



Minutes of the meeting of the Ramsey & Parkeston Parish Council held in Hamilton House,
Station Road, Parkeston on Thursday 18th September 2014 at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Cllrs Elmer (Chair), L Donn, M Donn, Ferguson, Singh, Smith, Stertz

Also Present: Lin Keating (Clerk)
ECC Cllr Andy Erskine,
Nigel Brown, Tendring District Council Communications & Public Relations
Manager
6 residents

1. **To accept apologies for absence:** Cllrs Colbourne, Howe, Passmore, Ramsay
2. **To receive a report from Essex Police: information only:**
PC Trevor Abrahams had been asked to attend; in his absence the monthly report for 2014 was discussed; 64 incidents had been reported against 57 and 15 crimes recorded against 13 for the same period of the previous year:
 - 7 x Assault (2 in Clayton Road; 5 in Parkeston)
 - Garage Burglary, Church Hill, Ramsey
 - Theft of Pedal Cycle, Una Road
 - 3 x Criminal Damage (Gate in Clayton Road; Vehicle in Parkeston Road)
 - Threats to kill in Ramsey
 - Possession of Cannabis in Parkeston
 - Possession of offensive weapon in Parkeston

The concern of the increase of serious crimes and the break of a home in Garland Road, Parkeston reported today in daylight was raised.

Cllr Ferguson reported that at present there are 5 Acting Inspectors across Tendring and suggested that Paul Gayle, Acting Inspector should be invited to attend the next meeting of the RPPC.

Action: Clerk

3. **Members Declaration of Interest in items on the agenda: Members joining the meeting part way through should wait for the next agenda item before joining any discussion and/or debate and declare any interest on any of the remaining agenda items.**
4. **The Chairman introduced Nigel Brown who was present to give a report from TDC on Parkeston House, and brought forward item 6. To hear questions from members of public**
Cllr Elmer proposed the suspension of Standing Order 1c) *The period of time which is designated for public participation shall not exceed 15 minutes* to allow questions to be put to Nigel Brown following his report for full discussion; seconded by Cllr M Donn and Cllr Smith, the motion was carried.
Nigel Brown submitted apologies from TDC Leader, Mick Page and Cllr Carlo Guglielmi, TDC Cabinet Member for Planning and Corporate Services

The clear up held on Saturday 13th September of the boundary of the building was supported by TDC by having contractors at a cost of £1k to be on site to remove the fencing for access and be legally responsible on behalf of TDC, and RPPC in supplying skips to take the rubbish removed from the area. Cllr Stertz was commended for her actions to drive the clean up with residents and RPPC councillors volunteering on the day. TDC are to have the bricks and sand bags on the pavement in Adelaide Street taken away and stored on behalf of the owner.

Concerns of a fire due to materials that are store/dumped in the area which was originally the open car park were raised and noted by Nigel Brown.

A report received from Cllr Guglielmi on the actions proposed by TDC was circulated to all members and residents present.



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Nigel Brown reported that following a meeting with TDC CEO, Ian Davidson and officers of TDC it was requested for Parkeston residents to make it known what would be the preferred action to be taken on Parkeston House for consideration.

Suggestions submitted included:

- a) Hoarding erected around the building with windows and doors boarded with the option to have a mural on the hoarding and to have it placed as near to the building as possible to gain access to the Parish Noticeboard and the Memorial Garden and Bench.
- b) Knock down the building and erect housing in keeping with the Victorian Village design.
- c) Compulsory Purchase Order for TDC to take the building and convert to quality apartments as housing stock.
- d) Compulsory Purchase Order for TDC to convert the building into a community centre.

Nigel Brown explained that TDC have issues in getting any response from the owner/developer and being able to move forward with the building, TDC are to invite them to meet to discuss their intentions with the building; however the first step is have an independent survey of the building, involving an application via the courts for a warrant to access the building; the earliest available appointment with the courts is 2nd October with the availability of the independent Surveyor falling in line with the timing; TDC are committed in taking immediate action and have sourced costs for 6-8 feet high hoarding to be erected 3 sides of the building and windows/doors to be boarded, quote received to date is in the region of £25k. This option will be taken back as the most favoured by a show of hands, as an interim option for further consideration with the CEO.

- e) CCTV cover until a solution is met, however the lack of overnight street lighting would hinder vision.
- f) Additional police presence in the area both vehicles and on foot.

Action: Clerk

Details of any potential re-possession from the Mortgage Company as named on the land registry document and the possibility of any re-auction of the building are not available although discussed.

Nigel Brown left the meeting at 8.10p.m. with thanks from the Chairman on behalf of the RPPC and residents for his open report and invited him to return to the next meeting with a follow up report.

5. **To receive a report from Essex County Councillor Andrew Erskine:** nothing not covered elsewhere.
6. **To receive a report from TDC Councillor Tony Colbourne:** nothing received
 - a) Veolia Contract: the request for a full breakdown of costs of the contract held with TDC made by the Chairman at the last meeting is ongoing.

Action: Cllr Colbourne

7. **To hear questions from members of the public:** covered under item 4
8. **To confirm the minutes of the RPPC meeting held on 16th June 2014**

The Clerk reported that in referring to item 20 (b) of the minutes of the meeting held on 15th May 2014 an explanation of his disagreement has been received from Cllr Passmore in writing as requested and will be held with those original minutes.

Cllr Stertz proposed and Cllr Smith seconded a motion that the minutes to be signed as a true record with the motion carried. The Chairman then signed the minutes as a true record.

9. **To receive any announcement by the Chairman:**
 - a) Code of Conduct/Standing Order
Item to be taken forward to a later meeting



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10. To hear a report on actions taken by the clerk and members as agreed at the last meeting:

Nothing not covered elsewhere

11. To consider any Planning issues received to the meeting date: Nothing received

12. To receive a report regarding the Parkeston Cemetery:

- a) Access Road to Hangings/Cemetery: the issue of vegetation obstructing access/vision is to be taken forward to Harwich Town Council. Cllr Elmer reported that he has copies of legal documents that show ownership could be that of the Town Council and will forward a copy to Mike Badger, TDC Officer

Action: Cllrs M Donn/Elmer

- b) Chapel Graffiti: removal of the graffiti on the walls, benches and doors of the secured Chapel are, has been accepted as a project by Thea Pollikett, Restorative Justice Worker, Colchester Youth Offending Team, following a victim of crime in Parkeston requested that the offender spent his community service to benefit Parkeston. Other projects are to be discussed; any proposals to be brought forward in either ward.

Action: All

- c) Memorials: the original memorial plaques taken for security from Parkeston Church are in the process of being renovated and re-sited within the gated area of the Chapel in Parkeston Cemetery; the aim is to have them in place in time for Remembrance Sunday when the area will be open for a short time and a wreath laid.

- d) Mock Stained Glass Windows: the second set of windows accepted to be installed at £3259 including VAT with an additional quote received to include the small window on the morgue (over the rubbish bins) at an additional cost of £500. The cost is covered in the Cemetery annual income. Cllr L Donn proposed that all 3 windows to be installed, seconded by Cllr Smith with all in favour.

Action: Clerk

- e) Fencing on northern side (Lidl's side): the growth of brambles getting through onto the cemetery boundary is to be addressed in obtaining a quote from the RPPC landscaper to clear the intruding vegetation.

Action: Cllr Elmer

- f) Unsafe tree: Cllr Elmer reported on the issue of a dying tree with loose roots that could fall onto the chapel and is to be addressed with the RPPC landscaper, a qualified tree surgeon.

Action: Cllr Elmer

- g) Headstone Risk Assessment: to be carried out Saturday 27th September at 11.00 a.m., weather permitting; all invited to attend.

13. To receive a report regarding the Welfare Park:

Cllr Stertz reported that many compliments of the condition and work done in the park have been received, Cllr Elmer commended Mr Bill Davidson and all volunteers for their hard work in making it possible:

- a) The Fun Day was a great success with £446.33 raised with thanks to all involved
b) Broken Pathways: looking to repair before bad weather sets in
c) Pruning of trees in hand with the loan of the hedge cutter and strimmer from RPPC
d) CCTV: authorisation has been gained from Surya Rice to have a camera mounted on their building to overlook the park with regulations to be set in place prior to such
e) Anti-climbing frame has been installed to the top of the container
f) Football Competition: games start 28th September
g) Bank Account: an alternative to the current Barclays Community account to be investigated in order to try to achieve additional interest.

14. To receive a report regarding the Payback Team: covered under 12 b) of these minutes

15. To receive a report regarding Spring Meadows CP School and the Two Village School

- a) Cllr Smith reported that he will be attending an introduction meeting on 29/09 in his role as School Governor.
b) Cllr Elmer asked for figures to be gained of the capacity of the school and percentage of such currently taken.
c) Mock Council Meeting: an agenda is to be drafted for approval of the school, thereafter a date for the mock meeting is to be arranged.



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16. To receive a report from the Transport Representatives:

a) Ramsey:

- Bench Church Hill: Cllr M Donn asked Cllr Erskine to enquire as to why the bench has been removed from the footpath, paddock side, following a complaint from a resident.

Action: Cllr Erskine

b) Parkeston: nothing not covered elsewhere

- Fly tipping at the site of Collier Road where the fence is laying down and viewed generally as an untidy site is to taken forward with a request for a site visit with the TDC Enforcement Officer, Alan Rushbridge.

On-going Action: Cllr Colbourne

- c) First Bus Service: the adjusted and reduced service through Parkeston Village has caused issues for residents who asked for the RPPC to investigate.

Action: Cllr Ferguson

17. To receive reports from Councillors attending other meetings:

- a) Lights off meeting: Cllr M Donn attended the meeting with questions put to Bernard Jenkins, MP, one such question in relation to the lack of a risk assessment not being evident on Parkeston was unable to be answered. It was however confirmed that each lamp can be switched on/off individually, however confirmation could not be gained if this can be done at any time should an emergency demand the need.
- b) Emergency Planning, Petrochem Carless: Cllr M Donn attended as an observer that he found extremely interesting and reported that a risk assessment is to be undertaken for the village of Parkeston.
- c) 2nd Briefing on possible development sites for inclusion in the new Tendring District Local Plan: 23/09 meeting has been cancelled due to the bye elections; Cllr Elmer and Cllr M Donn intend to attend once a new date has been confirmed.
- d) TDC Budget 2015/16 preparation: 05/11 the clerk is unable to attend due to prior commitments; a representative is able to attend by contacting the clerk.

18. To receive any correspondence for action/information not covered elsewhere:

- a) EALC Data Protection Obligations: clarification of legal responsibilities regarding publishing photographs, including online. The RPPC have considered the advice and give permission for the EALC to provide a link from its website to ours; completion of confirmation request form to be returned.

Action: Clerk

- b) Junction Mayes Lane/Church Hill: concerns raised by Mr Knights in a letter received in relation to the overhanging branches from a large chestnut tree that lays within the boundary of private land at the junction has been reported to Essex County Council as an obstruction to a highway.

In his letter Mr Knights also reported a small potholed in the marked bus stop area opposite the butcher's shop, this has also been reported via Essex County Council website.

19. Councillors report and items for future agendas: each Councillor is requested to use this opportunity to report on minor matters of information not included elsewhere on the agenda and to raise items for future agendas. Councillors are respectfully reminded that this is not an opportunity for debate or decision making unless otherwise agreed by the Chairman.

Cllr M Donn: Ramsey Triangle Planters



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20. To consider application for funding under the RPPC Grant Budget 14/15:

- a) Harwich & Dovercourt Rugby Club: sponsorship of one play from Ramsey (George Funning) and one player from Parkeston (Kieran Fhelan) at £100 per player was proposed by Cllr L Donn, seconded by Cllr Smith with all in favour.
- b) First Responders: a donation of £500 to be made was proposed by Cllr Stertz, seconded by Cllr L Donn with all in favour.
- c) Essex Air Ambulance: a donation of £500 to be made was proposed by Cllr Ferguson, seconded by Cllr Singh with all in favour.

21. To agree accounts for payment:

L Keating Salary & Expenses August/Sept	796.01 722.88	Little Skips (skip hire clear up PH)	110.00 88.00
Landscape Services	1626.00	Accent Stationers	39.22
A&J Lighting	111.60	Affinity Water	589.08
E-On	239.89	W G Elmer Chairs Tel Allowance	69.00
T Acumen Wages	43.20		

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The Clerk reported that signatories on the bank account was being updated with the mandate signed by those present; 3 signatories remain required on each cheque, with the cheque stub to be initialled by those signing.

22. To confirm the next meeting of the Ramsey & Parkeston Parish Council will be held on Thursday 16th October 2014 in Hamilton House, Parkeston at 7.00 p.m.

23. To confirm the date of the Annual Budget meeting of the RPPC to be held on Thursday 13th November 2014 in Hamilton House, Parkeston at 7.00 p.m: The Chairman reminded all Councillors of the importance of attending the Budget meeting and asked for any projects for the Budget 2015/16 to be made known to the Clerk as soon as possible prior to the meeting.

Action: All

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.01 p.m.