

Minutes of Kingston Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 3rd June 2019

The Barn, Kingston

Present:- Cllr Martin (Chairman)
Cllr McWilliams
Cllr Pearson
Cllr Reeves
Cllr Spencer (Acting Clerk)
Cllr Stribbling

The meeting opened at 19.30 and the Chair welcomed everyone. City Cllr Mike Sole was in attendance along with three members of the public.

1. Apologies and Approval of Absences

Apologies were received from County Cllr Michael Northey, Cllr Chatley and Anne Griffiths (Clerk).

It was resolved that Cllr Spencer would act as Clerk (proposed by Cllr Pearson and seconded by Cllr Stribbling).

2. Reports from County and City Council members:

City Cllr Sole gave his first report. The first month in post has focussed primarily on training, introductions and asset familiarisation visits. City Cllr Sole made it known that environmental issues were of critical concern; indeed he has proposed a motion that will be debated and voted on at the next meeting of the Full Council in July. In summary, this wide ranging motion calls for key action to be taken:

1. The declaration of a climate emergency to raise awareness and support the public in taking action
2. A full audit of the council's carbon footprint
3. Improved recycling rates
4. The development of carbon neutral transport solutions in the district
5. The council to consider the environmental impact of any new policy

City Cllr Sole is serving on four council committees, in addition to the Full Council meetings. These are the Community Committee, Property & Regeneration Committee, Audit Committee and the Rural Forum.

Cllr Pearson enquired about the Council's plastic use.

3. Declarations of interest:

There were no declarations of interest regarding items on the Agenda.

4. Public Forum

One villager raised the issue of speeding in Covet Lane via Cllr Spencer. As a result of this discussion, Cllr Spencer highlighted CPRE's Quiet Lanes campaign which sees country lanes being designated as such in rural areas. It was suggested that the Council might wish to investigate whether this could help form part of the solution

to speeding (perceived or actual) in the village. Cllr Spencer will circulate information and the matter will be considered as part of the Village Survey discussions.

5. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 1st April 2019 were agreed to be a true reflection of all that was discussed. Proposed by Cllr Pearson and seconded by Cllr Stribbling it was therefore Resolved to accept these as a true record and they were duly signed.

6. Matters Arising

Cllr Martin reported that the Certificate of Exemption from external audit had been submitted and financial documents have been displayed on the website in line with statutory requirements. Thanks were given to Rob Osborn who will continue to oversee the website.

7. Planning Applications

There were no new applications to report since the last meeting.

8. Planning Decisions

City Cllr Sole reported that Appeal W/19/3221252 (proposed two-storey building to form two holiday lets, 17 Jesses Hill Farm) had been dismissed.

9. Finance

The previously circulated schedule of Receipts and Payments for May 2019 was discussed. Proposed by Cllr McWilliams and seconded by Cllr Stribbling it was therefore Resolved to accept this.

It was unanimously agreed to donate £25.00 to the Firefighters Charity by way of thanks for sending a speaker to the 22nd May Annual Village Meeting. A cheque was given to Cllr Martin who in turn will make the donation online – as is required.

10. Standing Orders

Councillors are satisfied that changes to Standing orders are consistent with Data Protection regulations. Proposed by Cllr Pearson and seconded by Cllr Stribbling, it was therefore Resolved to accept the changes subject to the front page being amended with the correct minute reference.

11. Data Retention

Councillors are generally happy with this companion document however a full discussion was deferred to the July meeting when Cllr Chatley returns. Cllr Reeves to be supplied with a hard copy in advance.

12. Annual Action Plan

A full discussion took place. Cllr Chatley has asked that a review of the complaints policy be included. VE Celebrations will be added to the Plan along with the Kent Men of Trees Competition, Village Survey planning and refined Embankment planning.

Councillors will review this Action Plan on a regular basis.

13. Closed Churchyards

Councillors received a background paper (previously distributed) and discussed the proposal in full. It was noted that the idea of KPC taking responsibility for the maintenance of the closed area was mooted by the PCC in April. However, formal notice has not yet been given.

- It was agreed that such an undertaking should not be taken lightly and that in-depth questions must be asked of the PCC. We need a clear understanding of the boundary of the closed area and an idea of the likely maintenance costs. It was agreed that KPC should meet with the PCC and that questions should be drafted and sent in advance.
- Questions might focus on clarification of exact boundaries, location and verification of closure; the status of The Glebe etc. References to closure in historical records and the likelihood of further areas becoming closed should also be investigated. Further details regarding walls, trees, fences and gullies are required as is a record of repairs depicting current costs.
- Councillors would also like to know more about the motivation behind this request. What is the true scale of it and why now?

Proposed by Cllr Pearson and seconded by Cllr Stribbling, it was Resolved that Cllr Martin would write to the PCC and request a meeting.

14. Embankment Plan

Councillors reviewed the suggestions recorded in the minutes dated 1st April 2019 (item 853) and a further discussion took place regarding a possible working plan.

It was noted that:

- Approx. 3 Hawthorn trees need removing where new trees have been planted
- Whilst chicanes may help deter horse riders and people on motorbikes, they might also pose problems in terms of future access for machinery. It was agreed that signage should be erected in the first instance so that people are fully aware of what is and isn't permitted on the site
- Newly planted trees are being smothered by brambles in places
- Dealing with ivy remains a top priority. Cllr Martin will investigate whether the Community Payback team can assist with this
- Future grant applications are needed
- September is the best time to start clearing work (to avoid disturbing wildlife)
- The staking of felled logs would help prevent some from being pushed down the Embankment
- Burn areas should be identified
- Kent Wildlife Trust should be invited to help with a future audit. Cllr Spencer has a named contact
- Some villagers would like to see an 'edible forest' created

15. KPC Trustee Appointment on Kingston Village Hall Trust

Proposed by Cllr Pearson and seconded by Cllr McWilliams, Cllr Stribbling was confirmed as the new KPC appointee.

16. Review of Annual Village Meeting on 22nd May 2019

It was agreed by all that the meeting was a success. Thanks were given to Cllr Pearson for organising the refreshments. There was a good turnout and a number of valid concerns were raised. Following the meeting, Cllr Spencer has logged concerns regarding Bridleway CB274. Maintenance will be monitored.

17. Matters for Further Discussion:

- Further to a complaint made by a resident, it was noted that permission would be needed before any items (bras/tinsel) can be removed from the Tree on Bonny Bush Hill. However, the consensus was that this is not something the council wishes to pursue. The majority of residents speak fondly of the memorial and take no offence to it being there.
- It was suggested that a photo of new council would be useful for noticeboards and the website. The Clerk's email address should also be clearly displayed.
- Cllr Spencer reported that she had been stopped while out walking by someone asking if she needed a taxi. The incident took place on Coldharbour Lane and has been reported to the local PCSO.
- Cllr Reeves reported that there are opportunist tree surgeons (rogue traders) in the local area.

18. E-mails received:

07/05: NALC Chief Executive's Bulletin
08/05: KCC Highways and Transportation Message
08/05: KCC News Alert (doorstep criminals)
08/05: KALC Dynamic Councillor Events
09/05: KALC Brochure Sunstore ARC (Autonomous Remote Communications Unit)
09/05: CPRE Campaigns
11/05: CPRE Campaigns Clean Planet
14/05: KALC KCC Household Waste Recycling
16/05: KALC Notes on Neighbourhood Planning
20/05: KALC Kent Police Rural Liaison Report
20/05: NALC Chief Executive's Bulletin
22/05: Environment Agency Consultation
24/05: NALC Newsletter
24/05: Lucia Chmurova - **Moth conservation project in Kent** – possible future speaker

The meeting closed at 21.35

Date of next meeting: Monday 1st July 2019 at 7.30pm in The Barn, Kingston

