



WHITFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Whitfield Parish Council held on 9th March 2021 at 7.30pm via BT MeetMe Telephone Conferencing.

Present

Councillor J. Goodsell (Chair)
Councillor W. Bowman
Councillor C. Coleman
Councillor K. Gowland
Councillor J. Cummings
Councillor C. Moore

Apologies: Councillor J. Gould, Councillor K. Colyer and Lena Rashid (Deputy Clerk)

Reasons for Absence: Accepted by the Council

In Attendance: Mrs J. Matcham (Parish Clerk) DDC Councillor N. Collor and 3 members of the public.

64. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared.

65. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Council considered the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 21st January 2021.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of 21st January 2021 be accepted and signed by the Chair.

66. FINANCE

The Council considered the latest Bank Reconciliation for the period to 31st January 2021.

The Council considered the Parish Council Finance Report to the period ending January 2021.

RESOLVED: a) That the bank reconciliation for the 4no. Parish Banking Accounts are noted accepted.

b) That the Finance Report to the end of January 2021 be noted, accepted and signed by the Chair.

67. MATTERS ARISING

The Clerk updated the Council on the following matters:

- That the works to the changing rooms is expected to be completed by the end of next week.
- That the requested written confirmations in respect of the new water tank have now been received and noted.
- That discussions are on-going in respect of the resumption use of the Recreation Ground and facilities by Whitfield Juniors.
- That communications are on-going in respect of DSC use of the Recreation Ground and facilities.
- That the Clerk met with the Litter Pick Co-Ordinator at the Rec and they are ready and willing to resume activities as soon as allowed.
- That the new PCSO for Whitfield is yet to take up post. At present there is no assigned PCSO for Whitfield.
- That KCC will consider the Dover Fastrack planning application at their Meeting on Wednesday 16th March 2021.

68. CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk updated the Council in respect of correspondence received in the preceding period:

- Email enquiry as to why the MUGA remains closed.
- Communication regarding replacement of 6no cameras at the Recreation Ground.
- Request for additional dog waste bins in the village.
- Communication in respect of the URC Chapel Development Planning Application and relocation of War Memorial Plaque.
- Hedge cutting enquiry (Singledge Lane).
- Litter picking supplies enquiry.

69. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Representatives from the Residents Wildlife Group (Whitfield) gave an update on the new group and made enquiries as to any support that the Parish Council may be able to offer. The group currently has a Social Media presence but are looking to expand as soon as restrictions allow. RWG (Whitfield) are keen to work with the Parish Council to improve and increase support and awareness for wildlife.

Another member of the public raised the matter of the recent granting of planning by DDC for the URC Chapel site at Whitfield. The Parish Council are aware of the granting of the planning application and are working with the developer to find a suitable location for the re-siting of the war memorial plaque and arrangements for the care and maintenance of the burial ground.

No other matters were raised by members of the public.

70. COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Clerk and the Chair provided a brief update following the Extra-Ordinary Meeting of the Finance Committee which took place immediately before this Meeting of the Parish Council. The verbal update was noted.

Councillors supported the decision of the Finance Committee in respect of a compensatory payment for staff in respect of untaken Holiday Pay for the 2020/2021 Annual Leave Year, with consideration to be given for an Annual Leave Policy for the future.

71. OTHER PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

No Other Parish Council Matters were raised.

72. RECREATION GROUND MATTERS

The Council considered proposals to erect a dog exercise area on the Recreation Ground and to approve necessary expenditure.

The Council considered the additional quotation from Landscape Services to include the maintenance of the hedges on the Recreation Ground in the 2021/2022 agreement at a cost of £1,063.80 for 2 x annual cuts.

The Council considered the quotation received from Sovereign to sand, prime and re-paint existing fireman's pole on the Captain Mannering at a cost of £312.06. To disassemble, sand, prime and re-paint existing Youth Shelter (colours TBC) at a cost of £2,468.90 and to re-instate 6 x post foundations for Play Panels at a cost of £669.90. Total cost = £3450.86. Additionally to provide HERAS type fencing and signage for the duration of the works at a further cost of £335.25.

RESOLVED: a) That the Chair will provide some additional detail in respect of the quote for fencing for the proposed Dog Exercise Area. Jackson's Fencing shall be approached to establish how these changes affect the cost quotation. The Parish Council approve expenditure up to the sum of £23,000.00 for the additional quotation specification. The Clerk is to liaise with Jacksons for a revised cost figure. The Dog Exercise Area will only go ahead if the proposed changes to the Public Spaces Protection Order in respect of dogs to be kept on leads is accepted.

b) That the quotation from Landscape Services to maintain the hedges on the Recreation Ground (2 x cuts per year) at a cost of £1063.80 (excluding VAT) be accepted for the 2021/2022 Grounds Maintenance Contract.

The Clerk will approach further Contractors for costs to repair the play equipment as per the Annual Play Area Inspection points which were highlighted. This matter will return to the Parish Council once further quotations / costs have been gathered.

73. DISTRICT/COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Dover District Councillor N. Collor was in attendance and provided the following update report:

- That the DDC Budget calculations have seen an affect from COVID, but has been passed and approved by full Council.
- That there has been some recent joint working with the Community Safety Partnership to address the problem of off-road motorcycles and noise. In the recent period warnings have been issued, along with impounding and the issuing of fines, with the option of deploying 'mobile' CCTV cameras to cover specific problem areas.
- That DDC CCTV Control Rom now has 58 camera feeds along with access to Port of Dover cameras.
- That a recent incident on Jubilee Way was responded to and contingency issues were invoked minimising disruption.
- That an application has been made for litter clearance along the A256 and A2.
- That the use of Manston as a diversion route for HGV traffic is being stood down. However, the option remains to re-instate at short notice, should this be necessary.

At the conclusion of Councillor Collor's report, the Chair thanked him for his on-going communications and for taking part in Parish Council telephone meetings.

Dover District Councillor J. Back was not in attendance and no update report was provided.

Kent County Councillor G. Lymer was not in attendance and no update report was provided.

74. SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS

The Council considered the renewal of the Parish Council Membership of Action with Communities in Rural Kent for 2021/2022 at a cost of £105.00.

The Council considered the renewal of the Clerks Membership to SLCC for 2021/2022 at a cost of £185.00.

- RESOLVED:
- a) That the Parish Council membership of Action with Communities in Rural Kent shall be renewed for 2021/2022 at a cost of £105.00.
 - b) That the Clerks membership to SSLCC shall be renewed for 2021/2022 at a cost of £185.00.

75. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Councillors raised the following matters for information:

- Councillor W. Bowman has been approached by residents raising concern about large tractor trailers and lorries using Archers Court Road at unsocial times. The trailers contain large amounts of earth. Councillors were unaware of where these tractor trailers may be originating from. Some further information will be sought.
- Councillor J. Goodsell advised the Council that he and the Clerk have been working with the new Parish Council website provider and took part in a training session this morning.
- Councillor J. Goodsell advised Councillors that he had recently had a discussion with DDC in respect of the future of the Brownies Hut on Sandwich Road. No specific information was discussed, and further information is awaited.

The meeting closed at 21.25

**COUNCILLOR J. GOODSSELL
CHAIR**