

Minutes of Kingston Annual Parish Council Meeting held on
Monday 9th May 2016 in The Barn, Kingston.

Present:

Cllr Martin - Chairman

Cllr Osborn – Vice- Chair

Cllr Arter

Cllr McCord

Cllr Pearson

Cllr Walsh

Valerie McWilliams, Clerk

There were 4 members 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 focused on education. He stated that Kent County Council was not convinced that changing all schools into academies was the way forward. Roger Gough, Kent County Council's Cabinet member felt that the process would not be welcomed by everyone in the district. Although it had improved standards in some schools it would be wrong to change already high achieving schools into academies just for the sake of it.

One quarter of Kent schools are academies, 82% of which, are judged 'good' or 'outstanding' schools. 86 % of all local authority schools are rated 'good' or 'outstanding' which is higher than the national average.

1. APOLOGIES

City Cllr Simon Cook sent his apologies due to a prior engagement. Cllr Spencer sent her apologies owing to work commitments.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting on 4th April 2016 were accepted as an accurate record. Acceptance of the minutes; proposed by Cllr Arter and seconded by Cllr Osborn.

The minutes of the Extra Ordinary meeting held on 19th April 2016 were accepted as an accurate record; proposed by Cllr Osborn and seconded by Cllr Pearson.

3. APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS (Chair & Vice Chair)

Cllr Osborn proposed Cllr Martin as Chair, this was seconded by Cllr Pearson; there were no other nominations.

Cllr Pearson proposed Cllr Osborn as Vice Chair; this was seconded by Cllr Arter; there were no other nominations. All were in agreement of both nominations

Cllr Martin and Cllr Osborn accepted the positions.

4. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

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

5. MATTERS ARISING

The Clerk confirmed that she now had a local number and a French address regarding the ownership of the old Stud Farm; as yet she had not been able to make contact.

6. FINANCE

Lloyds Bank £9,343.01

Balance Brought Forward £6,622.31

Monies In

Concurrent Funding £2,978.70

Precept £5,000.00 (Not showing on Statement)

KCC £300.00 (Not Showing on Statement)

Payments Due

Val McWilliams for 16 Hours worked in April SCP2 per hour £10.50 = £168 + £40

Office maintenance + Stationary £3.40 Total £211.40

KALC Subscription (£181.30 + VAT £36.26) Total £217.56

McCabe Ford Williams Payroll (£250.00 + VAT £50.00) Total £300.00

Joy Rule Audit £65.00

KVHT £2,698.70

Steve Reeves Tree Felling Embankment £600.00

CPRE Subscription £36.00

Tom Arter (wines for the AVM) £27.90

Little Stour River Management Group (subscription) £20.00

Total £4,176.56

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

The Clerk presented the accounts to the Council which had been audited by the Internal Auditor. The Annual Governance Statement Audit form was duly approved and signed by the Chair and Clerk, who will then forward it on to the Audit Commission, for acceptance by the External Auditor.

All records of the annual finances will be put on the website and notice board. Anyone is permitted to view the accounts should they wish by contacting the clerk.

There were no additional finance questions to the Clerk from Councillors

7. PLANNING/TREES

CA/16/00709/FUL Building to cover the existing sand school. Little Duskin Farm, Covet Lane, Kingston, CT4 6JS. Awaiting a decision.

CA/16/00765/FUL Two-storey extension to side. Reed Farmhouse, Westwood Road Kingston, CT4 6JL. Awaiting a decision

CA/16/00700/LUE Certificate of existing lawful development in respect of use of land for a sui generis community use. "The Quiet View" and associated structures/users. 146 The Street, Kingston CT4 6JQ. Awaiting decision

CA/16/00760/FUL Single-storey extension to rear of farmhouse, single-storey to side and rear of outbuilding with internal and external alterations and landscaping. Ileden Farm Barn, Ileden, Kingston CT4 6HP. Awaiting decision

CA/16/0059/FUL Proposed single-storey rear extension and loft conversion with front and rear dormer windows. 31 The Street, Kingston, Canterbury CT4 6JE. Awaiting decision.

CA/16/0059/LUE Certificate of existing lawful development in respect of installation of five dormer windows to the front elevation. The Barn, Marley Lane, Kingston, CT4 6JJ. Awaiting decision

TREES

The Chairman of "The Kent Men of The Trees", Professor Alun Griffiths, and a colleague Dr Brian Grey, very kindly gave up their bank holiday to come and inspect and advise us on the future maintenance of the trees along the Railway Embankment. He has sent us preliminary suggestions for improving the area for public use which includes planting new trees, shrubs and spring bulbs. This would help stabilise the ground. He would be happy to do a full survey report to enable us apply for grants to do any work deemed necessary which would be expensive.

Professor Griffiths has very kindly agreed to be our guest speaker at the Annual Parish meeting on Wednesday 18th May 2016. His talk will be on ***The Amenity Value of Trees.***

8. HIGHWAYS & FOOTPATHS

Cllr McCord reported two large pot holes along Covet Lane between the railway bridge and the Black Robin. The Clerk will report them.

Cllr Pearson reported that the fence along the bridleway had fallen down and once removed will widen the footpath.

Cllr Osborn enquired if we had received any more information regarding the scrubland opposite the Black Robin. The Clerk said that the Land Registry had stated that it was a grey area and no one was prepared to accept responsibility of ownership.

10. POLICY ON FREEDOM of INFORMATION AND PUBLICATION SCHEME

Cllr Martin stated that the document was in its final stages of completion and she hoped to have it ready for circulation at the next meeting

11. QUEEN'S 90th BIRTHDAY & CLEAN UP BRITAIN

Arrangements for the birthday party are now under way for the Celebration Tea Party being held on Sunday 26th June. A meeting of the working party is being arranged to finalise the event. Cllr Martin thanked County Cllr Michael Northey for his kind donation of £300.00 which will make a big difference to funding the occasion.

The "Clean for the Queen" event will take place on Saturday 11th June at 10am, for a clean sweep of the village to collect up any litter in readiness for the Kingston Celebration Tea Party being held on Sunday 26th June, Anyone able to help should contact Cllr Laura Spencer on 01227 831682. It is planned to meet in the Black Robin Car Park on the day.

12. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

Oats to Coast Spring 2016
Countryside Voice
Kent Voice
Came & Company – Council Matters

Emails sent to all

Kent Flood Wardens Training
KALC Minutes
Bulletin from NALC/LGA Conference
Independent Review of Local Tax Support Schemes
Emergency Planning Workshops
NALC News Letter
Kent Cost Saving Proposals

All correspondence has been circulated amongst Councillors

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Martin had attended the recent KALC Emergency Planning Workshop which was enlightening. She felt that Kingston was up to speed with its own planning.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm

14. DATE of NEXT MEETING

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