

Minutes of Kingston Parish Council Meeting held on
Monday 9th January 2017 in The Barn, Kingston.

Present:-

Cllr Martin - Chairman

Cllr Osborn – Vice- Chair

Cllr McCord

Cllr Pearson

Cllr Spencer

Cllr Walsh

Valerie McWilliams, Clerk

There were two members of the public present.

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 reported that very little had happened at CCC over the Christmas period. Cllr Martin asked about the Devolution plans for the future, which he discussed, but as things were still at the development stage. he was unable to give anything positive as yet.

County Cllr Michael Northey attended the second half of the meeting and stated there was little to report following the Christmas break. He confirmed that LED (Lighting Emitting Diodes work on street lighting was now well underway.

He very kindly offered to help with a donation towards the work on the Embankment. The Chairman thanked him very much. The Clerk will liaise with KCC and County Cllr Northey to discuss it.

1. APOLOGIES

Cllr Arter sent his apologies due to ill health.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting on 5th December 2016 were accepted as an accurate record. Acceptance of the minutes; proposed by Cllr McCord & seconded by Cllr Pearson

3. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

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

4. MATTERS ARISING

All action items had been executed.

5. FINANCE

Lloyds Bank £9,120.00

Payments Due

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

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

There were no further questions to the Clerk from Councillors.

6. PLANNING

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.

A councillor questioned whether reducing the crown by 5-6 m in height was necessary, as it seemed rather a lot. The Council will be guided by the Tree Surgeon and Planning Department.

CA/16/01246/FUL Proposed detached two-storey house. Land adjacent to the Old Forge, Church Lane, Kingston, CT4 6HX. **Granted**

CA/16/02442/FUL Proposed single-storey garage with workshop. Pheasant Cottage, Westwood Road, Kingston, CT4 6JN. No Objections. **Granted**

CA/16/02188/FUL Change of use of land for the stationing of caravan for residential use. Marleywood Bungalow, Marley Lane, Kingston, CT4 6JJ.

Refused

The Clerk informed the Council the new planning regulations would be coming into force very soon. No paper copies of planning applications will be sent out in future. Clerks will however be able to request a paper copy of any plans up until the end of March 2017 after which all applications will all be dealt with online. The Clerk will let the Council know when the final details have been released.

7. TREES

Railway Embankment Update

Work has now started on the central area of the Embankment. Alun Griffiths (Kent Men of the Trees) has inspected the area and a decision to plant seven oak trees has been agreed with the Tree Surgeon who will now prepare the holes and put in fresh compost ready for planting in the next few days. The trees are very kindly being donated by Kent Men of The Trees.

Following the recent felling of some of the trees it was disappointing to see that some the logs were immediately cleared by local residents. This was not meant to happen as the logs were going to be used to help stabilise the Embankment and encourage wild life. It was agreed to put an item in the Parish Magazine asking residents not to remove any more logs in the future without permission from the Parish Council.

Cllr Osborn stated that he had a contact at the National Environmental and National England Agency who were happy to send volunteers out to help with projects like the Embankment. He asked if the Council would like him to approach them. The Council stated that they would be delighted to accept such an offer and asked if he would make contact with them.

8. HIGHWAYS & FOOTPATHS

The fingerpost at the junction of Marley Lane with Westwood Road has been damaged and the direction arm for Kingston has been snapped off. The Clerk will report it to Highways.

Nothing further to report.

9. REVIEW of 2016 – RESOLUTIONS for 2017

Cllr Martin gave a resume of the work and achievements that the Council had accomplished during 2016. It was agreed to announce them at the AVM on Wednesday 17th May 2017. She asked Councillors to think of future activities for 2017 that the Council might take on.

She also asked Councillors to consider the circulated financial expenses headings before the next meeting, prior to decision-making.

10. EMERGENCY PLANNING

Cllr Martin had attended the KALC, Emergency Planning & Community Resilience Conference on December 14th 2016. She reported that it been both informative and worthwhile, and that there was little risk of flooding this winter as the water-table is still declining due to the lower rainfall thus far.

11. BT PAY PHONE KIOSK

The Clerk is still waiting to hear from the Planning Department with regard to the telephone kiosk in Church Lane as to whether BT will agree to retain it in working order.

12. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

The Lord Lieutenant of Kent invite to his annual Civic Service at Rochester Cathedral on Tuesday 14 March 2017 commencing at 11am.

Countryside Voice - Winter 2016

Field Work – Winter2016

Clerks & Councils Direct – January 2017

Emails sent to all

Battles Over A Nations Tribute World War 1

National Awards Scheme

Revises Legal Topics

Parish News

Country Eye App

All correspondence has been circulated amongst Councillors.

13. DATES OF MEETINGS 2017

The Clerk had issued the dates of Council meetings for 2017 including the AVM on Wednesday 17th May 2017. Councillors were happy with the dates which are now logged onto the KVHT calendar.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Martin commented on the magnificent job the Geoff Macdonald had done on refurbishing the village brooch. Councillors all agreed that he had done a wonderful job and it looked splendid.

Cllr Walsh announced that as he had now sold his house he would be moving out of the area and therefore would no longer be able to serve as a Councillor to Kingston. Once the sale of the house is finalised he will formally announce his resignation

Cllr Martin asked if anyone was holding any spare Welcome Packs, as there were a few new residents that had moved into the village who might appreciate one. The Clerk will produce some but they will not be updated until after the end of the financial year.

It was agreed by all to hold an Extraordinary Meeting in The Barn on Wednesday 18th March 2017 to consider the Hoey/Ainscough report. The clerk will confirm the booking.

The meeting closed at 9.40 pm

15. DATE of NEXT MEETING

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