



Minutes of Kingsclere Parish Council Ordinary Meeting OM 06/23
Held at 7.30pm on Monday 26th June 2023 in the Village Club

OM 06/23 – Present:

Cllrs: Conquest; Gaines; Mussett; Peach N; Peach R;
Clerk – Ackrill; RFO – Porton.

11 Members of the public – 2 Borough Councillors

06/23.1 – Apologies:

None

06/23.2 – Declarations of Interest:

None

06/23.3 – Minutes:

3.1 Minutes of the Annual Meeting 22nd May 2023 were accepted and signed.

3.2 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting 22nd May 2023 were accepted and signed.

06/23.4 - Questions from the Public:

Strattons Solar Farm – Resident 1 - Read and concur with the opinions in the minutes of last full council meeting. This is very complex issue and things can easily be misinterpreted. Resident 2 – Former Newbury MP Richard Benyon was heard on a Radio 4 program aired 22nd May 2023 discussing industrial development, the consultation process and the allowing of a farmer to change the use of buildings without planning consent. Resident 3 – lives within 10 metres of the site, has a seriously ill child at home and moved to current location because the area is so beautiful. A recent annex/extension for the child including an outside patio area will be less than 10 metres away from the panels. This will affect the child's hearing and subsequently their mental health will be affected.

B.Cllr Rhatigan advised that the Panning Committee cannot form a judgement before an application has been submitted. Another Solar Farm application in Bramley in process.

Resident 4 – 85% of Solar Farm applications are successful on appeal. Resident 5 – The application for housing on Porch Farm is dependent on an increase to the local electrical supply and the local substation has now been upgraded, with this application too is this development more likely to go ahead now.

Other issues raised by residents – there is an issue with postal deliveries, some being up to a week late; the noticeboard outside Parish Office is now opaque so notices are difficult to read; when will the noticeboard on Crown Green be replaced?

The Chairman briefly responded to resident's concerns – Postal deliveries, if you have issues complain to the sorting office however if they don't have the staff we won't get a delivery and also once the deliverer's hours are done they stop; Noticeboard outside Parish Office is attached to a listed building and we are finding it difficult to source one in keeping; Noticeboard for Crown Green has been budgeted for and the Chairman needs to collate the necessary paperwork to hand over to the Clerk to order; it is planned to renew the noticeboard opposite the George & Horn PH with a cabinet for Parish Council notices rather than replacing the one outside the office.

Planning process – it is only consultation for a solar farm so far, the Parish Council is a statutory consultee so we will be invited to comment when an application is received. Both the environmental and heritage departments/officers at Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council would like comment. The deadline for the planning application can be extended. The Parish Council will formally discuss the application in an open meeting – the council is well aware of what is in the Neighbourhood Plan and there is policy. If there are more than 6 objections to the application it will go to Development and Control Committee at the Borough Council. Borough Councillors can also call the application in to the Development and Control Committee. The Borough Council will load the application onto the planning portal where residents can comment. This is not an isolated piece of land, it has Rights of Way that cross the fields. The Chairman reminded residents that any comments we submit have the same weight as one resident's comments – the only difference being that the Parish Council can have 4 minutes to speak at the Development and Control Committee. Never underestimate the power to change plans. Individual planning applications are all dealt with separately so any decision on Porch Farm or the Solar Farm will not affect the other.

A Councillor advised residents that all planning applications are required to comply with the National Planning Framework, the Local Plan and the Neighbourhood Plan. It was suggested that residents find reports on other applications for Solar Farms where they have succeeded and where they have failed and any comments they submit refer to the relevant parts of the documents listed above.

06/23.5 – Chairman's Remarks:

- i) MAD Awards – good ceremony was held, acknowledging the basic threads of the community. Humbled by individuals so if you know any individuals please reach out and express your thanks too.

- ii) Village Toilets – B.Cllr. Ken Rhatian was thanked for all of his efforts to keep the facilities open at the weekends and will no doubt talk on this during his report. He has gone above and beyond for our residents on this matter
- iii) HCC have been filling in pot holes, the buses to every school and college were late last week due to this.
- iv) Comments and complaints about the Mowing and Maintenance in the village – this is an expensive contract and we are using the same contractors that were very good last year but are failing dismally this year. We are well aware of the problems but do not have equipment to rectify ourselves and therefore are reliant on contractors.

06/23.6 – Clerk’s Report:

6.1. Hampshire and IOW Village of the Year Competition- discussion on whether to enter. Inspection in August. Closing date July 21st. An offer has been received from a resident who was a former councillor to complete the application form.

Resolved – it was resolved to accept the offer to complete the application from the resident

6.2. MAD Awards – 10 nominations were received, 8 were awarded and 7 of those winners accepted their awards. Lovely congratulatory video message from Kingsclere’s very own Paralympian Jonathan Broom-Edwards who is currently training for the World championships in Paris. Congratulations to all winners details are in the July Tower, on social media and in the press.

Thanks were expressed to Gareth for photo’s, Jonathon for video, Nicky for Food and Drinks,

6.3. Annual Report – The report is near finalisation, quotes will then be sought for printing and many thanks to BCllr Ken Rhatigan and to a resident who are both prepared to deliver to all residents this year for free.

06/23.7 – Review Internal Audit:

No recommendations. RFO was thanked for another exemplary Audit.

06/23.8 – Annual Return:

8.1 Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2022/23

Resolved – The Annual Governance Statement 2022/23 was accepted by members, signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

8.2 Section 2 – Accounting Statement 2022/23 – The RFO had signed the statement prior to the meeting.

Resolved – The Accounting Statement 2022/23 accepted by members and signed by the Chairman.

06/23.9 – County Councillor:

Absent – No report

06/23.10 – Borough Councillors:

Report received from Cllr M Bound – appendix 1

Cllr K Morrow submitted apologies.

Cllr K Rhatigan – The issues with village toilets, including the failure to empty the ladies sanitary bin for a considerable number of months, have been raised with directors. Until a planning application is received no comments can be made but there is currently no case law for Solar Farms in this area. The trees on A339 will hopefully have further works completed soon. A councillor confirmed that the tone of more recent correspondence is much more appropriate.

The Chairman confirmed that the Borough Council had offered the toilet block to the Parish Council for £1.00 but it would cost £15-20k per year to run. To put this into perspective 1% increase in precept would raise £600-700 so we would need a grant to run them.

06/23.11 – Community Engagement and Media:

The council is working with Hugofox our current Website provider, to identify what service we would like them to provide. Hugofox are moving away from a free service and we are currently waiting to see what the new service look like and how much it will cost. This may mean we look into alternative providers.

06/23.12 – Health and Safety:

12.1 Risk Assessments:

All Risk Assessments are now due, is there a volunteer to help the Clerk do them all rather than distributing to councillors for their areas of responsibility. SG to help.

A rabbit has undermined a grave in the new cemetery, the grave as sunk considerably. The Clerk to inform owners that we will be repairing the damage with some topsoil. RP to help once owner informed.

06/23.13 – Planning Matters:

15.1. 23/01288/HSE – Gailey Brook

No objections

15.2. T/00228/TCA – The Paddock

No objections

06/23.14 – Approval of Income and Expenditure:

The accounts for 18th May to 23rd June 2023 were agreed.

Resolved: The income and expenditure lists for the period 18th May to 23rd June were signed.

06/23.15 – Matters for Future Consideration:

Solar farm to be included on next agenda.

06/23.16 – Date of Next Meeting:

Monday 24th July 2023 7:30pm in the Village Club.

06/23.17 – Exempt Business

17.1 To Discuss Bowls Club Lease – update and discuss the Financial and Commercial Terms of new lease.

Solicitor has written the letter to be issued to the trustees. Hold over letter has still not been received which technically means that the Bowls Club are no longer tenants and are trespassing. Notice to quit may need to be issued. Surveyor has been instructed and we await the valuation – this has been chased today. Clerk to chase valuation daily until received.

17.2 To discuss the Tennis Club Lease – discussion on terms for new lease.

The Tennis club have been asking about a new lease – NP and CM to meet with Tennis Club so that the club can put forward their conditions. Valuation to be organised and then the new lease can be issued.

17.3 Mowing and Maintenance – discussion on current contractors, update, schedule and agree payments to date.

The contractor is not completing the schedule satisfactorily and has been repeatedly chased. A burial has been booked so an alternative contractor was instructed to trim the cemetery ready, whilst onsite the current contractor arrived and was subsequently sent to the Recreation ground to trim. The submitted invoices were reviewed. April invoice – it was agreed not to pay for the strimming of the cemetery on this invoice as the work had not been completed in full – the council will not pay for part of job. Although the council believes that not all of the other works on this invoice was not completed, there is not sufficient evidence to dispute. May Invoice – included cuts performed on the 1st April and it was agreed that these should not be paid. Again, it was agreed not to pay for the strimming of the cemetery on this invoice as the work had not been completed in full. Also, it was agreed that the council should not pay for the Allotment and Orchard cuts on 23rd May because there is photograph evidence of more than 2 days growth on 25th May. Clerk to write to advise the current contractor that the council will only accept full performance of the contract, no further work should be completed and the council expect to receive a date for commencement of the full contract with the planned dates for working in Kingsclere for the remainder of the contract term by the end of this week. The council require the current contractor to provide fourteen days notice for the commencement of the remaining work on the contract because intermediary cover has been arranged.

Meeting closed 21:45

Signed:.....Chairman

Date:.....

Signed:.....Clerk

Date:.....

Distribution: Cllrs: D Conquest; S Gaines; C Mussett; N Peach and R Peach;.
Website: www.kingsclere-pc.org.uk.

Appendix 1: Report from Cllr Mike Bound to Kingsclere Parish Council Thursday June 26th 2023

This is my first parish council meeting attendance for the parish of Kingsclere since being elected. As you know I was successful in May for the ward of Tadley North, Kingsclere & Baughurst on Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council, joining Cllr's Morrow and Rhatigan in representing the ward. Matters arising within wards don't tend to be political and I fully expect to be working with my fellow councillors in looking after the interests of residents.

I have been a Borough Councillor in the past but served the smaller ward of Tadley North & Baughurst; the new ward is much larger in area with more parishes. I will endeavour to attend your parish meetings as often as I can; even if I am not able to, I will submit a report.

Since being elected I have attended several Borough arranged training sessions for councillors. As a councillor you serve on various committees and before you can do this some committees require that you brush up on your knowledge for already serving councillors or, for new councillors, be introduced to what they will be doing on that committee and how the committee operates. I am on DC (planning), Scrutiny, reserve on Licensing and the Manydown Overview Committee. I am also a Borough representative on the

AWE Local Liaison Committee. Since being elected I have attended DC and IT training. Have completed my Licensing training and will be involved in Heritage and GDPR training. I have now attended one DC meeting as a committee member and next week will be one of three members sitting on a licensing sub-committee.

The make-up of the Council obviously changed as a result of the elections with the Conservatives losing their control of the council; the new council is now run by a joint administration formed from Basingstoke Independents, Labour and Liberal Democrat groupings. The largest single party remains the Conservative council group. The budget for the 2023/4 year was agreed at Council back in February and as I understand it the new administration will be working within that budget even if some priorities might vary.

For my part, residents will be my priority and I have already had many interactions with people who have sought my assistance in just the few weeks since being elected. As councillors we can't affect great change or even help everybody who comes to us for assistance but, throughout my term I will endeavour to assist where I can and listen to what residents and town and parish councils tell me are the important issues. I did have a communication from a resident concerning the trees that were cut down on the A339 as you exit Kingsclere moving towards Newbury. Councillor Rhatigan was able to update me on the matter for which I was very grateful as it was a matter that had occurred before my election. I have had an update from the Tree officer in Basingstoke who agreed that the cutting of the trees had produced an unsightly street scene, said that the situation was now improved and believed what was left of the trees would sprout out to improve the overall look.