

KINGSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council

Monday 7th June 2021 at 19:15

Present:

- Cllr Davina Martin (Chair)
- Cllr Gina Pearson
- Cllr Paul Chatley
- Cllr Val McWilliams
- Cllr Steve Reeves
- Cllr Laura Spencer
- Cllr Vince Stribbling
- City and County Cllr Mike Sole
- 3 Kingston Residents
- Mr Christopher Howard (Clerk)

1. Apologies and approval of absences:

The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for apologies for absence. None were received.

2. Reports from County and City Council members:

Cllr Sole introduced himself as now both the County and City Councillor for Kingston. He stated that he aimed to be more proactive and productive, and to get out more to his 16 parish councils each month, rather than just attending a monthly meeting. If any help or advice is wanted, then he would try his best to accommodate. Cllr Sole also mentioned that he is now on the Flood Committee at Canterbury City Council.

Cllr McWilliams raised that Church Lane had recently had roadwork repairs carried out however these were not completed satisfactorily. Cllr Sole stated that he would raise the issue with Highways the following morning but thought that a possible reason could be the fact that the road is currently being used as a diversionary route for another set of roadworks.

Cllr Spencer mentioned that there were other roads of concern within the village. Cllr Sole said he would look into these if a list could be compiled.

3. Declarations of interest:

Cllr Reeves declared an interest in planning application CA/21/01030, due to it being his own application and property. No other declarations were received.

4. Public Forum:

Due to agendas only being published on the website and noticeboard, they were unavailable to people in attendance, as set out in the Covid risk assessment and possible transfer of the virus, a resident asked if CB274 would be discussed. Cllr Martin confirmed that it would be discussed under agenda item 11a. No further questions or statements were made by members of the public.

5. Minutes of previous meetings:

Cllr Stribbling proposed, and Cllrs Pearson seconded, and all councillors voted in favour, that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 5th May 2021 (previously circulated) be accepted as a true record of the meeting.

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

Cllr Chatley gave an update with regards the Fibre Broadband update for the village. He had been able to converse with the broadband team and managed to get a greatly reduced cost, however this would mean the removal of the 4 properties in Westwood. When Cllr Chatley queried this, he was informed that the properties in Westwood and Hornbeams have no existing infrastructure, and it would cost in the region of £450,000 to install this. It may however be possible to utilise the existing infrastructure from the thatched cottage in Bishopsbourne for these properties.

Cllr Chatley to continue conversations with the broadband provider whilst their investigations continue.

Cllr Martin gave an update on the brambles by the Black Robin public house. She stated that an enquiry to the Environment Agency, had responded that as the vegetation was not interfering with the flow of the river, then it would not take any action. Previously the Black Robin had paid half of the costs of reducing the brambles.

Cllr Martin will approach the Black Robin regarding any help they could give regarding the costs.

Cllr Stribbling reported that he had sent two emails to the planning officer but had not received any reply regarding the Kings Yard being given planning permission, when all the communications and information available are all negative and against the permission prior to being granted.

Cllr Stribbling to continue trying to obtain a response

Cllr Stribbling also mentioned that he is part of the Kingston Village Hall Trust Committee. He is willing to continue the role but having been in the position for 2 years representing the Parish Council, he is willing to step down should anyone be interested in the role. Cllr Spencer asked if it was possible for councillors to rotate regarding meeting attendance. Both Cllr Martin and Cllr Stribbling, previous representatives on the committee, stated that it would not be easy and the Trust would probably prefer to have a singular representative of the Parish Council. Cllr Martin requested that any councillors who are interested, email her and she will let the Trust Committee know before their Annual General Meeting on the 21st June who the Parish Council representative would be.

Volunteers to email Cllr Martin who will inform the Village Hall Trust committee who the Parish Council Representative will be

7. Planning Applications:

CA/21/01030 Application for lawful development certificate for existing single storey detached dwelling.

The property is Marley Wood Yard, Marley Wood Lane. This is an information only application. There were queries by councillors regarding if a comment would have been allowed if made sooner, but no official letter was received notifying the Parish Council of closing dates. Cllr Sole

was asked regarding what the current procedure was, and he stated that he will look into this for the Parish Council.

8. Planning Decisions:

CA/21/00796

Application for lawful development certificate for proposed single-storey extension

44 The Street, Kingston Canterbury CT4 6JE

Would be lawful

CA/21/00882

Remove the existing lv pole and two stays and replace it with a pole and one stay approx. 8m away in a north-easterly direction

Whitegates, Marley Lane Canterbury, CT4 6JN

Approved

9. Finance:

a) Payments – see schedule:

Cllr McWilliams proposed and Cllr Stribbling seconded, and all councillors voted in favour, that orders for payment as shown in the attached schedule be authorised.

Cllr Pearson asked if cheques would be signed at a meeting again now that the Parish Council has returned to face to face meetings. Cllr Martin stated that it might not be needed given the next point regarding internet banking. The Clerk also commented that he would investigate if there were any rules regarding this given the current covid 19 pandemic and referred to the fact that agendas were not passed around to reduce the risk of spreading the virus.

Clerk to check Covid 19 guidance regarding cheque signing at meetings

b) Update on Internet banking:

Cllr Martin reported that current provider Lloyds Bank is aware that the Parish Council are interesting in online banking and have sent through the necessary paperwork, which will be filled in and signed in due course. At this point they will also be informed of the new Clerk and RFO to the council.

Cllr Martin to continue discussions with Lloyds Bank regarding internet banking.

c) Payroll:

Cllr Martin reported that the Parish Council has given notice to the previous payroll provider and are in the process of transferring to Dynamix. As discussed at the previous meeting, this is to streamline payroll costs as it was deemed too high with the Parish Council's previous provider. Dynamix has been provided with the Clerk's details and is currently awaiting further correspondence.

d) Draft policy re-Grants:

Cllr Pearson proposed, and Cllr Spencer seconded, and all councillors voted in favour, that the grant policy previously circulated be adopted with one amendment to Point 3.7 reducing the amount from £2,000 to £1,000.

Cllr Chatley agreed to amend the policy before publishing on the website.

10. Parish Council Briefing on Planning Enforcement and Heritage by Karen Britton, Planning Manager CCC:

The briefing on planning enforcement and heritage was attended by Cllr Stribbling on behalf of the Parish Council. Cllr McWilliams and the Clerk were also in attendance. Cllr Stribbling

commented on how whilst the briefing was a good idea regarding all parishes being invited, he felt that there was little discussion and was not very informative. He did stress however that he applauded the efforts to involve parish councils and their ability to contribute. Cllr McWilliams echoed Cllr Stribbling in stating that there was nothing new and that it needed more information.

The topic of conversation turned to the recent Local Plan made available by Simon Thomas. Cllr Spencer requested that this document be re-circulated for a response to be formulated at the next meeting to declare the Parish Councils thoughts regarding the proposal. This was agreed by all councillors.

11. Highways and Footpaths:

a) CB274:

Cllr Spencer updated that she had been in conversation with the East Kent Area Officer within the KCC Rights of Way team. The officer stated that she had been to the location to inspect it personally and that it was on her radar. She apologised for the perceived lack of action but stated that there are currently at least £3 million of outstanding surfacing jobs in East Kent alone. It was mentioned that the surface of the path cannot be changed without her express permission and that she had also contacted the volunteers involved regarding this. The officer mentioned that if the volunteers were able to raise the required funds, then they could fix the ruts themselves, and that she would endeavour to maintain it. The officer will continue to liaise with the volunteers if they take action to repair the path.

b) Salt-bin for Church Lane:

Cllr McWilliams has received a response and has been informed that currently it is too late and there is not enough money for the KCC to install a new salt bin. It was suggested that the Clerk should make this an agenda item for October 2021, when an application can be resubmitted for the new bin.

Clerk to create an agenda item on the October 2021 Agenda for ordering a new salt bin.

12. Future Events:

a) 250th Anniversary of discovery of Kingston Brooch

This year is the 250th Anniversary of the discovery of Kingston Brooch. The Friends of St Giles and the Village Society are both due to meet to discuss a way to mark the occasion. Due to the current coronavirus pandemic, it is likely that events may be postponed until 2022. The Parish Council would be more than willing to participate in events and await an update from other parties.

On August 6th, Dr David Wright will be giving a talk on the discovery of the brooch for the anniversary at Kingston Village Hall.

b) Jubilee 2022: Tree-planting

Cllr Spencer has brought to the attention of the council that to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022, that there is an offer of trees that can be planted to celebrate. The trees would be free for those that ordered.

Clerk agreed to investigate the application process.

13. Matters for future discussion:

a) Cllr Reeve reported that he believed that the Parish Council have a duty of care to the trees located on the Parish Council owned embankment within the village. He stated that some

trees looked potentially diseased or are leaning precariously. He suggested that a consultant be instructed to undertake mapping and a health check of trees on the embankment. It is anticipated that this work would be in the region of £800 to £1000.

The Clerk to look into getting quotes for the work.

- b) Cllrs Stribbling and Pearson expressed concerns for the new King's Yard Floristry business set up in the village. Questions were raised as to whether change of use was requested from storage to commercial. Concerns have also been raised regarding a possible increase in traffic although no notable increase has yet been observed. Cllr Spencer commented that she recalled that the change of use was granted, however was surprised that the business never approached the Parish Council regarding their enterprise.

- c) Cllr Chatley suggested that the Highways Improvement Plan for the village that had previously been worked on by Cllr Martin should be discussed at the next meeting with a view to developing and adopting it.

Clerk to add this as an agenda item for the next meeting.

- d) Cllr Reeve also commented on the road surface of Jesse's Hill, Kingston, mentioning that it was becoming inaccessible as the road surface had all but disappeared and that all that was left was the flint lining the road under the tarmac. The road is used as a diversionary route for other roadworks, so the Parish Council consider it appropriate that it should also be resurfaced.

Clerk to contact Highways and Cllr Sole regarding the issue to get the road resurfaced.

- e) The next meeting was confirmed as being on Monday 5th July 2021 at 7.30pm in The Barn, Kingston CT4 6JE.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.30pm.

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