



Minutes of Kingsclere Parish Council General Purposes Meeting GP 06/20
Held at 7.30pm on Monday 13th July 2020
Using Zoom Online Meeting Software

GP 06/20 – Present:

Cllrs: Adams; Bowes; Farey; Mussett; Peach N; Price; Sawyer J. Admin Assistant – Read.
2 members of the public.

06/20.1 – Apologies:

Clerk – Annual Leave

06/20.2 – Declarations of Interest:

None

It was agreed to take item 7 next as two members of the public wished to speak.

06/20.7 – Petition to Village Club Trustees:

KPC received a petition from a resident to the Trustees of Kingsclere Village Club (KVC) regarding how the Trustees manage the charity and its relationship with user groups. Cllrs have reviewed the petition and from what KPC understand, the petition is a list of requests and suggestions for KVC to consider, changing the way KVC is managed by the Trustees. The suggestions and requests include KVC sourcing grants and funding on the behalf of user groups that meet in the building, possibly in place of rent that is paid to KVC by user groups. The two members of the public present, representing KVC, explained that KVC had received this petition and that it had been added as an item on the agenda for discussion at KVC's AGM in the autumn. They also explained that since the original correspondence KPC received, KVC had been in discussions with the petitioner who has offered to withdraw the petition, but only if KVC accepted the terms set out in a subsequent email, which were a repeat of the suggestions and requests in the original petition. KVC do not accept the terms and will discuss this issue at their AGM. It was noted that as a charity, in accordance with the Charity Commission legislation, KVC cannot subsidise other charities and / or organisations, as this petition is seeming to suggest. KPC support KVC and all groups that meet within KVC. KPC is unsure what it is being asked to do, is unsure why this petition has been sent to KPC, and is unsure what this petition is asking of KVC. It was agreed that JS would attend the KVC AGM in the autumn on behalf of KPC and GP Chairman IB would draft a reply to the petitioner on behalf of KPC.

Action: IB.

06/20.3 – Matters Arising:

3.1. GP 05/20.6.3 – Cemetery: Business Rates:

Deferred to next meeting.

06/20.4 – B3051 Survey Results:

Document circulated prior to meeting. KPC has received the results of the traffic survey conducted on Winchester Road in September 2019. The documents KPC received are only statistics and do not include any written reports or explanation of why HCC has decided to take no action to enforce the speed limit. From KPC's understanding of these statistics, the documents provided show that a considerable proportion of vehicles are breaking the 40 mph speed limit significantly, on a regular basis. KPC feel that this is unacceptable. KPC express surprise and is disturbed that HCC is taking no action to enforce the speed limit, considering the interpretation of these figures, and would like an explanation as to why this is the case. It was agreed to send the results of the survey to the Police to ask that they take action to enforce the speed limit. This is to be copied to our MP, Kit Malthouse. It was suggested to send these statistics to the PCC however it was noted that KPC has still not received a response regarding the speeding petition, and numerous follow up letters, that have been sent over the last year. Attempts to gain a response from the PCC through CCllr Thacker have also been unsuccessful as no response has been received from CCllr Thacker acknowledging KPC's request for assistance.

Action: JS.

06/20.5 – Monitoring of The Kingsclere Neighbourhood Plan:

Document circulated prior to meeting. A few minor amendments were made including adding a wider target for trees to include hedgerows and enhancing rural character. SA to send to BDBC once changes are made.

Action: SA

06/20.6 – Great British Spring Clean:

KPC's planned event in March could not take place due to Covid-19. It was agreed to hold another event on 26th September. KPC will continue to monitor the Covid-19 situation. KPC will provide hand sanitiser, gloves and will ask to borrow litter pickers from BDBC. Residents would be required to email the clerk in advance to

book a slot to pick up equipment from the gazebo station in the Churchyard. KPC will designate areas to work on to avoid large groups of people working in one area together.

06/20.8 – Recreation Ground:

8.1. Play Area Fence:

IB and CM to discuss and prepare proposal. It was noted sources of funds need to be sought as KPC has not budgeted for this expected level of expenditure on the play area.

Action: IB; CM.

8.2. Ash Trees Cut Down without Permission and Consider Replanting Options:

After last GP meeting, advice has been sought from HALC Legal Services (HCC). It was recommended to inform the Police of the criminal damage and to write to the residents adjacent to the Recreation Ground. The Police responded asking the value of the trees destroyed; this is roughly £1800 at approximately £200 per tree, for nine trees. After the Clerk wrote letters, a resident came forward admitting to felling the trees after speaking to the original resident who contacted KPC two years ago asking for the trees to be removed. It was noted the resident did the works themselves and does not have any public liability insurance. KPC's insurance company has been informed and advice has been sought on liability issues, no response has been received yet. It was noted a risk assessment needs to be completed to decide if any work is necessary to make the area safe. The question was raised regarding who should be held responsible for the cost of making the area safe and the cost of planting replacement trees; the resident who completed the works, or the resident who originally contacted KPC asking for the trees to be removed, themselves knowing that KPC had not given permission for non KPC hired contractors to complete the works. The resident who completed the works informed the Clerk they were planning to replant the removed trees with slow growing Thuja. Cllrs agreed this is not a suitable replacement and a tree species listed in the Neighbourhood Plan should be planted instead. It was agreed to open a dialogue with both residents, and to write informing them that KPC has upheld its responsibility to inform the Police and ask for £200 to remove the tree stumps. KPC would also make it clear that it is expecting the cost of the replacement trees to be met by the residents.

Action: Clerk

8.3. Quote for Grinding Out 9 Ash Tree Stumps:

KPC feel this quote for grinding to the ground the 9 ash tree stumps is a reasonable price. KPC is currently unsure who will be responsible for paying for the works therefore no decision regarding the quote was made.

8.4. Interpretation Board:

The frame borders of the Interpretation Board for the Wildflower Meadow have decayed. The damaged parts have been removed and disposed of. The artwork and the perspex have been collected and are now in storage. The original contractor who produced the frame has been contacted for a quote to repair, but this has not been received yet. After a short discussion it was agreed to get the current artwork digitised, to add the KPC logo and to have a replacement sign made from a material that will last.

Action: Admin; CM.

06/20.9 – Cemetery:

A resident reported holes in a family grave that they believed to be the result of rabbits digging and enquired if KPC would consider hiring pest control. The Clerk could not find any evidence of rabbits digging but did notice some graves showing large cracks due to the dry and hot weather which could be filled in with topsoil. CM to investigate this and liaise with Clerk over how much topsoil is required. Cllrs agree Clerk can approve budget for topsoil. It was noted that KPC would not look to hire pest control to deal with the rabbits.

Action: CM; Clerk.

06/20.10 – Commercial Notice Board on Crown Green:

The bottom frame of the Commercial Noticeboard in The Square has fallen off and the pin board layers have started to separate. The Clerk is waiting for a quote from a local tradesman to repair it.

06/20.11 – Risk Assessments:

List of 2019 Cllr risk assessment responsibilities circulated prior to meeting. No changes to responsibilities. It was agreed to change "Office Equipment and Furniture" to "Working in the Office" to ensure risks to staff health are included in one risk assessment. It was noted the Litter Warden risk assessment needs completing asap. NP to investigate if a separate "Access to Water" risk assessment needs to be created.

Action: All Cllrs

06/20.12 – White Gates and Traffic Calming:

Since last GP meeting no communication has been received from HCC regarding costings or positions of signs, despite reminders.

Action: Next GP

06/20.13 – Newtown Road HWRC Permits:

A resident contacted KPC after seeing the news article in the Newbury Weekly News about funding

being withdrawn by HCC for the passes to use the West Berkshire Council (WBC) Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) at Newtown Road from 1st August 2020. Since then, HCC has sent letters to all residents informing them of this withdrawal of service, with its reason being to save £175,000 per year. KPC has received numerous complaints and concerns from residents regarding this and KPC share their concerns. KPC is shocked and disappointed that it was not consulted in any way and was not told by HCC that funding was being withdrawn before finding out via the press. Cllrs have looked at the paper submitted to the HCC Council Chamber on which the decision was based and it is the view of Cllrs and KPC that this paper was written to have a desired effect, which was to withdraw the funding. It is also KPC's view that the justification provided by HCC for the withdrawal of funding is not valid and that there should have been a public consultation. KPC understand there is a statutory requirement for Councils to take the climate emergency into consideration when making decisions. Both HCC and WBC declared a climate emergency in June and July 2019 respectively. The paper does not include any information regarding the environmental impact of this decision including, but not limited to: the increased amount of car emissions as residents travel further to use their nearest HCC HWRC, the increased amount of waste that will be put into black bins and therefore not recycled, or the environmental impact and financial cost of dealing with the inevitable increased amount of fly tipping. The journey from Kingsclere to the Newtown Road HWRC is a 20 minute, 12 mile round trip; the journey from Kingsclere to the nearest Hampshire HWRC, on the other side of Basingstoke, is at least a 30 minute, 20 mile round trip. The difference in distance for many of the 5000 residents affected by this withdrawal of service across north Hampshire to their respective nearest HCC HWRC will be much larger. KPC note the lack of effort on both HCC and WBC's part to negotiate an alternative arrangement. Numerous residents have expressed their willingness to accept other arrangements with WBC, for example a pay per use system for continued access to Newtown Road HWRC. It was noted that if CCllr Thacker had either attended KPC meetings or provided County Councillor reports, KPC would have been informed that HCC was considering withdrawing funding beforehand and would have had the opportunity to comment. KPC understand BDBC is against HCC's decision to withdraw funding. BCllr Rhatigan informed KPC at the Ordinary Meeting 24th February 2020 that BDBC were trying to negotiate a private deal with WBC to secure permits for 1 year from May 2020 – [Minutes ref: OM 02/20.12](#). KPC understands discussions are still ongoing. At that time BCllr Rhatigan was not able to elaborate on this on to include the fact HCC was considering withdrawing funding.

It was agreed to write to HCC, copying in our MP and BCllrs, expressing KPC's shock and disappointment over this decision, to emphasise the fact that KPC has received numerous complaints from residents, and to convey its concern over the limited amount of information that this decision was based on.

Action: CM; NP; Admin.

06/20.14 – Annual Report:

Proposed leaflets to be included in the Annual Report circulated prior to meeting. No problems. Approved.

Resolved: Approved

06/20.15 – Planning Applications:

15.1. 20/01120/HSE – Mulberry Cottage, Foxs Lane:

No objections to the proposed works but concerns over the proximity of mature trees in the conservation area to the works. Tree wardens should be consulted to ensure trees are protected and are not damaged.

15.2. 20/01635/HSE – 50 Garrett Close:

Objection on the basis that this application does not comply with Part 2 of Policy EM10 in the Local Plan. *“All development proposals will be required to respect the local environment and amenities of neighbouring properties...”* The extension would take up most of the small front garden and would come very close, if not adjacent to the pavement. The property is semi-detached with an identical property next door and all properties in this cul-de-sac are of similar design. This extension would change the existing street scene as it would stick out in front of the property.

06/20.16 – Date of next meeting:

Monday 14th September 2020 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 21:15

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.