

KINGSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on Monday 4th January 2021 at 7.00 pm (via Zoom)

Present: Cllr Chatley (minutes), Cllr Martin (Chair), Cllr McWilliams, Cllr Pearson, Cllr Reeves, Cllr Spencer, Cllr Stribbling.

Two members of the public were also in attendance plus Cty Cllr Michael Northey.

1. **Apologies:** City Cllr Mike Sole – He was on another Zoom call.

2. Reports from County and City Council members:

City Cllr Sole's report had already been circulated as had Cty Cllr Michael Northey's report. Michael briefly went over his report but said it was most likely going to be out of date after the PM's news briefing at 8pm (which it was). Michael also said he had arranged for £4000 to go to the new playground equipment.

3. Declarations of interest:

None

4. Public Forum:

Ally Matthews raised the problem of cars parking in the passing place by the Millennium Bridge. Previous notices had been removed so a more permanent solution was sought. A painted message on the road was suggested.

AP 010121: Val McWilliams to contact Hazel Waters at KCC Highways.

5. Minutes of previous meetings:

23rd November 2020 – minutes approved. Proposed by Cllr Pearson, and Seconded by Cllr McWilliams.

6. Matters arising & Action Points:

Cty Councillor Northey had technical problems joining our November meeting and sent in apologies the following day.

AP 011120: Cllr Martin to contact previous applicant for the Clerk's post. Cllr Martin had contacted him, he is still interested and will be considered – **Discharged.**

AP 021120: Cllr McWilliams to put together a flyer and circulate to fellow councillors. Cllr McWilliams produced a number of templates for which Cllr Martin thanked her. Cllr Martin said that in the current circumstances, and pending the PM's announcement, she felt it would be irresponsible to ask councillors to distribute leaflets around the village. It was uncertain that the printers would actually be open – **Discharged.**

AP 031120: Cllr Martin to produce an item re the Clerk's vacancy for the Parish magazine. As no dates had been agreed last month, it will go into the February edition – **Ongoing.**

AP 041120: Cllr Martin to contact Michelle Weston regarding the road surface problem in Church Lane. KCC had been contacted, but concluded it wasn't dangerous. South-East Water have now been approached as it was their original work in the Spring which has caused the problem– **Ongoing.**

AP 051120: Cllr Martin to contact the Morgan's re the overhanging Ivy. This has now been cut back. - **Completed**

AP 061120: Cllr Chatley to arrange for an update on the Broadband Fibre Project to go in the Parish magazine – Completed.

AP 071120: Cllr Stribbling to investigate the VAT issue further. Cllr Stribbling said he had passed all the information onto the Treasurer, Brian Morris (KVHT) who was now dealing – **Discharged.**

AP 081120: Cllr Chatley to research the purchase of posts for footpath signs. Posts purchased and signs erected but both signs had been broken with in a couple of weeks. Dave Pearson had repaired both signs – **Completed.**

7. Planning Applications:

- a) **CA/20 0245:** Replacement of children's playground equipment including wheelchair user friendly roundabout, new fencing and safety surfacing similar to existing.25 The Street, Kingston CT4 6JB – No objections.
- b) **CA/ 20/0278:** Detached garage and store to front together with associated landscaping works.
Bankcroft, Dover Road, Barham, CT4 6HN – No Objections.
- b) **CA/20/02873:** Single-storey rear extension. 3 Greenacre, Kingston CT4 6JF – No Objections.

8. Planning Decisions: None.

9. Finance:

Receipts: Refund of VAT payment April 2019 – March 2020:	£383.49
Payments: KALC: Honorarium for Committee Secretary:	£30.00
Parish Maintenance: new fence post for signs:	£13.68
	Total £43.68

The purchase of a Zoom license was discussed. The cost of one to meet our needs would be £120 per year. The majority of councillors felt that we could put up with the inconvenience of having to re-join every 40 mins so we will stick with the FREE version.

10. Clerk Appointment:

Since the last meeting it has been announced that Barham Parish Council were now also looking for a new Clerk/RFO and had placed an article in the Parish Magazine. They are currently advertising with a closing date of 31st of January.

Cllr Martin had reviewed our application pack used previously; only minor amendments are required to suit current conditions. It was agreed to proceed with advertisement on the KALC website, with a probable closing date for applications in late February/early March. Cllr Martin will continue to liaise with Barham just in case there is a candidate who might want to top up their hours (Barham is currently 15 hrs per week) with an extra 5 hrs per week for Kingston.

11. Highways and Footpaths:

a) Update on Marley Lane:— Cllr Martin had been in touch with Michael Heath (KCC Highways Engineer) with regards to plans to repair the road, which is ongoing at this time. Serco had re-routed and used smaller vehicles to collect rubbish. There is conflicting signage at either end of Marley Lane about its use by goods vehicles, but such signs are advisory and not mandatory. Any new signage limiting weight and /or width could pose problems for residents in the restricted area requiring delivery from large vehicles eg removal vans, fuel deliveries etc. In the current situation, Cllr Stribbling commented that maybe a sign warning of the road closure, located further down The Street may be beneficial.

The closure of Covet Lane due to fallen trees breaking up the road surface was also discussed. Cllr Spencer reported that a sign had been placed at the bottom of Turks Hill today (4th Jan), but was unsure if an additional sign had been placed by the Black Robin (Additional signage by Church Lane was confirmed on the 5th). Mike Sole in his report had stated that South-East Water have major water mains works due to take place in February and the planned diversion route was Marley Lane!!!

b) Church Lane: vegetation – Although the ivy has been cut back, there are some overhanging trees which may need trimming back.

c) Nailbourne Cycle Route: update – All councillors to consider new submissions and article in the Parish Magazine and discuss in more details at next meeting.

d) Motorbikes on Forestry Commission land – Cllr Spencer reported that the Police had been alerted to Quad bikes and Motorbikes on Forestry land and have been patrolling the area. The Forestry Commission had also dismantled ramps and jumps erected by bikers.

12. Broadband Fibre Project:

Cllr Chatley reported that he has received a number of emails from Openreach. One stated that Kingswood Farm & Kingswood Manor farm were served by Stelling Minnis exchange and were removed from our list. A second email from them stated that Reed Mill, The Mill Tower, Westwood Farm & Little Westwood Farm had already applied separately and were also removed from our list.

A third email gave an initial quote of £498,222 which we have calculated to be 72 properties, if they get the £7000 grants available. Cllr Chatley had spoken to the KCC Project manager who advised that we request a formal quote and send her the initial proposal. Cllr Chatley has requested that Openreach supply a formal quote and is still awaiting a response from the KCC Project Manager.

AP 020121: Cllr Chatley to arrange for a further update to go in the Parish magazine.

13. Playground Project: No further news.

14. Matters for future discussion:

Neighbourhood Planning. A short discussion took place and Cllr Spencer agreed to put some bullet points together for an initial discussion at the next meeting.

AP 030121: Cllr Spencer to prepare and circulate bullet points for discussion at the February meeting.

Cllr Chatley asked if anyone had the Parish Facebook details. It was thought Alice Wakefield had them.

AP 040121: Cllr Chatley to obtain Facebook details from Alice.

There are two missing tiles on the bus shelter. Dave Pearson had painted over the graffiti in the bus shelter. One of the two 30 mph signs on Covet lane is still missing and the other one is overgrown and can't be seen.

Date of Next Meeting: Monday 1st February (via Zoom)

The meeting closed at 20:41

List of January Action points

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