

**Minutes of Kingston Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 01 October 2018
in The Barn, Kingston**

Present:-

Cllr Martin (Chairman)
Cllr Spencer (Acting Clerk)
Cllr Pearson
Cllr Wakefield
Cllr Stribbling

The Chairman welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 19.30.
There were two members of the public present.

748. It was **Resolved** that Councillor Spencer would be Acting Clerk for the duration of this meeting. This was proposed by Cllr Pearson and seconded by Cllr Stribbling.

749. Apologies and Approval of Absences

Cllr Osborn (Vice-Chair) and Cllr McCord both sent apologies.

750. Reports from County and City Council members

As County Cllr Northey and City Cllr Cook were absent, no reports were received.

751. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations by members of any pecuniary or other significant interest regarding items on the Agenda.

752. Public Forum

The Chair invited questions and comments from the public.

Thanks were expressed for the clearing of Faggs Alley. It was noted that the contractors had cleared this path, as well as others, just days after the previous meeting. It's possible that some volunteers may have also assisted. This being the case, all present at the meeting expressed their gratitude.

753. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on the 03 September 2018 were agreed to be a true reflection of all that was discussed. Proposed by Cllr Pearson and seconded by Cllr Wakefield, it was therefore **Resolved** to accept these as a correct record and they were duly signed.

754. Matters Arising

Cllr Stribbling had hoped to receive an update from City Cllr Cook regarding the condition of the Bonny Bush Hill lay-bys/use of cones on the A2 slip roads. This topic will be revisited next month.

Cllr Wakefield shared FaceBook updates which have included reports of 'suspicious activity' in local village lanes (possible badger/pheasant baiting and cars driving slowly as they pass houses). Cllr Martin will confirm the name of our current PCSO and prepare a brief note for the Parish Magazine to ensure villagers know who to contact in such circumstances.

Cllr Martin and Colin Horton have reviewed the Speed Watch data recorded in The Street in July. Villagers may be surprised to learn that the results do not prove there is a speeding problem per se. The majority of motorists recorded were in fact conforming to the speed limit. However, a discussion ensued about the *perception* of speed and the *behaviour* of motorists on what is a shared road of varying widths and with poor sight lines. Colin Horton has offered to assist design a survey that helps highlight potential risks and the need for consideration when using such roads. It is recognised that the survey may identify other issues and solutions for consideration.

755. Planning Applications Considered

CCA//18/00446 Whitelocks Barn, The Street, CT4 6JQ

It was noted that the content of this application has not changed since our previous site visit; rather the Planning Committee has requested revised paperwork on the basis that the proposal is now being considered a 'new build'. Councillors **Resolved** not to object to the application but to highlight the same points for consideration as before. Cllr Martin will resubmit the original response which identifies that the proposed property can be viewed from Covet Lane and that members would suggest present building lines should not be encroached upon.

As an aside, it was noted by Cllr Martin that UK Power Networks will be tending to the trees near this property in a bid to address the problems of intermittent power supplies at the top of The St

756. Planning Application Decisions

CA//18/01215 Marleywood Bungalow, Marley Lane, CT4 6JJ

Proposed single-storey rear extension **GRANTED**

757. Finance

It was noted that there were no invoices to pay this month.

Finance Reports

Cllr Martin presented documents relating to the Half Year situation:

- Income 2018-2019 (April-September)
- Cash Book Expenditure 2018-2019
- Half Year Statement (April 2018-Sept 2019)
- Embankment – Receipts and Payments

These were analysed and discussed in full. The following were noted in particular:

Income 2018-2019 (April-September)

- The £5.00 discrepancy in the stated current balance is due to an uncashed cheque (630) during 2017-2018
- Cllr Pearson recommended that the 'Reserve' of £5,000.00 is clearly noted so that the 'Working Balance' is always at the forefront of our minds

Cash Book Expenditure 2018-2019

- It was noted that shaded boxes could not be verified at the time of compilation but that all balances have since been cross referenced against cheques and bank statements

Half Year Statement (April 2018-Sept 2019)

- It was noted that this was checked by both Cllr Martin and Cllr Pearson at the time of compilation
- It was explained that this document shows what was forecast last year and what has been spent thus far (April 2018-September 2018)
- It was decided that 'Notice boards' should be moved to 'General Maintenance' (i.e. not shown alongside 'Bus Shelters'. The £280.00 grant is received solely for bus shelters
- It was decided to remove 'Trees (Embankment)' from this statement altogether since this money is ring-fenced and should be displayed separately
An initial conversation ensued regarding the 2019/20 forecast and preliminary figures were discussed. These will be reviewed next month in readiness for the December Precept request deadline

Embankment – Receipts and Payments

- It was noted that this paper helps distinguish between grants and donations
- It was agreed that it is very helpful to see payments and receipts in relation to the Embankment separately.
- The question of grants and match funding was discussed and whether we might wish to ring fence appropriate reserves in future.

The four documents were accepted but for the noted revisions. This was proposed by Cllr Wakefield and seconded by Cllr Stribbling. Cllr Martin will circulate a revised *Income 2018-2019 (April-September)* in due course

Cllr Martin also presented a Parish Maintenance Programme. This helps give background and context to the Asset Register and shows the work that has been undertaken by this Council to date. It was noted that much of this work has been achieved through the voluntary labour of both Councillors and villagers and that very often, we have incurred the cost of materials only. The generosity of Geoff Macdonald in helping to restore the Kingston Brooch signs to their former glory was cited as an example.

The condition of the 'Greenacre plot' was discussed and the need for urgent 'tidying'. Two quotes have been received. The first, whilst marginally cheaper, involves the use of

hedge cutters. The second (£450.00) would involve a much more sympathetic gardening approach. It was unanimously **Resolved** to proceed with the latter. Cllr Stribbling questioned whether the utility company may contribute bearing in mind there is an electricity sub-station on the land. Cllr Martin will investigate further.

758. Highways and Footpaths

Cllr Wakefield asked whether 'Arrows' are required on the bend of road approaching the village, near the Bus Shelter triangle. The broken AONB sign has been reported by Cllr Osborn.

Cllr Spencer offered an update regarding contact having been made with Averil Brice (Kent Area Footpath Maintenance Officer, Group Secretary White Cliffs Ramblers) who has kindly offered to help coordinate future footpath clearance should KCC contractors be delayed in carrying out their work as before. Cllr Spencer will liaise with Louise Adams (KCC Public Rights of Way Department) to update the definitive list of footpaths and clearing responsibilities within the Parish.

Cllr Wakefield asked whether we should collate a list of fields and farmer contact details in case of emergencies such as grass/crop fires in summer.

Cllr Pearson queried the necessity of a stile on just one side of the Embankment (CB275) when this is arable farmland with no known recent history of livestock being kept.

759. Highland Court Development

Cllrs Martin, Spencer and Pearson met last week to discuss what our approach might entail.

- An updated distribution list for leafletting was compiled
- It was recommended that a questionnaire be designed along the lines of the one prepared by Bekesbourne and Patrixbourne PC (i.e. answers on a sliding scale). This will enable us to glean thoughts and opinions.

- It was proposed that we hold two forums (one in the afternoon and one in the evening) to enable Kingston villagers to share thoughts and ask questions in an informal setting

A brief discussion about the pros and cons of the above ensued involving the two members of public present. It was unanimously **Resolved** to consider possible dates for the forums as soon as possible.

760. World War 1 event, 11 November

Cllr Martin reported that plans are progressing well and that village youngsters will be fully involved. Further information will be shared in the Parish Magazine in due course.

761. Appointment of replacement Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer

Cllr Martin reported that there has been some initial interest in the vacancy. The

deadline for applications has been extended until the 15 October after which the next stage will be discussed.

762. Correspondence Received:

- a) KCC 'Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) Consultation
- b) NALC Chief Executive's Bulletin
- c) KALC Chairmanship Conference 2018th October
- d) KCC 'Household Waste Re-cycling Centre
- e) KALC The Dynamic Councillor 22nd October (Queenborough)
- f) KRF Community Resilience Workshop 6th October (Tonbridge)
- g) KALC New Suicide Prevention Funding for Community Groups
- h) KALC Community Policing Volunteers (PSV) new role (Mid and West Kent)
- i) Web contact re cycle path Barham to Kingston

In terms of i), Cllr Martin will respond and seek further details.

763. Matters for Further Discussion

Cllr Spencer reported that a set of Hi-Vis jackets has been received. These were donated by SERCO and were passed to us by Val McWilliams. They will be added to the Asset Register. Cllr Spencer will store these along with the litter pickers.

764. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 05 November 2018 at 19.30 in The Barn, Kingston

The meeting closed at 21.25.