



Minutes of Kingsclere Parish Council Ordinary Meeting OM 07/17

held at 7.30pm on Monday 31st July 2017 in the Village Club

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ACTION

- OM 07/17** **Present:** Cllrs: Adams; Farey; Mussett; Peach N; Sawyer F; Sawyer J.
- 07/17.1** **Apologies:** Cllrs: Bowes; Peach R; Price; C.Clr Tom Thacker; B.Clr Don Sherlock.
- 07/17.2** **Declarations of Interest:** 07/17.17.3 SA; NP; FS; JS – 07/17.6 – All live in CA.
- 07/17.3** **Minutes:**
- 3.1 Minutes of Ordinary Meeting 26th June 2017 were accepted and signed.
- 3.2 Minutes of General Purposes Meeting 10th July 2017 were accepted and signed.
- 07/17.4** **Matters arising:** 06/17.11 - The clerk has contacted Royal Mail for an update on retaining the Pillar Box outside the former Post Office and the matter has been referred to the local sorting office. Royal Mail are awaiting a response from them.
- 07/17.5** **Chairman's Remarks:**
- i) Chairman attended the Village Club AGM this month and offered congratulations to the committee on a fabulous year maintaining the facility for the village of which the Parish Council are tenants.
 - ii) Skate Ramp – another cheaper quote has been received and the company had also offered some quotes for additional equipment. The young people are continuing to work hard behind the scenes on fund raising and other proposals.
 - iii) The Twinning Association have returned from another successful visit to Cormicy which included Bastille Day celebrations with fireworks. The group were looked after very well by tremendous hosts.
 - iv) The Conservation Area is currently being reviewed by BDBC and the public are requested to make comments.
 - v) At the next OM Cllrs will debate our priorities. The council are very busy with lots of projects and long meetings. The priorities will then be used to help with budget planning.
 - vi) The HWRC passes for the Newtown Road site expire in December. Pressure is being applied for a resolution.
 - vii) The Methodist Hall has been booked for a meeting to discuss the WW1 Commemorations for November 2018 on Tuesday 12th September 2017, 7:30pm. Please come along with your ideas, the GP committee have some excellent suggestions but more welcome.
 - viii) The council has booked to attend the Church Fete on 28th August. Cllrs please let the Clerk know your availability.
- 07/17.6** **Conservation Area Appraisal Consultation:** SA -The first draft was reviewed by the council in May and all the comments put forward to BDBC have been included. BDBC had suggested extending the area in Newbury Road to include Goldfinch Cottage. It is an interesting document and there is a Management Plan at the back about maintaining the area. KPC are applying for an Article 4 direction, there are 3 in the borough already. This will be for the centre of the village only and is additional protection for any changes that effect the street scene. Properties within the Article 4 direction area will be required to apply for planning permission for things such as changing the colour of a house but there will not be a charge for the application. Discussions are underway with the Conservation Officer and Vashti (who has been working with the NP Group). There is a Drop-in session being held at BDBC offices on Thursday where officers will be available to answer questions. KPC are looking at "For Sale"/"Sold" boards and garish shop window advertisements to see whether we can get them removed.
- CM has spoken to estate agents about boards that are screwed to the frontage of buildings – some agents are more accommodating than others. Businesses in the village are generally erecting tasteful signage but not all of them.
- FS advised that the council had previously tried to get large window signs removed that were displaying alcohol advertisements without success – it was not against the rules. The funeral directors had been successful with their planning application for illuminated signs. JS mentioned the AONB Dark Skies policy may be an avenue of support.
- Cllrs agreed the appraisal was an excellent document.
- 07/17.7** **Parish Lengthsman:** Clerk had circulated the last update from HCC answering questions raised at GP. It was generally felt that the council should apply for the Lengthsman scheme which is offering £1000 to parishes to undertake minor highways tasks.
- CM commented that he felt the scheme was a distraction from bigger issues. Many of the signs that we would arrange to be cleaned actually need replacing and having done a walking tour of the village more like £20K needs to be spent. The £1000 on offer only equates to 6 days and therefore jobs will end up stock piled for 10 months or more.
- FS commented that having read "Balancing the Budget" from HCC the money is simply not there and HCC are facing further cuts to the spending budget.



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NP commented that we also need to consider the clerks time trying to get jobs done by HCC that could be sorted easily and quickly by a Lengthsman.
SA commented on the bureaucracy around having to use a lead parish and not receiving the money direct.

Resolved – KPC to enter into a Lengthsman Scheme – vote 5 for, 1 against

- 07/17.8 Recreation Ground Play Area – Installation of Additional Equipment – Request £2100:** IB had circulated the proposal prior to the meeting for 3 pieces of equipment – 2 springs and a spinner.

Resolved – Equipment to be purchased and installed – vote 5 for, 1 abstained

CM explained that the work done so far had been excellent but felt that new financial pressures on the budget would have allowed for this money to be diverted to other more pressing issues.

- 07/17.9 Consultation on Draft Revised Street Trading Consent Policy:** Deferred to August OM.

- 07/17.10 Boundary Hedges – Resolution on Actions to Maintain Hedges within Property Boundaries beside Pavements, Footpaths and Roads:** IB had circulated documentation prior to the meeting. FS expressed that she felt this was not a resolution but a policy document. MF questioned whether we had the power to charge residents if we arranged cutting of the hedge. NP advised No. Clerk advised that she would like to see some amendments including a more concise list of actions to follow when there is a problem hedge and inclusion of SSE being responsible for hedges around lampposts. CM advised that he had tested the HCC system – a call he logged had been closed without action (Clerk confirmed this has also happened to some of her calls). There is a safety issue with some hedges – the complaints are not just about the amenity value of a footway or road. Hedges are just not being cut back far enough and the PC need to form a resolution.

The Chairman expressed thanks to IB for this first draft which will be reviewed and discussed further at GP. Clerk to put a firm (in bold) note in The Tower about residents taking full responsibility for cutting back their hedges.

- 07/17.11 Update on the Neighbourhood Plan:** SA – the group have not had a response yet from BDBC about Green Spaces including Pound Green. The Tower Hill Residents Association have been contacted about designating their Green Spaces and they have been invited to the NP meeting tomorrow to discuss.

BDBC have provided the revised maps that were requested. HCC have been asked to provide more detailed maps on the SINCs and an email has arrived today.

The group are in the process of re-drafting for the next stage which is to submit to BDBC.

- 07/17.12 County Councillor Report:** Apologies sent for tonight's meeting – report emailed in advance.

The main matter regarding Kingsclere area is a letter I have received regarding general concerns about speed safety around the Star Inn on the A339, which I am investigating. I have been following your communications with Steve Goodall concerning KPC's considerations on the Parish Lengthsman scheme. I hope his answers have put any concerns you have to rest. From my perspective, if KPC were able to join the St Mary Bourne led cluster that would mean all the parishes in my division would be in the same cluster.

- 07/17.13 Borough Councillors Reports:** KR – 3 formal LIF applications from Kingsclere were ready for submission into the next round, Busy Bees, The Fieldgate Sports Facilities (Pitches and MUGA) and The Fieldgate Building Improvements. Ward members are supportive of all 3. They have been prioritised in that order. The Fieldgate Centre (building) should have been supported from the Property Fund so a meeting has taken place with John Isaac where the point has been stressed and bringing forward the budget from 2018/19 is being considered/requested. We are hopeful on the first two applications.

Permits for Newbury HWRC is a big issue for other parishes too. A meeting has been held with Hayley Eachus, Clive Sanders and HCC on a number of issues including pricing. It is top of the priority list and KR is pressing hard for a solution.

Planning Application at Crookfur is due a site visit on Friday and will go to committee on Wednesday of next week. KR is supportive of the application but is aware of KPC's objections. There are local employment opportunities and the conditions of the Local Plan are subjective and will be tested.

All Housing Associations have evaluated their properties in the area and no information



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has been provided to suggest any problems have been identified.

The Water Motion Survey by the Environment Agency of chalk streams is complete but a map of testing sites has been requested to enable review and analysis.

The Scrutiny Committee have been looking at education standards in the area with particular concerns over secondary schools in the borough. Pupils are being lost to West Berks and Winchester which has a knock on effect on the retention of teachers. The Bel and the Dragon were served an enforcement notice over a metal sign which has now been removed.

There have been problems with a caravan on Basingstoke Road, the owner stating it's a legitimate siting. KR will visit again if necessary.

Once CIL is in place, access to money for community projects and more should be easier. Manydown will have a direct impact on us so we should be entitled to some of the CIL fund.

An asset list/map of all the Green Spaces in the ward has been requested – it is not just Kingsclere who are waiting.

The future of the BDBC premises in Swan Street is being evaluated.

SA – a decision from BDBC as to whether they will allow some of their land to be designated Green Space is required for the NP. It is understandable that BDBC would like to retain some areas eg The Fieldgate Sports Field because it is valuable to the centre but some green spaces have no commercial value eg Malthouse Open Space. KPC would like to incorporate the small strip of land where the old Youth Club used to be into the Holding Field. KR explained that a lot of work was being done at the borough currently.

CM – expressed that the PC would like to do work where it can afford to but does not always have the power to be able. KR expressed that he has no control over the precept – KPC should ensure their precept/budget is based on what it can spend. He will help where he can with hedges etc.

CM – has the school been fire risk checked with regard to building materials following the recent tragic events with cladding. KR – Fire drills occur every term and staff are trained. Safety lock down drills are now also performed. HCC will have completed its risk assessment – the school is low risk in terms of number of stories.

CM will speak to HCC.

Recess proposed at 20:47

RE – Curbside vegetation/weeds are an issue for the action list – the sweeper is just running over them they are so prolific and they need physical removal (pulling).

DT – Hedge at Holding Field is covering the School Crossing sign.

AG – Hedge on North side of Basingstoke Road behind South Road is still a problem. Hedge on Newbury Road between the bridge and Foxs Lane is causing the bus to drive in the middle of the road due to overgrowth. The caravan that is sited on Basingstoke Road will not be insured.

MH – Speedwatch are planning an outing to Ashford Hill Road following a complaint. The group have recruited 2 new volunteers (wives of existing volunteers) but more are still needed. War Memorial – is there any news following the inspection? Clerk – no, not really although a pre-application has been submitted for a grant towards the repairs and we are waiting to hear.

SP – concerned over the lack of policing in the village and crime is increasing. HCC are not fulfilling their obligation to maintain the highways – they are not fit for purpose.

TS – Two letters were pushed under the church door from young lads apologising for damage that has occurred. On the CA map the MHOS is not categorised with the Churchyard. SA – the BDBC Green Spaces map is out of date – MHOS did not feature at all.

Back to Standing Orders 20:58

7/17.14

Rolling List:

Emergency Plan – The plan is written but the critical contact information is still incomplete – organisations have been identified but the named person contacts need checking. Reference maps need to be included. It is a living document that can and should be updated as and when necessary. It will be circulated as soon as available and revisited in October (if necessary).

07/17.15

Planning Applications:

15.1 T/00231/17/TCA – Lake House, Foxs Lane – No objections.

15.2 T/00269/17/TCA – The Orchard, Foxs Lane – Objections raised to the four healthy mature trees (A – Poplar; B – Beech; E – Ash and F – Sycamore), fruit trees are not a suitable substitution for the mature species of mixed variety. The Tree Officer has



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been contacted but a response has not been received yet. It is sympathetically noted that this area of the garden is overgrown thus making the riparian duties of the occupant difficult but it should not be necessary to remove trees. The area would need clearing for the tree felling anyway. Crown lifting of these trees would be supported. No objections to the removal of the dead beech tree (tree B) or crown lifting of the Yew (tree D)

15.3 T/00257/17/TPO – 26 Garrett Close – No objections.

15.4 T/00256/17/TCA – Cleremedes, Foxs Lane – No objections.

15.5 17/02258/HSE – Lyndale, Greenacre – No objections.

15.6 17/02228/HSE & 17/02229/LBC – Lake House, Foxs Lane – No objections.

07/17.16 Clerks Report: A thank you email has been received from Tadley CAB for their grant.

07/17.17 Approval of Income and Expenditure: The accounts for July were agreed and signed off.

07/17.18 Approval of Quarterly Bank Reconciliation: The bank accounts for 30th June 2017 were reconciled at £93,136.64 - agreed and signed off.

07/17.19 Date of next meeting: Monday 21st August 2017 7:30pm in the Village Club.

Meeting closed at 21:45

Signed:.....Chairman

Date:.....

Signed:.....Parish Clerk

Date:.....