

KINGSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council

Monday 5th July 2021 at 19:30

Present:

- Cllr Davina Martin (Chair)
- Cllr Gina Pearson
- Cllr Paul Chatley
- Cllr Val McWilliams
- Cllr Steve Reeves
- Cllr Laura Spencer
- Cllr Vince Stribbling
- 4 Members of the Public
- Mr Christopher Howard (Clerk)

1. Apologies and approval of absences:

The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for apologies for absence. Apologies received and accepted from City and County Councillor Mike Sole (work commitments).

2. Reports from County and City Council members:

In Cllr Sole's absence, Cllr Martin gave a brief overview of the monthly report received from Cllr Sole. Highlighted was the fact that KCC are behind with cutting back vegetation on public footpaths due to being short staffed, and Cllr Martin confirmed that she had been receiving daily emails from residents regarding this. Cllr McWilliams informed the council that she had received information that KCC now had enough staff and were hoping to clear through their backlog by the end of the month.

3. Declarations of interest:

None

4. Public Forum:

One member of the public raised the issue of cars parking within the passing place of Millennium Bridge on The Street. Due to vehicles parking here it makes it difficult for vehicles to move out of the way of oncoming vehicles when there is travel in both directions over the single lane bridge. Cllr Martin stated that this could be discussed under item number 11a when speaking about the Highways Improvement Plan.

A member of the public also raised the issues of overgrown vegetation on footpaths. It was reiterated that any council owned paths had been cleared and that those which were overgrown belonged to KCC. As previously stated, under item 2, KCC are behind on their workload but aim to be completed at the end of July. Cllr Spencer confirmed that she had logged any pressing issues with undergrowth cutting through the PROW online reporting portal.

5. Minutes of previous meetings:

Decision was deferred until after item 14c. For the purposes of the minutes, this was not revisited. Cllr Chatley raised that the draft minutes should contain a "DRAFT" watermark, which was supported by Cllr Martin.

Clerk to ensure that the draft minutes will have a "DRAFT" watermark in future.

Agenda item to be placed on the next agenda for minutes from June to be ratified.

6. Matters arising: (if not already on the Agenda)

a) Kingston Brooch 250th Anniversary:

No update to what was discussed previously with the decision most likely to be delayed until 2022 for a celebration.

b) The Black Robin brambles:

Cllr Martin stated that she had written to the owners of the Black Robin public house, offering to share the cost of cutting back the undergrowth. At the time of the meeting no reply had been received.

c) Kings Yard correspondence:

Cllr Stribbling informed the council that he still had not received a conclusive reply regarding the King's Yard.

Cllr Stribbling to email Cllr Sole regarding help chasing a conclusive update.

d) Village Hall Trust Committee representative:

Cllr Chatley had volunteered to be the Parish Council's representative on the Village Hall Trust Committee.

7. Planning:

The Clerk reported that there was one new planning application since the last meeting:

CA/21/01388 – Location: Land Adjacent to Whitelocks Barn, The Street, Kingston, Canterbury, Kent, CT4 6JQ – **Proposal:** Erection of stable block. **P.C. Comments:** No Objections.

The following "Was Lawful" Planning Application was noted:

CA/21/01030 – Location: Marley Wood Yard, Marley Wood Lane – **Proposal:** Application for lawful development certificate for existing single storey detached dwelling.

8. Finance:

a) Payments:

The expenditure below was authorised, made up of:

Dynamix – Payroll Fees: £7.80

Chris Howard – Clerk Salary May and June

b) Internet banking:

Cllr Martin reported that relevant forms had been submitted to Lloyds bank. A form for variation of mandate was received however this was unable to be viewed by Cllr Martin, and so has requested a paper copy be sent in the post.

Cllr Martin to fill in and return the variation of mandate form when it is received.

c) Parish Council Insurance Renewal:

Pre-insurance renewal was received from Came and Company. The clerks postal address has been updated and the Clerk currently awaits the quote. Cllr Martin confirmed that the insurance covered noticeboards, 2 bespoke village signs, railings, embankment signs, bus shelters and benches. It is believed that the Village Hall Trust own everything on the playing field.

Cllr Chatley to confirm which items the Village Hall Trust pay for and insure.

Clerk to forward on quote when it is received, and agenda item made.

9. CCC Local Plan Consultation:

Cllr Spencer reported that at the recent CCC Local Planning Meetings, there had been very heated discussions surrounding the options provided and how decisions and ideas had been formulated by CCC. One of the issues raised was that of the options set out, CCC have one which is their preferred option. The issue sits with how they can have a preferred option when the consultation has not yet been completed, and who has put forward this option as preferable.

The options are as follows:

Option A:

- Growth focused on Canterbury with more limited growth at the coast and villages
- Minimum development of 9,000 homes to meet government targets
- Reallocation of road space on the ring road to provide safer, more attractive routes for walking and cycling
- Further investment in Park and Ride and bus infrastructure like new bus lanes

Option B (CCC's preferred option):

- Growth focused on Canterbury with more limited development at the coast and villages
- Additional development of between 14,000 and 17,000 homes to allow for further economic growth and significant investment in local transport
- Significant upgrading of the A28 so that through-traffic can bypass the city centre
- Reallocation of road space on the ring road to provide safer, more attractive routes for walking and cycling
- Further investment in Park and Ride and bus infrastructure like new bus lanes

Option C:

- Growth focused at the coast with more limited development in Canterbury and the villages
- Minimum development of 9,000 homes to meet government targets
- A new Park and Ride for Whitstable, supported by frequent bus services and investment in coastal walking and cycling routes

Option D:

- Growth focused in sustainable rural areas, with some growth at villages and hamlets, and more limited growth at Canterbury, Whitstable and Herne Bay
- Minimum development of 9,000 homes to meet government targets
- Public transport improvements connecting rural areas with urban areas

Option E:

- Growth focused at a new freestanding settlement, with more limited growth in Canterbury, Whitstable and Herne Bay and rural areas
- Minimum development of 9,000 homes to meet government targets
- New transport infrastructure to support the new community

It should be noted that these houses are on top of those already agreed to in the 2017 Local Plan.

(Options taken from the CCC Local Plan website:

<https://localplan.canterbury.gov.uk/draft-vision-and-growth-options/>)

The preferred option also raises the issue of more houses, meaning more cars and therefore more traffic which is counter intuitive to CCC's plan to reduce traffic in Canterbury. The desire to build such a large road also contradicts CCC's plan of pushing a green, sustainability agenda. The location and route of this bypass is also currently unknown. Without knowing what the route was, Parish Councils stated that it is impossible for them to support the application as they do not know how close to their villages the road will go as well as how many houses each village will be expected to have built to help fund it.

It was also confirmed that student housing has been included in CCC's calculations on how many houses are required.

Recently in the Canterbury area there have been water quality issues, which means that all new developments are required to include a water sanitising area. Issues were also raised regarding public transport and CCC expecting people to cycle to the city rather than bus or car. This was dismissed by Parish Councils as unrealistic and needed a rethink. There was also no reference made to the AONB and its importance for mental wellbeing.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would submit a response to CCC's Local Plan. Due to the closing date being before the next Parish Council Meeting, the response would have to be agreed by councillors via email.

Cllr Spencer to send a link to Cllr Chatley to place on the Parish Council website to help aid parishioners to give their own views and feedback to the proposals.

Cllr Spencer to draft a response to submit on behalf of the council. This will be sent to the Clerk who will then circulate this to councillors for agreement via email, before submission to CCC.

10. KALC Area Committee Meeting:

An overview of the meeting had previously been circulated to councillors by Cllr Pearson. Concerns were raised regarding the CCC's relationship with local Parish Councils, in particular the Local Plan as well as other local issues, with the perception being that CCC are treating the Parish Councils as amateurs and subordinates, instead of equals and collaborators.

11. Highways and Footpaths:

a) Highways Improvement Plan:

Cllr Martin stated that she had been in conversation with Michelle Matthews at KCC regarding the Highways Improvement Plan. KCC are encouraging Parish Councils to have a Highways Improvement Plan, and that it can also include footpaths and signage. The council discussed potential items to be included on the Highways Improvement Plan.

Clerk to contact Michelle Matthews and arrange a meeting to discuss the creation of a Highways Improvement Plan for Kingston.

b) CB274:

It was discussed as to whether the Parish Council should fund the cutting of vegetation along footpaths not owned by them, for example CB274, so that parishioners could use the footpaths freely without having to wait on PROW to cut the vegetation back. The worry however was that this could set an unwanted precedent. Due to PROW stating that they are due to do the work within the month, councillors decided to wait, but would revisit the issue should it arise in the future.

c) Jesse's Hill:

KCC have confirmed that Jesse's Hill is an unmade road and therefore they only have an obligation to maintain the road, and not to repair or resurface. The email stated that Marley Lane was also an unmade road, although it is believed a mistake was made by KCC in their email.

12. Fibre Broadband:

Cllr Chatley reported that he had had further consultations with the Fibre Broadband supplier. Unfortunately, due to financial issues, it appears the initiative will not go ahead.

13. Platinum Jubilee 2022:

Councillors decided that it would be beneficial to request the aid of someone knowledgeable with trees to help decide on a location for the tree. It was also suggested that it should be in an easily accessible location and include a plaque.

Clerk to contact Alun Griffiths to ask if he could aid the council in placing the tree. The Clerk to also double check what species of tree are available and also what the deadline is for ordering a free sapling.

14. Clerk Report and Correspondence:

a) Parish Council owned Trees:

The Clerk reported that he had only received one quote so far for a mapping and health check of the trees along the Parish Council owned railway embankment.

Clerk to continue trying to obtain multiple quotes from tree consultants for the work.

b) Rural Crime Issues Response:

The Clerk reported that KALC had emailed all Parish Councils requesting any issues regarding rural crime that can be brought up at the next forum. Cllr Spencer brought up the issue of bikes in Covet Woods.

Clerk to respond to the email.

c) Minute taking and action points:

A discussion was held between councillors regarding the inclusion of action points within the minutes. The council resolved to request the Clerk italicise action points within the minutes, as long as it did not increase the time taken to write them.

Clerk to italicise action points in future minutes to make them more noticeable.

15. Matters for future discussion:

The Clerk notified the council of his intention to undergo the ILCA training in the month of August. Councillors agreed that this would be beneficial.

Agenda item to be created for the next meeting regarding reimbursement of the Clerk for the training.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.15pm.

Signed (Chairman)

Date

Please note these Minutes remain as draft Minutes until they are approved by the parish council at their next parish council meeting.

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