



Minutes of Kingsclere Parish Council Ordinary Meeting OM 04/20
Held at 7.30pm on Monday 27th April 2020
Using Zoom Virtual Meeting Software

OM 04/20 – Present:

Cllrs: Adams; Bowes; Farey; Mussett; Peach N; Peach R; Price; Sawyer F; Sawyer J.

BCllrs: Kinnear; Rhatigan. Clerk – Porton; Admin Assistant - Read

04/20.1 – Apologies:

None.

04/20.2 – Declarations of Interest:

None.

04/20.3 – Minutes:

3.1 Minutes of Ordinary Meeting 23rd March 2020 were accepted and signed with two amendments.

04/20.4 – Matters Arising:

4.1. 03/20.9.2 – Covid-19 Contingency Planning – Protecting Staff and Public Opening:

At the last OM on 23rd March 2020, Cllrs informed the Clerk that if the Government issue a stay at home notice, then the Litter Warden should be advised not to work. The Prime Minister's speech at 8:30pm the same evening confirmed the stay at home notice. The village litter bins soon became full and required emptying. After liaising with the Street Cleansing Manager at BDBC the Litter Warden was reinstated. The statutory duty to empty litter bins was devolved to the Parish Council with the Litter Warden grant and KPC is unable to 'buy back' the service from the borough at present as they do not have the capacity. Notices have been placed on the bins advising of the reduced emptying schedule. The Litter Warden has been supplied with disposable gloves and hand sanitiser.

04/20.5 – Chairman's Remarks:

- i) Thank you to the community of Kingsclere. The group of approximately 60 volunteers helping the community by stewarding the shop door, collecting and delivering food and prescriptions as well as many other tasks. The Health Centre Staff continuing to work and support residents of Kingsclere during these very challenging times. Thank you to the key workers such as care workers, refuse collectors, police, fire service, ambulance crew etc who continue to go to work and are keeping our community and country going. Thank you to the shopkeepers and the Pharmacy for adapting and for ensuring everyone in the Village, and surrounding areas, can continue to access food and necessities. The Chairman has written on behalf of the Parish Council to all Shopkeepers to express thanks for their continued hard work. Finally, a huge thank you to the whole village. Thank you to all residents for staying home and working together to help prevent the spread of Coronavirus in our community.
- ii) 8th May 2020 is the 75th anniversary of VE Day. Due to previously organised celebrations not being able to take place, the Chairman will lay some flowers on the War Memorial on behalf of the Parish Council. The time and date of this will not be advertised in order to prevent any public gatherings. The National Organisers of events for VE Day celebrations have suggested that people raise a glass at approximately 3pm on 8th May, the toast being "To those who gave so much, we thank you."
- iii) The Annual Report is due. Village organisations are invited to submit their reports to the Clerk with a deadline being the 18th May 2020.

04/20.6 – Churchyard:

Documents circulated prior to meeting. Following a recommendation from the resident in charge of looking after the wildflower meadow in the Churchyard, to reduce the amount of shade on the wildflower meadow, it was proposed to crown lift the holly tree by roughly one third to be in line with the lime tree right next to it. All relevant tree works permissions have been applied for. A Cllr proposed that felling the tree may be an alternative idea as it isn't in keeping with the rest of the trees in the Churchyard. It is a rogue tree that was not intentionally planted. A second Cllr agreed with this view. It was agreed to ask the tree warden's opinion and consider if the PC need the Diocese permission if the tree were to be removed. It was agreed to refer this item at the next GP meeting.

Action: Next GP.

04/20.7 – Mowing and Maintenance Contract:

The Clerk received an email from the PC's contact at Countrywide Grounds Maintenance (CGM) stating that the PC will now be invoiced from Grounds Scape Limited and to please not pay any invoices until new bank details are sent. The Clerk then contacted CGM directly, informing them of the email and they have asked the PC to continue with all current payment terms while they investigate. It was noted that the PC has received no invoices yet this year. The Clerk wished for Cllrs input on this current situation and what options the PC has. It was noted that there has been no breach in contract from CGM and due to the current circumstances, this would be a bad time to terminate the contract. It was agreed to keep this issue closely under review and wait to see what CGM's investigation turns out.

Action: Clerk

04/20.8 – Support for Covid-19 Volunteers:

It was reported that over 400 hours of volunteer support has been provided to Swan Street Stores. The Village Butchers and the Pharmacy are aware that there is volunteer support available if needed. McColl's has been approached but has not wanted to engage in any of the volunteer support on offer. KPC has received a £300 grant into its account on behalf of the Kingsclere Volunteer Group from Basingstoke Volunteer Action, for the purchase of essential items on behalf of residents who are unable to purchase items themselves. As of 27/04/2020 KVG has not asked to access these funds. According to BVA, the type of tasks the Kingsclere volunteers are undertaking does not require any PPE. The Clerk requested to approve a budget of £250 from KPC's own funds to purchase items such as high viz jackets, hand sanitiser and possibly face masks for volunteers.

Resolved: £250 budget unanimously approved.

04/20.9 – Support for Sheltered Accommodation:

The Kingsclere Volunteer Group has been informed they should be supporting those in Sheltered Accommodation in Rose Hodsen Court, Garret Close and Fielden Court. If any Cllrs have contacts for the stated accommodation, please inform the Clerk so the information can be passed onto the Volunteer Group. If any Cllrs have ideas on how this group in the community can be supported, please inform the Clerk.

04/20.10 – Covid-19:

It was agreed to turn the next Making A Difference Awards due to be held in January 2021 into a special event to recognise those who have made a difference during Covid-19. Due to this, a greater number of people than normal would be expected therefore a larger location to hold the awards presentation should be looked into. The Fieldgate Centre was suggested. It was agreed to start the organisation of the event closer to the time. Options on how to thank key workers were discussed. It was noted that KPC would be reliant on residents helping to identify key workers to be able to ensure all of them are included. It was agreed that Cllrs would think of ideas and options and to restart discussions on this at a future meeting. It was agreed that the PC should advertise the message that if key workers need help and support and they think KPC can be of assistance, to please contact the Clerk.

04/20.11 – SSEN – Resilient Communities Fund – Central Southern England:

This is a grant fund used to support volunteer groups. The Clerk asked if the PC was supportive of the Clerk submitting a grant application on behalf of the Kingsclere Volunteer Group. This was unanimously agreed.

Resolved: Unanimously agreed for the Clerk to submit grant application on behalf of KVG.

04/20.12 – County Councillor:

No Report.

04/20.13 – Borough Councillor:

It was reported that some of the volunteers in Kingsclere have been supplied with face masks. Basingstoke and North Hampshire Hospital has ICU beds available and has never reached capacity. The death rate in North Hampshire Hospitals has been lower than expected. The crematorium has been able to cope with the current number of deaths. Council tax for all residents has been deferred for two months, however BDBC is still paying out for payments to HCC, emergency services and Parish precepts out of BDBC own funds. Bin collection frequency has reduced to fortnightly due to a reduced number of available staff. It was reported that agency staff that would normally be available are currently undertaking other roles such as driving lorries and working in shops. Communal areas and bins that serve blocks of flats will continue to be collected weekly. There have been reports of green waste being fly tipped, BDBC will organise for this to be removed. The BDBC benefits team are working to support any person who has been made redundant or needs to apply for benefits. BDBC is ensuring all the support structures are maintained. BDBC has given a grant of £200,000 to Basingstoke Volunteer Action to set up hubs, supporting foodbanks etc and £95,000 has already been allocated. All residents in Kingsclere who need to shield have been contacted. The contact centre for support during this crisis in Basingstoke has been fully manned. BDBC has distributed about £40million of central Government granted money to businesses. If any individuals require help, BDBC has the facility to help those who need it. If KPC know of anyone in need, please inform BDBC.

Question: Surely it's the responsibility of SERCO to fulfil it's contract with BDBC and to source the staff required to collect all three bins normally. Answer: SERCO's staff are also affected by Covid-19, in the form of needing to self-isolate, childcare issues etc so BDBC made the decision have a regular, reduced service rather than an infrequent unreliable service with the possibility of bins being missed.

Question: What's the possibility of this reduced service continuing after it no longer being deemed needed.

Answer: BDBC signed an 8 year extended contract with SERCO for weekly bin collections and has no intention of changing the contract.

Question: Is it possible for the green waste collection to be reinstated. Answer: As this is a paid for service, BDBC do not want residents paying for a service that is not up to standard. As soon as BDBC can ensure value for money it aims to resume it. BDBC acknowledges the temporary halt of this service is an issue.

Recess:

No members of the public in attendance.

04/20.14 – Planning Applications:

14.1 19/02370/OUT – Land Between A339 and Fawconer Road: No Objection submitted ratified.

14.2. 20/00672/HSE – 21 King John Road: No Objection submitted ratified.

14.3. 20/00493/RET – Sandford Springs Hotel and Golf Club: No Objection submitted ratified.

14.4. 19/03026/HSE – 21 George Street: No Objection.

04/20.15 – Clerk's Report:

Data for the AGAR is complete and the Clerk is currently collecting required evidence to send to the internal auditor. The date for submission has been extended to 1st September from 1st July, however the Clerk is aiming to submit all paperwork in time for the original deadline. The deadline for the public rights access has also been extended. Once documents are prepared, they will be circulated to Cllrs. Please can Cllrs submit reports for the Annual Report asap, no later than 31st May and inform either the Clerk or Admin Assistant to expect a report. Both the Clerk and the Admin Assistant have accrued hours which will be reclaimed as and when workload allows over the coming weeks.

04/20.16 – Approval of Income and Expenditure:

Accounts for both 23rd March to 31st March 2020 and 1st April to 27th April 2020 were agreed and signed off.

04/20.17 – Approval of Quarterly Bank Reconciliation:

The bank accounts for 1st Jan 2020 to 31st Mar 2020 were reconciled at £48,082.49 - agreed and signed off.

04/20.18 – Date of next meeting:

Monday 18th May 2020 7:30pm using Zoom Online 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 21:19

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.