

**Minutes of the Meeting of Kingston Parish Council held on
Monday 2nd March 2020 in The Barn, Kingston**

Present:

Clr Martin (Chair)
Clr Chatley
Clr McWilliams
Clr Pearson
Clr Reeves
Clr Spencer (Acting Clerk)
Clr Stribbling

Four members of the public were in attendance together with Cty Cllr Michael Northey and City Mike Sole.

It was agreed that Clr Spencer would act as Clerk (Proposed by Clr Pearson; Seconded by Clr Stribbling)

1. Apologies for Absence: None

2. Reports from County and City Council members:

City Cllr Sole reported that Canterbury City Council has now agreed its budget for the forthcoming year, which would include charging for the collection of green waste from June. He had also proposed an amendment to the budget which was accepted, that 30,000 will be allocated to fund an additional parking enforcement officer and set up a dedicated rural enforcement team.

There has been a further incident of a lorry driving a considerable distance on the wrong side of the A2. Discussions with the relevant agencies have promised some action on signage and cutting back of vegetation.

Cty Cllr Northey reported on the recent visit of the Chair of the Southern Regional and Committee (SRCC) to the Elham Valley to view the impact of the Nailbourne floods. The SRCC has an annual budget of £60M and includes three KCC members, including Clr Northey. Discussions are ongoing about improving Elham Valley road signage to counteract the problems of lorry traffic using unsuitable narrow roads.

3. Declarations of Interest: None

4. Public Forum: Two questions were asked about the ongoing tree work in the parish. The work at Greenacre is a two-stage project and the second stage will be discussed at a parish council meeting when scheduled. Work on the trees on the bus shelter triangle has been delayed due to the exceptional weather.

5. Minutes of the previous meeting: Approval of the minutes of the Meeting on the 3rd February 2020 was proposed by Clr Stribbling and seconded by Clr Pearson.

6. Matters Arising:

A village newsletter is planned for the end of March. It will include items on VE Day Planning, the National call for sites arising from the Local Plan review and the date of the new website launch and use of new e-mails (plus closure of the existing site). The launch date is still to be confirmed, but probably early April.

The village litter pick is to be re-scheduled for 28th March at 8.00am.

7. Planning applications: A new application for King's Yard, The Street has just been received. Comments are required before the 24th March.

8. Planning Decisions: CA/20/00034 proposed single-storey extension Pud's Meadow, Marley Lane, Kingston CT4 6JJ Granted

9. Finance: there were no payments to be made.

The current bank balance as of 10th February was £17, 826.11

10. Discipline Policy and Grievance Procedure: as part of its responsibility for any new employee, a new Discipline Policy and Grievance Procedure was approved by the Council.

11. Concurrent Functions Funding: Four Council members attended the stakeholders' meeting in late February convened by Canterbury City Council, to voice the impact of severe cuts or abolition of the funding at the end of the financial year 2020/21. This meeting was the first in a series of consultations about its future. Concurrent Functions Funding (CCF) provides valuable funding support for The Barn and our bus shelters. If funding was withdrawn completely, the precept would need to be raised by a third from its current level. In the event of withdrawal, the Parish Council would prefer it to be managed over a period of years, however short. The issue of double taxation was also discussed.

12. Closed Churchyard: Following a formal request from the Parochial Church Council (PCC) and discussion in the preceding months, the Parish Council voted by a majority (5 to 2) not to take responsibility for the maintenance of the closed churchyard at St. Giles. In the light of the possible loss of CCF funding and further impact on the precept it was felt prudent to pass the responsibility to the City Council. The formal resolution was proposed by Cllr Pearson and seconded by Cllr Stribbling. The PCC's request has now been passed onto the legal team at Canterbury City Council following the accepted procedure and timescale in such matters.

13. Local Plan Review: Canterbury City Council has begun a review of its Five-Plan; the process includes a 'Call for Sites' (ie unused land) which could be used for a variety of uses such as housing, employment and community purposes. Further details on the type of land which is being sought and guidance on the process for submitting details can be found on the City Council's website. The deadline for submission of sites is 20th June 2020.

14. River Nailbourne: CCC now have a contingency arrangements for placing demountable flood barriers in place should potential flooding threaten closure of the road at Black Robin Corner. The continued re-growth of brambles and other vegetation (the 'Black Robin scrub') is being assessed by the Environment Agency in the hope that the interference with the river channel and the impaired traffic sightlines on the bend can be mitigated.

15. VE Day Planning: The cross-village working group has met and planning is under way.

16. Highways and Footpaths:

The broken water valve at the junction of CB277 and Marley Lane has been repaired, but the handrail and steps still need to be re-instated.

The request to remove the stile on CB275 on the Embankment has been logged.

17. Matters for Further Discussion: the following items were noted:

- The location of the village defibrillator to make it easier to locate.
- Arrangements for Clerk's interviews will be on Friday 13th March
- Planning Application for King's Yard, The Street will be discussed at short Extraordinary meeting on 13th March.
- The draft of Comments and Complaints procedure will be circulated for the next meeting.
- The Playground Appeal group will be invited to update the Council at the next meeting.

18: Date of next meeting: Monday 6th April 2020 at 7.30pm in The Barn, Kingston