



## **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON SUNDAY 28<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

Meeting commenced at 10.30am and closed at 12.15pm.

### **Board & Stakeholder attendees:**

Chris Reynolds (CR) Acting Chair  
David Daper (DD) Treasurer  
Nicoline Higham (NH) Minute Taker  
Angela Andrews (AA)  
Catherine Grace (CG)  
Mona Koshkouei (MK)

Cllr Habib Tejan (CllrHT)  
PC Ranaweera (PCR)

### **Apologies:**

Siobhan Draper (SD)  
PCSO Angela Saunders (PCSOAS)

### **Resident Attendees:**

15 residents

### **Apologies:**

2 residents

### **Introductions**

CR opened the meeting and introductions.

### **Minutes of last meeting agreed**

### **Board appointments**

CR explained he held the role as Chair for SMIRA on and off for four years and introduced CG who has volunteered to be the new Chair of SMIRA and DD, who has volunteered to take over as Treasurer. Four further Directors are still needed and all Directors will be registered at Company House.

Other directors include MK, SD and AA.

CR and MK will continue to SMIRA's representatives on the CMT Board.

Mandy Samrai, who is not a director, will kindly carry on supporting with the website.

A question was raised re. the accounts.

DD: Explained there is approximately £1900 in the bank.

CR: There had been a yearly £1000 grant from CMT, which is currently on hold and a request has been submitted for this to be reinstated.

AA confirmed that a grant is still available to the Retirement Association.

AA: Summarised what the Retirement Association is about.

### **Stakeholders Q & A:**

#### **IB: Question re. Remus.**

Remus, a Property Management Company, responsible for upkeep to some sectors on the Island. Some residents are paying both the rent charge to CMT and are being charged by Remus. IB showed an important sign in a very poor condition, used within the development. There are also issues with security as some doors do not close properly and a variety of other complaints, including green space maintenance. The residents from the sector are starting to get together. An email read out by the resident cited a lack of funding.

CR explained the new CEO of CMT is very experienced and is currently negotiating with Remus. CMT will tender to take over the contract when it comes up for renewal. Although Countryside has been taken over, they remain responsible for snagging within the new development. There are different management companies running a variety of apartment blocks.

MK: advised there is an option to get together as residents to trigger an exit clause from the Remus contract. She offered support to arrange a meeting between representatives from the sector and residents and explained CMT lawyers are able to step in, but there will be a charge to residents. Her advice is to submit as many complaints in writing as possible and to keep a record of any breaches of the regulations to build up a case.

Most of the sectors are managed by CMT. but there are some sectors managed by a variety of management companies.

#### **Action: Meeting to be arranged between residents' representatives of affected sectors and CMT.**

#### **JW: Question re. The flood defences on the Island.**

There has been a recent flood alert. The sea levels are rising and the slipway in the Fishing Village is looking fragile. JW expressed a concern the flood-walls have not been tested.

CR: The drains are running into the river and there is a minor risk of flooding when there is very high tide and there may be some ground water due to the way that the drainage systems work. The flood wall has been built to last.

MK: The flood-wall is checked on a regular basis. Substantial funds have been set aside to ensure any repairs needed can be carried out. There is also comprehensive insurance in place. The flood wall has two levels. The minor flooding of the pathway indicates the flood wall is actually working. In case of a breach, there are several areas for drainage, which are all part of the flood defences. The flood-walls on the Island are relatively new and guaranteed for another 10 years.

JW: Is Medway Council in a consultation stage re. any risk of flooding?

CIrHT: Not aware of any consultation. There are regular meetings taking place between Medway Council and relevant govt agencies to deal with monitoring and planned works. Any immediate risk is at Medway City Estate as the floodwall there is in need of replacing.

#### **CG: read out a question from a resident re. Crime in top floor apartments for noting.**

This had been responded to by PSCO AS

CR: PCSO Angela Saunders covers a wide area and is responsible for the whole estate.

It was agreed by all that she is very visible around the Island, both on foot and in the car.

CR: Discussed speed sign installed by the council, which has now been moved to Tappan Drive area.

CG: Speeding around the Island remains an issue, awareness continues to be raised. There is currently one sign on the Island re. speeding. There is a Speed-Watch run by volunteers. Anyone interested in joining Speed-Watch, please get in touch. Training will be provided.

CR: Mentioned the painted speed-bump by the school. This is not a regulation crossing. There is no zebra crossing and there needs to be signage for pedestrians and drivers. A discussion followed; most felt that not many people are taking notice of signs, what is stopping us to have speed-bumps put up at strategic points?

MK: The speed-bumps would have to very large to slow down larger vehicles. The drivers do not really care enough. Reducing the speed limit has been looked into, but any plans have not been viable. The problem of speeding is very much recognised.

Parking was raised and the dangers, especially around school drop-off and pick up times.

CR: Patients cannot park for appointments at the surgery as spaces have been taken by parents collecting children. The Trust put up barriers and provided staff in collaboration with the police. For this to be kept up it takes a lot of manpower. This can only be continued with intervals. The headteacher at the school is very supportive and is trying very hard to stop parents parking close to the school and to manage the conflict that has ensued.

A discussion followed re. the barrier closing, which moves the problem to residential areas and re. the school extension not being for local children but for the development near Asda.

CR: Agreed there are children on the Island who cannot get spaces into the school.

MK: The problem is very difficult to solve. Many conversations have taken place on how to solve the problem, however some parents are not willing to do so. There are also parents on the island parking by the school. There was a 'walking bus' initiative, which seems not to have continued. The Trust will continue to try and ensure patients will be able to get into the surgery.

### **11.30: Welcome to PCR who joined the meeting.**

MK: Summarised the discussion around speeding. PCR added that it was possible to task Community Safety. They can attend when there are difficulties and an officer can be offered to be around at certain times. When there are any problems at night, the police would need to be called.

A discussion followed re. the security on the island previously.

CR: Explained the security was previously provided by a private security company.

MK: CMT took the decision to change to the PCSO when the contract finished and found it was a better, more effective use of funds. Explained that the focus of the PCSO is different and anti-social behaviour used to be differently managed when the private security company was in place.

A question re. Electric bikes and bikes in general was raised.

MK: There is nothing that can be done as it is a shared foot – cycle path.

PCR: Any video evidence can be used if there are issues arising.

Question raised re. An incident with a person harassing females on the Island on social media. There has been no response from CMT.

CR: Confirmed this is a police issue.

MK: There are several issues. The police cannot comment on individual cases and some of the possible actions noted may not be offences.

CR: When anything happens call out the police.

CG: It is clear the police are investigating at least one complaint as they had visited asking about video footage.

PCR: The police will look into any issues.

A discussion followed re. posts on social media warning residents about speed cameras.

MK: Only the police can fine people for speeding. Agreed people have different opinions re. the posts on social media warning residents about mobile speed cameras. Some feel it is hindering, others that it is helping to keep the speed down.

CR: We are an official Neighbourhood Watch Area. Signs are funded by SMIRA. Stickers are available for residents. Links are available on the website.

**Action: General advice to residents is to go to the police rather than take reports to social media.**

## **AOB**

- **Litter picking.**

MK: This will be started up again and will be announced on the Friday Flyer, with signs around the Island updated.

- **Friday Flyer. Not everyone is receiving it.**

CR: Email Elona at the Trust and she will make sure you receive it.

- **Buses. Buses are regularly being cancelled without notice. Causing difficulties to residents.**

MK: two extra buses are still operating. There is a request to Arriva to see if two extra stops can be added.

CIrHT: Will keep chasing Arriva to arrange a face-to-face meeting about this matter.

MK: Invite to resident to join the meeting with Arriva.

JW: Suggested to email the council and raise the issues.

- **Historic Dockyard Anniversary**

CR: There is still time to get tickets at a reduced cost for Medway Residents at the Historic Dockyard. CR also mentioned Ghostbusters on a Boat, which will be around during The Chatham Maritime Food & Drink Festival on May 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> 2024.

Chris thanked everyone for a well-attended meeting. Meeting closed at 12.15pm.

**Date for the next meeting: AGM – Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July, 10.30 in the Community Centre.**