

Minutes of Kingston Parish Council Meeting held on
Monday 2nd October 2017 in the Barn, Kingston.

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

There were 14 members of the public present.

Before the start of the meeting, the Council held a minute's silence in memory of Charles Fagg who sadly died on 1st October 2017. Charles had been a former, long-serving Chairman of the Parish Council and was an active, much loved member of the village.

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

There was some discussion concerning the development of the proposed barn conversion at Jesses Hill Farm. Access to the site is poor and neighbouring roads are not suitable for the ever-increasing volume of motor traffic. The barn is in an area of AONB and is not a building of great beauty. It can be seen from the A2 and Bonny Bush Hill. The development was considered too big for the surrounding rural countryside

An immediate neighbour felt that she would have a loss of privacy if the development were to go ahead. The barn has no direct water supply or electricity, which is currently shared with Hornbeams (B and B) There are no wastewater facilities in place. The owner of the property does not live in Kingston and therefore would not be in a position to supervise the property, which could attract unsuitable visitors.

The amount of traffic on Marley Lane had increased greatly over recent months and is continuously causing drivers to reverse on long stretches of the road. Kent Highways have been informed. The Council will inspect the Lane to see if there is a possibility of creating a passing place. A local resident offered to help with getting some land cut back. The Chairman asked the public whether they would

like a survey done on Marley Lane to get the opinion of all the residents living there on the issues discussed. They were all in favour.

The caravan parked on the field at the top of The Street, Kingston is still causing concern. The owners have been told by the Enforcement Department at CCC either, to put in a retrospective planning application or, to vacate the land. The time allowed is 28 days or 56 days respectively. The Parish Council is waiting to hear the outcome.

Residents complained about the height of hedges, which need cutting back. The Council will find out who own the hedges in question.

The Chairman then thanked the members of the public for their input.

County Councillor Michael Northey was unable to attend the meeting but sent the following press release:

KCC spends millions fixing potholes across the county

Kent County Council is spending £5.2 million filling potholes before the colder months ahead.

The pothole blitz started in April and in an unprecedented move, is due to run until Christmas if the weather remains good during October and November.

To date this year, KCC has spent £2.7 million, patching 66,800m² and filling an equivalent 133,600 individual potholes on a road network of over 5,000 miles.

KCC has contracted the work out to local companies in the districts to ensure quicker response times to reports of problems.

The companies are O'Rourke Contracting in Dartford and Gravesham; SCG Kent Ltd in Sevenoaks and Tunbridge Wells; Dukes Contractors Ltd in Tonbridge and Malling and Maidstone; Amy LG in Swale and Canterbury; Stead line Ltd in Ashford and Shipway; and A R Cook Contracting in Thanet and Dover.

KCC cabinet member for highways Matthew Balfour said: "Potholes are one of the biggest bugbears for our residents and remain one of our top priorities each year.

"We've got local crews working on filling potholes who know their areas and this year we've extended the scheme up until Christmas to ensure our roads are ready for the winter months ahead."

Last year, KCC repaired 20,673 potholes and patched 136,633m² of roads.

Mr Balfour added: "People often assume these are quick and temporary fixes but I can assure you these are not. We do a quality, first time fix, and do not expect to be back out again fixing the same pothole.

"All this work isn't to suggest we don't need people's help in reporting potholes. We can't be everywhere all the time and so I'd encourage people to go online and report potholes so we can arrange for them to be filled."

City Cllr Simon Cook did not attend the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

County Cllr Michael Northey sent his apologies for being unable to attend the meeting as he was on annual leave.

2. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

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

4. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting on 4th September 2017 were accepted as an accurate record. Acceptance of the minutes; proposed by Cllr Pearson & seconded by Cllr Osborn.

5. MATTERS ARISING

All action items had been executed.

6. FINANCE

Lloyds Bank £19,028.69 ((September 19th 2017)

Payments Due

Val McWilliams for 16 Hours worked in September at SCP2 per hour £10.50 =

£168 + Office Maintenance £40.00. = £208 00

IT Computer Support (Kingston's share) £30.00

Cartridge Money (£20.13 + VAT £4.03) Total £24.15

Total £262.15

Davina Martin Material for repair to Embankment Steps (£20.43+VAT £4.08)

Total £24.51

Kingston Tree Care Work on the Embankment £6,000.00

TOTAL £6,286.66

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

The Clerk reported that the External Auditors had completed the audit and stated that based on their review of the annual return in their opinion, the information in the annual return is in accordance with proper practices and no matters of concern had come to their attention that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

The Clerk presented the half-yearly figures to the Council; there were a few issues, which will be addressed before the next meeting.

The Clerk distributed the Financial Risk Assessment Policy to Councillors.

7. PLANNING

17/01892 Proposed conversion of Barn to 2 no holiday dwellings. Jesses Hill Farm, Jesses Hill, Marley Lane, Kingston, CT4 6JD. Councillors considered the application and felt that the access was poor. The immediate viable access is by the northern end of Jesse's Hill, a road already marked as unsuitable for motor traffic. Access for large vehicles e.g. horse boxes delivery vans, and lorries with building materials is problematic. None of the roads surrounding Kingston is capable of coping with any further large amounts of traffic.

Services are limited the current water supply is limited, certainly not sufficient for the proposed building. The electricity is 'borrowed' from the neighbouring property and there are no wastewater facilities.

The Design and Access Statement describes the proposed holiday lets as 'cottages'. The size and style of this proposed development hardly warrants such a description.

The plans are not in keeping with the rural surroundings. It is much too big and inappropriate in a quiet rural environment.

Having taken everything into consideration, the majority view of Kingston Parish Council is that they cannot support the application, although one Councillor was of the opinion, that the development could be beneficial to the village.

CA7/01771/TPO NO 2 OF 1972 Silver Birch, the Retreat, Church Kingston CT4 6HX Councillors considered the application to prune back to the original pollard point. There were no objections to the necessary work being carried out. This was granted.

Appeal under section 174. Land north side of Marley Lane (adjacent Marley Wood Bungalow) Marley Lane, Kingston, CT4 6JJ **Appeal still to be heard.**

8. TREES

There has been a great deal of work during the last few weeks done on the embankment. It was agreed to review progress of the first stage of the project in detail at the January meeting to inform future planning.

The Shrubbery known as “no man's land” opposite the Black Robin has been sprayed but it will be necessary to do a second spray to discourage further growth after which, it is hoped it can be cleared completely. The brewery has agreed to meet half the cost.

9. POLICIES & REGULATIONS UPDATE

The policy for dealing with planning applications was discussed. It was agreed by all that the Clerk on receiving planning applications would circulate them amongst Councillors. They would then be placed on the village website, Facebook and the main notice board outside the Barn, along with one other notice board closest to the application site.

If a site visit is required, available councillors will carry this out reporting to the next meeting with their findings. The Clerk will print out a set of plans for the meeting.

10. WELCOME PACK FEEDBACK

The Chairman reported on the outcome of the initial review of the Welcome Pack. Three Councillors will meet before the next meeting to summarise ideas for the next stage.

11. CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL – GOVERNANCE REVIEW

The Governance Review was discussed and it was agreed that the Council would write to CCC stating the reasons why Kingston Parish Council do not want to see any changes to the present Council and they have no wish to merge with any other parish.

Following the meeting on in the Guild Hall on 26th June about the Community Governance Review, there will be an opportunity for Parish Councils to sign up for a 30-minute witness sessions. These will be held after the consultation period has closed, and will give the City Council panel a chance to ask additional questions and clarify any points from previous submissions. The deadline for comments from Parish Councils is 8th October 2017.

Further information can be obtained by logging on to the website at www.canterbury.gov.uk/your-council/have-your-say-/consultations/community-

governance-review. Individual residents are also invited to submit views via the website.

13. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

Arbor summer 2017

Emails sent to all

Kent County Council Transportation Survey September 2017-09-28

Canterbury City Council - Community Governance review consultation - deadline 8 October

Data Protection and the DCLG consultation on Planning for the right homes in the right places.

Small Grants- Large Grants

Rural Policing Update 13 September 2017

NALC Chief Executive's Bulletin 31 - 8 September 201

All correspondence has been circulated amongst Councillors.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It was unanimously agreed that any agenda items not discussed would be deferred to the November agenda.

There was no further business. The meeting closed at 9.40pm.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Will take place on Monday 6th November 2017 at 7.30pm in The Barn.