



KINGSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council

Monday 7th October 2024 at 19:30

Present: Cllr Paul Chatley (Chair); Cllr Jerry Cook; Cllr Davina Martin (Vice-Chair); Cllr Laura Spencer; Cllr Steve Reeves, Cllr Richard Story; 4 Members of the Public; Stephanie Woods (Clerk)

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

Cllr Chatley welcomed everyone present and thanked them for attending the meeting. There have been a couple of emails regarding Barham to Kingston footpath received since the last meeting and circulated to all Councillors. Cllr Chatley reminded that as we have already passed this resolution, the PC are unable to discuss this again for further six months although it could be revisited if two councillors wanted to raise a motion. No councillors indicated they wished to do this. Cllr Spencer raised that that there is already a perfectly usable footpath and she does not feel it would be appropriate for the PC to pay to have the path re-routed (given that it already takes the most direct route, diagonally, across the land). However, she would be in favour of asking the landowner to make it more accessible (by replacing stiles with gates, for example). Apologies for absence were received from Cllr McWilliams.

2. Minutes of previous meetings:

The minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 2nd September 2024 were approved as a true record, proposed by Cllr Reeves, seconded by Cllr Story, and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

3. Declarations of interest

None were received.

4. Public Forum:

- A resident asked for the details of our Kent Police contacts which were given by the Clerk. Councillors requested that we ask for more attendance from Kent Police at meetings. Clerk to speak with them.
- Disappointment was raised from another member of public on the recent decision on the Barham/Kingston footpath.
- Cllr Spencer has received an email from a resident regarding the bridleway/footpath on The Street leading up to the bus stop. A gate has been put up blocking access. Clerk to report to Kent PROW.

5. Reports from Kent Police, County and City Council members: Cllr Soles monthly report has been circulated and is on our noticeboard, website and Facebook.

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

Community wardens – letter received from KCC to Mike Sole which was circulated to Councillors. The letter informed they are removing warden service and detailed options for PCs to consider. Options were either direct employment or sponsorship model. There was confusion on this so Cllr Cook to speak to Cllr Sole for clarification.

7. Finance:

- a. Payments and Receipts: Bank Balance is £28,223.93 as of 1st October 2024 (Including grants and reserves) £25,813.47 in the savings account and £2,410.46 in current account of which £11,000 is reserves

Credits:

Unity Trust Bank – Credit Interest - £188.32

Payments:

Stephanie Woods – Clerk Salary (September)

Unity Trust Bank – Service Charge - £18.00

Hart Lee Tree Surgery – Inv 0605 – Embankment Tree Works Sept 2024 - £1,836.00

Paul Chatley – Reimbursement Microsoft 365 Licence - £79.99

Envisage – Grounds Maintenance (Aug) – Inv 1753 - £60.00

Stephanie Woods – Mileage (Feb – Sept 24) - £55.35

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

- b. CFF Funding: Invoice for £300 has been sent to CCC for the PC's share of the CFF funding and the additional information needed to was also sent. Money should be paid into account soon.
- c. Six Month Finance Review/Precept: Cllr Chatley informed the group that the PC has not been charged for hall since 2022. Cllr Chatley to speak to KVHT to get them to invoice for 2022-2025. This was discussed and some figures were amended following the discussion. All councillors to look at review before the next meeting so the precept for 2025/26 can be agreed at the next meeting.

8. Planning

a. New applications:

- CA/24/01465 - The Orchard, Marley Lane, Kingston - Creation of wildlife pond with timber jetty and decking area.
- CA/24/01633 - The Orchard, Marley Lane, Kingston - Pergola and raised terrace to rear elevation.

A joint comment was discussed for both applications as at the same property. All agreed to support application with no further comments.

9. Miscellaneous Parish Council Matters:

- a) Refurbishment of mosaic village sign: this is still ongoing. It was agreed to leave this off the agenda until spring.
- b) Emergency Plan: Following the KALC meeting last month, Cllr Martin has been sent the handouts. Everything seems the same requirement as what we've already got just needs modernising.
- c) Village Fete – PC Tombola: Raised £153 on tombola and £2,300 in total. Well done All! It was noted that next year it is not worth driving and collecting as nothing was out this year.
- d) Defibrillator ownership: value of defib is £1170 which will be added to PC asset register.
- e) CCC Parish Grant Scheme: DISCUSS - Clerk has circulated and it was decided it is not really any benefit to PC at this time.
- f) Website Address: DISCUSS. Our provider has contacted to say they can now provide Gov.uk domain names which is currently on an offer. It was agreed to stay with what the PC currently has.

10. Highways, Footpaths and Trees:

- a. Highways – including Marley Lane and Salt Bin: UPDATE. KCC have confirmed that the Marley Lane signs are not correct and will be replacing them. They have sent location maps but they are in the wrong place. Clerk to speak to KCC and ask for one to be placed at each end of Marley Lane. Cllr Reeves raised that the highway in Marley Lane is in bad condition. Clerk to report this to KCC. It was also reported that the sign that says Kingston by Bonnie Bush Hill is damaged so Clerk will also report this to KCC.
- b. Embankment – Woodland Management Plan & Volunteer Group: UPDATE. Two quotes have been received, both a similar price. Some clarification is required on the quotations so Clerk to discuss with both companies and ask them to revise their quotes.

- c. Bushes Nailbourne Close/The Street: DISCUSS. The trees have been reported again and now nesting season is over, it was agreed that the PC will arrange for these to be pollard back to original points. Clerk to get quotations for next meeting.
- d. Trees – Bonny Bush Hill: UPDATE. Cllr Chatley has contacted landowner regarding the tree on opposite side of the road to the bus stop. It has currently been half cut and the remaining part of the tree will be removed by end of the month. Clerk to get quotations for the two trees on the triangle area by the bus stop. Quotations to include CCC planning consent with pollard to the maple and 25% crown reduction oak.
- e. Bushes – Black Robin PH: UPDATE. Still awaiting response from the Brewery. Clerk to chase this for the next meeting. EA have cut back in readiness for Nailbourne to start flowing this winter.
- f. Little Shrubbery Maintenance: UPDATE. Quotes still to be received to prune twice year.
- g. Bus stop improvements/refurbishment (The Street & Black Robin): UPDATE. All drop kerbs are in and completed. One quotation has been received for painting bus shelter by Black Robin with the work programmed to be done next summer. It was agreed to get another quote and get some further clarification on the existing quotation so it can be agreed at the next meeting.
- h. Footpaths within Kingston Parish: UPDATE. CB238 (by Little Duskin) has now been cut back by Cllr Reeves and Mulberry House is hoped to be completed by end of next week. Sycamore tree on footpath CB275 needs work as too large and overhanging footpath. No landowner so it was agreed PC will carry out these tree works. Clerk to get quotations for a 25% reduction. It was raised that Llama bridle path sign is missing from The Street so Cllr Cook to look and report if missing. CB238 hand rail needs repairing. Clerk to report to PROW. Step gone on embankment and Cllr Chatley will resolve.

11. Dates for meeting 2025: TO AGREE. All agreed the proposed dates. Cllr Chatley to send them to KVHT so the hall can be booked.

12. Matters for future discussion: None were raised.

13. Date of next meeting: 4th November 2024 at 7.30pm in The Barn, Kingston

There being no further business, the meeting was closed to the public at 20:44.

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 4th November 2024.

Future meeting dates:
02/12/2024