

# CLIFFSEND PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2005 at the Cliffsend Village Hall at 7.30 pm

### NOTE: Discussion on Thanet Regeneration Strategy

Prior to the Meeting, Ms Carla Wenham, seconded by KCC to TDC to prepare a Regeneration Strategy for the District, met Councillors to discuss their views on the Strategy, to replace that drawn up in the 1990's. She explained the strategy would cover all aspects of life in the District, including social, health, housing and building and economic development issues, to enable a draft regeneration policy to be drawn up as a basis for public consultation. Ms Wenham's aim was that regeneration should be programme-driven, not funding-driven. It was intended to cover the whole of Thanet, including the rural areas.

Councillors identified various concerns, including:

1. That the attractions of the seaside and seafront areas should be enhanced
2. that the positive aspects of Thanet, including its leisure offering should be advertised more widely
3. That the upgrading of the road system leading to the District should be extended across the Island and into the towns.
4. That the rail links should be improved and journey times shortened. It was desirable to keep local stations (eg Dumpton) for access to the service, and to cut car use for travel to stations.
5. That agriculture should be boosted, (perhaps with the production of biomass crops) and that locally-produced food should be available in local shops
6. That use of the Airport should increase (fully supported by the Parish Council) but that night-flights should not be allowed and that the "curfew" on flying between 2300 and 0600 should be strictly observed.
7. That Ms Wenham's suggestion of an East-Kent Park should be supported; this would preserve an existing area of natural beauty, including Pegwell Bay, where problems of breaking up the hard-standing needed to be overcome to restore the original alluvial foreshore. Local access was essential and a visitor centre with adequate parking would be welcomed.

The Chairman thanked Ms Wenham for coming to meet the Council and the Parish Council Meeting commenced at 7.30 pm.

**Present:** Parish Councillors R Roberts (Chairman), P Burrige, Mrs M Fiander, E. Knowles, Mrs B Harrison and Mrs V Hovenden; also Councillor J Kirby CC, Rural Wardens D Covus and Ms L Peskett and 4 residents. Mr Bill Butler, KCC Senior Youth Worker and Ms Alison Allen, KCC Field Worker, attended in connection with item 3 on the Agenda. The Clerk was in attendance.

**Apologies for absence:** PC Kim Burgess, Mrs J Burgess (Village Hall Management Cttee), Ms. P Henderson, who joined the Meeting later.

### 1. **Declarations of Interest**

As recorded in the Register, which was on the table throughout the Meeting.

### 2. **Provision of facilities for Young People in the Parish**

Mr Bill Butler, KCC Youth Officer addressed the meeting, at the Chairman's invitation, explaining the need of teenagers for scope to socialise with their peers several evenings a week, in safe surroundings. Supervision was needed, by volunteers, to whom support and training would be offered by Mr Butler's team.

## **2. Provision of facilities for Young People in the Parish (cont.)**

Although Cliffsend was only a few miles from the Thanet towns, Cliffsend's young people experienced real rural isolation and use of a minibus, with volunteer drivers, trained by KCC, was available to take them to youth centres, cadet groups etc. Mr Butler believed that the bad behaviour of a few young people influenced the impression local residents had of all in the age-group. Incidents of anti-social behaviour were discussed and it was emphasised that incidents should always be reported to the Police, who would deal with this, in conjunction with Social Services as appropriate.

Mr Butler emphasised that funding was available to the community and it was agreed that volunteer drivers would be sought, so that a minibus service could be provided, to make organised activities available to local young people. It was agreed that an open meeting should be organised, probably in the Function Room at the Sportman PH, not directly under the auspices of the Parish Council. However, Parish Councillors, representatives of the Village Hall Committee, the Rural Wardens and other interested persons would attend. Alison offered support with the formation of a Youth Group in the Village.

The Rural Wardens offered assistance with accessing funding for a Youth Shelter. It was agreed that it would require lighting (by mains or solar power) and might best be sited at the northern end of the Recreation Ground. Cllrs Hovenden and Knowles agreed to investigate the availability of matched funding.

## **3. Open Spaces – Amenity Land at Cliffsend Farm**

The Chairman reported on brief discussion with Mr Jeff Elliot, Director of Millwood Designer Homes, at the exhibition of artefacts found on the Cliffsend Farm site. They had agreed to meet again, when Mr Elliot visited the development, to discuss matters related to the lease for the land, offered to the Council. It was agreed that it would be helpful if a representative of TDC could be present.

Phil Harding, the archaeologist from the "Time Team" programme, had given a presentation, and demonstrated flint knapping. It was hoped that the DVD record of the dig could be shown in the Parish.

Notes prepared by the F and GP Committee, kindly assisted by Mrs Helen Knowles in relation to the draft lease were received, and it was agreed that all Councillors should consider these and the lease. It was likely that many clauses would require professional advice and detailed discussion.

## **Adjournment for Public Discussion**

Various concerns of residents were discussed and Ms Peskett outlined her work during her first few weeks as a Warden. She emphasised that incidents should be reported with specific details. She was readily accessible to residents and her role was to supply information to the community as well as gathering it. It was planned that she would in due course offer evening cover as well as being in the Village in the day-time.

## **The Meeting was reconvened**

## **4. Minutes of Meeting of 6<sup>th</sup> January 2005**

It was proposed by Cllr Fiander and seconded by Cllr Burrige that these were a correct record, subject to written amendments, and they were signed accordingly by the Chairman

## **5. Matters arising from the above Minutes**

1. Resignation of Clerk (min. 6.4) – the Clerk reported that the vacancy was advertised in the current KAPC News and on the TDC intranet; two local Clerks were referring details to potential applicants.

Roy Wade  
present  
22/1/05

## **5. Matters arising from the above Minutes (cont.)**

2. Banking arrangements (min. 9.2) – the Clerk reported that the changeover had not yet been effected, due to difficulty in arranging to visit Nat West with two Councillors (due to sickness) and it was agreed to await co-option of a new Councillor.
3. Freedom of Information Act (min. 15)– the Clerk reported that the Scheme had been submitted to the Commissioner and noted that it was in fact the Model Scheme with the Newsletter included on an optional basis, more compactly scheduled.

Other matters were covered under Agenda items.

## **6. Correspondence**

1. KAPC – newsletter no. 306; as the Clerk would attend the Legislation Seminar on 23<sup>rd</sup> February on behalf of Manston PC, she would produce notes on relevant topics for this Council.
2. Ramsgate Charter Trustees – re. siting of new Town sign, which would include a note of twinning with Chimay in Belgium – it was agreed that the sign on the Sandwich Rd. and that on Canterbury Rd. West should be placed on the edge of the Parish, on the Ramsgate Town side.

## **7. Reports of County and District Councillors and of Rural Police Officer and Warden**

Cllr Kirby reported:

- that Arundel and Windsor roads are private roads, not adopted by the District Council; the malfunctioning of the street light in the lay-by adjacent to the former, on the Canterbury Rd. would be reported to TDC.
- that the site meeting proposed to consider improvement to the Car park opposite the “Sportsman” PH had still to be arranged.
- that the matter of poor drainage to the land adjacent to 33 Beech Grove and to the foot path to Earlsmead Crescent, and its need for adequate maintenance had still to be resolved
- that a letter had been sent to GOSE regarding the need to complete the East Kent Access road and also to improve the Haine Rd. north of the Lord of the Manor junction and that there was a consensus that this would be an asset to the area.
- that a bid for funding might be made to increase the attraction to visitors of the Viking ship at Pegwell Bay
- that the temporary buildings to house a Library in Ramsgate would be sited in the Cannon St. car park, where there was space to provide adequate disabled access.
- that no public exhibition was possible at present for the artefacts from the Cliffsend Farm development site.

In the absence of PC Burgess, no Police report was available; Ms Peskett had nothing to add to her previous report of her role.

## **8. Report on process for filling Vacancy for Parish Councillor**

The Clerk reported that advice that an election had not been called was received only on the day of this Meeting, and therefore it had not been possible to include co-option on the Agenda for this Meeting. It would be included in March, and so there would be plenty of time to advertise the vacancy. Already one expression of interest had been received and it was agreed that candidates would be asked to approve passing their names and their brief CVs to Councillors prior to the March meeting.

## 9. Finance

1. Accounts for Payment – it was resolved to approve payment of the following accounts, this having been proposed by Cllr Knowles and seconded by Cllr Fiander:

vchr. 100058 – Clerk’s January salary and expenses	£290.08
100059 - Village Hall rent 12.01 and 03.02.2005	£ 15.25

2. To receive report on purchase of Noticeboards – The Clerk reported that the order had been placed with Greenbarnes for the two Boards, with delivery time of 4 – 6 weeks quoted. The Highway Unit offer to install these free of charge, using their “Additional Maintenance”, team had been accepted.

## 10. Airport-related matters

1. Report of meeting with Leader of TDC and Airport Operations Director - notes of the meeting had been circulated to Councillors by e-mail and the Chairman reported that the inaccurate quote in the local press that there was “unanimous support from Cliffsend PC for night flights” had been wrongly attributed to a District Councillor and had in fact been stated by the Leader of TDC. This Council’s Chairman had advised him of his error and had written to the Editors of the Thanet “Extra” and “Gazette” accordingly. The Clerk reported on TDC’s proposals to consult on the new s. 106 Agreement, with a Road Show using an exhibition bus and meetings with Parish Councils, including Cliffsend, the dates to be advised.

Cllr Hovenden left the Meeting at 9.25 pm.

2. to resolve to form an Airport Affairs Committee - acknowledgement of Clerk’s letter, advising of the proposal to form this Committee, had been received from the Vice Chairman of the Residents’ Association, which had noted the contents of this Council’s letter, without further comment. At the Chairman’s suggestion, it was agreed to defer the formation of this Committee until the next Meeting, after the co-option of a Councillor to fill the outstanding vacancy. Cllr. Fiander emphasised the need to form this Committee at the next Meeting.

At 9.30 pm it was proposed by Cllr Fiander and seconded by Cllr Burrige and agreed to extend the Meeting.

## 11. Highways and Rights of Way

1. Highway Unit – Councillors had been advised of the additional highway maintenance provision in the coming year and had been requested to advise the Clerk in writing of requirements for minor works.

2. Arundel Rd and Windsor Rd – had been reported by Cllr Kirby to be unadopted, with maintenance being the responsibility of the owners of the properties they served. The Chairman undertook to advise them accordingly.

3. Speedwatch – Cllr Fiander report that existing volunteers had received training and more volunteers were needed, which would be indicated in the Newsletter. The Scheme was about to become operational and it was hoped that a monitor would be provided for each Village in due course.

4. KCC – details had been circulated of briefing meeting on SERPlan and new Highway Partnership, on 18<sup>th</sup> February at Hollingbourne. It was noted that the Clerk would attend on behalf of Manston PC, and would provide briefing notes for this Council, which, it was agreed would pay 50% of the Clerk’s travelling expenses for this seminar and the Law Seminar on 23<sup>rd</sup> February (minute 6.1 refers).

5. Rights of Way – the Clerk reported on a meeting with a KCC officer working to revive the Manston Riding routes, but no extension into other Parishes was planned at present.

## 11. Environmental Matters

1. Beech Grove "wild" area – the need to clear the path past this area had been referred to the Street Scene manager. The Parks Manager, who was responsible for general maintenance of the area had been asked to ensure that rats were not allowed to use it as a breeding ground.
2. Flower Tubs – it was agreed that the grass area outside the Village Hall, and the Green were suitable sites, as well as the Car Park opposite the Sportsman and lorry wheel drums would form excellent, vandal-proof containers. The F and GP committee members would liaise with the Garden Club regarding costing.,
3. Street Scene assistant – the Clerk reported on the arrangements under which Eastry PC employs an assistant, who covers a set rota of tasks which are not the responsibility of the District Council, and other jobs authorised by Clerk or Chairman, for which overtime is paid.
4. Green Waste Collection – it was noted that this continued through the Winter.
5. Fumes from Aircraft – it was noted that fumes from aircraft engines and unburned fuel were causing a nuisance in the Village and were thought to be carcinogenic. The Chairman agreed to take up this matter with the Airport management.

## 13. Town and Country Planning

1. Applications – TH/04/1652 – West of 54 Cliffsend Rd. – det. Chalet Bungalow – the response drafted by the Clerk was considered, and it was agreed that whilst a site meeting was not required, the Council objected to this proposal, due to the site being inadequate for the building proposed, and the potential highway danger which would arise from the proposed new access being near to the complex junction of Mount Green Ave., Meverall Ave and Cliffsend Road.
2. Correspondence and results of Applications – it was agreed that the consultation on the new KIA s. 106 agreement should take precedence over the offer by Mr Brown to meet the Council prior to the Meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> March.

## 14. Parish Councillors' and Clerk's Reports

1. Cllr Knowles – had reported to the Police the use of a laser pen by youngsters on the Sandwich Rd. to dazzle drivers. It was also reported that a lighted firework had been thrown by a passenger in a car at a pedestrian in Foads Lane.
2. Cllr Fiander reported on the Local Board Meeting on 31<sup>st</sup> January, where reports of progress on the Turner Gallery Project, the Ramsgate Library rebuilding, the new Marlowe Academy and the Millmead Children's Centre had been given; the results of capital funding applications had also been reported.
3. Cllr Roberts reported more fully on the exhibition of archaeological artefacts, and it was agreed to request a local exhibition and a public showing of the DVD.

## 15. Items for Information and date of next Meeting

It was noted that the next Meeting of the Council would be on 3<sup>rd</sup> March and that the Annual Parish Meeting would be on Friday 1st April, this being the only date when the Village Hall was available.

There being no other business, the Meeting closed at 10.30 pm.

**Signed as a correct record, subject to any hand-written alterations**

..... Chairman (date)