

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

Present:-
Cllr Martin - Chairman
Cllr Osborn – Vice- Chair
Cllr Arter
Cllr Spencer
Cllr Pearson
Valerie McWilliams, Clerk

There was one member of the public present.

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

County Cllr Michael Northey attended the meeting and reported that KCC had offered 80% of children their first choice of secondary schools, 11% their second choice, 3% their third choice and 1% their fourth choice. This left 4% without any of their choice of schools. He stated that Kent was finding it more difficult offer children schools of their choice.

City Cllr Simon Cook reported that following the City Council Government Grant this year they had received just enough finances to cope with their commitments without too much hardship, but could not predict that this would be the case next year. More Government cuts were to be expected.

Litter and fly-tipping was still an ongoing problem The City Council were employing more Enforcement Officers to try and combat the situation, eleven extra officers have now been employed by the Council and more will be expected. They will be inspecting all fly-tipping for traces as to who was doing it. In future, any householder paying someone to remove his or her rubbish will be fined as well as the trader doing the fly-tipping.

CCC is going to be much stricter with illegal parking in future.

There has been a spate of abandoned cars recently; anyone spotting one will be encouraged, even if it has been burnt out, to report it to the City Council who will arrange for its removal.

He concluded with reminding everyone that the next RAMP meeting would take place on Monday March 13 in The Guildhall at 7.0pm

1. APOLOGIES

Cllr McCord did not attend the meeting due to recent events.

2. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

There were no notifications by members given of any pecuniary or discretionary interest in items on the Agenda.

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting on 6th February 2017, were accepted as an accurate record. Acceptance of the minutes; proposed by Cllr Osborn & seconded by Cllr Spencer.

4. MATTERS ARISING

All action items had been executed.

5. FINANCE

Lloyds Bank £6,366.07

Monies In

KALC (Michael Northey Grant) £2,713.00 (Not showing on this months bank statement)

Payments Due

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

CPRE Subscription £36.00

Total £244

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

The Clerk reported that The Department for Communities and Local Government had raised the Section 137 Expenditure Limit for 2017/2018 to £7.57 this is a 2% increase from last year.

6. PLANNING

CA/17/00236 Application for listed building consent for signage to external elevations, The Black Robin Inn, Covet Lane, Kingston, CT4 6HS

CA/17/00324 Proposed single-storey rear extension with single side porch following the demolition of existing conservatory. Owls Hatch, 1 Rectory Orchard,

Church Lane, Kingston, CT4 6HY

CA/17/00325 Single- storey side extension following demolition of existing conservatory and open fronted store. Broadfield, Cover Lane, Kingston, CT4 6HU.

There were no objections raised to the above applications. The Clerk will inform the Development Team at CCC.

7. TREES

Railway Embankment Update

The Tree Surgeon has now obtained a Felling Licence from The Forestry Commission, who had inspected the Railway Embankment and were delighted with the work being done in the area. They stressed the importance of planting more trees. and they also encouraged the removal of more Sycamore trees before planting new trees.

Cllr Martin will organise another working party to do some serious clearing before work on the second stage takes place. Suggested dates are 20th and 27th April

The Clerk had heard from Kent Men of Trees asking if we would like to enter the Kent Village Tree Competition. The Council agreed that they would; Cllr Martin and Cllr Spencer offered to show the judges around the village on the day of inspection. The Clerk will let Kent Men of Trees know.

8. HIGHWAYS & FOOTPATHS

A large pothole on Westwood Road has been reported which the Clerk will report to Highways.

Cllr Spencer is organising a Litter Pick to take place on Saturday 11th March 2017. The Clerk will organise getting the necessary equipment out of the Little Barn.

9. EMERGENCY PLANNING

Cllr Martin said that the Environment Agency had reported that there would be little risk of ground water flooding this year.

The Little Stour & Nailbourne River Management Group reported that surface water flooding has been the big issue this year and they are engaging with KCC to seek to improve the drainage in the valley especially on our roads and in our villages, such as Bridge, where water flows off the valley sides into properties through badly maintained drains.

10. KPC APPOINTED TRUSTEE TO KVHT

Notice has been received from KVHT inviting Kingston Parish Council to appoint a nominated Trustee to the Trust Board under part 9 of The Charities Act 2011. A response would be appreciated by 2nd May 2017.

Councillors felt that they needed time to think about it and it would be discussed at the April meeting.

11. COUNCILLOR VACANCY – NEW COUNCILLOR GUIDE.

Canterbury City Council has confirmed that as there has been no request from 10 electors for an election to take place, it is now up to the parish council to co-opt a replacement member.

Cllr Martin has drawn up a guide for new councillors, which was discussed.

12 PAY PHONE KIOSK

The Parish Council unanimously agreed not to purchase the BT public telephone box in Church Lane. The Clerk will write to BT and let them know.

13. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

Clerks & Councils Direct March 2017

Emails sent to all

The Kent Men of Trees

Anonymous letter Re: 20 The Street

Section 137 Expenditure Limit for 2017/2018 £7.57

Community Housing Fund

Better Broadband

Neighbourhood Watch Conference

Appointment of Trustees

KVHT Standing Annual Fees

All correspondence has been circulated amongst Councillors.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Osborn presented a paper explaining the advantages of the Parish Council having a presence on a Facebook page. He feels it would be a useful additional form of communication. It would need careful monitoring in order to keep it up to date. The Clerk will add it as an agenda item at the next parish council meeting.

Complaints have been received regarding the camper van that has been parked

outside The Barn for some time. Councillors are aware that although it is not illegal for it to be parked there, it did obstruct vision for drivers going up and down The Street. The Clerk will write to the owner to ask if they might consider moving it.

The meeting closed at 9.55pm

15. DATE of NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on **Monday 3rd April 2017** at 7.30pm in The Barn.