

KINGSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council

Monday 1st November 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
- 2 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, 4th October was approved as true a record. This was proposed by Cllr Chatley and seconded by Cllr Pearson.

3. Declarations of interest:

Cllr Reeves declared an interest in planning application CA/21/02399 due to it being his application.

4. Public Forum:

Members of the Public in attendance were afforded the opportunity to ask a question or make a statement. No comments made.

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 raised that he echoed Cllr Sole's concerns regarding the proposed gyratory scheme in Wincheap, Canterbury. Cllr Chatley stated that he would email Cllr Sole and ask for further information regarding the proposed scheme.

The Clerk also commented that Cllr Sole had apologised for omitting Kingston Parish Council from the report, as he did attend the previous meeting.

Cllr Chatley to email Cllr Sole and forward on the reply to Councillors

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

No report had been received by the Clerk in time for the meeting. This has since been received and circulated to Councillors.

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

Prior to the meeting, the Clerk had further circulated information regarding members of the Council carrying out paid work on behalf of the Parish Council. The advice from KALC stated that Councillors could tender for work, provided the process as outlined in the Standing Orders was followed correctly.

Cllr Chatley stated that previously the council had not followed this properly, and that moving forward the Council should make sure that any councillor who submits a tender for work, should hand a blank envelope to the Clerk with their tender, and leave the room until the discussion and vote has been completed by other councillors. Cllr Reeves then handed a blank envelope to the Clerk with his tender inside, regarding point 8a.

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

- a) The Clerk reported that on checking the Land Registry website that the land on which the brambles are located belongs to Stonegate Pub Partners. This is believed to be the same as the owner of the Black Robin PH, who appoints the landlord. It was raised by Cllr Pearson, that if the with the brambles is private land, then why should the Parish Council be spending their budget on its removal. It was suggested that due to the proximity of the River Nail Bourne, that it could be the responsibility of the River Board or Environment agency. Also, due to its proximity to the road and potential driving hazard, Highways was also suggested. *Clerk to email the River Board, Environment Agency, Highways and Stonegate Pub Partners to get the brambles removed.*
- b) Due to Cllr Stribbling's absence from the previous meeting, the Clerk reminded Councillors that he had previously circulated a document that was believed to have not been observed by Councillors on the granting of the previous planning application. Whilst this did answer some of the questions, Cllr Stribbling stated that it was more the response that was less than satisfactory from the planning officer, than the reasons for the decision itself, and that we were seemingly getting nowhere. The Parish Council is still awaiting a response regarding the latest planning application.
- c) The Clerk reported that he had received an email from Cllr Sole regarding Salt Bins. It stated that KCC would not be issuing any new salt bins this year. If the Parish Council wanted a new salt bin, the suggestions from KCC were for the Parish Council to purchase a bin themselves through their CMG monies. This bin however would be the responsibility of the Parish Council and KCC would have no obligation to maintain the salt within it. If KCC did refill the bin, then the Parish Council could be charged for this. The other option would be for the Parish Council to purchase their own bin from elsewhere, and have it approved and installed by a qualified engineer from Highways Operations. The same would apply regarding the refilling of salt. Cllr Sole stated in the email that he had not yet received any information regarding the cost of KCC installing the bin or filling it up.
Councillors commented on their disappointment with KCC regarding this matter and that the salt bins in the village had not yet been visited and refilled. It was also suggested that the salt bin on Church Lane be placed on the Highways Improvement Plan.
Clerk to follow up with Cllr Sole regarding the price of a salt bin and its refill. Salt bin to be added to the HIP by the Clerk
- d) The Police Parish Forum was attended by the Clerk and Cllr Pearson. The Clerk stated that the meeting went over what Kent Police were, and had been, doing with regards to rural crime as well as the current highlight on violence against women and their safety.

9. Planning:

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

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.

P.C. Comments: No objection – This application has previously been commented on by the Parish Council and had had some adjustments made to the application to consider some Stodmarsh Mitigation measures.

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. **P.C. Comments:** No Objection

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. **P.C. Comments:** Objection – The Parish Council objects to the plans proposed for The Purlins. Numerous Councillors stated that they had seen the property advertised as sold subject to conditions, and that some of those conditions were the extension. Councillors also objected to the application seemingly being made for personal financial gain, rather than bringing in anything worthwhile to the village. The Councillors were also disappointed that even though the application had not been granted, work appeared to have started on the annexe. The Parish Council has grave reservations regarding the development and fear for the surrounding land and future development of it, considering the village is in an area of natural beauty.

Clerk to respond to the planning officer with the Parish Council's objection

A decision was being waited for the following:

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

There were no “**Granted**” Planning Applications noted.

10. Finance:

a) Payments:

The expenditure below was authorised, made up of:

Dynamix – Payroll Fees October: £7.80

Chris Howard – Clerk Salary October

Philip Wilson Arboriculture: £450.00

b) Internet banking:

Cllr Martin reported that she and Cllr Pearson had visited the local Lloyds Bank branch and handed over the required and signed documentation required for an online account. This was photocopied by the branch so they had the documentation should it get lost. The Parish Council now await the creation of the account. The Clerk stressed that even though it had been mentioned that he would be a signatory, this would be just for the administration of the account, and that payments would still need to be authorised by two Councillors.

c) Concurrent Function Funding Meeting:

A meeting had been arranged by KALC and CCC for a discussion around the state of Concurrent Function Funding as well as a Q&A session with the leader of the City Council, Cllr Ben Fitter-Harding. It was agreed that the Clerk and Cllr Pearson would be in attendance.
Clerk and Cllr Pearson to attend the CFF meeting on 2nd November 2021

d) Half-Year Statement and Budget Setting:

Documentation was circulated prior to the meeting to Councillors regarding the Half-Year expenditure and budget setting for the coming year, with a view to deciding how much precept to request. Due to the Concurrent Function Funding meeting occurring the following night, it was decided to just make preliminary decisions, with the final decision being made at the December meeting, as a clearer picture would have been obtained regarding funding from Canterbury City Council, which would influence the Parish Council's decision regarding how much precept to request.

11. Highways and Footpaths:

a) Highways Improvement Plan:

Due to work commitments the Clerk and Cllr Spencer had been unable to meet up to discuss the HIP the past month. It was reiterated that Councillors wanted Jessie's Hill and the salt bin on Church Lane included, which was confirmed by the Clerk that they already were.

Cllr Spencer and the Clerk to formulate the HIP

b) Draft Embankment Tree Survey:

The draft of the survey carried out by Philip Wilson Arboriculture had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. There was debate between the Councillors regarding the report, with some stating that the report was detailed, but others that it was lacking. Cllr Reeves stated that he felt that the report was too vague, in particular when referring to trees near to number 3 Greenacre and believed that the overbearing nature of the trees had been minimised, in particular the Ash and Sycamore.

Cllr Reeves to give a more detailed response to the Clerk regarding his concerns so that this can be passed on to Philip Wilson.

c) KFRS/KALC Fire Hydrant Initiative:

The Clerk stated that an email had been received from KALC regarding an initiative with Kent Fire and Rescue Service (KFRS). The initiative would involve the Parish Council monitoring the hydrants in the village and reporting any defects discovered. It was mentioned that a map of fire hydrants in the village could be requested (although due to data protection cannot be publicly displayed). Cllr Martin stated that the Parish Council had previously created a map of the fire hydrant locations, and that this would be passed onto the Clerk to compare the two maps.

Clerk to request a map of fire hydrants in the village and to sign up to the initiative

It was also brought up that there were drainage issues currently along The Street, Kingston, most likely due to building works ongoing along the road.

Clerk to report the drainage issues on the KCC website

12. Platinum Jubilee 2022:

Cllr Chatley reported that he had spoken with The Barn Trust and that they would talk with Cllr Reeves regarding the tree and location for planting. Cllr Reeves then stated that, following discussions with The Barn Trust, that the tree had already been planted at the location. Cllr Spencer mentioned about the need to place the location of the tree on the official website and order a plaque for the tree.

Clerk to locate the tree on the official website and to order a plaque for it

13. Roll of Honour

The Roll of Honour was shown to the Parish Council by Cllr Martin. It was suggested that rather than leave it in the church, that it be hung in The Barn, and on special occasions, taken to the church for the event. This was agreed by Councillors to be a better idea than funding an easel for the church.

Cllr Chatley to discuss a potential location and agreement for hanging in The Barn with The Barn Trust

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

None raised.

15. Matters for future discussion:

Cllr Chatley mentioned that the Emergency Services Network had had a tower agreed for location in the village. They are in the process of laying internet fibre cables for the tower. Cllr Chatley suggested that there may be the potential to utilise the laying of this cable to enable fibre broadband to the village.

Cllr Chatley to enquire about the viability of the village using the fibre for broadband for the village

Cllr Reeves noted that fly-tipping had been noted around the village. Unfortunately, the fly-tipped waste was on private land and so CCC would not remove it.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.04pm.

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 6th December 2021 in The Barn, Kingston at 7.30pm