

**RIVERHEAD PARISH COUNCIL**  
**February Minutes 2018**

	<p>Minutes of a meeting of the Riverhead Parish Council held in Riverhead Village Hall at 19.30 hours on Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> February 2018.</p> <p><b>1. PRESENT:</b> Mrs Collins (Chairman), Mr Himsworth (Vice Chairman), Mrs Kennett (Vice Chairman), Mr Colnet, Mr Denton, Mr Wood, Mr Swanton and Mrs Stewart Also present: Mrs Hooper, Mr Allen, Ms Assinder, Mr Fearn, Mr Harrison, Mr Broom, Mr Slight, Mrs Miles and Mrs Penollar (Clerk)</p> <p><b>2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:</b> None</p> <p><b>3. MINUTES:</b> The minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> January 2018 had been circulated and were approved and signed by the Chairman.</p> <p><b>4. REPORTS BY DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS:</b> None</p>
	<p><b>5. OPEN COUNCIL:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ms Assinder spoke on behalf of herself, Mr Fearn and Mr Allen and wished to remind the Parish Council of several serious accidents on Amherst Hill in 2016. They were keen to see some form of protection, preferably 2 or more bollards put in place to protect pedestrians, children at the nursery, cars and listed buildings. It was confirmed the Highways committee were looking into the problem. They would also like parking outside Bright Horizons reduced to 20 minutes. Cllr Himsworth mentioned that a speed watch group was being set up and the residents confirmed they would be interested in volunteering for this.</li><li>• Mr Harrison read out a statement on behalf of himself, Mr Broom and Mr Slight. In respect of proposals to clear an area of the Parkland alongside the stream, the concerns were safety issues due to the stream being silted up and damage to habitat for nesting and breeding birds. In conclusion, they asked the Parish Council to readdress it's priorities in the development of this area and improve the quality of the stream and safety of the area before making it more readily available. The statement is attached as an appendix.</li><li>• The residents from Montreal Road and Amherst Hill departed the meeting.</li><li>• Mrs Miles commented that in the past the stream had been accessible and it is a pity that it is now completely cut off.</li></ul>
	<p><b>6. ACTION POINTS STILL OUTSTANDING</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>It was moved to co-opt Mrs Lucy Hooper to the office of member of Riverhead Parish Council.</b></li><li>• Mrs Hooper was asked to sign the Declaration of Office and invited to join the meeting.</li><li>• Now the current internal auditor has closed his business, a quote to provide internal audit services has been obtained from an accountant who performs the internal auditor role for 2 other parish councils in Sevenoaks District and a 3<sup>rd</sup> parish council outside the district. Cllr Collins read out an email from Mrs Chamberlain which summarised her qualification, background and current work. Her intention would be to visit the office during open hours at least once and then again to carry out the audit on a date to be agreed in May after the accounts had been prepared. Her charge would be £150.00.</li></ul> <p><b>It was moved to appoint Julia Chamberlain, AAT as internal auditor for Riverhead Parish Council.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cllr Wood summarised the progress made for the Highways Improvement list to identify</li></ul>

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AW MD IC	<p>infrastructure issues likely to be caused by the Sevenoaks Town Council Neighbourhood plan and other proposed developments and he will email the list to the clerk.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Denton will liaise with Mrs Mercer who has offered to pursue TPOs in Riverhead.</li> <li>• Cllr &amp; Mr Collins will be attending the Lord-Lieutenant of Kent’s Civic Service at Canterbury Cathedral on 20<sup>th</sup> March.</li> </ul> <p><b>7. MATTERS FOR REPORT</b></p> <p><b><u>a. Highways</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The minutes of the recent Highways committee meeting were distributed and issues discussed are included later in this meeting.</li> <li>• <b>Streetlights</b></li> <li>• Following a really informative and positive meeting with the Head of Kent Highways Street lighting, the manager responsible for Riverhead street lighting and Cllr Chard, KCC they agreed all 3 zebra crossings in Riverhead are very tired. Kent Highways have offered to use all 3 zebra crossings to trial a new type of beacon with flashing LED lights within the globe and refresh all the beacon posts. This trial is likely to start shortly after April and will last 12 months. Unless extreme problems arise, Riverhead will be allowed to keep these new types of globes. As part of the trial the Parish Council and residents are to be encouraged to let KCC know what they think of them. The Parish Council will not be asked to contribute to the cost.</li> <li>• As explained previously, UK Power Network is no longer supplying energy to new fittings in central reservations. Kent Highways will be removing the damaged double armed streetlight and replacing it with 2 other single streetlights on either side of the dual carriageway one outside Londis and the other near the corner with Maidstone Road.</li> <li>• Kent Highways confirmed the same problem will arise if the remaining streetlight in the central reservation by the crossing fails safety tests or is damaged in an accident. If and when this happens, there will be another opportunity to review combining streetlights and the beacon lights to reduce street furniture. It was confirmed though that there would always need to be a beacon light in the central reservation and KCC would have to put in a private energy supply if UK Power Network would not supply it.</li> <li>• A summary of the meeting is being prepared and will be distributed detailing other issues also raised.</li> <li>• Streetlights, the Parish Council’s contractor for streetlights, has been reminded that the KCC lamp posts need repainting.</li> <li>• <b>Footpaths and pavements</b></li> <li>• The burger van owner near the Dunton Green entry point to Riverhead has tidied up all the area around his van, which has made a big improvement. Cllr Wood has thanked him</li> <li>• The developer of some Hamlin Road properties, whose boundaries reach London Road, has also improved the outlook visible from the road.</li> <li>• A local resident has also done an excellent job clearing many pavements in the centre of the village of weeds and rubbish.</li> <li>• The Great British Spring Clean Riverhead working party on 3 March 10-12 has been widely advertised and the local scout group have offered to join in. All councillors were reminded to make an effort to attend and bring their own fluorescent jackets and tools. Cllr Stewart will record the names of volunteers, show them the risk assessment and ask them not to work in the road or central reservation.</li> <li>• <b>Street furniture &amp; garden</b></li> </ul>
All SS	

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AC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Colnet will try to repair the stone trough outside Batchelors once it has properly dried out. Cllr Kennett was thanked for removing all the plants in preparation for the repair.</li> </ul>
AC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On Tuesday, Cllr Colnet is replacing the faulty lantern at The Heights with an electrician in attendance.</li> </ul>
SS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Highways committee are still investigating the cost of installing bollards as they need a suitably qualified person given the work is within 1 metre of a highway. Cllr Stewart will ask the KCC Highways officer where a list of approved contractors can be found. One resident on Amherst Hill has recently emailed Nick Chard, KCC concerning the provision of bollards. It was agreed to ask Cllr Chard to arrange for the KCC Project Manager to visit Riverhead for this site and other issues and meet with the Highways committee.</li> </ul>
Clerk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was agreed that a 14 year old local resident can carry out watering of the village planters on a voluntary basis for his DofE silver award. Cllr Kennett confirmed that this has been done before and offered to sign off his work.</li> </ul>
CK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Wood agreed to look at the noticeboard on Brittain's Lane, which is deteriorating, to see if it can be repaired.</li> </ul>
AW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Kennett will redecorate the phone box to advertise the Great British Spring Clean working party.</li> </ul>
CK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Traffic and local parking</b></li> <li>• Cllr Wood gave an update on the progress of Sevenoaks Town draft neighbourhood plan following his attendance of two recent town councils meetings. He recommended that Riverhead Parish Council continue to monitor although attending these meetings is not essential. Sevenoaks Town Council have now created a new document and this will be left in the office for other councillors to review.</li> </ul>
AW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The 2 x SLOW writing on Amherst Hill have been refreshed and the Children warning sign has been moved to make it more visible. Clerk was asked to report this to the Amherst Road residents and Bright Horizons.</li> </ul>
Clerk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Miller &amp; Carter have been very positive in supporting locals with parking issues. It has offered to provide 8 free permits for local businesses to use during office hours and extend the 50p per hour parking for up to 3 hours instead of 2 hours. Cllr Wood has prepared a draft flyer to notify the businesses.</li> <li>• There are now 4 volunteers as well as Cllrs Stewart, Kennett and Collins to carry out Speed Watch and therefore the group can start as soon as the equipment arrives. The clerk has followed it up with the supplier.</li> <li>• The SDC parking consultation closed last Friday. Cllr Collins submitted a response which included complaints and information the Parish Council has received from residents living on some roads which were included in the initial parking survey. The clerk has been advising all residents to complete the consultation or write directly to SDC. Cllr Denton reported that a Cranmer Road resident had been assaulted by someone blocking his drive and other drivers had been rude. The assault has been reported to the police.</li> <li>• <b>Local business and services</b></li> <li>• Cllr Chard confirmed that KCC were likely to continue to subsidise the 401 bus route and that no further letters objecting to the removal of the subsidy were required.</li> <li>• Kent Police are offering the facility for Parishes, individually or as a group, to give a long term commitment to have a dedicated full time PCSO. The cost would be £32,193 per year and be paid by the council or councils. Clerk will ask neighbouring parish councils if they are</li> </ul>
Clerk	

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	<p>investigating this further.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Wood reported that there has been 2 serious car accidents along London Road recently and that the railings outside Tesco had been damaged along London Road.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>b. Village Hall</u></b></p> <p>The following checks were carried out weekly and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hall emergency lighting was checked and found to be in working order.</li> <li>• The warning beeper on the fire alarm system was tested and found to sound.</li> <li>• The alarm in the disabled toilet was functioning.</li> <li>• First aid box was checked.</li> <li>• The fire exit is clear.</li> <li>• The defibrillator battery was “OK” and heated box is in working order.</li> <li>• A visual inspection of all fire extinguishers has also been carried out this month.</li> <li>• Cllr Colnet has repaired the lock to the caretaker’s cupboard and the self-closer on the kitchen door. He has also met with an electrician to obtain a quote to replace the main hall lights with LED fittings.</li> <li>• A spring clean of the Village Hall has been booked for 5<sup>th</sup> May just before the Annual Parish Meeting. The cost will be £12 per hour for about 6 man hours.</li> <li>• A local firm is using the committee room on an ad hoc basis for interview purposes until it’s own offices are ready. All councillors are reminded to let the clerk know if they wish to reserve it for meetings or to review files.</li> </ul>
All	<p><b><u>c. Parkland</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Himsworth was thanked for arranging the emergency tree surgery work after the recent storm for both the Parish Council and the Angling Society whose tree had fallen across the footpath. The cost of clearing the alder tree that had fallen onto a Montreal Road garden was £276.56+VAT</li> <li>• The Parkland working party was well attended and cleared a pontoon being built across the stream. Wood chippings were laid to the muddiest parts of the paths by the oak tree plantation and near the lions sculpture. Part of one path has been closed to try and give it time to recover. Brushwood from the Angling Society’s fallen tree that had been left in the Parkland was moved over to the Angling Clubs land. An abandoned and damaged bicycle, previously reported to the police, was removed and given to a charity.</li> <li>• The Parkland bridge repair has started, but the metal infills are still being made. Advice is being sort from Tyrells on options to replace an upright post that was found to be rotten once cleaned. AP Landscapes will provide a quote to replace the post, which is not expected to be easy given it is fixed in concrete. Cllr Denton confirmed that any replacement would be made of hardwood.</li> </ul>
CH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As the paths have been the muddiest in years, the Parkland Committee will look for options to rest them. Vehicle access for the Parkland bridge repair is not helping and Cllr Kennett reported that in recent years there has been a significant increase in dog walkers using the parkland.</li> </ul>
CH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was agreed that the Parkland Committee would consider concerns raised by residents about the proposed landscaping project along the stream at their next meeting. As the treatment of the brambles depends on which contractor chosen, it was agreed that if the decision to cut back some brambles now before birds start nesting and the brambles start growing was taken, then unspent funds within the Parkland budget could be used to carry out any immediate work. The Parkland Committee will bear in mind that it may be making a decision before the full landscaping project has been approved.</li> </ul>

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IC	<p><b><u>d. Allotments &amp; Open Spaces</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Three further vacancies have been filled after posting information to other local Sevenoaks community websites. There are now no vacancies on Broadmead and two vacancies on Macartney.</li><li>• An ex-plot holder, who is a plumber, has offered to continue to look after the taps at Broadmead. This year he has re-insulated the exposed pipes.</li><li>• The Macartney plot holder who gave his plot up 3 months after rent was due has agreed to pay for the rent due and it should be received shortly. There is still one further unpaid rent outstanding since October on Macartney allotment and Cllr Collins will continue to pursue it.</li><li>• Mr Stewart has confirmed the fencing to dog-proof Broadmead is on order and he will complete the job as soon as it arrives.</li><li>• Mr Stewart has asked if he can take on another plot to plant small fruit trees for his personal use. Cllr Collins recommended that he should be given the vacant corner plot nearest his existing plots and it was agreed that he would not be charged rent for this year given the state of the plot.</li><li>• It was clarified that the Parish Council can carry out work, albeit voluntary or at minimal cost, in Alison's Garden and the public area of the car park. The Council has a discretionary power to maintain such open spaces for public recreation and has land owner's permission. The area belonging to Mitchell &amp; Butler where the pond and dovecot are cannot be worked on as it is not an open space for public recreation. Both Alison's Garden (albeit originally a public toilet maintained by another council) and the carpark have been open spaces for many years. Therefore it is more appropriate that these areas fall into the Allotment &amp; Open Spaces Committee.</li><li>• The option exists for the Parish Council to approach Mitchell &amp; Butler to ask if they will open up the area behind the car park for their customers and the general public. The Parish Council could then choose to ask for permission to become involved in tidying it up. Cllr Wood has been told that M&amp;B do recognise that it has become a rubbish tip and, in having used 3 skip loads to clear it, has spent more than they thought and do not intend to spend any more money in this area. Cllr Wood believes voluntary working parties could be used to clear the garden, pond and swathe of green land including the dovecote if M&amp;B do agree to make the land open to the public. He explained that he felt a long term over-arching agreement to refurbish the land, duck pond and clear the dovecote for the pub, residents and local businesses should be sought before any plans for working parties can be assessed. After a general discussion, Cllr Collins asked Councillors to think about such a project, the commitment it would involve and whether they can commit their time and the Parish Council to this long term project for discussion next month.</li><li>• Cllr Wood confirmed that M&amp;B were still advertising the old bank site and that he had been told there were interested parties.</li></ul>
All	<p><b><u>e. Finance</u></b></p> <p>i) Payments &amp; receipts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A list of payments totaling £6,554.47 was distributed for review. Payments to suppliers over £500 include Streetlights £648.60 for the quarterly street lighting maintenance contract and AD Landscapes £3,355.20 for the carpentry work to the Parkland Bridge repair. Payments were approved.</li><li>• Receipts amounting to £11,616.01 were received, including the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter VAT refund.</li></ul> <p>ii) Other issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• SDC have confirmed receipt of the notification of precept and Band D charge for Riverhead and reported that the increase from last year will be rounded to 1.98%.</li></ul>

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	<p><b><u>8. PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Everyone has the list of planning applications reviewed in the month:-  SE/17/04001/FUL and 04002/LBCALT - Riverhead Harvester, Amherst Hill, Tn13 2EN  Retention of Bull Statue  SE/17/04039/HOUSE - Westbourne, Montreal Road, TN13 2EP  Erection of a single storey rear orangery, rear dormer with loft conversion and juliet balcony.  Replacement of flat roof to a hipped roof on the front of the garage. Alterations to fenestration.  Rooflights to the front and sides.  SE/18//00030/ADV &amp; SE/18/00031/LBCALT - Riverhead Harvester Amherst Hill TN13 2EN  Installation of new external signage  SE/17/04052/FUL - Land to rear of 2 Uplands Close, TN13 3BP  Construction of detached four bedroom dwelling incorporating integral garage, new access and off street parking.  SE/18/00258/HOUSE - 33 Lyndhurst Drive TN13 2HG  New front porch and single storey extension. Rear single and double storey extension. New windows and Juliette balcony to rear. Removal of chimney.  SE/18/00078/HOUSE - 18 Madison Way, TN13 3EF Adjoining Parish Consultation  Demolition of existing detached garage and construction of new detached garage following subsidence damage.  SE/18/00275/HOUSE - The Robyns, Montreal Road, TN13 2EP  Dormer window to West elevation and alteration to the South elevation oat first floor</li> <li>• Additional illuminated advertising signage for the Timpson’s pod has been referred to the SDC Development Committee for full review by District Councillors, however the planning committee will not send an attendee as the Parish Councils view has already been expressed in writing.</li> <li>• Planning permission was granted for Tesco Timpsons pod, anti ramraid bollards and 5 signs, 2, Barnfield Road, 47 Longmeadow, 17 Uplands Way, 14 Homefield Road, Retention of bull statue at Miller &amp; Carter</li> <li>• Tree work in the conservation area has been permitted at Pashley Down, Montreal Road.</li> </ul>
<p>All</p> <p>All</p>	<p><b><u>9. CORRESPONDENCE</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are only 2 emails of general correspondence, the Kent Police Commissioners newsletter and the Sevenoaks District Community Safety Partnership Newsletter and Councillors were asked to advise Clerk if they wish them to be forwarded.</li> <li>• Sevenoaks KALC’s next meeting is 7.30pm Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March. The speaker will outline steps that need to be taken in readiness for the General Data Protection Regulations that come into force on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018. The Clerk is strongly recommending that as many councillors attend as possible given that these regulations are the first major overhaul of how bodies hold data on individuals in 20 years. All councillors need to understand the new regulation and play their part in adhering to it.</li> <li>• Ibstock Cory Environment Trust has rebranded as Ibstock Inovert Trust. The funding program will remain unaffected and continues to support community &amp; environmental improvement projects thorough the Landfill Communities Fund.</li> <li>• Sevenoaks Volunteer Transport Group have requested continuing financial support. They have received £100 section 137 donation for many years from the council.</li> <li>• From 1 April, South East Water is transferring it’s retail business to Water Choice</li> </ul>

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MD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Following the coverage of proposals to resurrect the campaign for new M25 slip roads, Cllr Denton will draft a letter to the Sevenoaks Chronicle, following the coverage of proposals to resurrect the campaign for new M25 slip roads, to highlight the arguments against these proposals.</li> <li>There is a high level strategic consultation being carried out on the Major Road Network by the Department for Transport. Cllr Denton has reviewed and identified that the map of the proposed new ‘Major Road Network’ includes the A25 from A21 junction to A22 Godstone via Westerham. Riverhead Parish Council will need to monitor and maybe respond to consultations as a lower level. Cllr Hooper offered to review the current consultation too.</li> </ul>
LH	<p><b><u>10. CLERK’S OFFICE</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Broadband has finally been transferred to BT after a week of no internet access as due to problems in a direct transfer. BT have offered 2 months of credit for the inconvenience caused.</li> </ul>
All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mr Collins has started a 2018 scrap book, but Councillors were reminded to find a volunteer to continue it.</li> <li>The Clerk has attended both a talk at the Town &amp; Parish Clerks forum and completed webinar training on the General Data Protection Regulation coming into force on 25<sup>th</sup> May. A summary of what she has learned to date and of the work that needs doing was distributed</li> </ul>
All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>During the next month, all councillors were asked to visit the ICO website and familiarise themselves with what needs doing and then review the Clerk’s handout.</li> </ul>
All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any further implications identified should be added to the clerk’s hand out and all Councillors were asked to actually sign off and return at the March meeting to confirm they have done a review.</li> </ul>
Clerk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Data Protection Officer (DPO) must be registered before 25<sup>th</sup> May and there is still mixed feedback from bodies that give advice to local councils as to whether the clerk can be the DPO. It was agreed to appoint an independent DPO given that the Clerk is the main paid employee and the main Data Manager data, A summary of three quotes obtained was distributed and discussed. It was agreed to appoint Satswana who are already being used by KALC &amp; SDC for the next year for a fee of £150.00 and to also spend £30 buying the pack of proforma schedules from Local Council Public Advisory Service.</li> </ul>
IC, CH, MD, AW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All Committee Chairman were asked to review the files in the office for their committees and identify what can be kept. Cllr Collins and the Clerk can give advice if needed and will review any documents before destroying them. The review of the files must take place in the office or committee room, availability of which needs checking with clerk.</li> <li>Councillors will also be asked to confirm on a regular basis that they are not aware of any breaches in the new law General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) that comes into effect on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018.</li> <li>In respect of the playground proposal, Chevening Parish Council are seeking advice from SDC legal team as there is a covenant in the Chipstead Common deeds on the land where the playground is proposed. It prevents artificial structures being permitted where the views of Barnfield Road residents are interrupted or diminished. Subject to the answer, Chevening will then include a voting slip with their Annual Letter to their residents asking what they thought of the proposal. It also agreed to distribute this to Riverhead residents on Barnfield Road, Bullfinch and Chipstead Lanes. Once the situation about the covenant is known, the Chevening Parish Clerk will also write to Amherst &amp; Riverhead Infants’ Schools and to Monique’s Nursery. Chevening has been told that covenants are not taken into consideration for planning</li> </ul>

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Clerk	<p>applications. The actual proposal may include adult gym equipment. Given the fact there are some unanswered questions, it was agreed to discuss the proposal at another meeting and to include how to obtain all Riverhead residents’ opinions. It was also agreed to ask Chevening PC discuss the playground proposal with the PCSO as well the schools and especially because of residents’ concerns over increased anti-social behaviour and parking.</p>
All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllrs Kennett and Collins met with 3 members of St Mary’s Church to explore possibilities of supporting vulnerable people in Riverhead with the aim to get the community more aware.</li> <li>• The award cups donated to Riverhead Parish many years ago when the Riverhead’s local gardening society closed have been returned to the Council by a past councillor. All councillors were asked for suggestions for their future use.</li> <li>• Cllr Collins attended the Sevenoaks Town Council Mayor’s quiz night fundraising event - a successful fundraiser which was also useful for networking and meeting neighbouring councillors. She also attended the launch of the Digital Sunset challenge run by Cllr Anna Firth, this was attended by the Leader and Deputy Leader of Sevenoaks Town Council, Sir Michael Fallon and Communities Minister Sajid Javid.</li> </ul>
All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All councillors were asked to advise the clerk of any holiday dates and volunteers are needed to check telephone messages and emails during the clerk’s holiday in April.</li> </ul>

The meeting closed at 9.35pm

**PROVIDED BY MR HARRISON AT THE MEETING**

At the outset we want to place it on record that the following points are made in the light of our real appreciation of all you do for the village and all the effort you put in on our behalf.

We understand however that the Parish Council intend to clear an area along their side of the stream up to the tree dedicated to Mary Russell creating what was described as “ a lawn effect down to the water.”

It is commendable that the Council intend to do this before the start of the breeding season but it would be very much better if the habitat the birds need for their nesting and their continued existence were not removed at all. At present we still have some ducks and a few moorhens and it would be a tragedy to lose them altogether in an area which the Council has until now made every effort to conserve.

We have been told that the birds do not nest in the area to be cleared If that is true why the concern about doing it before the nesting season? The birds also need reasonable ground cover for their continued survival and we should be interested to know on whose opinion your assessment is based.

Of even more importance however is the safety issue raised by this proposal.

We were told this action was being taken to give access to the stream. When asked for whom and for what purpose this access was being created we were told it would increase the area available for children to play.

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Given the current state of the stream in this area, we would have thought this would have been of great concern to the Council.

The stream is silted up completely in some parts and up to 2-3 inches from the surface in many others so that children have recently been building pontoons on the mud using fallen logs and large sheets of bark. We know they have been crossing on these as they have broken down part of the fence on our side of the stream and been in our garden. The most recent pontoon was dismantled by the working party last Wednesday. So far no great damage has been done and we have repaired our fence but until the stream is made safe, it is foolhardy to improve the access to it. If a child falls in to the stream from one of these pontoons or from the bank, their friends would have great difficulty getting them out.

We request the Council to readdress their priorities in the development and maintenance of this area and improve the quality of the stream and safety of the area before making access to it more readily available and ask that you give our request serious consideration when you come to address Agenda item 7c later in your meeting

We are not serial complainers. We have been fully supportive of the Council's work over the years and greatly appreciate the efforts of the Council and individual councillors in improving the village in general and the parkland in particular and we have made a point of saying so at the Council's annual meetings but we do believe we should not let this issue go without raising these concerns with you. We have scripted this so that it can be accurately minuted and our concerns put on record.

**Invoices for approval 19th February 2018**

		£
<b>Cheque payments</b>		
Shield Total Insurance	From Riverhead Allotment Associations funds	130.98
Streetlights	4th quarter 2017/18 maintenance	648.60
Down to Earth	emergency tree work on Parkland	331.87
Viking	Caretaking supplies + coffee filters	80.94
Caroline Penollar	Accident record book GDPR compliant	3.72
<b>Credit card</b>		
Coolings	Thank you present to Mrs Barratt	38.98
Post Office Ltd	100 x 1st & 2nd class stamps	121.00
JH Lorimer	Scrap book & other stationery	4.98
Amazon	Chines dragon for phone box	10.99
	Less: minimum payment by dd	-5.00
		<b>170.95</b>
AD Landscapes Ltd	Carpenter bridge repairs	<b>3,355.20</b>
<b>Paid direct from bank account</b>		
Michele Mason	Caretaker wages	271.50
Caroline Penollar	Salary	1,021.64
Link Fund Solution Ltd	Clerk's pension contribution	58.45
Link Fund Solution Ltd	RPC pension contribution	35.07

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HSBC	minimum credit card payment	5.00
British Gas	Electricity The Heights	24.71
TalkTalk	Broadband	-3.97
BT	Broadband & Telephone	173.09
E.on	Streetlights electricity	246.72
	<b>Total payments</b>	<b>£6,554.47</b>
<b>Income received</b>		
Hall hire & committee room		2,904.50
Allotment rent		87.00
HMRC	VAT refund	8,624.51
		<b>11,616.01</b>