



KINGSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council

Monday 10th January 2022 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; 4 Members of the Public, Mr Christopher Howard (Clerk)

1. Apologies and approval of absences:

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the first meeting of 2022 and wished that she hoped everyone had had a good Christmas and New Year. Apologies received and accepted from City and County Councillor Mike Sole (work commitments).

2. Minutes of previous meetings:

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday, 6th December was approved as true a record. This was proposed by Cllr Pearson and seconded by Cllr McWilliams.

Cllr Chatley raised that he stated 5 years and not 3 years during the proposal that was accepted at the extraordinary meeting. Apart from this correction, the minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on Monday, 20th December was approved as true a record. This was proposed by Cllr Spencer and seconded by Cllr Reeves.

3. Declarations of interest:

Cllr Reeves declared an interest in planning application CA/21/02777 under Agenda item 9, due to it being his own application.

4. Public Forum:

A member of the public remarked on reading about Jesses Hill being commented on at the previous meeting and was pleased that the Parish Council were aware of the issues faced by residents along the road, of which he is one. The resident commented on how he had also been in communication with KCC Highways, and been informed the same regarding Jesses Hill being an unmade road and so KCC Highways only had an obligation to maintain the road and will not therefore resurface it. The resident had managed to obtain records of inspections relating to Jesses Hill, which has been in a rapidly deteriorating state of repairs for several years now. These records show that there have been 14 inspections in the last 5 years, and that on each occasion, the road was risk assessed as no action required. There was also a pothole instruction in 2021, to remove the deep defects. The resident commented that although the road has been resurfaced in the past 10 years (a statement corroborated by multiple Councillors), KCC Highways say that they have no record of such an event occurring. The road is the steepest in the village, and is seemingly in use all the time, with a blind T-junction at the bottom of the road. It is said that it is sometimes difficult to come to a safe stop at this junction due to the poor road surface. The resident was also a bit miffed with KCC Highways, as he had sent a letter of complaint to Simon Jones and got a reply from Andrew Loosemore stating that the safety reports note that there are no "safety critical defects" with the road and so no work will be undertaken. Should the resident wish to escalate the matter then this can be done to Simon Jones. *Resident to pass correspondence to the Clerk who will attempt to go back to KCC Highways again in an attempt to resolve the matter of Jesses Hill.*

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. No Councillors had any comments regarding the report.

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

The monthly crime report had been received from the local PCSO, and circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting, with no crimes of note being recorded for Kingston. Cllr Spencer commented on the fact that nuisance bikes were mentioned in Covet Wood, and happy the PCSO was aware of them.

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 Stonegate Pub Partners, the owners of the land, had gone to their contractor to quote them for work to do the bramble hedge. This item was moved to be discussed as part of Agenda item 14.

Clerk to email Stonegate Pub Partners to request an update.

b) Kings Yard Correspondence:

Cllr Stribbling commented on the virtual meeting Councillors had with Stevie Andrews, Head of Planning at CCC. Cllr Stribbling reported that Stevie was very apologetic for the responses that he himself, and the Parish Council, had received. The service that had been received was way below their expectations. Regarding the phrasing of the report, Stevie said that she herself had not seen it before, but when she had spoken with the legal department was told that this was a generic statement. She stated that she would always have an open door should we have an issue that needs resolving. It was also noted from the meeting that regarding planning applications, it is not about the number of objections received anymore, but more the quantity of objections that differ from each other, that will be looked into.

c) Wincheap Gyratory System:

Cllr Chatley stated he had not received any further information from Cllr Sole regarding the upcoming Wincheap Gyratory System.

9. Planning:

At this juncture, Cllr Reeves was asked to leave the room due to his application being part of the Agenda item.

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

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

P.C. Comments: This planning application had been resent out for consultation by CCC due to the fact the wording within the documentation had been altered. No further objections

CA/21/02777– Location: Marleywood Yard, Marley Lane, Kingston, Kent, CT4 6JJ – **Proposal:** Single-storey replacement dwelling with associated parking following demolition of an existing single-storey residential building

P.C. Comments: No Objection

The following decisions are “Awaited”:

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

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.

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

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

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.

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.

(NB: Application was noted as “Granted” at the December 2021 meeting but accidentally remained on the Agenda for January 2022)

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))

Cllr Martin apologised for the lack of updated bank balance (as shown above), due to the lack of bank statements that had been received from the bank.

Payments:

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

Dynamix – Payroll Fees December: £7.80
Chris Howard – Clerk Salary December
Hall Hire - £30

Cllr Martin commented on the hall hire being reduced by The Barn by 50% of what it should be, due to the Parish Council being unable to use the hall during the lockdown in 2021 caused by the coronavirus pandemic. Cllr McWilliams raised that she would like to discuss the potential of offering a donation to The Barn to help compensate them for lost earnings caused by the pandemic. This was covered during Agenda item 14.

- b) Internet banking:

Cllr Martin reported that she had heard nothing more from Lloyds bank and so would be attending the branch in Canterbury to enquire as to what was occurring with the setting up of the online bank account.

Cllr Martin to attend the bank branch in Canterbury regarding the account.

- c) Reserve:

The current reserve for the Parish Council is £5000, which was 6 months' worth of precept (prior to the recent request to lower the precept). Whilst the Parish Council did not have to use or rely upon its reserves during covid, it was discussed whether the amount should be raised to 12 months' worth of precept in case there was ever a case where funding was stopped, as the Parish Council have no revenue stream other than through precept and CCF. The raising of the reserve to £7,000, in line with the requested precept, was proposed by Cllr Pearson and seconded by Cllr Chatley. The vote was passed unanimously by Councillors.

11. CCC and KALC Correspondence:

- a) CFF options for 2023-25:

CCC is currently consulting on two options for CFF funding for financial years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 as follows:

1. Parish councils would receive the same individual funding allocation as per 2022-23 plus inflation (expected to be 3%). This is the simplest approach but is based on historic applications from 2016.
2. 50% of the funding would be based on the number of council tax properties per parish and 50% would be based on the size of the area currently maintained via CFF in the parish. This would therefore take into account both the local population that are contributing towards the

maintenance of facilities via the precept and Council Tax as well as the amount of land that is to be maintained. This does not, however, take into account the type of facilities or land.

Under Option 1, the Parish Council would receive £2,516 a year and under Option 2 the Parish Council would receive £2,446.

Whilst the difference between the values is nominal, any fall would mean the Parish Council would need to consider either an increase in the precept to cover the shortfall or a cut back on services. The Parish Council therefore unanimously agreed to submit a preference for Option 1.

Clerk to submit a preference for Option 1 to CCC

b) CCC Enforcement Update:

The Clerk commented that a document had been received from CCC regarding the penalty notices issued by themselves for the Canterbury District. This had been circulated to councillors prior to the meeting. There was nothing within that held any particular importance to the village.

c) CCC Budget Consultation:

CCC has to set a balanced budget to make sure the money they spend delivering services is in line with the money they have available. CCC will set their budget for 2022/23 in February 2022 and want to hear views on their proposals. The draft budget proposes investing extra money in a variety of services in line with the council's Corporate Plan priorities and making operational savings of £1.1m in 2022-2023 by streamlining internal processes and improving the way they work. Further information can be found on CCC's website

<https://news.canterbury.gov.uk/consultation-item?id=1&r=46>

Councillors commented on the seeming lack of urgency by CCC regarding any issues within the village, in particular drainage cleaning and road sweeping, and hoped that the budget would take this into consideration, and there would be more resources put towards villages in the Canterbury district.

d) CCC Parking Charge Consultation:

CCC is proposing to make several changes to its car parks from April 2022 to encourage greater use of car parks that have spare capacity, help tackle the climate emergency and increase income to help pay for vital council services. Further information can be found on CCC's website

<https://news.canterbury.gov.uk/consultation-item?id=1&r=47>

Councillors commented on their confusion that for a city that relies upon tourism and footfall along the high street, that the City Council would feel it appropriate to increase the parking charges, whilst, as has been recently rumoured, simultaneously remove the park and ride services.

e) CCC Stour Parks and Gorrell Valley PSPO Consultation:

Councillors did not feel as though they were in the best place to comment on this as it would not affect them due to the distance from the area concerned.

f) Draft Parish Charter Consultation:

Councillors asked if the Draft Charter can be recirculated, and an Agenda item created on the February Agenda for this to be discussed.

Clerk to recirculate document and add to the February Agenda

12. Highways and Footpaths:

a) Highways Improvement Plan (HIP):

The Clerk reported that a reply had been received regarding some of the items within the HIP. KCC will install Automatic Traffic Count to see if there is justification to reducing the speed limit along The Street, Bonny Bush Hill, and the road around the Black Robin PH.

Speed warning signs will not be installed at the Black Robin PH, as there is no power source in the area to allow this, and solar signs are currently not approved for use.

Regarding the installation of new drains along Church Lane, KCC have requested photographs to evidence the need for extra drainage along the road.

Clerk to circulate email received to Councillors

b) Salt Bins:

The Clerk reported that KCC have responded regarding a Salt Bin being installed on Church Lane. They state that there are no issues regarding the location of the Bin, but that the Parish Council would need to request permission from the landowner. The information as to who the landowner is, is not allowed to be passed by KCC due to data protection. The Clerk is currently awaiting a reply from KCC as to whether the owner of the layby would be the owner of the field, which the layby is next to.

Clerk to chase KCC for a reply and then continue to locate the landowner to request permission

c) Embankment Trees overlooking 3 Green Acres:

To be discussed during Agenda item 14.

d) Acacia Trees near to Green Acre substation:

To be discussed during Agenda item 14.

13. Platinum Jubilee 2022:

Cllr Martin stated that earlier that day, a Community All Together event had been announced. Further information would need to be gathered regarding this as well as the potential to create a flier for the event and a request for volunteers to help.

Prior to the December meeting, sizes, prices, colours, and materials for differing plaques were circulated to Councillors. It was requested that the email be recirculated and that it would be discussed at the February meeting.

Further information to be gained regarding the Community All Together event and circulated to Councillors. Agenda item to be created for the February meeting

14. Village Projects

Due to the current high working balance the Parish Council currently has due to unexpected savings, Councillors discussed several projects that they feel could benefit the village and parishioners.

ITEM	DETAILS
Trees and Vegetation (excluding Embankment)	a) Black Robin brambles – cut back <i>Currently awaiting response from the landowners regarding work to be carried out. This is a matter for the landowners, and should any action be taken by the Parish Council this will be as a one-off</i> b) Trees near Greenacre sub-substation (3x acacias) – reduce in height <i>Clerk to obtain quotations. Cllr Reeves to obtain permission for the work from Forestry Commission as he is working on a nearby tree owned by a resident</i> c) Trees in Faggs Alley <i>Cllr McWilliams will chase for an update on the trees</i> d) Trees on bridleway from Whitelock Farm to Covet Lane (CB273) <i>Currently awaiting response from the landowners regarding work to be carried out. This is a matter for the landowners, and should any action be taken by the Parish Council this will be as a one-off</i>
Embankment	a) Trees overhanging No 3 Greenacre <i>Clerk to obtain quotations. Permission for the works can be requested by the Clerk or whoever is chosen to complete the works, should they offer.</i> b) Plans for second stage clearance towards Covet Lane <i>To be discussed within the next financial year</i> c) Trees overhanging field alongside Church Lane <i>To be discussed within the next financial year</i> d) Regular strimming alongside footpath <i>Trever Oku to continue with strimming of the footpath</i> e) New planting including wild-flower seeding <i>Councillors are happy with the idea, but it is currently not the right time of year.</i> f) Timber for repairing worn steps <i>A new supply of boards is needed. Cllr Martin to investigate purchasing these</i>

	g) Information boards – 1 at either end of the footpath <i>Contents to be discussed. Ask Kent Wildlife to carry out an audit before approaching a printing company</i>
Footpaths	a) Hire labour as needed for selected clearance <i>Cllr Martin to circulate a map of paths owned by Kingston Parish Council to councillors. Any other paths are the responsibility of the landowners. Should any action be taken by the Parish Council, on paths not owned by the Parish Council, will be as a one-off</i> b) Woodchip along CB 274 <i>Permission would be required from the landowner. Cllr Reeves believes the path is in the process of being seeded by the landowner, and so placing woodchips down would hinder any potential future grass growth.</i>
Refurbishment	a) Footpath noticeboard at corner of playing field. <i>A replacement is required to be purchased</i> b) New Signage – where? <i>No new signage requests were raised by councillors</i>
Highways	a) Speed cameras? <i>Clerk to investigate the process of purchasing new cameras or placing on the HIP</i>
Events	a) Subsidise Platinum Jubilee <i>An agenda item to be created to discuss the event and purchasing of a plaque for the tree</i>
Donations	a) Playground? <i>The Barn to be approached as to whether they require any donations towards the upkeep of the playing field and playground</i> b) Church? <i>Cllr Martin to approach the church to ask if there is anything they would like the Parish Council to donate towards. Cllr McWilliams voiced that the Parish Council should consider donating towards the cost of and tree works.</i>

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

None

16. Matters for future discussion:

Cllr Chatley raised that a date for the Annual Village meeting 2022 needs to be decided.

Agenda item to be created for the February meeting

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.02pm.

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 07th February 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