

KINGSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council

Monday 6th December 2021 at 19:30

Present:

- Cllr Davina Martin (Chair)
- Cllr Gina Pearson
- Cllr Paul Chatley
- Cllr Val McWilliams
- Cllr Steve Reeves
- Cllr Laura Spencer
- Cllr Vince Stribbling
- 3 Members of the Public
- Mr Christopher Howard (Clerk)

1. Apologies and approval of absences:

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for apologies for absence. Apologies received and accepted from City and County Councillor Mike Sole (work commitments)

2. Minutes of previous meetings:

Minutes of the Ordinary Meetings held on Monday, 1st November was approved as true a record. This was proposed by Cllr McWilliams and seconded by Cllr Stribbling.

Cllr Chatley raised that there had been an action point accidentally omitted on the minutes to raise an agenda item for the December meeting regarding what to do about the trees on the Embankment overlooking 3 Green Acre.

Agenda item to be created for the next Parish Council meeting in January to discuss

Cllr Chatley also raised that he had had communications from Mr Moss regarding Fire Hydrants in the village that was on the agenda for November. Cllr Martin stated that previously Mr Moss had created a map of hydrant locations within the village, and this formed part of the emergency plan within the village. She expressed gratitude for the work regarding the formation of this document and the painting and maintaining of the hydrants. The agenda point was more regarding an initiative with KFRS, which has been signed up to, and an additional map has been received so that we have an official copy that KFRS use, and one that has been created by Mr Moss.

3. Declarations of interest:

None received.

4. Public Forum:

A member of the public commented on the recent storm that had caused a power cut in part of the village for several hours. Councillors noted the comments and sympathised with the resident but have no power to intervene.

Another member of the public commented on the fact that the crown of the trees along CB273 had not been cut back. The Clerk commented that he had not been made aware that this had not occurred and apologised.

Clerk to send letters to the adjacent landowners to ask them to cut back the crown of the trees along the footpath.

A further member of the public commented that the finances of the Parish Council had not been published in the minutes for any meeting recently, when it was something the Parish Council used to

do. Whilst Parish Councils are not obliged to disclose the bank account totals at every meeting, Cllr Martin apologised for this oversight and said that the Parish Council would disclose this moving forward in the minutes.

Clerk to ensure Parish Council finances are placed within the minutes each month from now on

5. Reports from County and City Council members:

In Cllr Sole's absence, Cllr Martin spoke about the monthly report received and which was circulated prior to the meeting.

Cllr Chatley stated that he had been in contact with Cllr Sole regarding the gyratory system at Wincheap, Canterbury and that Cllr Sole is still awaiting a map of the works so that it can be circulated.

Cllr Chatley to await email from Cllr Sole and forward on to Councillors

6. Reports from Police Community Support Officer (PCSO):

Reports for both November and December have been received from the local PCSO and no crimes of note had been recorded for Kingston.

7. Matters arising: (if not already on the Agenda)

None.

8. Updates on Ongoing Issues and Actions to be considered:

a) The Black Robin Brambles:

The Clerk reported that following on from the land registry search, emails had been sent to Stonegate Pub Partners, the owners of the land. Acknowledgment has been received and now a reply is awaited regarding that they intend to do. It was decided to await the reply before carrying out any works as a Parish Council. The option to carry out the works as a Council and invoice the brewery for reimbursement will be discussed at the January meeting should no update be received.
Clerk to email Stonegate Pub Partners to chase for an update regarding getting the brambles removed. Agenda item to be made on the January agenda.

b) Kings Yard Correspondence:

The Clerk reported that a complaint submitted by the Parish Council regarding the communication from Planning had been replied to by the Planning Manager at CCC. They acknowledged that the communication was poor and that the Planning Officer in question had been spoken to. The Planning Manager also offered to meet with Councillors to discuss the application and address any concerns or planning language that had been used. Councillors agreed that a meeting with the CCC Planning Manager would be a great idea, and will hopefully allow Councillors to understand the decision-making process and rationale within the Planning Department at CCC
Clerk to arrange a meeting with the Planning Manager at CCC with the Councillors

c) Roll of Honour:

The Roll of Honour is currently being stored within the vestry of the church having been used during the Remembrance Day service. The Barn Trust are happy for the Roll of Honour to be located within The Barn. Location and affixing to be decided by The Barn.

9. Planning:

The Clerk reported that there were three new planning applications since the last meeting:

CA/21/02521– Location: Broadfield, Covet Lane, Kingston, Canterbury, Kent, CT4 6HU – **Proposal:** Single-storey side extension following demolition of conservatory and open fronted store.

P.C. Comments: No objection

CA/21/02602 – Location: 6 The Street, Kingston, Canterbury, Kent, CT4 6HZ – **Proposal:** Single-storey rear extension following partial demolition of dwelling and demolition of detached garage together with erection of 1no. new dwelling with associated accesses and parking.

P.C. Comments: No Objection – The Council however were concerned regarding inaccuracies in the documentation being sent out. The height of the proposed plans altered 3 times, from single storey,

1.5 stories and double storey for example as well as the document stating it was on a straight road whereas it is on a possible blind bend. Whilst not a planning consideration, concerns were raised regarding the construction traffic required and that it had the potential to block the road whilst the works were on going. Councillors ask that the planning department at CCC ensure that vans and lorries are allowed to always continue along the road and not hindered by the works, with refuse lorries of concern for becoming stuck.

Clerk to email the planning officer with the concerns of the Councillors regarding the construction traffic and blocking of the road.

CA/21/02679 – Location: Whitelocks Barn, The Street, Kingston, Canterbury, Kent, CT4 6JQ – **Proposal:** Land Adjacent to Erection of stable block

P.C. Comments: No objection

The following decisions were being waited for the following:

CA/21/02077 – Location: King's Yard, The Street, Kingston, Kent, CT4 6JQ – **Proposal:** Erection of storage shed.

CA/21/02428 – Location: The Purlins, Black Robin Lane, Kingston, Canterbury, Kent, CT4 6HR –

Proposal: Change of use from garage to annexe together with addition of windows to front and rear elevations

The following Planning Applications were noted as being “Granted”:

CA/21/00154 – Location: Mount Pleasant, Marley Lane, Kingston, Canterbury, Kent, CT4 6JH –

Proposal: Change of use of land for the stationing of 1 No. shepherd hut to provide holiday accommodation together with change of use of land from agriculture to woodland.

CA/21/02399 – Location: Marleywood Yard, Marley Lane, Kingston, Kent, CT4 6JJ – **Proposal:** T.P.O. no. 1, 1983 - Oak tree - Section dismantle to ground level.

10. Finance:

- a) Bank Balance as of 18th November: £30,903.73
(Made up of working balance (£22,010.53), Reserves (£5,000) and Embankment Grant (£3,893.20))

Payments:

The expenditure below was authorised (proposed by Cllr Chatley and seconded by Cllr Pearson), made up of:

Dynamix – Payroll Fees November: £7.80

Chris Howard – Clerk Salary November

Andrew Sage – Grass Cutting: £240.00

- b) Internet banking:

Cllr Martin reported that we are still awaiting the completed creation of the account and that nothing further had been heard from Lloyds Bank at this time.

Cllr Martin to circulate any information that is received regarding the account should there be any issues with the creation.

- c) Half-Year Statement, Budget Setting and Precept request:

There was an extended discussion by Councillors regarding the setting of the precept for the financial year 2022-23. Figures discussed ranged from no precept to reflect underspend and levels of reserves, to increasing the precept to £12500 to account for future projects. Based on an estimated budget spend of £10000, Cllr Martin proposed keeping the precept at £11000, to account for any unforeseen expenditure. This was seconded by Cllr Pearson. This was voted for by 4 councillors, with 2 against and 1 abstention. It was therefore agreed to keep the precept at the same level of £11000 for the financial year 2022-23.

11. CCC and KALC Correspondence:

a) Regional KALC meeting and KALC AGM:

The Clerk reported that there was nothing of note from the Canterbury region KALC meeting or the KALC AGM meeting. Minutes had previously been circulated to Councillors. Of interest, during the KALC AGM meeting there was a presentation regarding Climate Change, which had also been previously circulated.

b) Concurrent Function Funding (CFF) meeting update:

The Clerk reported that the Concurrent Function Funding had been extended until 2025 due to CCC not being able to carry out enough research into the possibility of removing it in its entirety. Now that the recent CANENCO contract had been completed, CCC will use data collated from CANENCO to inform their decision post 2025. In the meantime, the CFF will remain at the same individual funding allocation as per 2022-23 plus inflation (expected to be 3%). This could be adjusted should inflation fluctuate drastically.

c) CFF options for 2023-25:

CCC have offered 2 options regarding CFF between 2023 and 2025. Due to time constraints, and a reply being required by the end of January 2022, it was decided to defer this to the January meeting.

Agenda item to be created for the January meeting

d) CCC Enforcement Update:

Due to time constraints, it was agreed to defer the CCC enforcement update to the January meeting

Agenda item to be created for the January meeting

e) CCC Budget Consultation:

Due to time constraints, it was agreed that the Parish Council would not be putting a comment to CCC regarding their Budget Consultation (unless CCC allow a late comment). However, there is nothing to stop Councillors, or members of the public, having their say through the CCC website.

The Clerk to request if it is possible to submit a comment as a Council after the deadline. If accepted an agenda item will be created on the January agenda

f) CCC Parking Charge Consultation:

Due to time constraints, it was agreed that the Parish Council would not be putting a comment to CCC regarding their Parking Charge Consultation (unless CCC allow a late comment). However, there is nothing to stop Councillors, or members of the public, having their say through the CCC website.

The Clerk to request if it is possible to submit a comment as a Council after the deadline. If accepted an agenda item will be created on the January agenda

12. Highways and Footpaths:

a) Highways Improvement Plan:

This has previously been circulated to Councillors before the meeting. Whilst Councillors are aware that Jesses Hill is an unmade road, and therefore KCC Highways state they will not repair it, it was requested that more detail be added to the HIP, including that it is the steepest road in the village, and the suggestion that it is turned into a driveway for just the residents that live along it. It is hoped that KCC will change their mind or at least come to a compromise to aid the residents that live along the road due to the dangerous road surface present.

Clerk to update the HIP as requested and submit to KCC for approval

b) Drainage:

The Clerk read an email from Cllr Sole regarding drainage issues in Kingston. The email states that the drains on Church Lane have not been carried out yet due to safety issues of the crew. This has now been rectified but there is no date for reattendance. Drains on The Street have also been inspected to know the extent of the assets required for the job. A job has now been raised but again, there is no timescale for attendance.

c) Salt Bins:

The Clerk reported that KCC have responded, and they have quoted £350 for a new bin to be bought and installed on Church Lane, as well as 3 free refills. It was unanimously agreed by Councillors to install this bin.

Clerk to contact KCC to have the bin installed on Church Lane, Kingston

13. Platinum Jubilee 2022:

Prior to the meeting sizes, prices, colours, and materials for differing plaques were circulated to Councillors. Due to time constraints, it was agreed to defer a decision to the January meeting.

Agenda item to be created for the January meeting

14. Village Fibre Broadband:

Cllr Chatley reported that he had been in discussions with the company laying the broadband to the Emergency Services Network Tower in the village. It was discovered that residents would have no choice of supplier other than the one laying the cable, and this would be a minimum of £34.99 a month for internet. The previous issues that had been incurred were with getting the cables to certain areas of the village. The company laying the cable stated that these properties would still not be receiving this service. Councillors decided not to pursue the matter any further.

Cllr Chatley to contact the broadband company and tell them that we were no longer interested.

15. Future Meeting Dates:

Prior to the meeting, dates were circulated to Councillors for 2022. These were unanimously agreed. The dates can be seen at the bottom of the minutes.

16. Clerk Report and Correspondence (Unless otherwise discussed):

The Clerk commented that a resident had brought to his attention a nuisance flagpole in their neighbour's garden. The Clerk stated that he referred the resident onto the relevant CCC departments for planning and noise complaints, as they would be able to deal with the issue if they deemed there to be a breach. Cllr Sole was emailed by the Clerk regarding the complaint and stated that he too had been contacted by the resident and offered the same advice to contact CCC.

17. Matters for future discussion:

Cllr Chatley raised that the Draft Parish Charter Consultation should be added to the January agenda. Clerk reported that this would have been mentioned under Clerk correspondence but due to time constraints it was not.

Agenda item to be created for the January meeting

Cllr Reeves raised that there are 3no Parish Council owned acacia trees, near to the Green Acre substation that require some tree work. A nearby sycamore has already had a TPO request submitted by its owner and wanted all the trees to be worked on at the same time.

Agenda item to be created for the January meeting

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Signed (Chairman)

Date

Please note these Minutes remain as draft Minutes until they are approved by the Parish Council at their next Parish Council meeting.

Date of next meeting: Monday 10th January 2022 in The Barn, Kingston at 7.30pm

Future meeting dates: 07/02/22, 07/03/22, 04/04/22, 09/05/22, 06/06/22, 04/07/22, 05/09/22, 03/10/22, 07/11/22, 05/12/22