

Minutes of Kingston Parish Council Meeting held on  
Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2016 in The Barn, Kingston.

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Present:

Cllr Martin - Chairman  
Cllr Osborn – Vice-chair  
Cllr Arter  
Cllr McCord  
Cllr Pearson  
Cllr Walsh  
Cllr Spencer  
Valerie McWilliams, Clerk

There were 2 members of the public present.

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

### **COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

Cty Cllr Michael Northey attended the meeting and reported that KCC has now set its next year's Budget There have been huge reductions in the government grant and that coupled with rising prices and rise in demand KCC has had to make savings of 118 million pounds. This is a tough budget with cuts of 42.9 million pounds.

KCC are proposing changes to the Mobile Library Service to consider how to make it a more effective and better service. There is an online consultation questionnaire which can be viewed on [kent.gov.uk/mobilelibraryservices](http://kent.gov.uk/mobilelibraryservices)

The Consultative Document runs from 22<sup>nd</sup> January until 4<sup>th</sup> March 2016. KCC would welcome public views on the proposed changes that have been outlined by completing the questionnaire at the end of the document.

If there are less than 2 members of the public that visit any one site of the Mobile Library the service will be removed. Alternative sites will be considered.

Kent County Council has recently secured funding to convert all of its street lights to Light Emitting Diode (LED) technology. LED's are significantly more efficient than the existing lights. Improvements in LED technology and a reduction in prices mean that LED lights are now the first choice for street lighting.

This will involve changing the lantern on the existing column. They will begin by converting the lights in residential areas, which will take about fourteen months, followed by the main routes and town centres. The work will take about 3 to 4

years to complete but once finished the changes should reduce the present current energy level and carbon emission costs by up to 60%

As well as using much less energy, LED lights are more reliable and require less maintenance. When combined with a Central Management System (CMS) they will be able to monitor the energy use, detect faults, dim lights and control the time that the lights turn on and off.

KCC would like to know whether the public would prefer:  
Part-night lighting - the current level of service  
All-night lighting

Along with these options they are also seeking your views on the dimming of street lights when roads are less busy.

The Consultation Document can be viewed on [kent.gov.uk/streetlights](http://kent.gov.uk/streetlights).

## **1. APOLOGIES**

City Cllr Simon Cook sent his apologies for being unable to attend the meeting owing to a previous engagement. PCSO Williams sent her apologies as she was unable to attend the meeting.

## **2. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2016 were accepted as an accurate record. Acceptance of the minutes; proposed by Cllr Arter and seconded by Cllr McCord.

## **3. MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

There was no notification by members given of any pecuniary or discretionary interest in items on the Agenda.

## **4. MATTERS ARISING**

The Clerk has yet to contact village societies to see if they have any interest in holding a party to celebrate Her Majesty, The Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party.

All other action items had been executed.

## **5. FORMAL CO-OPTION of NEW COUNCILLOR**

The Chairman extended a warm welcome to Laura Spencer who was then formally co-opted as a Councillor. The necessary paperwork was completed and

the Clerk will send it to the Legal Department at CCC.

## **6. FINANCE**

### **Lloyds Bank £6,675.39**

#### **Payments Due**

For 16 Hours worked in January SCP2 per hour £10.50 = £168+ Office maintenance £40.00 Sub-total £208.00

Davina Martin Copier paper (£16.50 +VAT £3.30) Total £19.80

Photocopying Village Survey £20.00 +VAT £2.00) Total £22.00

Sub-total £41.80

#### **TOTAL £248.79**

These figures were accepted for payment; proposed by Cllr Osborn and seconded by Cllr Pearson.

There were no additional finance questions to the Clerk from Councillors.

## **7. COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS PROTOCOL UPDATE**

Cllr Martin presented the Draft Council Communications Protocol Update paper.

Cllr Osborn commented on Item 3(e). Cllr Martin agreed to include a holding clause.

Cllr McCord commented on 5(h). It was felt that the point made was such a rare occurrence it could stand.

Acceptance was proposed by Cllr Osborn & seconded by Cllr Spencer.

## **8. VILLAGE SURVEY**

Cllr Martin had received 75 completed forms representing the views of the 148 residents. She had collated the results, copies of which were given to Councillors. Following analysis, the results will be presented to the village at the Annual Village Meeting in May.

Cllr Martin asked Councillors to identify the key ideas in the results and for suggestions on the best way of presenting the results to the May meeting,

## **9. PLANNING/TREES**

CA/15/02731/FUL Single-storey garage extension. 8 Whitelocks Close, Kingston. CT4 6JG. This application has now been granted.

CA/16/00312/LB Oak Framed Link extension. 45 The Street, Kingston. Councillors considered the application and there were no objections raised. It was felt it would be much more attractive visually to the village.

## **TREES**

The Tree Surgeon had visited 29 The Street, regarding the concern the owner has for the trees on the Railway Embankment close to the rear of his garden. He reported that the Sycamore Tree (T1) on the boundary showed the Canopy growth was one sided due to a large Ash Tree that had been removed next to it. He recommended taking it down to ground level for two reasons

- (a) The shape of the tree
- (b) Its proximity to the boundary

The Cost would be £220.00

A Common Ash Tree (T2), close to the Sycamore Tree, looks intimidating from the rear garden of No 29, The Street, especially in rough weather. He recommended pollarding it down to 6 metres to reduce the wind on the Canopy. Cost would be £380.00

The Council agreed unanimously to go ahead and do the work. The Clerk will make the arrangements.

Cllr Osborn asked if the Tree Surgeon would poison the roots of the Sycamore tree once it was taken down. The Clerk will ask him.

A resident had expressed concern about a couple of Beech trees opposite No 80, The Street. They are extremely tall and recently a branch had fallen off into The Street. The Clerk has contacted Highways who will go and inspect them and if the responsibility is theirs will get them cut back. If not they will try and locate whose responsibility they are.

## **10. HIGHWAYS & FOOTPATHS**

A Resident had contacted the Council regarding the waste bin by the bus shelter at the bottom of The Street; apparently it has been turning itself inside out and distributing rubbish all around. The complaint was mostly about the amount of debris in the field next to the shelter. It was felt that the field was in the wrong direction for the rubbish to be coming out of the bin and it was much more likely to have been thrown out from passing traffic.

It was decided to keep an eye on the situation, and the Clerk will contact SERCO to ask if they would make sure the bin lining bag was anchored properly. The Clerk will also contact the resident and let her know the outcome.

PCSO Williams had looked into the matter of the parking at the junction between The Street and Church Lane. She reported that as it was not actually causing an obstruction there was little that could be done to stop parking there other than perhaps applying for double yellow lines to be installed. The Council will continue to monitor the situation.

Prior to the recent work done to replace two rotten electricity poles and underground cabling and wiring between No 14 & 15 by the Freedom Group, there had been less than 24 hours' notice sent to residents stating that the road would be closed for 3 days. This caused mayhem in the village and many residents were greatly inconvenienced. Anyone wishing to do work on Highways has to apply for a license from KCC. The Freedom Group had apparently not done this. County Cllr Northey asked for full details to be sent to him and he will report it and get it looked into. The Clerk will write to him.

The Stop sign at the top of Black Robin Lane has now been replaced.

## **11. MIND FESTIVAL**

The Clerk had heard from the Licensing Officer at CCC to advising us that the application for the MIND Festival had been rejected by the licensing authority for a number of fundamental errors in the application and notices.

The applicant has the statutory right to submit a new application to recommence the process.

He also stated that if we wish to submit a representation/objection to a further application, we will be required to submit a fresh representation/objection to the new application. You will not be able to rely on any representation already on file as that application and response process has concluded by statute.

## **12. EMERGENCY PLANNING**

The Environment Agency had reported that there was no significant change in the ground water level at the moment. The Nailbourne was flowing but the surface water was well below levels of the last two years.

## **13. REQUEST FOR PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES**

This issue has now been resolved. Cllr Pearson asked what the procedure was for such requests. She was told that the Clerk would let the Council know that

there had been a request out of courtesy but names would not be published in the public domain.

#### **14. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE**

Clerks & Councils Direct  
The Local GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY Commission

##### **Emails – sent to all**

PCSO 46053863 Lisa Williams Report  
Flood & Coast  
8 Whitelocks Close  
Updated Financial; Regulations  
Smaller Authorities Audi Appointment Ltd

All correspondence has been circulated amongst Councillors

#### **15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Cllr Pearson had contacted PROW regarding bridleway number 274 who told her that they would be doing an inspection shortly and would contact her when they had a date so she could attend.

Cllr Martin had attended the South East Water meeting in the Black Robin and informed the Council that they hoped to submit a planning application in for the new pump house and contact tank shortly.

We have received notice of a "Clean for the Queen" event taking place across the country on 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> March (please see link to the promotional website for further details: <http://www.cleanforthequeen.co.uk/home/2365>). Notice was received rather late but it will be considered at the next meeting. Meanwhile we will be looking for volunteers to help before the Birthday.

There was no further business.

The meeting closed at 9.36pm

#### **14. DATE of NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will take place on **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March** 2016 at 7.30pm in The Barn