

Minutes of Kingston Parish Council Meeting held on
Monday 5th February 2018 in the Barn, Kingston.

Present:-
Cllr Martin - Chairman
Cllr Osborn – Vice Chair
Cllr McCord
Cllr Pearson
Cllr Spencer
Cllr Wakefield

Valerie McWilliams, Clerk

There were two members of the public present.

Before the start of the meeting, Cllr Martin reported that sadly and reluctantly Cllr Tom Arter has had to tender his resignation to the Parish Council due to health reasons.

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

City Cllr Simon Cook attended the meeting and said that despite endless communication and battles with Kent Highways their road signs and bollards remain littered around the area. They have now responded saying that they will come back to him in three weeks to arrange to take them away.

He had discussed with the Planning Department, the legality of the static caravan parked in the field at the top of The Street. As there is no one currently living in it, there is nothing they can do. With regard to the recent new entrance to the Stud Farm, it is not illegal, but the planning department do appreciate that it is on the bend of the road. If residents feel it is unsafe they advised the Council to contact Highways.

He reported that he was in continuous contact with Serco regarding late bin collections.

County Cllr Northey did not attend the meeting but sent the following report.

On KCC bus subsidies: At the County Council meeting on 7th December Paul Carter said that KCC had not axed any bus subsidies for unprofitable rural routes in the past twelve months and the current year's subsidy, 2017/18 remained constant at £7.5 million.

However, there were proposals to remove £4 million from these routes over the next two financial years, £2 million in the coming year 2018/19 and the same the

following year. Following widespread public concern, these proposals have been put on hold and the latest suggestion is to limit these savings half a million pounds. Paul Carter is currently consulting Arriva and Stagecoach to see how they can help and smaller bus providers to discuss routes at risk. He also wants to talk with taxi operators and others to find more local and imaginative solutions.

The Council still needs to make savings urgently as financial pressures are very difficult. Government grants over the last six or seven years have diminished sharply while demand has gone up. In that time, KCC has had to find savings of £600million. For 2018/19 KCC has to find savings of £62.5 millions. For 2019/20, a further £41 million of savings will be required.

Currently KCC commissions over £40 million of services mostly from Arriva and Stagecoach for the English National Concessionary Travel Scheme (old person's pass), £17 million, the Young Persons Travel Pass, £14 million, (of which KCC pays £8 million and the parents pay £6 million), Subsidised Bus Services for rural areas, £7.5million (the amount in question), Mainstream home to school transport £7million -- total school transport bill £33 million including special needs, 16+ Kent Travel Card £3million.

Other county authorities have either totally or greatly reduced their subsidies for rural transport.

The final KCC budget for the coming year will be set at the County Council meeting.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

County Cllr Michael Northey sent his apologies for absence, as he is still unwell.

2. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

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

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting on 8th January 2018 were accepted as an accurate record. Acceptance of the minutes; proposed by Cllr McCord & seconded by Cllr Spencer.

4. MATTERS ARISING

The Clerk has contacted Dawes the firm from whom the Snapper Lawn Mower was purchased; they felt that if we were lucky we might get between £80 -£100

for it, as although old it was a good make. They did not feel that it was worthwhile getting it serviced before trying to sell it. There is one interested party whom The Clerk will contact and see if he is interested in purchasing it. If not as suggested, she will advertise it on Gumtree

All action items had been executed.

5. FINANCE

Lloyds Bank £11,938.03 (19 January 2018)

Payments Due

Val McWilliams for 16 Hours worked in January at SCP2 per hour £10.50 = £168
+ Office Maintenance £40.00. = £208.00 plus Stationary (£14.98 +VAT £3.00)
Sub Total £17.98. Stamps £21.24.

TOTAL £247.22

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

6. PLANNING

18/0004 Proposed garage following demolition of existing garage. The Old Rectory, Church Lane, Kingston, CT6 6HY. Councillors considered the application and there were no objections raised to the plans. The Clerk will write and let the Development Department at CCC know.

DECISIONS

Appeal under section 174. Land north side of Marley Lane (adjacent Marley Wood Bungalow) Marley Lane, Kingston, CT4 6JJ Appeal heard on 25 January 2018 in The Guild Hall, Canterbury. Awaiting decision.

17/02576 Single-storey porch, replacement windows & solar panels to the front roof elevation. The Old Forge, Church Lane, Kingston CT4 6HX GRANTED

17/02703 Proposed single-storey rear extension following demolition of existing garage.2 Nailbourne Close, Kingston CT4 6JA. GRANTED

17/02533 Proposed detached two-storey dwelling with associated vehicular access following demolition of garage. Land adjacent to 60 The Street, Kingston, CT4 6JE REFUSED.

The best way of informing local residents about future planning applications was discussed. Councillors felt that putting the notification letter addressed to the Clerk on the website and on Face book would be helpful. This was proposed by Cllr Pearson and seconded by Cllr McCord. All were agreement.

7. TREES UPDATE ON RAILWAY EMBANKMENT

An area at the western end of the Embankment is now ready for planting new trees. Alun Griffiths from The Kent Men of the Trees has kindly agreed to meet the Council On Thursday 8th February to discuss and advise on the most suitable trees to buy. It was agreed to leave the bulb planting until next year, as there is still more ground work to do.

The Trees Surgeon is currently doing the stump grinding in preparation for the planting.

An item was placed in the February Parish magazine asking if anyone would like to kindly donate a tree or shrub.

8. DATA PROTECTION OFFICER

Parish councils and parish meetings in England and community councils in Wales are required, under the General Data Protection Regulation (effective on 25 May 2018) and new UK legislation expected next year, to appoint a Data Protection Officer ("DPO"). It was felt that the council needed to have more details on what the duties of a Data Protection Officer might be at the next meeting. Cllr Osborn will do some research as to what responsibilities might be expected from the officer and report at the March meeting

9. SUGGESTED REMOVAL OF RURAL BUSES

There are no planned reductions of rural bus services at the moment as everything is on hold. (*See County Cllr Northey's report*)

10. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

The Clerk has contacted Highways who have completed a site visit to Turks Hill. The lower end is going to require a clean before it can be established where the potholes are, after which it will need some serious patching. The top half is going to require patching and it is planned to get it booked in at the start of new financial year.

Highways have been asked to contact the owners of Little Duskin requesting that they cut their hedge back on Marley Lane.

The hedge at the top of The Street has now been cut back top and bottom.

Cllr Pearson reported that there was a fallen tree lying across the Bridleway running from The Street down to Covet Lane. The Clerk will contact PROW to let them know.

The blocked drain half way up The Street has now been dealt with.

11. WELCOME PACK UPDATE

It is planned to have a mock up of the revised Welcome Pack to present to Council at the March meeting. Cllr Martin had been looking into the cost of producing the pack. It would seem that the overall cost would be in the region of £100.00, which works out at about £2.50 per copy. It would be cheaper if we were to order more copies rather than less. It was agreed to put them into the existing plastic yellow folders if obtainable.

12. KENT SPEEDWATCH

This was considered and it was felt that the first thing to do before taking it any further would be to ask the Clerk to contact Alan Watson at Kent Community Speedwatch to meet with the Council and advise as to where the camera should be situated in The Street and whether he felt that the expense was justified.

13. 100th ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF WORLD WAR ONE.

Remembrance of the Anniversary will take place on 11th November 2018. Councils are encouraged to light their beacons at 7.00pm and consider getting the church bells rung at 7.05pm. Councillors were asked to consider what Kingston might be able to do. This will be discussed at the March meeting.

14 GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

NALC Chief Executive's Bulletin 1 - 5 January 2018
Community Police Volunteer
Kent County Council Kent Mineral Site Plan Option
Data Protection Officer
M2 Re-surfing new Schedule
Kent Grant for Equipment for Speed Watch
KALC Membership Survey
Local government Ethical Standards
Southern Water Household Waste
Amanda x 2 Barham Broadband
KALC Annual Review
Police Report

The KALC Membership Survey should be completed by the Chair and Clerk and returned by 29 March 2018. The Chair asked Councillors to consider the sections of the survey on training and report back their thoughts at the March meeting.

15 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It was agreed that The Annual Village Meeting would take place on Wednesday 23rd May 2018 at 7.00pm. A Guest Speaker will be decided at the next meeting.

There was no further business. The meeting closed at 9.20pm.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Will take place on Monday 5th March 2018 at 7.30pm in The Barn.