

The Parish of Cliffsend, Isle of Thanet

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Friday 1st April 2005 at 8.00pm in the Village Hall

Present: Parish Cllrs. R Roberts (Chairman of the Parish Council, in the Chair), Mrs B Harrison, Mrs V Hovenden, Mrs M Fiander and Ms P Ward, and 14 Electors including the Rev. Michael Darby; Dist Cllr J Kirby CC was present, and the Clerk to the Parish Council was in attendance.

Apologies: received from Parish Cllrs P Burridge and E Knowles and Mr Paul Tipple of Plane Station.

Cllr Roberts welcomed those present to the Meeting, which followed an informal session from 7.00 pm, whilst the TDC Consultation Bus was parked outside, enabling Electors to visit the exhibition in the bus, find out more about the sect. 106 Planning Agreement for the Airport and register their views, followed by informal discussion with Parish Councillors and inspection of the display of artefacts and posters illustrating the recent archaeological dig at Cliffs End Farm.

Cllr Roberts read a letter of apology for his absence from the Meeting from Mr Tipple, who aimed to attend the Parish Council Meeting on 7th April, at which Councillors and Electors would discuss the section 106 Agreement with the Consultation team. Mr Tipple apologised for the delays in fitting noise insulation, due to Plane Station's cash flow problems, now overcome. Priority had been given to those eligible residents who had no sound insulation whatsoever and whose needs could be met by installing secondary glazing, a task which Mr Tipple believed to have been completed. He apologised for the continuing delay in installing loft insulation, and this was now in hand.

1. Minutes of the 2004 Annual Parish Meeting.

These were taken as read, having been circulated to the Meeting, and it was proposed by Cllr Harrison and seconded by Cllr Fiander and agreed they were a correct record and they were signed accordingly by the Chairman.

2. Matters arising from the above Minutes

In response to a question from the floor, the Chairman explained the system of the Parish Council's Precept which financed its activities.

3. Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported on the work of the Parish Council during the past year, and a copy is attached. It was noted that it would be preferable to site the new Notice Board more prominently in the lay-by on the Canterbury Rd. West. Cllr Harrison thanked the Chairman for his hard work during a very difficult year, and this was unanimously endorsed.

4. Parish Council Financial Report 2003 – 4

The Clerk, in her capacity as the Council's Responsible Financial Officer, presented a summary of costs and income for the work of the Council during the year ending 31st March 2005, as it had not been possible to prepare a formal set of accounts before the year end. A copy of this schedule, comparing the figures for those of the 2003-4 year, is attached to these Minutes. The Clerk explained that the accounts, when completed, would undergo a full two-stage audit.

5 Public Discussion

1. Viking ship Hugin -Cllr Kirby advised that a Lottery grant was being sought to enable the ship to be more effectively displayed on her return to Pegwell Bay. Placing her under cover would be ideal. Supports specially designed to avoid deterioration to her hull were required; it was agreed that raising the hull to make her more visible from the road, with a viewing platform would be ideal. Hugin's return date was not yet fixed.

2. Archaeological finds - concern was expressed that the artefacts from the Cliffs End Farm dig were unlikely to be displayed in the Village; the proposed Archaeological Centre at Minster was a likely location. It was agreed that a showcase containing a few objects, installed in the Village Hall, would be appropriate.

3. Future Projects - the Chairman welcomed guidance from the public as to projects which might be undertaken by the Council, beyond its statutory duties. It was noted that the provision of a Youth Shelter which was made of fire-proof materials was being investigated, as there was support for provision of a shelter, but concern that the new shelter at Garlinge had been vandalised and burned within weeks of its installation.

4. Land at Cliffs End Farm - the Chairman undertook to report further on the acquisition of additional recreation land, after consultation with a Solicitor regarding the terms of the agreement offered.

5. Car Park Improvements - Interest was expressed in improving the Car Park adjacent to the Bay, opposite the Sportsman, and this matter was referred to Cllr Kirby to progress.

6. Clean up Your Village" project - Cllr Harrison advised the meeting that she was organising a "Clean up Your Village" project, with the support of the KCC Scheme, and she urged residents to participate in this.

7. Highways – it was noted that an additional interactive speed sign on the Sandwich Road was desirable, but it was understood that a suitable site might not be available. It was also noted that the new kerb at the junction of Cliffsend Rd. and Foads Lane might not be high enough to prevent large vehicles from riding over it.

8. Pegwell Bay – it was noted that a Beach Clean project was being undertaken by volunteers at 1000 on Sunday 3rd April; also that the steps to the beach from the Green needed cleaning as they were slippery with moss.

9. Open Space – it was noted that the environmental problems with the wild area adjacent to the footpath from Beech Grove to Earlsmead Crescent were being addressed, in consultation with TDC's Parks Manager.

A Vote of Thanks to the Council for their work during the past year was proposed from the floor and unanimously supported.

There being no other business, the Meeting was closed at 9.30 pm.