

Minutes of Kingston Parish Council Meeting held on
Monday 6th February 2017 in The Barn, Kingston.

Present:-

Cllr Martin - Chairman
Cllr Osborn – Vice- Chair
Cllr McCord
Cllr Spencer
Cllr Walsh
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.

A member of the public congratulated the Council on the work that had been done so far on the Railway Embankment.

City Cllr Simon Cook was unable to attend the meeting but reported on the following:

CCC will be agreeing their budget on the 21st February, and although they have had to face continued falls in funding from central government, they have managed to balance the budget without any cuts to frontline services.

The business case for merging the 4 East Kent councils has now been published and can be seen on the council's website. A decision will be taken in March whether or not to put this out for public engagement.

Finally, they are hiring more enforcement officers in order to be able to tackle parking and litter problems which we know are concerning to all across the district.

County Cllr Michael Northey attended the second half of the meeting. He was unable to attend it all as he was at a previous meeting beforehand.

He announced the budget forecast figures for KCC in 2017-2018 as £907m. This is a deficit of £200m from the previous year. They are proposing Council Tax increase of 1.99% The Government allows them to include a further 2% increase to fund extra spending on adult social care. This is called a Social Care Precept. Therefore the total increase to Council Tax will be 3.99%.

He stated that SERCO would commence cleaning the A2 from 13th – 24th March 2017

Clr Northey stated that he had signed the necessary forms sent in by the Clerk to release the grant money towards the Railway Embankment. The Chairman thanked him.

1. APOLOGIES

Cty Cllr Simon Cook sent his apologies due to a prior engagement. Cllr Pearson sent late apologies for not attending the meeting due to a mix up of dates.

2. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Councillor McCord declared a Significant Interest in Items 5 & 11. 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 9th January 2017 were accepted as an accurate record. Acceptance of the minutes; proposed by Cllr Spencer & seconded by Cllr Cllr McCord.

4. MATTERS ARISING

All action items had been executed.

5. FINANCE

Lloyds Bank £8,876.10

Payments Due

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

Kingston Tree Care £2,150.00

Geoff Macdonald Repairs Kingston Brooch £135.65 + VAT £10.55) Total £145.65

Total £2,503.65

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

The Clerk was asked how the finances for the Trees on the Embankment were progressing. She confirmed that a Capital Grant fund of £6,000.00 from CCC had been awarded which should be released in the new financial year. The Council thanked the Clerk for her hard work on the grant application.

The Bid for £5,000.00 from Tesco's Bags for Life fund had been accepted but had to be put to a vote in local Tesco stores for the public to give a final vote.

There were no further questions to the Clerk from Councillors.

The three new financial headings suggested for the spread sheets prepared by Cll Martin were each accepted for trial for one year.

- (i) proposed by Cllr Spencer & seconded by Cllr Osborn
- (ii) proposed by Cllr Arter and seconded by Cllr Spencer
- (iii) proposed by Cllr Spencer & seconded by Cllr Osborn

The Clerk will keep a separate sheet for all the work and funding for the Railway Embankment received from grants.

Cllr Martin reported on an item on the agenda of MAC meeting on 24 January regarding the suggested increase of charges for The Barn hire, which apply both to the Parish Council and the Parochial Church Council. Under the terms of the Trust Lease (dated 1998) the change in hire charges should be reviewed triennially in accordance with General Index of Retail Prices, but this had not happened until 2012. The Trust now proposes to backdate fees to 1998, rather than the date of the last increase. Councillors felt that the change from a charge of £57 to £80 per annum was a big leap. It will be discussed further at the March meeting.

6. PLANNING

CA/17/00112/LB Application for listed building consent for alterations to windows. Whitelocks Barn, The Street, Kingston, CT4 6JQ. There were no objections raised to the application. The Clerk will inform the Development Team at CCC.

CA/16/02853/PO TPO no 1 1972 T1 Scots Pine Tree - reduce the crown by 5-6m in height. Land opposite Grantley, Church Lane, Kingston, CT4 6HX. Refused.

7. TREES

Railway Embankment Update

Various trees have been felled or coppiced on the central platform and the ground has been cleared of ivy. Planting pits have been prepared and replenished with top soil and compost for seven oak trees which have now been planted. All stumps have been ground out and wood chippings have been put down on the path. There is now enough funding to start stage two of the project in March when it is planned to organise another volunteer working party

to help with some of the clearing.

8. HIGHWAYS & FOOTPATHS

There are a few potholes particularly on Westwood Road and Church Lane, which the Clerk will report. It is planned to do a survey of potholes throughout the village in March. The Government has granted extra funding for repairs to potholes.

The salt bins have been filled; there are two that need replenishing which the Clerk will report.

Nothing further to report.

9. FORWARD PLANNING

Cllr Martin reported that she had had two responses for future agenda items. Cllr Spencer requested that a Litter Picking item be included at the March meeting. The proposed date for the litter pick is Saturday 11th March 2017. Cllr Pearson had suggested a councillor skills audit and it is planned that this will be completed in stages.

10. BT PAY PHONE KIOSK

The Clerk has heard from BT that they will no longer keep the telephone kiosk in Church Lane active and will be removing the phone. The Council could buy the kiosk for £1.00. but before making a decision on purchasing it, the Clerk will contact Barham Parish Council to find out what they propose doing with theirs.

11. HOEY AINSCOUGH REPORT

A vote was taken and all agreed that the full report should be published on the website. Cllr Osborn will put it on by the beginning of March.

12. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

Barge Equipment

Emails sent to all

The Plunkett Rural Community Co-operatives' Programme
Annual Parking Review 2016
PCSO Williams Report
Locality 'How to Keep it Local' Guide
Fire Hydrant Initiative - Meeting With Area Committees
Rural Services Net Work
Help Keep Britain Tidy

All correspondence has been circulated amongst Councillors.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr McCord attended KFRS Fire Hydrant Initiative - Review Meeting on 2 February 2017. He circulated a brief outline of the meeting to all Councillors. More details were emailed (see correspondence) to the Council from the Fire Brigade.

Cllr Osborn offered to investigate putting the Parish Council on to a Facebook Page . He will report back at the next meeting.

Cllr Martin stated that unfortunately Keith Walsh has had to resign from the Council as he was moving away from the parish. She thanked him on behalf of the Council for all the hard work he had contributed to the Council and wished him well for the future.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

14. DATE of NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on **Monday 6th March 2017** at 7.30pm in The Barn.