not a commitment, so we will keep a watch on this.

(iv) Alleged Flooding

The Environment Agency has responded to our request about alleged flooding. They assured us that their information is correct, even though it is not. It is apparent that not all insurance companies use the incorrect data and, therefore, anyone who experiences unnecessary increases in premiums, should use a different company.

(v) Planning

Housing on Manston Airport. APC will respond as before, but every individual is able to respond.

Birchington Vale Caravan Park. An additional caravan site is proposed instead of a golf course. Not in our parish, but of interest because we may be able to get them on side for the Columbus Avenue extension.

(vi) BT Kiosk

Several emails have been sent to BT advising that the phone is decommissioned. We have been assured there is a fault that will be repaired.

14. REPORT OF THE POLICE/COMMUNITY WARDENS/PCSOs

No officers were in attendance to report, but PCSO, Shane Arniszewski, asked to be advised of any issues raised at this meeting. He also advised that he would be conducting speed checks on either 15th or 16th May, following concerns raised by residents along The Street.

15. RECREATION GROUND/PLAY AREA

Councillor Hayfield reported that the works to make good and reseed the play area had been carried out to his satisfaction. The operatives who carried out the works would return in the Autumn to reseed the grassed area if that was needed. An invoice for payment had been received.

16. PARISH COUNCIL'S WEB SITE

RESOLVED: That (A) the offer from Mr. Richard Steel to continue to maintain and update the web site be accepted with thanks; and (B) Mr. Steel draft an item, for approval by the Clerk, setting out the proposals by Kent Highways to undertake traffic calming measures within the Village.

17. CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk reported that:

(a) Four requests under the Freedom of Information Act had been received from Richard Steel. The Clerk advised Mr. Steel that it was not necessary to use F.o.I.s, as requests made by residents would be dealt with. The requests related to:

- (i) the duties of the Clerk (job description),
- (ii) defraying the cost to the local tax payer to purchase a lap top for compliance with the transparency code,
- (iii) a copy of the compliance scheme; and
- (iv) details of training that had been undertaken by councillors.

Members were advised that these requests would be researched and Mr. Steel responded to.

(b) Members were advised that Government was now reconsidering the need to appoint data protection officers and a decision would be made in late May on this matter.

(c) Serco – the maintenance contract had now been renewed and Serco were continuing the grass cutting at the recreation ground. Members were reminded that no invoices had been received for several months to cover the cost of the service. This would impact upon the Council's bank balance when they are received and paid.

18. FINANCIAL MATTERS/AUDIT OF PARISH COUNCIL RECORDS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2007

The Clerk reported that the internal audit had been undertaken by Eric Fewkes and no matters of concern had been raised

RESOLVED: That (A) the financial records tabled at the meeting for the period to 31 March 2018 be approved and the Chairman be authorised to sign off the document to enable them to be submitted for audit.

Payments Schedule

RESOLVED: That the following payments be approved for payment:

<u>Chq No</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>VAT</u>	<u>Amount</u>
597	Quex Estates	Rent on Rec	0.00	60.00
598	Neil Cooper	Play area	0.00	310.00
599	KALC	Subscription	26.73	169.39
600	KALC	Seminar fee	10.00	60.00
601	Roy Wade	Salary & Exp	6.33	493.56
602	HMRC	PAYE	00.00	110.00

19. REPORTS OF MEMBERS

Cllr. Mrs. Osborne reported :

(i) Village Hall – Two funding grants had been received for the refurbishment of the Village Hall Kitchen; one from the KCC Village Hall funds and the other from the KCC members funds,

(ii) The property opposite her is to be demolished and TDC has advised that planning permission is needed to demolish

(iii) Site at Spitfire Corner – The site has been cleared and is being offered for leasing.

Cllr. Inchley had no matters to report upon.

Cllr Hayfield reminded Members of the need for Council to keep its data secure. The Clerk was advised to set up a Parish Council email account and Cllr. Inchley said he would meet with the Clerk and advise on the measures to be put in place.

Time concluded: 18.55