



Minutes of Kingsclere Parish Council General Purposes Meeting GP 03/21
Held at 7.30pm on Monday 8th March 2021
Using Zoom Online Meeting Software

GP 03/21 – Present:

Cllrs: Adams; Bowes; Farey; Mussett; Peach N; Sawyer J. Clerk – Ackrill; Admin Assistant – Read.

03/21.1 – Apologies: Cllr Price

Resolved: Apologies accepted

03/21.2 – Declarations of Interest:

None.

03/21.3 – Matters Arising:

3.1. 02/20.11 Poster Competition:

Since this issue was last discussed, judging has taken place and three winners were chosen. The outstanding action was to tidy up the artwork and add text and KPC's logo. An estimated quote of £65 + VAT to tidy up the artwork was received and approved. Number of signs needed are three for the Community Orchard, three for the Recreation Ground, and four for entrances to the Love Lane footpath. It was agreed to purchase 15 signs with some as spare, quote to be sourced for next OM.

Resolved: Estimated quote of £65 + VAT approved.

Action: Admin. March OM.

3.2. 01/20.17.1 Recreation Ground – Handrail at The Dell Steps:

A quote to repair the handrail was requested but not received before this meeting. Deferred to next OM.

Action: March OM

03/21.4 – Making A Difference Awards:

A notice has been included in the March Tower, as well as being posted on the website and social media. The closing date for nominations is 1st April 2021. No further considerations have been made on the format of the awards presentation. It was agreed to wait and see how many nominations are received and keep this under review considering the planned lifting of lockdown restrictions.

03/21.5 – Annual Parish Meeting:

The Annual Parish Meeting (APM) should be held between the 1st March and 1st June. There is confusion on local Clerks' forums on whether holding an APM is a legal requirement, and if it is permitted to hold it online. Current legislation permitting online meetings ends on 7th May 2021. It was noted KPC did not hold an APM in 2020. It was agreed the usual format for the APM would not work well in an online meeting and that KPC should aim to hold a meeting that residents would wish to attend. When KPC held meetings in person there were usually members of the public in attendance, however no members of the public have attended virtual KPC meetings unless relating to a specific issue on the agenda, Cllrs did not see why this would be different for a virtual APM. It was proposed to hold the APM at the end of June as an in-person meeting to which members of the public would more likely attend, subject to Covid19 restrictions at that time. A note will be put in the Tower informing residents KPC will plan to hold the APM outside the set timeline for APMs.

Action: Clerk

03/21.6 – Electric Vehicle Charging Points:

JS attended a Borough wide Cross Parish Meeting on climate change on 4th February. He reported BDBC are asking for ideas for locations for Electric Vehicle charging points. Possible locations are the Fieldgate Centre, Holding Field car park, Anchor Road Car Park, Swan Street, and the Square. It was noted that the general aim would be to provide charging spaces for people to charge their cars and then move them, and not for these charging bays to be permanent parking spaces for residents, as residents should be charging their cars at home. It is recognised that villages such as Kingsclere do have constraints due to the lay out of the settlement with old buildings and that it is not always possible to install home based charging points. It was suggested that the Holding Field car park would not be suitable for charging points as a considerable amount of work would be required to connect it to the electricity network. The numerous garage areas around Longcroft and Stokins road were also suggested. The Fieldgate Centre was considered to be the best location for charging points. It is the weekday overflow car parking area for the village, the outside area is owned and managed by BDBC, and arrangements could be made with Kingsclere Community Association who run the community centre for the connection to the electrical network. JS to reply to BDBC with suggested areas.

Action: JS

03/21.7 – Community Orchard:

7.1. Visitor Guidelines:

It was suggested that similar rules as for the Holding Field and Recreation Ground should be agreed for the Community Orchard. NP to create draft wording based on current HF and Rec rules.

Action: NP.

7.2. Tree Guards:

Some of the trees are outgrowing their tree guards. NP has arranged for metal mesh guards to be made and a budget of £150 for metal mesh was requested and approved.

Resolved: £150 expenditure for metal mesh approved.

03/21.8 – Great British Spring Clean 28th May – 13th June:

The official dates for the Great British Spring Clean (GBSC) are 28th May – 13th June. It was agreed to hold a spring clean event on 12th June 10am – 1pm with the same format as in September 2020.

Action: Admin.

03/21.9 – Signage Poles:

One of the Recreation Ground rules signs has been installed at The Dell steps. Additional poles for the other signs are required, three for the other entrances in the Recreation Ground and one for the Holding Field car park. A quote for purchase and installation of these poles was requested but not received before this meeting. Deferred to next OM. It was agreed to put the rules for the Holding Field and Rec on the website.

Action: Clerk, Admin. March OM.

03/21.10 – Public Toilets:

There is no real change in the situation regarding KPC taking over the running of the public toilets. KPC is still awaiting a detailed proposal from BDBC to consider, and until this happens there is nothing KPC can do. According to BDBC a condition survey has taken place, KPC has yet to receive this. BDBC's Cabinet Meeting agenda for 9th March 2021 shows that tomorrow BDBC will be considering whether to transfer toilet facilities to the relevant Parish or Town Councils and a proposal to close the toilets on 31st March if no agreement with the relevant councils has been reached. KPC do not consider that BDBC has sufficiently attempted to resolve this issue in a timely manner, considering KPC was asked if it would be interested in taking over the running of the toilets last year and has instigated all attempts at gaining the relevant information it needs to make an informed decision. KPC has the intention to take over the running of the toilets, however, cannot decide without a plan or proposal from BDBC. It was noted that KPC would expect BDBC to ensure that, if KPC take over the running of the toilets, KPC would not be charged business rates. JS will call BCllr Rhatigan and CM will call Tom Payne in the morning to discuss options.

Action: JS, CM.

03/21.11 – Use of Bowls Club Car Park for Takeaway Unit:

KPC received a request from a resident for permission to use the Holding Field Car Park as a location for a mobile takeaway unit. The resident has advised that they are a chef with many years' experience, the unit would be removed each night, and all relevant licences and permissions would be sought. Concerns were raised over the proposed operational timings of seven days a week for at least six hours a day and the notable overlap with the school pick up time in the afternoon and secondary school buses and college buses return times to the village. Cllrs felt that having such a unit in operation at this time of day seven days a week would promote unhealthy eating to young people in the village. There were also concerns regarding litter, the proposed location being close to residential homes, that antisocial behaviour and misuse of the Holding Field by members of the public would be exacerbated, and that with the proposed operational timings several car parking spaces would be taken up during peak car park usage times; the PC had invested in the car park to alleviate parking problems. An idea that the takeaway unit could frequent numerous locations on different days was suggested and this was generally agreed to be a preferable idea. IB reported that the resident has also approached the KCA at the Fieldgate Centre regarding this proposal and KPC assume the resident has contacted other councils in relation to different locations. It was agreed to hold discussions with the resident and invite them to next OM with a more refined proposal.

Action: Clerk. March OM.

03/21.12 – Planning Applications:

12.1. 21/00439/HSE – Long Meadow, Union Lane: No objections.

12.2. 21/00437/HSE – 29 Byfields Road: No objections.

12.2. 21/00466/HSE – 34 Garrett Close: No objections.

12.2. T/00094/21/TCA – Cedar Drive: No objections.

12.2. 21/00558/HSE – Field Gate Farmhouse, Fieldgate Drive: No objections.

03/21.13 – Date of next meeting:

Monday 12th April 2021 7:30pm using Zoom Virtual Meeting Software unless government restrictions in place for Covid-19 are lifted, in which case normal meeting procedures will resume in the Village Club.

Meeting closed 21:02

Signed:.....Chairman

Date:.....

Signed:.....Clerk

Date:.....

Distribution: Cllrs: S Adams; I Bowes; M Farey; C Mussett; N Peach; R Peach; A Price; F Sawyer and J Sawyer.

Noticeboard; Website: www.kingsclere-pc.org.uk.