

Minutes of Kingston Parish Council meeting held on Monday 1st July 2019
The Barn, Kingston

Present: Cllr Martin (Chair)
Cllr Chatley
Cllr McWilliams
Cllr Pearson (Acting Clerk)
Cllr Reeves
Cllr Stribbling

The meeting opened at 19:30 and the Chair welcomed everyone. City Cllr Mike Sole and County Cllr Michael Northey were in attendance along with 2 members of the public.

1. Apologies and Approval of Absences

Apologies were received from Cllr Spencer, Ann Griffiths (Clerk)

It was resolved that Cllr Pearson should act as Clerk for the meeting, proposed by Cllr Stribbling seconded by Cllr McWilliams.

2. Reports from County and City Council members

County Cllr Michael Northey reported that the Kent County Show was on this week and KCC had a stand focussing on Green issues, including an E-car on display. There is a Biodiversity website for other tips and it is planned to announce KCC's Plan Bee in the next few weeks.

Kent Trading Standards website highlights the most recent scams in our area including removal of mail from unsecured external mailboxes, stealing the owner's details and using this information in order to commit crimes without the knowledge of the householder.

During the recent closure of the A2 over a series of nights, lorries were ignoring the diversion signs at Brenley Corner and at Dover. They attempted to use the roads in Barham to act as an alternative which resulted in large lorries getting stuck and causing structural damage to some of the houses.

Hadlow Council had successfully applied to KCC for a £68,000 grant for Community Scheme minibuses and such grants are available for other communities. The KCC website has the details.

City Cllr Sole had previously sent his report, which included the deadline for the Lord Mayor's Awards nominations on 12th July. New local facilities include a doubling of cycle spaces at Canterbury West station, and other facilities in a joint project between CCC and SE Railways. There are more new electric car charging points, new free water bottle refilling points in five locations and new security bollards to be installed in the City

centre.

He also highlighted the failure to carry out safety checks on the Council's housing stock and the difficulties caused by the overnight closure of the A2 at Barham.

3. Declarations of interest.

There were no declarations of interest regarding items on the Agenda

4. Public Forum

A member of the public asked if the 'closed church yard issue had been resolved yet as the churchyard was looking untidy. He was told that the issue was still ongoing and that the grass was long due to a breakdown of the contractor's mower.

There was also a question regarding the overgrown hedgerow in Church Lane. The landowner or Kent Highways are responsible for maintenance. Although the cutting season starts at the end of July, urgent work can be authorised by Michelle Weston, the contact at Kent Highways.

5. Minutes of Previous Meeting.

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 3rd June 2019 were agreed to be a true reflection of all that was discussed. Proposed by Cllr Stribbling, and seconded by Cllr McWilliams, it was resolved to accept these as a true record and they were duly signed.

6. Matters arising.

New Standing Orders. Cllr Chatley advised that the unique reference numbers could use the date and agenda item numbers and will be backdated to the June meeting when they were formally accepted.

7. Planning Applications.

There were no objections to either of the planning applications considered, namely 19/00981 Proposed single-storey outbuilding at Old Downs, Black Robin Lane, Kingston CT4 6HR and 19/01209 Proposed single-storey rear extension, 144 The Street, Kingston, CT4 6JQ. The Planning Dept will be informed.

8. Planning Decisions.

The following decisions were noted.

18/02284/FUL Proposed change of material for equestrian school area from grass to dark recycled material. The White House, Black Robin Lane, Kingston CT4 6HR.

GRANTED

19/00776/LUP Application for a lawful development for the proposed stationing of a log cabin for use as ancillary accommodation together with a domestic office. Mount Pleasant, Marley lane, Kingston CT4 6JH. WOULD BE LAWFUL

APP/J2210/N/19/3223264 Land and stable building at Whitelocks Barn, The Street, Kingston CT1 6JQ: APPEAL ALLOWED

19/00165 On footpath CB275 a tree had been identified with Ash dieback. Permission granted for it to be felled in due course.

9. Finance

- a) The previously circulated Schedule of Payments for June was noted and both payments were approved. Proposed by Cllr Stribbling and seconded by Cllr Chatley.
- b) Cllr Martin announced that Barham with Kingston W.I. had raised over £1600 by fundraising during the W.I.'s Centenary year, and have offered £500 to each Parish Council of Barham and Kingston. Their generous gift is much appreciated.
- c) In addition CCC have announced that the Parish Capital Grant for 2020/21 is now open for applications. Total funding of £20,311 is available solely for capital projects and applicants are required to match fund.

10. Data Retention and Disposal Policy

After discussion, the policy was proposed for adoption by Cllr Stribbling and seconded by Cllr Reeves. It was RESOLVED to adopt the policy.

11. Closed Church yard.

Since the last meeting in June, a small working party has been convened with 2 members of the PCC and will be joined by Cllr Martin, Cllr McWilliams and Cllr Pearson from KPC to raise queries and define issues.

12. Parish Maintenance Programme.

a) Land requiring maintenance

During discussion, it emerged that additional areas of land require maintenance and need to be added to the Programme. Requests for additional maintenance in Church Lane, and alongside Nailbourne Close at the lower end of The Street will be made either through an approach to Kent Highways (via Michelle Weston) or via a grant application. Cllr McWilliams will report back on these issues after meeting with Michelle Weston.

b) Trees

The two trees on the 'bus shelter triangle' have grown considerably in recent years and now need some radical action. In particular, a split limb on the oak tree needs to be removed to prevent damage to the roof of the bus shelter and large vehicles, including buses, using Bonny Bush Hill.

It was proposed by Cllr Stribbling and seconded by Cllr McWilliams, that Cllr Reeves applies to CCC to remove the maple tree in order to protect the Oak tree from further damage,

The additional detail concerning a) and b) above will be added to the Parish Maintenance Programme and reviewed for accuracy at the next meeting.

13. Embankment Plan.

Several ideas were offered. It was suggested that a site meeting should be held with Alun Griffiths (The Kent Men of the Trees) to help formulate future action.

14. Village Survey

The topics for questions were discussed and the idea of a Neighbourhood plan was added. It was suggested that individual council members each take a topic to begin drafting open-ended questions needed to reveal the thoughts of the community.

15. Village Fete – Tombola Stall

It was thought that the same arrangements as last year would be appropriate for the collection of donations towards the end of August and early September. A village flyer together with items in the Village Magazine and the Kentish Gazette will be used to advertise arrangements.

16. Matters for further discussion.

Bridleway CB274 Permission will be sought from PROW to allow Cllr Reeves to clear the vegetation.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.10pm

17. Date of next meeting, Monday 2nd September 2019, at 7.30pm in The Barn, Kingston