



KINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council

Monday 3rd June 2024 at 19:30

Present: Cllr Paul Chatley (Chair); Cllr Jerry Cook; Cllr Davina Martin (Vice-Chair); Cllr Val McWilliams; Cllr Laura Spencer; Cllr Steve Reeves, Cllr Richard Story; 3 Members of the Public

1. Chairman opening remarks, apologies and approval of absences:

Cllr Chatley welcomed everyone present and thanked them for attending the meeting. Apologies were received from Stephanie Woods (Clerk).

2. Minutes of previous meetings:

The minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 13th May 2024 were approved as a true record, proposed by Cllr Martiin, seconded by Cllr Storey, and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

3. Declarations of interest

None received.

4. Public Forum:

Gary Water, CEO of Highland Court farm introduced himself and stated that he was willing to answer questions regarding rumours about Highland Court and in particular the recent update last Friday when CPRE attempted to bring a request for a Judicial review. This had been quashed by the judge who had also refused leave to appeal.

A member of the public requested why Church Lane was being closed by SEW. The chair replied that the PC do not get exact details of why the road is being closed.

5. Reports from Kent Police, County and City Council members: None had been received but Cllr Soles monthly report was on Facebook.

6. Matters arising: (if not already on the agenda)

- Cllr Chatley commented on a donation to KWT for their talk at the Village meeting. Councillors were unsure of the amount contributed for the last talk in 2022. Cllr Chatley to check minutes for the amount and the same amount will be made to KWT. All agreed.
- Cllr Chatley said that he had looked into changing the name on the Microsoft account but it is something that cannot be changed.
- The number of posts that can be put on the website has been changed after Cllr Chatley contacted the website designer.
- Cllr Chatley raised the question of a donation towards the Defibrillator after recent repairs. Cllr Cook proposed that the maintenance costs of the Defibrillator should be taken over by the Parish Council instead of the KVHT as it is for the use of everyone in the village. Routine maintenance is necessary together with replacing parts after every use. Councillors agreed that KPC should take over ownership of the Defibrillator. Cllr Chatley to confirm this with the chair of KVHT and Cllr McWilliams to contact Mary Starr who overlooks the equipment.
- The area of The Street between Church Lane and Nailbourne Close is badly overgrown and requires a tidy up. Work on some trees cannot take place as Cllr Reeves stated that there were birds nesting. Quotes required for work.

- Cllr Chatley said that a resident had been in contact about Hill Top Farm. The resident felt their comments had not been taken into account when the councils comments were submitted to CCC. Cllr Chatley had responded to the resident saying that the land usage was correct and that the rest of their comments did not directly relate to the planning application. Cllr Chatley also informed the resident that the PC comments hold no more influence than those of a resident and that CCC will only consider comments directly relating to the planning application.

7. Finance:

a) Payments and Receipts: Precept has been received

Bank Balance is £30,191.21 as of 24th May 2024 - £29,454.25 in the savings account and £736.96 in current account (of which £11,000 is reserves).

Payments:

Stephanie Woods - Clerk Salary (May 2024)

HMRC – Clerk PAYE – Direct Debit

Stephanie Woods – Reimbursement of Annual Village Meeting refreshments - £74.08

Stephanie Woods – Reimbursement of 0.25 printer Toner - £16.25

CPRE – Annual Membership - £36

Dean and Chapter of Canterbury – Archive Storage 2023/24 - £30.00

Dean and Chapter of Canterbury – Archive Storage 2024/25 - £30.00

The above payments were proposed by Cllr Spencer and seconded by Cllr Reeves. ALL AGREED.

It was agreed by all that £2000 be transferred from the savings account to the current account.

b) CCF Funding still to be received.

d) Miscellaneous Parish Council Matters:

- Refurbishment of mosaic village signs: Now that the sign at the bus triangle has been completed attention should turn to the other sign by the Black Robin. Ownership of the land in stands on has recently changed hands but it is understood that the new owner has no problems with this. Cllr Cook will see if it can be taken down to be repaired and repainted as necessary.
- Emergency Plan: Ongoing. Cllr Chatley to ask Clerk what the other PC's she clerks for have in place.

e) Highways, Footpaths and Trees:

- Highways Improvement Plan: No Update.
- Overgrown Bushes by Millenium Bridge – No update
- Woodland Management Plan including Tree Survey : Cllr Martin was concerned over the construction of an access ramp for machinery to access the embankment as it was not a natural chalk hill but was created from material taken from the cutting at Bishopsbourne. She feared that the embankment would become unsafe. Cllr Reeves stated that it only needs to be 4ft wide and made from natural materials which will grass over when not used. The clerk needs to seek quotes for this work. Two quotes for the tree survey had been received, one at £950 and one at £680+Vat. The cheaper quote seemed to meet our requirements better. Cllr Spencer asked if we could contact The Stour Valley Countryside Partnership who maybe able to take on this work. It was agreed that Cllr Chatley would contact the Stour Valley group but if it was beyond their capabilities we would go with the £680+Vat quote. All were agreed. Cllr Chatley stated that the embankment path is so heavily overgrown it is extremely difficult to navigate. Cllr Reeves said he could be available to do the work on Friday. It was agreed the work should be done sooner than later and agreed for Cllr Reeves to undertake the work.
- Birch Trees along The Street: Cllr reeves has been and had a look and although some trees can be worked on others have nesting birds. Cllr Reeves will submit a quote for this work.
- Footpaths within Kingston Parish: Cllr Chatley has reported the Llama path to PROW who will deal ASAP.
- Kingston to Barham footpath. Cllr Chatley explained that there was a current footpath from Covet Lane to Valley Road which is the extent of the Parish Boundary. It was agreed that a meeting is

required to find out BPC ideas on what they would like to see done along the stretch to Out Elmsted Lane. Clerk to arrange a meeting with BPC

g) Salt Bin & Salt Delivery: Still no response from KCC. Clerk will chase this again.

12. Matters for future discussion: Cllr Reeves stated that the 'Unsuitable for HGV' sign at the end of Marley Lane where it meets Turks Hill has been knocked over by a vehicle. Cllr Chatley to report of KCC Highways.

13. Date of next meeting: 8th July 2024 at 7.30pm in The Barn, Kingston

There being no further business, the meeting was closed to the public at 20:30.

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 on 8th July 2024.

Future meeting dates: 02/09/2024, 07/10/2024, 04/11/2024 and 02/12/2024