



KINGSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council

Monday 6th January at 19:30

Present: Cllr Paul Chatley (Chair); Cllr Davina Martin (Vice-Chair); Cllr Jerry Cook; Cllr Val McWilliams; Cllr Steve Reeves, Cllr Laura Spencer; Cllr Richard Story; Cllr Mike Sole (KCC & CCC); 3 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 and wished all a happy New Year. No apologies were received.

2. Minutes of previous meetings:

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

3. Declarations of interest

None were received.

4. Public Forum:

A resident asked if the new defib case has a new code and the Chairman confirmed it has no code.

5. Reports from Kent Police, County and City Council members: Cllr Soles monthly report has been circulated to all Councillors, has been posted on our website and on Facebook. Cllr Sole informed the meeting that on Thursday KCC will be deciding if they will be an early pioneer on the new proposals in the Devolution of Local Government. This means that District/City Councils will be replaced by larger unity authorities with a mayor to oversee. It is proposed that there will be an East Kent Authority consisting of the following areas – Dover, Canterbury, Folkestone, Thanet and Ashford.

Kent Police update given by Cllr Cook. On 22nd January they are planning to launch a new scheme called Paws on Patrol where volunteer dog walkers monitor areas and report concerns to Kent Police. Matt Allwright doorbell campaign is also being launched. Bike marking weekend, dates to be confirmed. Coffee with the Cops in Bishopsbourne café and finally the Kent Police budget was also mentioned.

Clerk informed the meeting that a new KCC Community Warden has been assigned to the ward and has contacted the PC. Details have been circulated to all Councillors and Clerk will invite to next PC meeting.

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

- The new salt bin is now in Marley Lane – Cllr Chatley to add to salt bin list.
- Black Robin Lane closure has a new date of 22nd January (closed for up to 10 days).
- The Street may close due to national grid and problems with telephone wires. National grid hole filled in by field after reporting.
- Cllr Reeves will soon be given some old footpath maps.

7. Finance:

- a) Payments and Receipts: Bank Balance is £22,117.32 as of 31st December 2024 (Including grants and reserves)

£21,813.47 in the savings account and £303.85 in current account of which £11,000 is reserves.

Credits:

Unity Trust Bank – Credit Interest - £152.28

Payments:

Stephanie Woods – Clerk Salary (December)

Envisage – November Grounds Maintenance - £120.00

Kalex Electrical Services Ltd – Replace Defibrillator Cabinet – £90.00

Paul Chatley – Reimbursement Defibrillator Cabinet - £569.99

Steve Reeves – Faggs Alley Tree Works - £440.00

Mary Starrs - Defib battery - £286.20

Transfer of £2,000 from savings account to current account and the above payments were proposed by Cllr Spencer and seconded by Cllr McWilliams. ALL AGREED.

- b) Defib – An update of the defib was given. The new cabinet is working correctly but the defib still not working and it is thought it is the battery. A new battery has been ordered. It was also agreed there needs to be a plan for what happens in the future.

Precept request sent to CCC by Clerk for 2025/26 precept.

8. Planning

a) New applications:

- CA/24/02155 - King's Yard, The Street, Kingston - Insertion of 2 windows to first floor North elevation, insertion of window to first floor South elevation together with 5 rooflights. Support with no comments. Cllr Spencer wished her comments on the planning application to be noted as neutral.
- CA/24/02217 - The Orchard, Marley Lane, Kingston - Single-storey detached annexe following the demolition of existing outbuilding. Neutral and with comment noting it is not an annexe but a separate building.

b) Decided applications:

- CA/24/02125 – 56 The Street, Kingston, Kent - T1) Scots Pine Tree close to the boundary between 56 & 58 -Fell. NO OBJECTIONS.

9. Miscellaneous Parish Council Matters:

a) Emergency Plan: Ongoing.

b) Annual Village Meeting – Speaker: It was suggested that Andy Linklater (Adisham) History Society be the speaker for this year's meeting. Contact details to be provided to Clerk.

c) Kingston Brooch: Ongoing.

10. Highways, Footpaths and Trees:

a) Highways – including Marley Lane: No update on the HGV signs from KCC. Marley Lane needs attention as condition is not good.

b) Embankment – Woodland Management Plan & Access: Quotations for WMP still ongoing. Clerk to obtain quotations for access to the Embankment.

c) Embankment – Tree Removal and Sectioning Tree Works: It was agreed to create sections for Ash die back by using coloured posts at intervals which will move as we do tree works. Two ash trees down in recent storm and although they are not dangerous, they have fallen into field. Clerk to get quotes to remove.

d) Tree work quotations: Nailbourne Close, Bonny Bush Hill and CB275: Still awaiting planning.

e) Tree Works – CB277: KCC have asked if the PC can assist with their tree works. After discussion it was decided to decline to help. Cllr McWilliams to let KCC know the outcome.

f) Faggs Alley – Trees and Planting: reported to Kent PROW for mud. It was suggested plants put in place to hold bank in place. Clerk to do land search via land registry to see who owns the land before the PC do any works.

g) St Giles Church Sign: Hopefully Fifth Trust should finish sign soon. Cllr Chatley to organise refitting.

- h) Bushes – Black Robin PH: Ongoing. It was reported that previously the PC contacted Stonegate Pub Partners on this issue. Clerk to contact them.
- i) Footpaths within Kingston Parish: Finger post by Faggs Alley reported to Kent PROW.
- j) PROW/CC/C446 – Claimed Public Footpath CB542 to Public Bridleway CB230: Letter of support sent to Kent PROW.

11. Clerk Vacancy

Cllr Chatley will advertise vacancy tomorrow with KALC. Closing date will be 4th February with an interview date of Monday 17th February. Updates will be given at the next meeting.

12. Matters for future discussion.

None.

13. Date of next meeting: 3rd February 2025 at 7.30pm in The Barn, Kingston

There being no further business, the meeting was closed to the public at 20:29.

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 3rd February 2025.

Future meeting dates:

03/03/2025, 07/04/2025, 12/05/2025 (Annual Parish Meeting), 21/05/2025 (Annual Village Meeting),
02/06/2025, 07/07/2025, 01/09/2025, 06/10/2025, 03/11/2025 and 01/12/2025