

Minutes of Kingston Parish Council Meeting held on
Monday 4th December 2017 in the Barn, Kingston.

Present:-
Cllr Martin - Chairman
Cllr Osborn - Vice-Chair
Cllr Arter
Cllr Pearson
Cllr Spencer
Cllr Wakefield
Valerie McWilliams, Clerk

There were four members of the public present.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting after which she asked for any comments from the public.

A member of the public updated the Council on a recent meeting about the proposed Highland Court development

A member of the public reported difficulties they were facing with the traffic problems on Marley Lane, elaborating on the issues raised in the recent traffic survey.

County Cllr Michael Northey was unable to attend but reported that gritting lorries had started in Kent and they were fully prepared for severe weather. He wished all a happy Christmas.

City Cllr Simon Cook was unable to attend the meeting but reported that since the last meeting he was aware of a couple of issues with rubbish collection in the village and is working with Serco to sort these out. Please could you let him know of any other issues that arise, so they can be followed up. He wished the Council a very happy Christmas

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

City Cllr Simon Cook, Cty Cllr Michal Northey & Cllr McCord sent their apologies for being unable to attend the meeting as they had prior engagements.

2. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Cllr Osborn declared an interest in part of Agenda item 6. There were no other notifications by members given of any pecuniary or discretionary interest in items on the Agenda.

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting on 6th November 2017 were accepted as an accurate

record. Acceptance of the minutes; proposed by Cllr Pearson & seconded by Cllr Osborn.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Since the last meeting on 6th November the Chair & Clerk had attended Adisham Parish Council meeting with regard to a suggested boundary change which would transfer Ileden from Kingston to Adisham. Adisham agreed that boundaries should stay as they are and there will be no change. The Chair reminded the Council that we do have a Communications Protocol that should be adhered to; this would be discussed at a later meeting.

The Clerk confirmed that she had reported the broken bollards to Highways.

All action items had been executed.

5. FINANCE

Lloyds Bank £12,534.03 (21 November 2017)

Payments Due

Val McWilliams for 16 Hours worked in November at SCP2 per hour £10.50 = £168 + Office Maintenance £40.00. = £208.00

Robert Osborn - Barham Village Hall hire £5.00

Andrew Sage Grass Cutting (bus shelter) £144.00

TOTAL £357.00

These figures were accepted for payment; proposed by Cllr Wakefield and seconded by Cllr Spencer.

The Council was notified that Andrew Sage will be increasing his individual grass cutting cost from £24.00 to £25.00 in 2018. Other estimates included hedge cutting and clearing debris between Church Lane and the Millennium Bridge on The Street £190; clearing of debris on the hedge between Nailbourne Close and Church Lane £70.

The precept was discussed and it was agreed by all to request £7,150.00 for 2018/2019. The Government Grant of £38.36 will be added to the figure making it £7,188.36 in total. Proposed by Cllr Arter & seconded by Cllr Pearson. This is an increase from the previous year but in view of all the cutbacks councils are experiencing it was deemed necessary.

6. PLANNING

17/02533 Proposed detached two-storey dwelling with associated vehicular access following demolition of garage. Land adjacent to 60 The Street, Kingston, CT4 6JE. Councillors considered the application and felt overall that the building would be too close to the adjoining houses since it would be tightly crammed in

between two two-storey dwellings, with a narrow alleyway on either side of the new building. It is situated on the south side of No 58, and would cast a shadow over that property would be cast over No 58, blocking out the light. Overall, it was considered disproportionate for the size of the plot. Councillors felt that they could not support the application and opposed it.

17/02576 Single-storey porch, replacement windows & solar panels to the front roof elevation. The Old Forge, Church Lane, Kingston CT4 6HX. Cllr Osborn vacated the room while the application was discussed. Councillors considered the application and there were no objections raised.

17/02703 Proposed single-storey rear extension following demolition of existing garage. 2 Nailbourne Close, Kingston CT4 6JA. The application was considered in addition, there were no objections raised.

The Clerk will write to the Development Team at CCC informing them of the council's decisions

DECISIONS

17/02434 Proposed single-storey side extension following demolition of conservatory and open fronted store. Broadfield Covet Lane, Kingston, CT4 6HJ
Awaiting decision

17/02411 Retrospective Application for proposed two-storey detached dwelling and two-storey detached garage with games rooms over following demolition of existing dwelling and garage.. The Purlins, Black Robin Lane, Kingston CT4 6HR
Awaiting decision.

17/022271 T.P.O. No 6 1968 T1- fell sycamore located in rear garden
50 The Street, Kingston. CT4 6JE **Refused.**

Appeal under section 174. Land north side of Marley Lane (adjacent Marley Wood Bungalow) Marley Lane, Kingston, CT4 6JJ **Appeal still to be heard.**

7. TREES

A review of the progress so far on the Railway Embankment will be considered at the January meeting to include original aims, finances and plans. It is hoped to have the area of the embankment near the Playing Field ready for planting early in the New Year.

8. POLICIES & REGULATIONS UPDATE

Examples of Risk Assessments for key items were considered and agreement reached. Risk scores will be added into the Asset Register for those items.

The Financial Risk Assessment document was discussed. It was agreed that in future, two councillors would initially sign invoices as well as cheques and cheque

stubs as it was considered good financial practice. Proposed by Cllr Pearson & seconded by Cllr Arter.

It was agreed that the Clerk would provide a brief analysis of the Council's insurance cover annually.

It was also agreed that two people should be present on site visits at all times. The policy was approved once amendments have been added.

Cllr Martin explained that we now have to publicise the land and building assets we own, these will include the Railway Embankment along with the two bus shelters. The detail required will be added into the Transparency Code compliance, on the website. Once the amendments have been included it was agreed to accept the policy; proposed by Cllr Spencer & seconded by Cllr Pearson.

9. WELCOME PACK

Cllr Martin explained the suggested reorganisation of the Welcome Pack to the Council who were happy to approve the suggestions. It is planned to present the revised pack at the Annual Village Meeting in May 2018.

10. HIGHWAYS & FOOTPATHS

The key issues highlighted in the Marley Lane traffic survey concerned overgrown vegetation spreading onto the road reducing its width, the stability of the retaining structures on the south side of the Lane and the height of the hedges towards Turk's Hill. The Clerk will contact Kent Highways to discuss the issues. She will also check on the salt bins.

11. HIGHLAND COURT DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

A meeting took place in Bridge Parish Hall on 23rd November 2017. It is not known when the official plans will be published. If parishes have any particular concerns about aspects of the proposed plans, they should communicate them to the Clerk of Bekesbourne with Patricxbourne Parish Council. Mrs Gail Hubbard at clerk.bwp@outlook.com Little can be done until the plans are made available to be considered.

12. KENT COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH

The Clerk has contacted Alan Watson the County Co-ordinator of Kent Speed Watch with regard to joining the scheme. He gave her details of how to take part in the scheme. First, we would need to register and then do some training. At least six volunteers would be needed. Barham have offered to lend us their equipment in the first instance. Councillors felt that the winter was not the best time to launch the exercise so it will be reviewed nearer the spring.

13. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

KALC AGM 18th November 2017

Clerks & Councils Direct

Emails sent to all

Report Kent Men of Trees

Rural England

Came & Company

Parish News

Boundary Changes

Kent downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

Inside Track

PCSO Report

NALC News Release

Planning for the right homes in the right places

1. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Spencer reported that The National "Keep Britain Tidy" was being repeated in March 2018. The Council would like to take part again and Cllr Spencer will make the necessary arrangements.

The General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) are changing. The present Act will be repealed by 2018 when the new regulations come into force. KALC have organised half-day workshops to explain the new system.

The wooden finger post at the end of Fagg's Alley has been knocked down. The Clerk will get it repaired.

There was no further business. The meeting closed at 9.40 pm.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Will take place on Monday 8TH January 2018 at 7.30pm in The Barn.