

MINUTES

Full Meeting of the
COLLIER STREET PARISH COUNCIL
 on Monday 12 September 2016
 Orchard Room,
 St Margaret's School, Collier Street
 Commencing at 7.30pm

Attendees: Cllr Grandi (Chair); Cllr Goff (Vice Chair); Cllr Barham; Cllr Hill; Cllr Fisher; The Clerk – Alan Crocker; PCSO Nicola Morris; 1 member of the public.

09.16.1. Apologies	None							
09.16.2. Declarations of Interest	None declared							
09.16.3. Police Report	<p>No crimes were reported since our last meeting in July. Cllr Fisher, our speedwatch co-ordinator reported that there were few replies from his fellow volunteers on conducting a planned speedwatch at Parish level. PCSO Nicola Morris hopes to coordinate police speed checks in the Parish in the very near future.</p> <p>Following the Chairman's proactivity official Lorry Watch signs have been placed in prominent positions within the Parish displaying the fact the area is an official Lorry Watch area. KCC Highways are following up reports of offenders. The Chairman is also sending details of Lorry Watch to Borough Councillor David Burton.</p>	PCSO Nicola Morris						
09.16.4. Minutes of Previous Meeting/s The minutes of our last meeting were signed by the Vice Chair, who conducted the meeting, confirming that they represented a true recording of the said meeting.	09.16.04.01 Full Council Meeting – 11 July 2016							
09.16.5. Questions from members of the Public Public adjournment. To suspend meeting for any public statements for up to 15 minutes in total. Individual items should not be longer than 5 minutes. Members of the public are encouraged to attend Council meetings and raise any pertinent issues at this point.	No questions raised.							
09.16.6. Issues/ Correspondence Requiring Action	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;">None</td> <td style="width: 50%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="height: 20px;"></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="height: 20px;"></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	None						
None								
09.16.7. Flood Committee Report	<p>A formal resolution proposed by Cllr Hill and seconded by Cllr Fisher and unanimously agreed by full the full Council present that the following would be the agreed aims and objectives of the newly formed Parish Flood Group.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin: 10px 0;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>The Joint Parish Flood Group Aims:</u></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> To challenge the EA recommendations with the aim of receiving irrefutable proof from the EA that the flood storage areas on the Beult and the Teise would not protect enough homes in Yalding, Laddingford, Collier Street, Marden, Hunton and Nettlestead. 	<u>The Joint Parish Flood Group Aims:</u>		Lead Councillor David Goff				
<u>The Joint Parish Flood Group Aims:</u>								

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. To be given undisputable evidence from the EA to prove that the rejection of the flood storage areas on the Beult and Teise is not just a cost cutting exercise. 3. To be given undisputable evidence from the EA that guarantees that the implementation of an individual Property Level Protection Scheme would not either: divert attention and funding away from more flood defence options; or actually make it much more difficult to seek flood defence systems for the area in the future. 4. To be given alternative flood defence options to the recently rejected flood storage areas that could work alongside Property Level Protection. 5. Assurances that all finally agreed flood measures are feasible and sustainable, fully funded by DEFRA and the County and District Councils NOT the property owners. 6. To be absolutely confident that the EA is continuing to explore all other options with other agencies, particularly the UMIDB, to try and reduce the levels of water in the catchment and give equity of benefit, at present Hildenborough and Tonbridge are to benefit but not our parishes further downstream. 7. For every stakeholder to receive the same messages from the EA and at the same time. 8. To receive a guarantee that the Leigh +1 project would, when completed, be operated in accordance with the Act. <p>Flood Report for Parish Council September 12th 2016.</p> <p>Presentation to KCC Flood Committee in July on the issues in the Village and possible solutions. Three meetings with Mark Douce and Neil Gunn to express concerns about the decision not to proceed with the Flood Storage Areas.</p> <p>The Chairman and Vice Chair met Helen Grant to express our concerns and views about the current situation. As a result of this meeting a Joint Parish Flood Group has been set up and the first meeting was held at the school on the 26th August. Helen Grant, Steve McLoughlin attended. The parishes of Collier Street, Marden, Yalding, Nettlestead, Yalding, The Medway, Beult and Teise Flood Group attended.</p> <p>The joint group are working together to ensure the catchment gets the best possible solutions to reduce potential flooding in the future. The group were in agreement that Property Level Resilience was not the answer for this catchment and would need to work on other solutions. The groups have gone back to their members to agree our aims and decide if they wish to continue working together. This process should be completed this week ready for our next meeting on the 30th September.</p> <p>It was agreed at the meeting to invite Watringbury and East Farleigh Parish Councils to join. Helen Grant is writing to the EA for more information as to how the decisions have been reached. She will also be writing to KCC and MBC. The meeting agreed that working together was the right thing to be doing and that asking questions as group would help get the best result for the catchment. Attended MBC Policy and Resources meeting when they were discussing 4 potential options for going forward.</p> <p>A joint paper was agreed between Collier Street and Yalding and presented to the meeting. The meeting decided to keep all options open at this stage. They agreed to engage with the Joint Parish Group. This is being arranged. The EA have agreed to the following,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To look at any short term measures or other ideas that should be considered to help reduce the water levels in the advent of flooding. The need to think of any potential issues that may help will then be put into the modelling to see if they will have any benefits and may be able to be implemented. There is still funding available from the initial funds to do this work. A list is being compiled by the Joint Parish Group. <p>Need to revisit the list we submitted in 2014 and add others.</p>	
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	<p>PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS AND MARGINAL GAINS = LESS INCHES OF WATER</p> <p>2. To set up a Technical Group for the catchment.</p> <p>3. They have agreed to ten days of funding for the National Flood Forum to support the Joint Parish Group. The aim of this is to ensure the group focus on what they can achieve by helping themselves and supporting themselves as a community. To also ensure good relationships are set up with the numerous agencies involved in the process of protecting the community.</p> <p>4. Provide accurate figures for the catchment for properties affected by flooding. The numbers seem to vary at present depending who asks the questions. The EA Presentations in October. The Poster Presentations in the Church in October is a major opportunity for the community to attend and voice their opinions on the current proposals. There is a need to encourage as many as possible to attend over the three days. The current newsletter has been circulated in the magazine and a further article will appear in the October edition. The Flood Wardens will be asked to encourage people to attend. Southern Regional Flood and Coastal Committee.</p> <p>The Vice Chairman has following an application and interview has been invited to join the Southern Regional Flood and Coastal Committee for a term of four years. The purpose of the committee is to guide flood and coastal risk management activities within catchments and along the coast and take into account the likely future impacts of climate change, advising on and giving consent to programmes of work for their areas and investment programmes. To advise on and give consent to the EA flood and coastal erosion risk management investment programmes, balancing local priorities and making sure that investment is coordinated at the catchment and shoreline scale.</p> <p>There is still time to have an influence on the EA and other bodies but the clock is ticking and the need to be positive and proactive is important as we are unlikely to get another chance to get the best for the community.</p> <p>MBC are keen to work with the new group.</p> <p>On behalf of the PC and the Parish the Chairman thanked the Vice Chair for the enormous contribution he had made on behalf of the Parish to flood related matters.</p> <p>The Clerk was asked to publish details of the upcoming EA Roadshows being held in the local Church on the Parish website.</p> <p><u>DRAINAGE</u> It was also agreed that once identified, flood wardens would be requested to report any issues with drainage in their catchment areas. KCC will act if drains are reported to be blocked.</p>	<p>AC</p> <p>DG/AC</p>
<p>09.16.8. Recreation Field Report</p>	<p>The Clerk will progress the quotations for the new kissing gate in the Recreation Field. Potential contractors identified.</p>	<p>Lead Councillor David Goff</p>
<p>09.16.09. Community Safety Issues</p>	<p><u>Community Safety and Highways Report for September 2016</u></p> <p><u>Highways</u> The top dressing of the B2162 has been completed and the white lines replaced, in some stretches of road where the width is narrow Highways will not be replacing the central white lines.</p> <p>On August 8th I met with Susan Laporte, Richard Emmett's replacement as KCC Highways District Manager for Maidstone and the surrounding areas, and Claire Chewter, our Highways Steward. We discussed the issues below and Susan's responses are in italics:</p> <p>1. Pot Hole Repair There is much concern over the quality control of pot hole repairs. a) Longend Lane has had numerous repairs over recent years and they don't appear to last.</p>	<p>Report from Lead Councillor Barbara Grandi</p>

	<p>Susan informed me that this lane will be top dressed along the whole length with micro asphalte that has an 8 year 'life'. There is a new engineer, Jamie, who will be in charge of larger patching (up to 500 metres in length).</p> <p>b) The repairs in Longend Lane and Haviker Street have many pot hole/carriageway repairs along the edge that are not staying in. They break away very quickly.</p> <p>We had already discussed Longend Lane but Claire was aware and concerned about the increasing damage being done to Haviker Street by farm traffic. There have been complaints about the mud on the road too. Claire would like residents to submit information with photos, vehicle details, the time and date as Highways cannot do anything without this information when someone complains.</p> <p>c) The repairs are widening the lanes and roads throughout our parish. Could the black and white posts be reinstated to carriageway edges instead?</p> <p>Any black and white posts can be replaced if they have been damaged or removed, the location needs to be reported via the KCC Highways Report a Fault on line page, an enquiry is then raised and money will be attached to the job if it is approved.</p> <p>2. Clarification of Highways responsibility for the verges.</p> <p>a) confirm the width</p> <p>KCC Highways are responsible for the first 90cms of verge from the edge of the road, this is the length of a tractor flail. They appoint contractors to trim this part of the verge but budget cuts mean this is only done once a year now! However if the height reduces visibility and it becomes dangerous a request can be put made for an additional cut, it will take time as the requested location has to be inspected and then allocated to a landscaping team if approved.</p> <p>b) what are highways responsible for KCC Highways do not own the roads but they maintain adopted roads, they are jointly owned by landowners either side up to the road centre.</p> <p>3. Width Restriction in Longend Lane</p> <p>Longend Lane has a 6' 6" width restriction but the signs are not visible enough and it is ignored by lorry drivers. KCC do not own the hedges but will cut hedges if landowners do not respond and then send them a bill.</p> <p>4. Hedges and verges are left to grow much more than they used to be and the visibility is much reduced. BG</p> <p>Residents need to cut all hedges that border the road and they must trim round any road signs that are placed there. Residents must also clip trees that overhang the roads and the verges that border the roads outside their property.</p> <p>It was agreed that an article be placed in the Village News reminding householders of their responsibility. KCC will take action and bill the householder if they are not carrying out their responsibility on maintenance.</p> <p>5. We need road safety signs for Horse Riders I received very unhelpful emails from Fiona Wiles. Now it has been passed to Paul Brand. This was raised by a resident at the June Parish Council meeting. We have been told that there is no record or reported accidents involving horse riders and horses so KCC do not believe signs are warranted.</p> <p>Susan suggested reporting that signs are needed by using the on line fault reporting page. An enquiry has been raised Ref No 12405412. We need specific desired locations to undertake this. We could ask Cllr Stockell to fund. Response from Paul Brand, Traffic Engineer Highways: Request for 'accompanied horses' warning signs on various roads: Kent County Council only looks at</p>	
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	<p><i>making changes to the highway, including minor schemes such as new traffic signs, if there is evidence of an injury crash problem that could be addressed by the measures proposed. In the case of warning signs, we also need to be careful not to overuse these or apply them as a generic warning as this reduces their effectiveness (and leads to criticism of 'sign clutter' in rural areas). We should only be placing them if they are warning of a hazard that other road users might not otherwise expect – in a rural area such as Collier Street, drivers should expect to meet ridden horses, cyclists and walkers in the road. We may, for example, place them just in advance of the end of a major bridleway where forward visibility is restricted and other road users may not have seen horses until that point.</i></p> <p>7. Constantly confusing notices about roadworks, then others appear without notice!</p> <p>KCC Highways are aware of this and have taken steps to improve communication.</p> <p>9. Traffic Speed</p> <p>Not KCC Highways, it is police enforcement.</p> <p>10. HGVs 11.</p> <p>a) lorry watch Not KCC Highways, it is police enforcement.</p> <p>b) Signs are still not the correct places for the 7.5 tonne weight limit zone e.g They are at the Claygate Road end of Pikefish lane and should be at the Darman Lane/Fowle Hall end. Not enough signs are in place on the outskirts of the zone. To be progressed with Andy Corcoran, it is believed the works have been ordered. The Chair of Yalding PC and Cllr Stockell have also been progressing missing signs.</p> <p><u>Trees Damaged by a Lorry</u> On July 26th a lorry damaged many trees along Forge Lane, Jarmons Lane and Spenny Lane, also along the main B2162. Several broken branches were left hanging over the lanes and lots of leaf and branch debris was left on the road and verges. The company involved is Austen Lewis Staging and they have been evident on our lanes over the last few weeks, it appears that they are using the CMS lorry yard in Claygate Road as a regional depot. Unfortunately this means they are permitted to access this Parish in spite of the 7.5 tonne weight limit zone. I contacted the company office in Swindon and they were aware of the incident which they said involved an agency driver, they had sent out staff to investigate and to clear up. They were very apologetic and rang back a couple of times to assure me it would not happen again.</p> <p><u>Road Safety Measures at the School</u> School representatives are hoping for another meeting at the beginning of the Autumn Term to progress this.</p> <p><u>Faults Reported to KCC/MBC this month</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fly tipped garden waste up Jarmons Lane. • Burnt out caravan in Longends Lane <p><u>Lorry Watch:</u> Maureen Arthur has been working with volunteers from our Parish and Yalding to operate some Lorry Watch sessions with varying success, frustratingly for Maureen the enthusiasm of helpers has now waned. On August 22nd I met with Sam Yates from KCC Highways who is the new Lorry Watch Coordinator. He has placed temporary Lorry Watch signs around the Parish and has given me forms for volunteers to complete as well as 'high-vis waistcoats'. Any resident can submit details of lorries that should not be in the zone and I will have this information placed in the October issue of the Parish Magazine. Residents should email details about each offending lorry, including the time and date and a photo', to Tim Middleton on email: freight@kent.gov.uk</p>	
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	<p>Neighbourhood Watch (information circulated):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cars seen skidding in the car park reported by a resident on July 19th: Land Rover Discovery reg LB06RZT and white Ford Fiesta hatchback, GF12KSO <p>Additional information received from Claire Chewter on September 12th 2016:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Longend Lane 6'6" Signs – Collier Street end – Right hand side is visible with no issues however the left hand side is partially covered in private vegetation. I have today (12/9/16) raised a job (41023403) reset the post with the sign attached further out towards the c/way so that this is more visible but still 450mm back from the c/way. If they are not able to do this then this needs a cut back to make the sign more visible and clean the existing sign faces. Longend Lane 6'6" Signs – Green Lane end – On left hand side the sign needs re-setting. On the right hand side the sign is missing altogether. I have included this in the above job (41023403) to reset the existing and renew the missing sign and post and clean the existing sign face. Haviker Street – Mud and potholes on c/way. The mud has been assessed and is not deemed safety critical although I will re-assess again this week and if deemed dangerous I will raise a job to action this. The potholes have been made safe with temporary tarmac. Myself and Jamie (my Engineer) will inspect the c/way on Wednesday this week for more permanent works which will be carried out under a road closure most likely with our standard crew rather than our Find & Fix contractors due to our budgets. In addition to this you wondered who the member of the public was who reported the issue with the mud continuously. We supplied you with the details. <p>Cllr Fisher expressed concern over the lack of safe footpaths in the Parish. Consideration will be given to the possible creation of a team to identify the priority areas, it would be a major project and would involve careful planning and co-operation from various farmers. An adjoining Parish uses the Community Pay Back Scheme to assist with these types of schemes. It was suggested that Cllr Hill and Cllr Fisher head up the project with the objective of benefiting the local community and improving safety. Initially Cllr Goff will provide a map of the Parish.</p>	SF/SH
09.16.10. PLANNING		Lead by Councillor Barbara Grandi
<p>09.16.10.01 16/504094 4 Moors Cottages, Spenny Lane, Marden. Erection of a two storey side extension to provide garage and erection of single storey front extension to garage and creation of front porch.</p>	<p>We have looked at this planning application and can raise no real objection as this is a tiny house with a spare piece of land alongside which will give them more rooms, even if they will be very small rooms. However there is no flood risk assessment, just a letter stating that the property is in flood zone 2 and does not flood. There should be a risk flood risk assessment and an environmental survey done, the land adjacent to this plot has been left to go wild for some time so there might be species there that need surveying</p>	
<p>09.16.10.02 16/506746/SUB Little Brook Farm, Green Lane Application to remove condition 5.</p>	<p>The information provided does not satisfy concerns expressed over the plans to deal appropriately with surface water on the site. There is hard standing around the stables and deep foundations to the manege. We want to know how all the surface water will be managed (e.g. how will rain and/or water be collected and dispersed without causing flooding on site or for the neighbours.</p>	

09.16.11.01 The Full Council approved the following spends:-	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>DATE</th> <th>CHEQUE NO</th> <th>PAYEE</th> <th>AMOUNT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>12.09.2016</td> <td>ET000094</td> <td>The Clerk</td> <td>£483.13</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12.09.2016</td> <td>ET000095</td> <td>HMRC</td> <td>£104.20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12.09.2016</td> <td>ET000093</td> <td>Play Safety (ROSPA)</td> <td>£ 84.00</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	DATE	CHEQUE NO	PAYEE	AMOUNT	12.09.2016	ET000094	The Clerk	£483.13	12.09.2016	ET000095	HMRC	£104.20	12.09.2016	ET000093	Play Safety (ROSPA)	£ 84.00	
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09.16.11.03. Monthly Reconciliation Report of Accounts 2015-16 and for budget monitoring/control.	<i>Cllr Barham amended a figure that had been erroneously transposed. This alteration did not influence the balance or recording of the Parish accounts to date. The full meeting approved the accounts and the reconciliation.</i>	The Clerk and Lead Councillor Steve Barham																
09.16.11.03 APPROVAL FOR ADDITIONAL SPENDS	None identified <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Association</th> <th>Amount</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Association	Amount															
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09.16.12 Items carried forward	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Update on Broadband.</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Cllr Barham is revisiting some of the areas to ensure that promised progress is on course for delivery.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Update on Broadband.	Cllr Barham is revisiting some of the areas to ensure that promised progress is on course for delivery.	Lead Cllr Steve Barham														
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09.16.13 Borough Councillors Report	No Borough Councillor in attendance.																	
09.16.14 Village Hall	No current issues to report to the meeting.	Lead Councillors David Goff Steve Barham																
09.16.15 Matters for Discussion next Meeting																		
09.16.16 Date of Next Meeting	10 October 2016																	

Agenda prepared by:-

ALAN CROCKER

Clerk to Collier Street Parish Council